

mother says will yer be after letting Nora come home at wanst, 'cause she'd like to see her, and she'll be right back." Then, glancing at the table, Kate exclaimed: "What an illigant dinner, Miss, and the two of yous to ate it. It ain't the likes of that we'd be havin' at our house."

Lou's eyes sparkled. "Would you care to stay and eat dinner with us, Kate?"

"Do yer mane it, Miss?"

"Mean it? Of course. We have enough for three, and if your mother don't mind—"

"Begrudge me a dinner the likes of that? No, indade."

Just then Nora appeared on the scene and was astonished to find her little sister talking with Miss Lou. "Mother wants you at wanst, Nora," said the young guest, "and I will be after atin' dinner with the mistress whiles you do be gone."

Nora made a move toward the child as if to strike her for her supposed impudence, but Lou held her back: "It's all right, Nora, I've invited her to dine with us, and this afternoon, if your mother is willing, I'll keep her here to play with me and this little boy. There are lots of my discarded playthings upstairs. Now you run over and see what your mother wants, and tell her I have kept Kate."

"Blessings on you, Miss. It's little enough pleasure the poor child has."

Lou afterward declared that she derived as much enjoyment from the frolic of that afternoon as did either of her happy little guests, and she wondered if she could have derived as much satisfaction at witnessing the pleasure of her own dear friends.

That evening she sang Christmas carols in the mission church down the street. The soprano had been suddenly taken sick, and as it was known that Lou had a clear, sweet voice, and was acquainted with the hymns, she was requested to fill the vacant place. Gladly she consented, for a day spent in doing good had prepared her heart and voice for singing praises to the Most High.

"Mother, I acted on your advice," she said, when her parents had returned to their home. "I did it, too, almost without knowing it, and the day proved indeed to be one of the happiest Christmases I ever spent. The other day I read these lines:

No shattered box of ointment
We ever need regret;
Far out of disappointment
Flow sweetest odors yet.

I thought then that they were not true; now I believe in them heartily."—*Selected.*

Free-will is not the liberty to do whatever one likes, but the power of doing whatever one sees ought to be done.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

PERHAPS no place in the world has harder work for clergymen to do than Newfoundland. Nearly all the places where people live are on the sea coast, and the people themselves are nearly all fishermen—except in St. John's, which is the capital of the colony and a fine large city. The clergy have to do a great deal of their work in open boats, as they go to their different missionary stations. The weather is often cold and stormy, and the sea rough—for remember that the sea there is the Atlantic Ocean, and think what it must be sometimes to toss about on it in an open boat, a poor little thing rising and falling with the big, heavy waves! Of course, sometimes, when the sea is quiet and the wind is fair, the journey might be very beautiful; but the missionary must go in all weathers—rain, hail, snow, sleet, or storm, he must go, if there is any possibility of doing so; but the worst is that he may start when the weather is fine, and when he is far away from shore a storm may come on, and then he is at the mercy of the wind and the waves. Sometimes a clergyman has gone out in that way and has never returned. But then the poor fishermen have dangers of the same kind, and the clergyman, for Christ's sake, throws in his lot with them. This is what it is to be a missionary. We should pray for all missionaries, that God would protect them in all dangers.

And are we ready for Him? The Christmas preparations are almost made; the Christmas gifts will soon be finished; very soon we shall begin to deck the church in its Christmas dress. But what about these little hearts? Are they prepared for Him? Do they cherish in some secret corner a gift for Christ? Are they clean and pure, and bright with Christmas wreaths of sweetest, holiest thoughts?

This quiet Sunday, while still the Advent hymns are sung, the Advent prayers and Advent lessons read, is a time set apart for these Christmas preparations. We are making ready our homes and our churches for Christmas Day; do not let us forget the first, most needful making ready of all.

One of the first lessons that a young man should learn is faithfulness to duty and trustworthiness in small matters. Having these, the foundation of prosperity is laid; and if to such characteristics are added a determination to become absolute master of the business and the capacity to grasp the various requirements, the highway to wealth and standing is well laid out.