

vement, with its perfect design of lilies, was to her a never-ending wonder. One day while gazing at it she said, so quaintly :

“ ‘Missie, I don’t want to get big, for if I do My Lady won’t bring me the Baby Jesus when I sleep, but I want to go to her soon, to be always little, and to scatter lilies just like these round her throne in Heaven. But I must be a Catholic to go there, and you know mamma won’t let me. Katherinka says God can do every-thing. I suppose He can settle about me’.

“ When Florence looked its loveliest in the sweet month of May, the Raminoffs moved to Monte Carlo. In the little church of *Sainte Dévote*, Shura for the first time was present at Benediction ; she went every evening, but ere May was ended the family once more sought another health resort. June at its close found the travellers in Odessa, whence they sailed for Batum, on the southwestern shore of the Black Sea.

“ In the July of 1905 a revolutionary outbreak startled Russia. The fleet sided with the insurgents, and the Raminoffs returned to Odessa, that large, well-kept port in which Mr. Raminoff’s principal banks were. In September the mutinous fleet entered the harbor and the bombardment began. Shells fell on every side ; a perfect panic seized the inhabitants, most of whom sought safety in flight. Mr. Raminoff would not desert the town in its hour of need, but he arranged for the flight of madame, Shura, Miss Ormonde and a few trusted servants. By night the little party left the Raminoff mansion and proceeded by lanes and back streets to the railway station. In the principal thoroughfares fighting was going on, the assailants fiercely attacking the barricades. Madame was wild with terror, but Shura, who was carried by a manservant, was very still ; her eyes were closed, and her little hands clutched firmly a small parcel. Thinking she was frightened, her governess spoke cheering words, but the only answer was :

“ ‘No, Missie, I do not fear ; I am speaking to My Lady. See, I have brought her picture. She will take care of us.’