

in honour of the occasion. A little autumnal sharpness in the air made the cheery glow look pleasant and homely.

Dolly had been in a high state of exultation all day; she had decked the sombre room with flowers, and done all in their power to make everything look bright. She had danced about like a little fairy, quite forgetting, in her pleasure, her demure little grown-up ways; her eyes were bright, her face flushed, and she looked the very embodiment of childish happiness.

"What makes you so gay this afternoon, Dorothy?" Lady Temple had asked; and the answer had been given with an emphasis that left no room for doubt—

"Oh grandmother, dear, it is because I am so *very pleased* that you are well again and can come downstairs."

And now the quiet *tête-à-tête* tea was over, and the little table cleared, but the lamp had not been brought in, for it was not yet time, although some black clouds in the sky made the room rather dark, and the dancing firelight on walls and ceiling was cheerful to the eye.

"Dorothy, my dear," said Lady Temple, "come and sit beside me. I have something to say to you."

In a moment Dolly was in her favorite seat. The unusual gentleness of the tone emboldened her. She gently possessed herself of one of her grandmother's hands, and laid her soft cheek against it while she listened.

"Yes, grandmother, dear."

"Dorothy," began Lady Temple, "did your mother ever talk to you about me when you were in India?"

"Yes, grandmother, she did sometimes."

"Can you remember what she said?"

"Oh yes. She used to tell us about you and papa, when he was a little boy, and how kind you were to him, and how he loved you, and how you nursed him when he was so dreadfully ill that nobody thought he could live. Mamma used to say it was you who had saved his life. She used to tell us a good many stories about you."

"And when you were coming to England did she tell you any more?"

"I don't know that she told us anything more exactly, but she talked to us a great deal."

"In what way?"

"She told us how kind you had been in taking us into your house, when we might have had to go to school. She said we were to be very good children and to love you very much. She was always saying that she wanted us to love you. I think mamma must have been very fond of you, grandmother, because she wanted us to be."

"Marmaduke did not seem to have been taught that lesson," remarked Lady Temple quietly.

"Duke had been spoiled on the ship," answered Dolly, earnestly. Captain Kennedy and the other gentlemen taught him to say

such naughty things. Mamma would have been so grieved if she had heard him."

"It was no words of hers he used then?"

Lady Temple seemed speaking to herself. Face and voice were alike very thoughtful.

"Oh no, no!" cried Dolly earnestly. "Mamma loved everybody—she is good to everybody—no one can help loving her, and she always taught us to be loving and gentle. But Duke is little, and he forgets so soon, and he had been a whole month away from her. He would never have spoken as he did if mamma had been near." There was a long pause after this.

(To be continued.)

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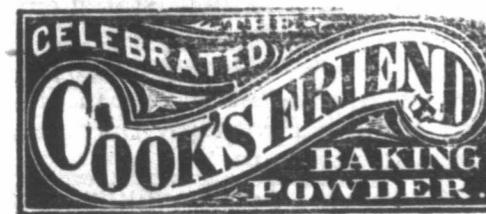
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