

## DON VALLEY BRICK WORKS

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### AN APRIL FOOL SURPRISE PARTY.

Just think! She never had a party in her life!" said Alacia, as she was walking home from school with three other little girls.

"Who hasn't?" asked Beatrice, whose arm was clasped into one of Alacia's arms.

"It is Frances Mead, Alacia means," answered Caroline, whose arm was clasped in Alacia's other arm.

"I suppose it is because parties cost money, and the Meads have never had so much money as the rest of our families." It was Delia who said this—Delia who was walking alone in front of the others, but she didn't mind it at all if she was.

"I say, why can't we give her a party?" proposed Beatrice; "a real out-and-out surprise party."

"Oh, let's do it," cried Caroline. "I will furnish the candy. Everybody says I am great at making caramels, and from the way they eat them, I really believe they mean what they say."

"And I will give the eggs for the cream," said Delia. "We keep hens, you know."

"And I will give the ice," said Caroline.



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"And I the cake," put in Alacia. "But when shall we have the party?"

"Oh, just as soon as we can," replied Beatrice. "Still, I suppose we'd want a week, at least, to get ready for it. Then let's have it in one week from to-night."

"But that is April Fool night," said Delia.

"So much the better, then," said Alacia. "Our surprise party can be her April Fool."

Thus the plans were made during the rest of the walk home, and there were more plans to make on nearly every day of the following week; for all the girls in Frances' class were determined to make this the pleasantest gathering of the year, and that was saying a great deal; for they had had many very pleasant socials of late.

Frances was sitting in the low sitting-room of her humble cottage home, when she heard a loud ring at the old-fashioned glass-door bell.

"It is one of the boys that has left us an April Fool bundle," she said, "and I'm not going to the door."

"I wouldn't if I were you, dearie," said Mrs. Mead, who was sitting by a little stand in the corner, knitting. "The night is too chilly for you to keep running to the door."

"And all for nothing," put in Frances. "I've been fooled three

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times with that bell, and I won't be fooled again."

The bell sounded again, and yet again, and again. Still Frances paid no attention to it. Then the "front door" opened, and through the little entry into the little room tripped the party, all laughing and shouting, "April Fool!" "April Fool!"

And Frances was "fooled," you may be sure.

But what about the party? Oh, that was just like all parties, only a little more merry, and there seemed to be no end to the good-natured tricks that were played, simply because it was All Fools' Day.—Alice May Douglas, in Young Churchman.

—It is well to be prepared for trials. By studying the Scriptures, by becoming acquainted with Christ, by learning to follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit, one may be prepared for the days of trial which, sooner or later, come to all. Blessed is he who is ready when the testing time is at hand.

—Of silver and gold we may have none, yet as distributors of God's bounty in smiles, in words of cheer and loving deeds, we may lay up treasures—precious and exhaustless treasures in the world to come. He is wealthy who is rich in faith.