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hot stove. Her sleeves were rolled up to the elbows and her arms looked nearly as red as her face.

A loud, shrill whistle rang out on the air.

"It's the men coming to dinner," she said, and then, spying the rag doll which Elsie was just preparing to put so carefully away, Mrs. Everett's rage seemed to reach its height; for she seized the unoffending object and pitched it out of the kitchen.

For an instant Elsie gave her mother one long, searching glance; then, hastily pushing me aside, she rushed out in search of her treasure. One of the wagons was returning quickly from the field, and, before I could realize what had happened, there was a cry of alarm and fear, and Elsie's little, brown curls were mingled with the dust. Tenderly, I picked her up and laid her on the sofa in the sitting-room, then Mrs. Everett turned on me like a savage tigress and said:—"You'd better go out and telephone for a doctor. You've done enough mischief for one day!"

I had done the mischief! Well, of all

in my hand, and, on opening it, I found a prettily dressed French doll. "Here's the new medicine," he said. "That little mite is pining for her lost doll. You give her this, and let me know the result. I'll call again in a few hours."

Mrs. Everett looked jealously at me as I approached the bed; but jealous as she was of my ministering to her child, she had to make the best of it, or she would soon find herself childless.

But the doctor's gift did not have the desired effect. Elsie touched and handled the new doll a moment, and looked at me in questioning wonder—a hurt expression on the pale, little face. Then she pushed the doll from her, and two, big tears coursed slowly down her cheeks. I did all I could to console her; but to no purpose. "You've only made matters worse, with your meddling," said Mrs. Everett, snappishly.

One would have thought she was paying me for my time, whereas I had offered my services gratuitously, merely for love of the little sufferer, whom I was trying to snatch from the jaws of death. But I excused her in my



Santa Claus instructing his Teddy Bear.

things! But I beat a hasty retreat and ran as I had never run in my life.

The next day, to her great disgust, Mrs. Everett was forced to ask me to take the place of nurse, and so I went over to her farm, for a few days and put off my teaching, knowing I could take back the time lost at the end of the term.

Elsie would scarcely allow her mother near her—the sight of her seemed to recall something with horror, and the doctor said to me one day:—

"I don't know how it is, Miss Rhodes; but if that child's life is to be saved, you and I will have to save it. She recoils from her mother, and often screams at her approach. The kick Elsie received from the horse could scarcely make her as ill as she is. Do you know any reason for this unnatural attitude of the girl to her mother?"

I told the doctor the story of that thrashing day, and a light seemed to dawn on him.

"I'll bring a new medicine to-morrow," he said.

The next day he put an oblong box

heart; for, after all, she was the mother, and doubtless, by this time, was full of remorse for her former harshness. I think that, then, she'd willingly have held Elsie in her arms and hugged her to her breast, and have covered her with kisses; only the child would not permit her.

When I saw the doctor coming, I ran to meet him, and I told him of his failure.

"Elsie's temperature has gone up high," I said to him.

He sighed, then walked quickly to the house. As for me, somehow, I could not go back just then. I knew Elsie was always quieted by the doctor's visits, and, as long as he stayed, I was not so much needed. I would wait till he had seen her and then learn what hope was left—if any!

As I wandered around the now neglected yard, I could not but compare it with what it had been. Mr. Everett, of course, did his usual work; but his wife's was hardly touched. The very dog that approached me seemed to sense the change. He rubbed against my skirt