

The Two Growlers.

The snow had fallen thickly, and house-roof, barns, wagons, and every ledge where a flake could find lodgment was covered with a white mantle. Even old Rufus, the dog, would have been covered, too, if he had not shaken himself, from time to time, growling as he did so. He was not the only growler there. Joe's face was as sulky as a face could be, and his words were growled out in quite a dog's surly manner. His father had set him down to sweep a path from the door, and he was doing it with great reluctance.

His mother watched him, and saw that he was out of temper. She thought it better not to notice this in a direct way, yet she wished to give him a gentle reproof. So she told him how she had gone a day or two ago, to visit Tommy, who was in bed very ill. "You may think how hard it was for the poor little fellow to be kept in bed while his brothers and sisters were out at play. I said, 'It must be very dull for you; don't you long to be well enough to play again?'"

"What did Tommy say to that?" asked Joe, looking up.

"He said, 'No, I'm not longing; I should if it were God's will, but He knows best about everything.' Was that not a nice remark for him to make? We might learn a lesson by it."

Joe made no reply; but I think he did learn at least part of the lesson, for he began to brush away at the snow much more vigorously. Do you, dear reader, need to learn the same lesson? Is it difficult to keep cheerful and good-tempered when your fingers are tingling with cold?

Then think of Tommy. Think also of the shepherd of Salisbury Plain and say, "If it is weather that pleases God, it ought to please me."

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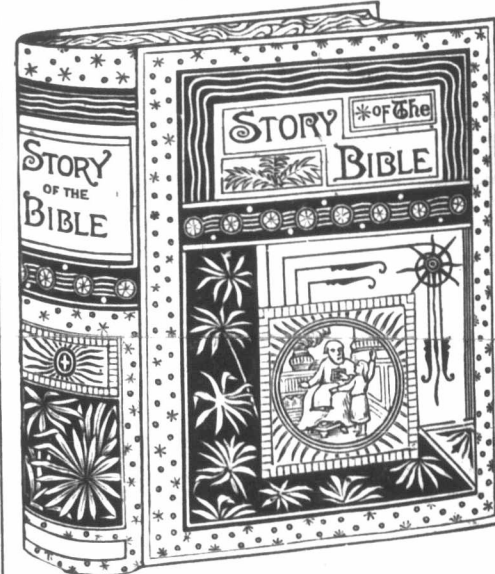
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