

she had broken the sandal of her walking-since the day before, and forgotten to mend it; and when she had repaired that omission, she had a long hunt for her best gloves, which were at last discovered by Dash, under a tree near her garden.

At last she reached Mrs. Melcroft's, but Ellen Hope's sister was out, and Alice waited full half an hour in agonies of impatience for her return. She did come, however, after some time, and when the direction was written, and the letter sent off by the post, Alice's fears began to subside; and I am afraid some of the very energetic resolutions she had made as she walked along, "never to delay anything she had to do," and to "try and get as tidy as dear Ann," began to fade from her memory also.

She made a long circuit through the village as she returned, that she might pass by her nurse's cottage. The church clock struck five just as she reached the door; and as she kissed her old nurse, who was sitting in her accustomed place, she exclaimed hastily, "Oh, Nurse, I must not stay a moment, we have company to dinner."

Alice's visit was too short and hurried for her to perceive her nurse's increased paleness. The flush caused by her entrance had not passed away when she rose to depart; and it was with renewed cheerfulness that she said, "I must go, but I shall tell Ann you are quite yourself again to-day, dear Nurse; I shall be going a long drive to-morrow, but I hope to be with you next day without fail."

"Ay do, my child," said Nurse Amy, pressing her hand; "there are many things I want to say to you; it is long since we had a good chat together, though I am sure you never forget the old woman," she added, with a smile, which went straight to Alice's heart, and was remembered by her to her dying day.

The dressing-bell rang as Alice entered the house. Mrs. Forester and her party were just returned, and gone up to their rooms to dress; but Alice recollected the flowers, and flew into the garden in hopes of being able to fill both vases, and get ready before the expected guests arrived to dinner. Even Alice's quickness, however, failed to do this; she had forgotten her scissors,—the boughs of the rose-tree were tough, and the thorns were sharp; her hands were scratched, and her lace cuffs torn, when she at last entered the drawing-room with the corner of her shawl full of flowers.

The drawing-room, however, was not empty; all the expected were arrived; and Mrs. Forester had to present the blushing Alice to some strangers who were of the party as "my second daughter," while the trembling culprit, with her torn garments and heated face, could hardly summon courage to make the necessary apologies.

"Oh, Ann!" said Alice, when they retired to bed, "what a wretched evening I have had!—Mamma looked so grave all the time, I am sure she was seriously displeased with me, and I really could not venture to look at Mr. and Mrs. Harwood; they must have thought me so excessively strange."

"What could make you so late?" asked Ann, as she gently undid her sister's long braids of black; "I thought you would be sure to do the things mamma left you to do, the first thing."

"As you would do, Ann," replied Alice, with a sigh; "but I have got a sad habit of doing just what comes into my head,—a 'want of method,' as mamma would call it; and it is always getting me into scrapes."

"And how was nurse?" inquired Ann, anxiously; "did she talk much to-day? Did you read to her?"

"No," said Alice, rather confusedly, "I did not read to her, for I was in a great hurry, but I promised to go again the day after to-morrow; and indeed I think she is looking as well as she has done for a long time."

"I hope I am wrong, then," said Ann, "in thinking she has been gradually getting worse this last fortnight; I cer-



tainly did think her very feeble yesterday; but like most people of her age, she often varies."

"Well, I should like to go with you, then," said Alice. "Let us to-morrow."

"I thought you were all to drive to the Priory to-morrow. Henry said you were to take a sketch there."

"Very true, so we are!" exclaimed Alice; "and every spare moment I must give to my sketch of Sir Mowbray,—you know I have but two days after. How has yours got on?"

"I have worked at it every morning before breakfast," replied Ann; "but there is a great deal to be done yet."

"To-morrow," however, as it often does, disappointed all the schemes that were laid for it. It poured so unceasingly and in such torrents that even the visit to old Nurse was given up; and the whole party were compelled to make themselves as agreeable to each other in the house as circumstances would admit.

(To be continued.)

A BAD DUET.

