

# BOYS AND GIRLS

## Seed Sown.

'No, Ellen, I won't, and that's flat! If you want another kettle on when all the things have been washed up and it's getting near dinner time, you may boil it yourself. I won't! It's getting to be nothing but missionaries now, and I am tired of it.' And Martha began her cooking preparations with an angry frown on her forehead instead of her usual pleasant smile.

'Why, Martha, what's come to you?' said Ellen, astonished. 'You are always such a friend to the missions, and give

as she lifted the kettle on to the bright fire where it would soon boil for the missionary's tea. 'I know there's some text about it in the New Testament which we learned at bible-class, but I can't quite remember where.'

'I hope I am a good Christian and know my bible as well as you,' hastily said Martha, who was only the more anxious to prove herself right because of a suspicion in her heart that she was wrong. 'I know it says, if we give even a cup of cold water for Christ we give it to Him; but then we don't give it here—missis gives it; we only do the work.'

back to her talk with Martha, she did her best to make the tea as inviting as possible, and was rewarded with an approving smile from her mistress. When she reached the kitchen she found Martha studying her bible, and as Ellen entered she said, without looking up,

'Is this the text you mean, Ellen, Matt. 10, 41, "Whosoever receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward"? because that, I say, refers to missis, not us.'

'No, that is not the one I mean,' quickly replied Ellen, again taking up her bible, 'though I think my text will show that does refer to us as well as missis. But look here, Ephesians 6, 5, 6, 7, and then the 8th verse: "Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord whether he be bond or free." That means us servants plain enough; that if we put our hearts into serving the tea or dinner that missis gives, we really are counted to give as much to the Lord as she does. Don't you think so, Martha?'

'I don't know; I never heard that before, and must think about it. Turn down the page, Ellen, and don't keep me dawdling about any longer or the dinner will be spoilt, and then missis will be angry,' and Martha bustled off in what seemed a very ungracious manner. But Ellen knew cook's ways, and that she was really a good woman at heart, so she wisely said no more, but went about her work, though she noticed that the dinner was never better sent up and that Martha was quite thoughtful all the evening.

The next day the tired missionary became ill, and was ordered complete rest for at least a week in bed. Glad as the lady was to be his nurse and hostess, she was a little uneasy as to the burden cast on her already busy maids, especially as Martha had never seemed quite cordial towards the guests she and her husband so honored and welcomed in their Lord's name.

But a surprise awaited her, for not only were all meals well served, but the invalid's appetite was tempted by many a dainty dish suggested by Martha herself, and when at length convalescence was reached, she felt as much as due to her faithful servant as to herself. One day she told her so in conveying the missionary's thanks with her own.

'I don't know how it was, Martha, that you so surpassed yourself,' she said, smiling, 'but I am very grateful to you.'

'Don't thank me, ma'am,' said Martha bluntly, 'I did it to the Lord as well as for my duty to you, and it was Ellen there who showed me how glad I ought to be for such a chance.' And she told the lady of their conversation and the texts.

'Martha, I am so glad,' said the lady, giving the handshake of a friend as she spoke. 'It is so happy to know that while in God's providence we are mistress and servant here for a time on earth, we are yet fellow-servants of the same Master in heaven. We shall all do our work here better for working in sympathy for Him, and I thank you for telling me.'

And the lady was right; the little seed sown in the bible-class, and taking root in Ellen's heart, brought forth good fruit in the future life of Martha, and then of others with whom she was brought in contact.—'Friendly Greeting.'



'MARTHA, I AM SO GLAD,' SAID THE LADY.

more than I do to our collecting-box. You ought to be glad to do anything for a real missionary from India, come home because he worked too hard among the poor heathen and got ill.'

'And so, I thought,' retorted Martha, 'if I was missis, and he was come to my house to tell me all about it. I would give him the best I had got, and be glad to, because of what the bible says. But to work twice as hard as usual, just for missis to get the reward, don't suit me at all, and I shan't do it, that's all about it!'

'I think there's something wrong about that, Martha,' returned Ellen thoughtfully,

'Stop a bit, Martha,' said Ellen excitedly as she ran over to a table in the window where her bible lay and began hurriedly turning the pages. 'I think I can find the text—yes, here it is! But there is the kettle boiling; I must take up the tea, and will tell you about it when I come down.' And she shut the book and went off in eager haste.

Martha gave only a grunt in answer, and went on with her work while Ellen took up the dainty tea she had prepared for the hard-worked servant of God, to whose pale and worn but peaceful face all her heart had gone out. Eager as she was to get