

# A Mother's Testimony



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## THE WINTER PICNIC.

W HAT is a 'winter picnic,' Aunt Edith?" asked Laura. "In this book it tells about some children having a winter picnic, but it doesn't tell

what they do."
"Well," answered Aunt Edith, "tomorrow is my birthday, and I will
celebrate it by taking you and Doris Alden on a winter picnic; then you will know just what it is."
"Goody!" exclaimed Laura. "And

may I go and ask Doris now?"

"Why," said Aunt Edith, thoughtfully, "I think an invitation to a birthday party ought to be written, don't you?"

"Perhaps it had," agreed Laura.

"And you can run out to the wood-shed and find me a nice smooth piece of birch bark to write it on," said Aunt Edith

It was not long before Laura was back with the smooth piece of birch bark; and on it Aunt Edith carefully printed, "Miss Doris Alden is invited to a winter picnic at eleven o'clock to-morrow.'

"That is lovely!" exclaimed Laura.

"But you don't say where?"
"You can tell her that we will call for her," said Aunt Edith.

At exactly eleven the next morning Aunt Edith and Laura found Doris waiting for them at her front door. They were all warmly dressed, for it a cold day in early December. Aunt Edith was drawing a sled, and on the sled were several packages covered by a large shawl.

They went down the road by the schoolhouse and turned into a wood road which led in among big spruce and fir-trees. The sun flickered down through the branches and made little dancing lights across the spow. The dancing lights across the snow. The trees kept off the cold wind, and both Doris and Laura said it did not seem

a bit like winter.

"This is the very place for a winter picnic," declared Aunt Edith, as they came to a little clearing, where two great ledges rose out of the snow. Aunt Edith took the shawl from the packages on the sled and spread it over a smooth place near a large tree, and then put the sled on the shawl. "That is our dining-room," she explained. "Now you find me some dry twigs and small branches of wood, and I will cook dinner right beside this big rock."

It did not take long to start a fine

blaze and put the potatoes to roast, and as soon as they were cooked, they all sat down on the sled with their feet on the warm shawl, and ate the hot potatoes and the little sandwiches which Aunt Edith had brought. Then there were some nice mince turnovers and big red apples.

Aunt Edith put the fire out very

Aunt Edith put the fire out very carefully, and Doris and Laura fastened an apple to a branch of a tree.

"Some winter-loving bird may be glad to find it," Aunt Edith said.

"Now I know just what a winter picnic is," said Laura, happily, as they trudged toward home.—Youth's Companion.

### THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

ONE day an old friend of her folk met a little Scottish girl on her way home from the first school she ever attended. She had been a pupil for several weeks, and the gentleman thought she would have something in-

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teresting to tell him.
"Weel, Jessie," he asked, "an' how
d'ye like school?"

Instead of the expressions of delight he had expected, there came the frank answer, "Oh! I'm fair sick frank answer, "Co't."—Little Folks.

> THE SILVER MOON. By JAMES P. WEBBER.

I WONDER how they fix the moon! I thought in days gone by
That some one took a high chair
And hung it in the sky;
But now that I am wiser, I know no chair could be Made high enough to bring one up

Above the cherry-tree.

And once I saw it shining All in the broad daylight, As if the moon-man had forgot It was no longer night.
And then some fleecy cloudlets came,
Like little lambs at play, And when I looked for it again The moon had flown away.



Children of the Zuyder Zee-Metropolitan Magazine

### SHE TOOK PRECAUTIONS.

THE Dutch peasant lives with canals all about him, and reaches his cottages by way of a drawbridge. Perhaps it's in the blood THE Dutch of a Dutch child not to fall into a canal. At all events, the Dutch mother never appears to anticipate such a possibility. One can imagine the average English mother trying to bring up a family in a house sur-rounded by canals. She never would have a minute's peace until the children were in bed. But then the mere sight of a canal to the English child suggests the delights of a sudden and unexpected bath. An Englishman inquired of a Dutch woman: "Does a Dutch child by any chance ever fall into a canal?" "Yes," she replied; "cases have been known." "Don't you do anything for it?" continued the questioner. "Oh, yes," she answered, "we haul them out again." "But what I mean is," explained the Englishman, "don't you do anything to prevent their falling in, to save them from falling in again?" "Yes," she answered, "we spank them." quired of a Dutch woman: "Does

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