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A Lover's Tale.

I wrote a letter to my love,
But as I had no stamp, miss,
I thought I'd take it her myself;
So started on the tramp, miss.

But when I came to where she dwelt,
I thought it wouldn't do, miss,
To write a letter to your love
And go and take it, too, miss.

So when I saw the telegraph,
I clambered up the pole, miss,
But in my coat I got a skag,
And in my thumb a hole, miss.

I left the letter on the wires—
You hear how loud they buzz, miss,
I think it means they're taking it—
In fact, I'm sure it does, miss.

They'll bring me back an answer soon;
I 'spose they'll not be late, miss.
I ought to be at school at nine,
But here I mean to wait, miss.

Old Whackeback has got a cane;
He uses it with force, miss;
But as I've written to my love,
He'll have to wait, of course, miss.

So tell her if you see her, miss—
Remember if you can, sir,
You've seen me by the telegraph,
Waiting for an answer.

Story of a Dog.

A Russian terrier one day entered the drawing-room where his mistress was sitting, and made signs for her to go to the door. When she paid little heed to him, he pulled her gown with his teeth, and she, thinking there must be some unusual reason for his earnestness, rose up and followed him. The instant she opened the door, he seated himself on the mat, joyfully thumping the floor with his tail, and looking first at his mistress, and then at six dead rats spread out before her, which he had killed and brought for her inspection.

WHAT PETS TO KEEP.

I suppose most of you have pets. I wish you would write and tell us what is the best kind of pet to have. It would, perhaps, help some cousin to make up his mind, and give us all new ideas about taking care of the pets we already have. COUSIN DOROTHY,
52 Victor Ave., Toronto.

Little Alice's Resolution.

Little Alice arose one bright May morning, just as the sun was peering through the white curtains of her little bed-room, and after offering a simple morning prayer from the depths of her happy heart, she said: "I will see if I cannot do good to someone this day. I know I am only a little girl, but I feel sure I can do something." And with this good resolution in her heart, she descended to the dining-room just as the bell rang for family worship.

When breakfast was ready, the baby cried, and would not sit on the carpet as usual, and amuse himself. Mother looked weary, and it was evident that she had a bad headache.

"Please let me take Willie, mother," said Alice. "I would rather wait, and I know he will be quiet with me."

"I should be very glad if you could divert him, Alice. Poor little fellow!"

Alice borrowed Frank's marbles, and sat down with baby on the carpet. The bright-hued balls pleased him, and he loved to roll them about with his little fat hands. His sister patiently gathered them up when they rolled beyond his reach; and thus the meal-time passed. She did not envy her brother his warm breakfast; the thought of helping her dear, kind mother was a hundred times more satisfaction. The influence of a good example is often contagious; and, after breakfast, the usually careless, whistling Frank sat down and played with the baby while Alice was eating.

She did not think that now she had done enough for one day, but after baby had drunk his cup of new milk, she coaxed him into his cradle, giving him one of her gayest toys, and then sang a

sweet, lulling song, which presently soothed the restless little one into a quiet, refreshing slumber. It more than repaid all her trouble to hear the mother say:

"Dear Alice, you have helped me very much this morning, and your little brother will feel very much better for a good sleep."

Just then her grandfather entered, leaning on his staff, and walking feebly, as he felt more than usually unwell that morning. Alice sprang to his side, and assisted him to cross the room, where his easy-chair was placed by his favorite window.

"I will bring you in your toast and tea, grandfather, as soon as Margaret makes them," she said, cheerfully.

"Thank you, my child, but I do not care very much for them—my appetite is very poor to-day."

"Just try a little," she said, as she passed out into the kitchen. She returned presently with a nicely-laid tray, and placing it before him, she poured out a cup of fragrant tea, chatting pleasantly all the while. The old man's heart warmed as he listened to her sunny, cheering words. The breakfast was eaten with a relish he did not anticipate, and his wasted frame was refreshed and invigorated.

And thus she passed her day, going about the house with a sunny face, which delighted and did good to everyone around her. Not even the old cat and the chickens were forgotten. When she went to rest that night her heart was full of sunshine, and, with a thankful spirit, she renewed her good resolution for the coming day. Who of my little readers will form the same, and then carry it out as faithfully as did little Alice?

(Sent by) LIZZIE BENTLEY,
Harriston, Ont.

A Maple Sugaring.

I live in the town, and go to school every day. I am in the Fourth Reader. I passed in it at Christmas. We have been taking "The Farmer's Advocate" for about four years, and like it very much. I always read the "Children's Corner." One nice day last spring, I and some of my friends went down to my Uncle George's to spend the day making maple syrup. We got up early and went down to their place. We took some pails with us. On the way to the bush, we had lots of fun catching mice that were running under the thawing snow. When we got to the bush, we tapped the trees, and then began to boil. We were running around playing hide-and-go-seek among the large maple trees; then we made some taffy, and had a taffy-pull. We then went home, feeling very tired after our day of making maple sugar. EDNA SCHNEIDER (age 9),
Tavistock, Ont.

Another Book.

The book I like best is "A Peep Behind the Scenes." I like it because it is natural, and it also tells the wretched life that is led behind the scenes. There were the father, the mother, and the little girl. The father pretended to love his wife and child very much on the stage, but when he got behind the scenes, he said angry words to them, and while the mother was ill, he did not seem to care whether she died or not. He made the little girl dance and take part in the play, even while her mother was sick. The time came when the mother had to die, and she prayed that God would take care of her child, and lead her to heaven. She gave the little girl a locket, which her sister had given her, and told her not to let anybody see it, especially her father, for he would pawn it to make money. The mother had a sister still living, and she told the girl to try and get to her, which she managed after a long time. She spent the rest of her life there very happily. MIRIAM BROWN (age 12),
Chatham, Ontario.

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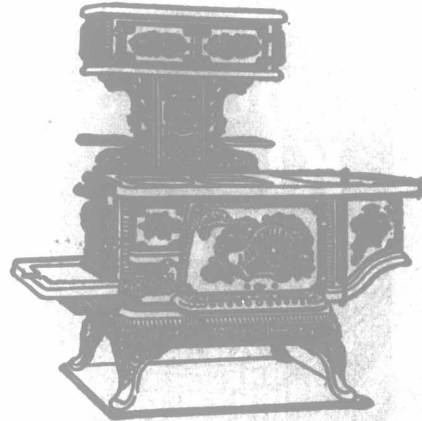
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