

green shoots of lilac start out so vigorously, and when they first caught a glimpse of the folded white petals of the cherry, they were almost speechless with delight.

They then thought they would like a branch or two of their own, so one frosty morning, when there was but little snow on the ground, they went into the orchard on a tour of discovery.

They found a scraggy branch, perhaps three feet in length, that a winter's gale had torn from an old apple tree, and they brought it in triumph to the house. The next thing was to find something to put it in, and rummaging in the cellar they found an old black bottle. To be sure it had a long neck and a small mouth—but why not? The end of the branch just filled the mouth and the long neck would keep it firm and upright; so they got the bottle ready, put in the branch, carried it upstairs to a window, and named it Judy.

It must be confessed that their mother did not think Judy either useful or ornamental, but she never made fun of her before the children.

The little girls soon became very fond of Judy and took great care of her. Often, after they were snugly tucked in bed at night, their mother would hear a sleepy voice say: "Oh, Kate, did you take Judy out of the window?" or, "O, Louise, has Judy had water to-day?" or, perhaps, "I wonder if Judy is all right. I hope she isn't too near the register."

Happily, Judy was not ungrateful for all the love and care lavished upon her. Day by day her buds grew larger and larger until, one clear bright morning, she slowly unfurled the exquisite pink and white petals of two large blossoms. Later, another and another opened until Judy's uncouth form was clothed in beauty, and she became a joy to all the household.

But on that first morning Kate and Louise were so eager to tell Aunt Milly the news that they could scarcely eat any breakfast.

"You dear little women!" cried Aunt Milly, when they told her, "how did you manage it? I have had three apple branches in water this winter, and did not succeed in bringing out blossoms on one of them. How did you do it?"

"Why, Aunt Milly!" answered Kate, "we just did as you do. We put Judy in a bottle of water with charcoal in it, and always kept it full of water. Then we didn't let her get too cold or too hot, and we gave her all the sunshine we could."

"It seems to me," said Aunt Milly, smiling, "that that is very much the way in which your mother looks after you. She gives you what you need, keeps you warm and comfortable, loves you, and gives you all the sunshine she can."

"I hope, dear children," said grandma, "that you will be as grateful as Judy, and some day blossom into noble women."

"We'll try, granny," said little Louise, who was not yet five years old, "and I think I know how we can do it," she whispered, with her arms about her grandmother's neck.

"How, darling?"

"By asking God to make us good, and helping Him with all our might."

— Nothing is more pitiful than a life spent in thinking of nothing but self—yes, even in thinking of nothing but one's own soul.

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"Come out for a walk, Dolly," said Grace Martin, putting her head inside Dolly Greene's kitchen door, where the latter was engaged in clearing off the supper table. "It's just a lovely night for a walk, and I've got something to tell you."

"I'd like to go well enough, but the dishes have to be washed, and there's no one to do them but me. Mother's gone over to Aunt Jennie's; she's sick."

"Oh, leave the dishes until you come back. They'll keep," said Grace coaxingly. "It is so delicious out doors now."

"No, I can't go, Grace. Mother might come back while I was gone, and if she found the dishes still unwashed, she'd think I was very thoughtless, and would wash them herself, tired as she is."

So Grace called for another girl, and Dolly remained at her post, and washed the dishes, and made the kitchen as neat as possible.

She had just laid aside her apron, and smoothed back her hair, when the mother returned, though not alone. Dolly's cousin Will had driven her back in his cart, in order to take Dolly for a drive, it being such a delightful evening.

"How nice the kitchen looks!" said the mother, as she surveyed it. "I'm so glad the dishes are washed; I feel so tired."

And Dolly was glad, too, that she had stayed at home and done her duty. "I declare," she said to herself, as she put on her hat, "we never know what may happen, if we only do our best. No matter how disagreeable the work may appear at the time, it does seem as if we are always repaid in doing our duty."

Discipline.

A Russian officer in command of a company of athletes numbering sixty-seven men, ordered them to swim across the Volga in a place where the river is over one and a half versts wide, with two officers at the head and one in the rear. The whole company acquitted themselves creditably. The feat was performed toward the evening. When the swimmers had made about a third of the distance a steamer was noticed coming on them at full speed. The officer at the head of the company ordered, "Halt, with faces upward!" and was obeyed as promptly as if on the parade-grounds. The company waited till the steamer passed, and then proceeded till they reached the opposite shore. Their swim backward was performed without interruption.

A Japanese Invitation to Dinner.

An invitation to dinner among the middle or upper classes of Japan frequently commences as follows: "I beg pardon for thus insulting you in begging your company at my house to dinner. The house is small, and very dirty. Our habits are rude, and you may not get anything fit to eat; and yet I hope that you will condescend to be present with us at 6 o'clock on December 9." Upon arriving at the house you find it spotlessly clean, tasty in arrangement, and the host and hostess affable indeed. The bill of fare consists of ten or fifteen courses, the best the market can afford. All the self-humiliation of the host is the method adopted to pay you honour.

Take Heed how ye Hear.

What do you go to church for? Did you ever stop to think?

I knew a little girl whose mother asked her one morning if she were going to church. She waited a minute, hesitated and then answered, "I s'pose there is no use in having new shoes if you don't wear them. Yes, I'll be dressed, and go."

Is this your object—to be dressed, to show new shoes? Do you go to look about at strange faces and new bonnets?

Remember that the Bible says, "The Lord is in His holy temple." Remember what Christ said: "When you gather together in my name, I will be there in the midst of you."

God is in the church. Christ is there; and we go to worship Him. Though we cannot see Him, He sees deep into our hearts. He knows all

New California

\$50 a share.

The best California product, so far, is oranges, lemons, prunes, figs, olives, grapes, almonds, etc. The fruit-growing center is in the southern part, at Riverside. Unimproved land there is worth \$200 to \$600 an acre. An acre of orchard yields \$100 to \$2,500 a year.

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Five years ago an English scientist discovered a method of making a weather and waterproof paint. Large factories for its manufacture were soon established in Australia, Mexico and in the United States. A number of enterprising Torontonians last year recognizing its merit, bought the Canadian patent and have opened a factory in this city, at 123 and 124 Richmond street east. The paint has wonderful wearing qualities, is exceedingly adhesive and finishes with a gloss almost equal to varnish. On wood-work, iron, brick or plaster it works equally well. It does not crack, blister or peel. Canvas and muslin painted with it hold water and still retain their pliability. It is made in all colors and prices as low as is consistent with a first-class paint. Its great covering capacity makes it the cheapest paint on the market. It is a really good article and may be had from the

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we have done through the week, and what we are doing and thinking now.

If we cannot understand what the minister says, we can always think of this: Christ is here! He who loved the little children, and said, "Suffer them to come unto me," and took them in His arms and blessed them. Christ is here; He will forgive my faults, and teach me how to be good.