Nothing is more lovely in boys and girls than quiet, sweet tempers. Some days ago two young friends of ours went into the parlor to practice a duet on the piano. They were brother and sister. For a time the music came in jerks, then stopped altogether. Opening the door, another duet was heard. "You did not," "I did." "I say you were too fast." "But I know I wasn't." This is what we heard—a very sad duet, in which there was no music. An unhappy temper often spoils our sweetest enjoyments.

It is as bad to be with a grumbler as to be out on a rainy day. The one dampens our clothing, the other our spirits. But a bright, sunny faced man or woman cheers us like a ray of sunlight coming into a dark room.

Fretting is hateful and tiresome. Cheerfulness, lovely and winsome.

"We all have our trials and troubles; why should we impose them upon others? There is virtue in suffering patiently and cheerfully. When troubles come, shut your mouth firmly, look up, take in a long breath, and go forward."

SKATING.

Most of our young readers probably know more about skates and skating than we can tell them; and in a country like Canada it is not surprising that the amusement should be generally indulged in; but even in this country where the winters are so long and the ice generally so abundant, there are still some who cannot skate, and a few who know nothing about it. For the information of such, we may mention that skates are blades of steel placed under the soles of the feet for the purpose of enabling the wearer to glide along the surface of the ice. They were usually fitted to pieces of wood, carved into something of a boat-like form, to which straps of leather are fastened, in order to enable the skater to attach them the more fitting to his feet. In some skates lately made, the wood has given way to metallic fittings, which are neater, and in some respects preferable; except that they are liable to rust and more easily injured than the others. In Great Britain as well as in America, skating is a favorite pastime in winter; and it is claimed for the skaters in England and Scotland that they excel the natives of other countries in the skillful manoeuvres which they are able to practice. They study the most graceful curves, and the most possible balancing the body when going at great speed. In the northern parts of Europe, skating is used merely as a necessary means of getting from one place to another among the labouring classes, so that its more ornamental modes are not often practiced. It has to be learned at an early age, and requires considerable practice and attention, otherwise large amount of success can no more be realized than in any other pursuit. Skating clubs are numerous, both in England and America; and in some of the towns artificial skating rinks are becoming very numerous.

The cut we, this week, give our readers represents some young folks enjoying themselves in this delightful way, and we know of no amusement that can be indulged in by boys and girls, whether young or old, during the long winter months in this country. We have also known instances in this country in which the accomplishment has been serviceable in moving from place to place. A good skater can travel many miles in a day with the greatest ease.

AN EXAMPLE FOR CHURCH GOERS.

Yesterday, in church, a very little girl sat in the seat next me; a pretty, chubby thing she was, with big gray eyes. She was so very little that she had not been to church often enough to learn the manners of the place; in fact, she talked right out loud whenever she had anything to say.

Now, do not call her a naughty child, for I shall show you how she was a model to all church goers, old and young. 1. Before she left home she had remembered that a collection was to be taken up. So many people forget that, and leave their purses at home. 2. She not only thought of the collection, but she put a piece of money for it in her pocket. What fine collections we should take up if everybody did that! 3. She was watching to see the boxes passed around, anxious not to miss them. I have seen people so busy looking at their books that they did not see these boxes. Other people wait in breathless hope that they will be passed by, and so be able to carry the money that ought to go in the box. Not so with our little girl. She looked eagerly for the box, and as soon as it began to go around she thrust her little fat hand in her tiny left pocket for that money. Her father, not knowing this, offered her a cent. She cried out "clearly," "Don't want your penny!" I have seen big folks willing enough to give other people's money. Her father put his cent into her wee kid gloved hand. She dropped it decidedly into his hat, and her voice rang out, "Dot my own penny!" Thus (4) she was an example of giving her own to God. Her father failing, as fathers sometimes do, to comprehend the ways of little girls, still passed the little cent up the seat, but the little girl, after much tagging, brought forth her own treasure, a great round, old style copper, which she admired for its huge size. Her mother whispered, "Put this cent in." But clearly ringing out came the little voice, "No, no; I'm doin' to give my big penny." She thought money valuable in proportion to its size, and a cent meant to give a big penny, the biggest she had. Now, how many church goers that day did as well as that, and give to God their largest money, taking a pride and pleasure in giving of there very best? So this is the fifth way in which this little girl can serve as an example. Who will go and do likewise?