

Many mothers who lose their own infants desire to adopt others."

"I read an almost incredible story in our paper," said Mrs. Kirk, "about a poor little street-boy picked up in New York city and sent to a home in the West, where he became a Christian, and finally a minister of the gospel."

"I don't see that such a story is incredible," remarked Mrs. Snow; "for it looks to me like the most natural thing in the world for such children, under new and better influences, to become good men and women. I think that one can hardly do a greater good than to take such a child to bring up. Make a good man of one such child, and he may be an agent of good to others as long as he lives."

"Well, that is a hopeful view to take of such cases," interrupted Mrs. Kirk. "If such expectations can be realized, the breaking up of a family is not so much of a calamity, after all. I should prefer, however, to save the family from such bitterness, rather than undertake to make a preacher of one of its beggared children."

"That may be," replied Mrs. Snow; "no doubt that is the first duty. But when you fail there, the next best thing is to make something of the children, if possible."

"If possible!" repeated Mrs. Kirk. "That was well put in. I think there is good and bad stock in families; and you can't make much out of bad stock."