

26, 1877. children of his own, and knew how the poor little girl whom he saw standing at the sitting room window, as he rang the door bell, must feel when her mother lay ill up stairs and no one had time to notice the child. So, as he came down stairs, he said to the nurse who was to open the door for him, "I would like to see the children."

"Oh," said the woman, "there's only one; I think she's there," and she opened the sitting room door. It was growing dusk, but Mr. Duncan saw a little figure in one corner, and saying, "You needn't wait," he closed the door and went to the child. Poor Totty! she was standing in a corner with her face to the wall. "Come and sit on my knee my child," said a kind voice, and Totty saw the great tall minister bending over her. She was a shy child, yet was glad to get on anyone's knee—she was so lonely.

"Why did you stand in the corner, Totty?" said the minister, after he had learned her name. "Cause I'd been bad, and mother would—and the sad little voice broke down. Mr. Duncan understood at once, The poor child had tried to be good, and, failing, had punished herself as her dear mother would have done, longing for even the mother's punishment in her loneliness.

Mr. Duncan talked to the little girl about God's love for her mother and for her, talked of heaven, till Totty felt ashamed to wish to keep her mother from such a lovely place, and then he put her down, and kissing her good bye went away, saying, "You must come and see me, Totty, by and by."

Strange to say Mrs. Dallas grew better, and the little girl was sent away to Aunt Mary's to stay till Mamma was well. Just two days before, Totty had come home, to find dear mamma up, and to tell her all about that "good, kind Mr. Duncan."

"I want to show him how I love him, mamma. I want to take him something nice." Mrs. Dallas felt so thankful for her recovery that she too wanted to show her gratitude, so she said: "Well, Totty, I will let you go to see Mr. Duncan on Thursday, and you may take him something nice."

"May I take him something of my own?" "Yes, you can choose." It was winter time, and eggs were very scarce. Totty had a dozen hens, and papa bought all her eggs, which gave Totty quite a nice little sum of pocket money. She ran to the cook.

"Oh, Nancy, has my hens laid eggs while I was away?" "Yes, Miss Totty; your pa's took six, and there's twelve left." Totty danced for joy. Mr. Duncan should have all her eggs. Mrs. Dallas was glad to humor the little girl, and with her husband's help she made one of Totty's eggs a really valuable present.

For, after blowing the egg empty, she carefully worked in a fifty dollar bill, and laid a note in the bottom of the basket to say it was a thank offering for her recovery. By Thursday Totty had twenty eggs, and started off in her Sunday dress to call at the minister's. Now, just as she tripped around the corner, and came in sight of the church and the minister's house, Deacon Sharpe came up to her. The deacon was a good man and helped the minister in his church work, but he never had thought of giving him an extra present. "We pay his salary, and though it ain't much it's reg'lar," as it was small it was pretty well up to the minute.

"Well, little one," said the deacon, "you look as fresh as a peasy! How's your ma?" "She's most well, thank you." "Where are you goin' to, and what have you got there?" "I'm goin' to the minister's, and these are eggs—my eggs. I want to give 'em to him."

"Why, what you givin' him eggs for?" "Oh, he told me 'bout heaven, you know, and was so kind and—I love him so much. Don't you always give things to folks you love?" The deacon went on and left Totty at the minister's door, where she was warmly welcomed and petted, and Mr. Duncan told her he should paint one of the eggs, and always keep it to remember her love for him. You may be sure that pleased Totty.

The next day, just as the minister was thanking God again for that money, which was sent in such a wonderful way, Deacon Sharpe's market wagon drew up. "Mary, dear," called the minister, "see here, darling; you felt badly that that fifty dollars must all go to pay back bills and for groceries. I told you not to fret—look at the deacon."

It was a funny sight, but very pleasant to a poorly paid man, with three big boys to feed. Why the deacon didn't ring the bell, I can't tell. He pulled out a barrel of potatoes, then another; then came apples, and, as he landed these, one or two rolling off the deacon picked one up, took a bite, nodded his head sagely, as much as to say, "Them's good," and looked with great approbation at the barrels. But there was more to come; turnips, carrots and a couple of bags of some kind of grain. "Corn meal, dear, I do believe," said the delighted wife, "and with the eggs I'll give you such a Johnny-cake to night!"

At last, carrying a couple of turkeys in his hands, Deacon Sharpe rang the bell. Mr. Duncan himself opened the door. The deacon was a man of few words. "Mornin', sir. Can your boys give me a hand to roll in these things?" "I'll help you, with a right good will, deacon. Who told you what we needed?" Deacon Sharpe had reached the potatoes, and leaning hard on them he exclaimed, "You don't mean to say you needed them!" "Certainly. You see we haven't a big farm like you. Didn't you bring them because we needed them?" "Mr. Duncan, I brought you them things because I was ashamed that a little bit of a girl should be more thankful to you than I'd ever been. You've driven out to our place time and ag'in, when Sairy Ann was sick, and had prayer meetings at our house, and taught me a lot o' good—made me a better man, I hope; and yet I never did the least extra thing to show my thanks, to show—as that little mite of a child said—that I loved you. This taught me a lesson, and these things shan't be the last to come from Briarsly farm for you. As to your needing them, I own it's a new idee, and I feel pretty cheap when I think on it."

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