

PLANTING THORNS.

CELIA SANFORD.

"O, mother! Carrie Barton has got just the loveliest new velvet hat, trimmed with cardinal flowers and ostrich feathers. Her mother paid five dollars for it. You can't begin to think how much more stylish it is than mine," said Ellen Carroll as she came into her mother's sitting-room, fresh and rosy from school.

"I thought you liked your hat very much, my daughter," returned Mrs. Carroll as she looked up from the row of plaiting which she was stitching for Ellen's dress.

"So I did when it was new."

"You have had it not quite two months, I think."

"Well, Carrie had a new one just before I got mine. She has four new hats every year, while I have but two. She says she should be ashamed to wear her winter hat in the spring, or her summer hat in the fall."

"I cannot afford to get you more than two hats in a year, my daughter."

"I don't see why I can't have as nice things as Carrie. Her cloak is trimmed with fur, and cost I don't know how much; and her furs are just splendid."

"Carrie's father makes more money in a month than your's does in a year and besides she is an only child, and there are four of my darlings to share with each other; and papa and I are trying hard to save, so as to be able to give our children as good advantages for schooling as Carrie Barton or any of your more favoured friends enjoy."

"O, mother! That is just what you always say. I don't like to hear it. I don't care whether I go to school or not. It is tiresome anyway to study so hard. I spent two hours this afternoon hunting for the Manitou Islands and did not find them at last; and I just hate those old rules, and my parsing lesson. I'd rather have nice and pretty things than all the learning in the world;" and Ellen seated herself by the window with a sullen, dissatisfied look on her usually placid face; while her mother returned with a sigh to her sewing. For a time there was no sound heard, save the clicking of the machine, and then Mrs. Carroll left the room to prepare supper. Presently an invalid lady, a visitor of Mrs. Carroll's, who had been reclining on the sofa, arose to a sitting position and said said softly, "Ellen, my dear, will you be so kind as to get a little warm water and bathe my head?"

Ellen had been watching the passers by till her good humor was quite restored, and she did readily what she was requested to do.

"There, that will do. Thank you very much. My head feels better than it has to-day," said the lady, and after a pause she added, "I have been thinking, while lying here, of some incidents in my girlhood days; would you like me to tell you about them?"

"O, yes! thank you, I should like it ever so much."

"Sit down beside me, then," and she drew the young girl to her side and placed her arm about her, as she asked, "How old are you, my dear?"

"I was thirteen last May."

"I was fourteen, just a little older than you, when my mother died. It was of my dear mother that I was thinking this afternoon. My father died when I was five years old; I can but just remember him; and after his death my mother and I lived quite alone; and she took in sewing to support us. She had to work very hard, but was always gentle, kind, loving and cheerful; and in addition to her labor for our maintenance, she took great pains in teaching me, so that when I first went to school at the age of ten, I was prepared to take my place in advanced classes.

"My mother loved me better than any one or anything else in this world, and often, I know, sacrificed her own comfort to make me happy, and I loved her very much, but I had one serious fault. I was proud and vain, and when I saw my school-mates better dressed than myself, I envied them, and often complained to my patient mother, and said many foolish things, making both her and myself very unhappy. It is true, my print dresses were always nicely made, and were neat and tidy,

and my white apron was spotless, and my hair was becomingly arranged by her own hands; but I longed for the bright ribbons, tasty hat and gloves, and rich dresses of my companions; and I used to beg mother to let me leave school and help her to sew that I might earn money to gratify my tastes, but she would not hear of it, and I knew that my repining wore upon her and added greatly to her burdens.

"One morning—it was less than a month before she died—a lady paid her some money; it was more than she often had at one time, and I tried to persuade her to use it for the purchase of some kid gloves which I had long coveted, and a new dress of gray pattern, which I had seen in a store, and when she refused, I was very angry. She tried to reason with me, said she needed the money for rent, wood and so on; and that the dress and gloves would ill compare with the rest of my clothes. I would not listen, but said some very unkind things. My poor mother! I think I see her pale face as she came toward me, saying in a tremulous voice; 'Sarah, my child, do you know what you are doing? You are planting the seeds that will strew thickly your pillow with thorns, and cause you many a sleepless night in the future.'"

"As I told you, she died soon afterward, and so suddenly that I never had a chance to ask her forgiveness, and the very money which I was so anxious to spend on finery went to defray her funeral expenses. I had to leave school now, and live here and there wherever I could find a place, as the maid of all work. Sometimes I was not treated kindly; and then my thoughts would go back to the tender, patient, loving mother, who carried heavy burdens, that my life might be free from care—my vision was clearer now—and the remembrance of the bitter words I had said to her, and the pain and sorrow I had caused her in return for her loving kindness to me, drove sleep from my eyes for many a weary night."

When the recital was ended, Ellen arose, pressed her cheek against the lady's face, kissed her tenderly, and went away to find her mother; and when they all met at the tea-table there was a happy light in the eyes of both mother and daughter, though the latter wore a subdued look, and there were traces of recent tears upon her glowing cheeks.

"PRAY ON MY PLATE TOO."

A little bright-eyed three-year-old was seated in his high chair at the dinner-table. Mamma had arranged the little uneasiness, while from the moment his sprightliness and fun had made him the observed of all the family. She had placed him snugly up to the table pinned on his bib, and succeeded in getting his little mischievous hands quiet, and making him "hush," when father proceeded to ask the blessing. While this was in progress our little chubby made a discovery. It was that all the plates on the table, except his own little plate, were in one pile at "papa's place," and, as it seemed to him, were put there to get the benefit of the solemn ceremony. So, scarcely waiting for the "Amen," he held out his own plate in both hands, saying, "Please, papa, pray on my plate too."

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the Flower and York, has now had years. Though of the great city drawn from the During the summer received from amounting to 73,823, which were disome hundred hosprisons and in 11,000 to the sick the work for 1878 reunion held in No. 239 Fourth April.

The Young Men's of Chicago has at bureau, where and men have been. The first year men were ena. A Chicago paper ern and Southern this office. Emity and country, the bureau for eppers, salesmen, business men gen ade for its ser nity in its most

wear bullet-proof ir coats. Some only, others pro addition a band worn within the

CORNER.

H'S ARK.

NHAM.

world to play! e!" in the way e folk.

onderful game, ark;" name.— Noah's Ark."

a Ark, you know, come, d to go,

Noah, we'll play; mark, er-book, the way the Ark."

preachin', I fink; ss." pink, dress.

"wicked folks;" ove my Lord!" "Go to

accord.

poor Father Noah, t and main! shower before? old wet rain?"

the best of jokes; ark. the "wicked folks k."

the edge of the sink and a thud, "Didn't fink ly flood!" "Ivoked for April.

MOTHER.

ragged and gray, f the winter's day; a recent snow, aged and slow. g and waited long, i the throng assed her by, f her anxious eye ughter and about the school let out ck of sheep, white and deep.

and gray n their way. and to her, l to stir els or the horses'

n in the slippers merry troop—the group; and whispered low, you wish to go." strong young arm out hurt or harm, feet along, firm and strong. friends he went, and well content. er, boys, you know and slow; w will lend a hand understand, old and gray, is far away." "er" bowed low her

at, and the prayer

the noble boy and pride and joy" Harper's Weekly.