

and maybe we can mend some of the dolls."

"Yes, I'm sure we can," Mrs. Hale answered. "Ellen will wash the clothes, and we'll see what we can do about the mending. I'm a pretty good doll's surgeon, you know, and so is Nora."

"O mamma, let's hurry!" And Laura skipped on ahead, and was in the house, upstairs, and talking breathlessly to Ellen about what she had seen, and what she was going to do, by the time Mrs. Hale reached the street door.

It was a busy time in the nursery for a day or two, and it was astonishing to see how very respectable the heap of broken toys grew. When all repairs were finished, there was a full half dozen very nice-looking dolls in clean dresses. Ellen said, as she winked slyly at Nora:

"An' now they're so pretty, I'm sure Miss Laura'll kape 'em all her own self."

"Indeed I will not," Laura said earnestly. "I'm so glad they look nice! But I wouldn't keep them, not for a houseful of new things, unless I might give the new ones to Miss Dayton's children."

When Laura saw her mother and Miss Dayton unpack the basket of repaired toys, she felt, without knowing it, the full blessedness of giving. The wonder and delight on the faces of the little cripples, their exclamations and their thanks, were sweeter to Laura than anything she had ever experienced.

Little Susie, the one with the bad arm, crept shyly up to Laura, and asked:

"Did you ever sleep with a dolly?"

"Yes, I always do," Laura answered.

"I never had one least little dolly to sleep with." And the child's mouth quivered pitifully.

"Oh, please, Miss Dayton," Laura said eagerly, "here's the little rubber doll; let Susie have it. Its name is Nannie, and it has slept with me so long it'll be lonesome in the night if it's left here in the basket."

"Surely," said Miss Dayton. "Each little girl may have her own doll now to take home with her, and I know she'll keep it clean and bring it to school every day, so that it may have tea on these pretty little dishes and see all the others."

And Laura never forgot the lesson she had learned from the little crippled children.

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Surely to you He meaneth nothing ill,
His love to you can never know decreasing,
He knoweth what He does—'tis wisdom still.

Patience in heavy days of dark distress
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—From the German by H. Bonar.

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