

Then Miss Marion told them to come to her house the next afternoon, and she would make them into a society, and so off they went much delighted.

The next morning, Miss Marion called on Mrs. Fisher, the minister's wife.

"Can you tell me," she asked, "of some preacher out in the West who has a large family of children, not very big, and mostly girls?"

"I should think I could," said Mrs. Fisher. "I can tell you of plenty of them. I got a letter just the other day from a Mr. Humphrey, who has five children, the oldest thirteen and the youngest six, and they are all girls."

"Five girls!—delightful! Why, that is a perfect fit! Do tell me where they live, and all about them."

Far away, in a little Western town one bleak, gray winter's morning, Mrs. Humphrey, the minister's wife, went singing about her work. It seemed as though it would never be done, for Mrs. Humphrey was tired and troubled, but she sang cheerfully through it all; and when, at last, she could rest for a few moments, she smoothed the anxious lines carefully out of her forehead before she crossed the threshold of the sitting-room.

"Mother, dear," called a tired little voice from the lounge, "when you were small like me, did all your four sisters go away to school every day and leave you? And then did your mother have to keep busy in the other rooms so she couldn't do anything except sing to be company for you?"

"But, you see," answered Mrs. Humphrey gayly. "I didn't have but two sisters. If we had to give away two of our girls, which two would we give?"

"Not any," said Amy, promptly,—"not one; we like them all four,—don't we?"

"Yes, we do,—all five."

And Mrs. Humphrey stooped to kiss the thin face on the pillow. Amy pulled her head down close to her own.

"Mother," she whispered, "does God know how lonesome it gets sometimes?"

"Yes, dear."

"I suppose he cares,—doesn't he?"

Poor tired Mrs. Humphrey, this was more than she could stand! She broke into a little sob, and hid her face in the cushions.

"Why, mother!" cried Amy, much distressed. "Never mind, mother dear!" Of course, he cares. I'm a naughty girl to say such a thing,—that's exactly what I am."

Presently Mrs. Humphrey lifted her head, and she laughed a little as she wiped her eyes.

"We two are not very brave soldiers to-day,—are we?" It will never do for us to lose heart like this. You know, Amy, your father has come far off here, away from home, on purpose to tell the people how much God cares for them. Some of them are very poor, and work very hard, and have a lot of trouble, and oh, they need so much to feel sure of God's love and pity! So father is trying all the time to tell them, and you and I and our four school-girls ought to help him just as much as we can. We ought to be proud to have a share in such beautiful work."

"But how can we?"

"By being brave and happy and loving, and making father's home the sweetest place in the world for him. Poor father, if he thought his own little daughter couldn't trust God's love to her!"

"But I can! Now I can!" said Amy.

Two bright red spots had come into her cheeks, and her eyes shone like stars.

(To be continued.)

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## The Canadian Missionary Link.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT TORONTO.

Communications, Orders and Remittances, to be sent to Mrs. Mary A. Newman, 116 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto.

Subscribers will find the dates when their subscriptions expire on the printed address labels of their papers.

Subscription 25c. Per Annum, Strictly in Advance.

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