

## Children's Department.

## The Story of "Merry England."

A STOLEN PREP AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

It was a typical English day, rainy and foggy, and the cabman pacing the causeway in front of Dr. Swift's house, looked anxiously toward the heavy oaken door, every now and anon.

"If that ere fare wishes to make the five 'clock sharp, she'll 'ave to 'urry," he muttered to himself, as he shook the drops from off his heavy mackintosh.

But, even as he spoke, the door swung back to admit the passage through of a sweet faced, matronly woman.

"Good-bye, my darlings," she stopped to say before stepping on to the graveled walk. "Be good girls, and I will bring you something back."

"We will, mamma," answered the eldest of the three girls who had followed her to the door; "and will you tell Aunt Jenny how sorry we are that she is ill?"

"And tell her that we are going to be just as good as we know how," put in the youngest girl, "so that you can stay with her a long time."

"Why, mamma, you are forgetting your goloshes. That's with us talking to you so much. Ethel and May, we mustn't bother mamma another minute," and in a sweet, little womanly way, Florrie Swift knelt to adjust the goloshes on her mother's shoes, then, with another kiss, the door had closed upon Mrs. Swift, while the three sisters ran to the window to watch their mother off.

"Oh, dear!" sighed Ethel, "when mamma takes all that luggage with her, it makes me think she is going to stay away a long time. 'It doesn't seem like home when she's gone.'"

"Well, mamma said we must do the best we could, and we must," said Florrie, who, being the oldest, took up-

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on herself womanly ways. "There, she's gone, and now we'd better go to Miss Morris."

Florrie, Ethel and May Swift were three as bonnie, blue-eyed English lassies as could be found in the whole shire of York, "and as good as they are bonny," their father was wont to say, "save when little buds of wilfulness will crop out." But with a mother's loving care to watch over them, and a father's firm hand to guide, it was very seldom that any correcting or punishing needed to be done in the Swift household.

The girls made their way along the tiled hallway and up the broad old-fashioned steps to a large room situated

in the front of the house and commonly called the nursery.

"Mamma's gone, Miss Morris, and we are to have no more lessons now, because this is feast week, you know," said Florrie as they entered the room.

"Yes, I know, dear," replied their governess. "And speaking of that, reminds me that your mamma said on no account were you to go to the feast-grounds without myself, Jane or your papa. Not that she thought you would, but, being so near your home this year, she knew it would be temptingly easy for you to slip across the grounds and the field, and so bade me warn you."

"We'll remember, Miss Morris," said Ethel. "But you will take us soon, won't you? I heard the music this afternoon, and it just made me long to go."

"This is Monday; we will go tomorrow afternoon," was the reply. And satisfied with this, the girls betook themselves to their play.

It is customary for the different villages and towns in Yorkshire to hold a feast, lasting for a week, at certain seasons of the year. On a selected piece of ground, merry-go-rounds, shows, stalls, ice-cream stands, swinging boats and such like gather. And, when the week of feasting is over in one place, all these amusements are moved to the next nearest town. It was to this feast that the Swift children were looking forward with pleasant anticipation, each in her own particular way—Florrie, because she wanted to buy a morocco needle-case for her mother; Ethel, because she meant to buy a certain kind of confection sold only at feast-time; and May, because she wanted to ride on the merry-go-round.

The next morning, bright and early, the three sisters were up and dressed. And, although they were not to go to the fair-ground until after luncheon, yet it was an impossibility to sleep, with such a delightful prospect ahead.

"Let us walk down to the hedge and see if we can hear the music," suggested Ethel, as Florrie and she looked through the window in the direction of the fair-grounds.

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"Thinking my testimonial may be of help to some suffering as I have, I want to write what Hood's Sarsaparilla has done for me. A few years ago I was obliged to give up a good position on account of canker in my mouth, throat and stomach, causing me such agony I

Could Not Eat, Sleep or Talk in comfort. After over a year of such suffering with canker and of a scrofulous trouble, a friend urged me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla,

which he believed saved his life. I began to take the medicine; in three days I was very much better, and after taking two bottles was

Entirely Cured of the Canker and never was troubled again with it. I also improved very much in general health. Hood's Sarsaparilla gave me a good appetite, kept the bowels in good condition, gave me good sleep at night. I have also been subject from childhood to

Severe Headaches, but now when I have one coming on, I can break it up in two hours by taking a few drops of Hood's Sarsaparilla every twenty minutes. Since taking

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

I do not have that tired feeling and can eat three square meals a day, and all kinds of food without any bad feelings afterward. I can honestly recommend it as an honest medicine, and advise all to try it." ESTELLA S. STEWART, 118 Quincy Street, Springfield, Mass.

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"Mightn't we want to go further, if we got that far?" asked the elder sister cautiously. "We've got our white dresses on and our best shoes; if we dirty them, Miss Morris will be very cross, you know."

"Oh, you are always thinking of such things!" exclaimed Ethel petulantly. "I'll go by myself."

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