

Young People's Department.

LESLIE'S BIRTHDAY GIFT.

BY MRS. GEORGE A. PAUL.



TRUE story? Yes, that is just what I am going to tell you this time, so I know you will like to read it; for real flesh and blood children are ever so much more interesting than children who only live between the covers of a book.

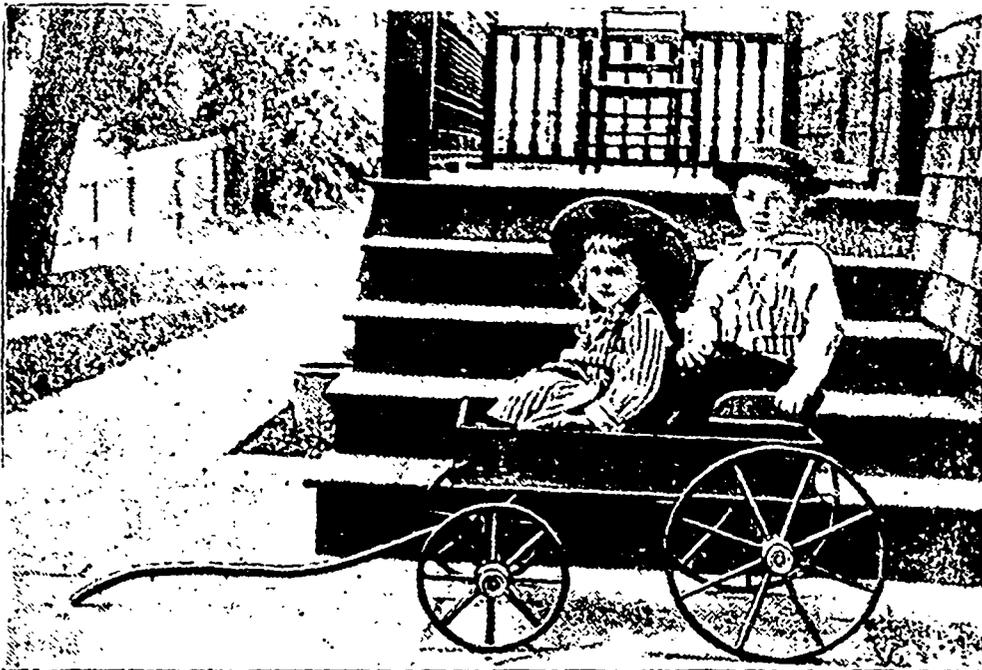
It was Leslie's fifth birthday, and he had just exactly what he wanted most of all for a birthday gift. It would not always have been possible to give Leslie what he wanted. Once

enough to take some of his little friends out in, when they should come to see him.

It was waiting for him when he opened his eyes the morning of his birthday, and you can imagine how pleased he was. It was indeed a fine large express wagon, big enough to hold Leslie and some one else besides.

"I think this is a beautiful wagon," Leslie said, as he ran to give his mother another kiss for it.

His mother took the dear little flushed face between her hands, and pushed the soft, dark curls back from his forehead.



"LESLIE CLIMBED UP ON THE BACK SEAT, WHILE LITTLE ALMON SAT IN FRONT."

when he was a little boy, only three years old, he wanted a real locomotive and choo-choo cars; not toy ones, those would not do at all, but great big ones, and no one could make the little fellow understand that even if he could have them, he could not keep them in the house. He seemed to think that he would have plenty of room to make them go up and down the dining-room. But that was when he was a little boy; now he was five, and of course he knew a great deal better.

An express wagon was what he wanted, one that he could pull about, and one that was big

"Leslie, darling," she said, "I hope you will be able to fill it with a load of happiness every day. Wouldn't that be very nice?"

"How could I, mamma?" asked Leslie, wonderingly.

"I think you will find ever so many ways, if you try," his mother answered. "You can give your little friends a nice ride, or let them have a game with it. You can lend it to those who have not any wagon of their own. You can do errands for mamma with it. Oh, there are ever so many ways. I do not want to tell