



THE FASHION-PLATE GIRL.

There's a dear little maid in the fashion-plate book,

(I'm glad it's not Bessie nor me!)

She always has such a dressed-upified lock,

With her dainty hands bent in a tiresome crook.

How she stands it we never can see;

The quaint little fashion-plate girl!

I know she'd be frightened to slide down the hay,

Or to frolic and romp as we do,

Supposing we wait till some sunshiny day,

And then ask her out on the hillside to play.

I think she'd be willing, don't you?

The poor little fashion-plate girl!

—St. Nicholas.

GRACE DARLING.

William Darling, the father of Grace Darling, whose name stands among the heroines of history, was keeper of the Longstone Lighthouse, on one of the Farne or Fern Islands, a group of seventeen islets off the north-east coast of

Northumberland, opposite Bamborough. On one of these islands there is the tower of a priory built to the memory of St. Cuthbert, who spent the last two years of his life here. Upon two of the islands are lighthouses, the passage between them being very dangerous in rough weather.

No doubt little Grace watched her father many a time as he trimmed the great light, and when she grew older and stronger, tended it herself and rowed her father backward and forward, and in and out the dangerous passages.

On the morning of the 7th of September, 1838, as William Darling was looking from his lighthouse window, he saw a vessel lying broken among the Farne rocks.

It was the wreck of the *Forfarshire*, nine of whose passengers had survived and were every moment expecting a watery grave. The storm was still beating wildly, but Grace urged her father to put off for the wreck, which he did through her earnest solicitations, his sole companion being his brave daughter. It was a daring thing to do in the midst of such a wild sea, but they reached the sufferers, who were crouched upon a rock, and brought them in safety to Longstone. The world rang

with the story of the rescue, and the lighthouse at Longstone was visited by many. Testimonials, presents and money poured in upon the brave girl who had risked her life for others. She did not live long, however, to enjoy the change in her circumstances, but died of consumption, on October 20, 1842, after a year's illness.

THE EMPEROR AT THE FORGE.

Boys often resent being called upon to do a piece of work which they think beneath them, especially if it is a task which properly belongs to some one else. But every one should cultivate an obliging disposition, and be able to help in any emergency to the extent of his ability.

Emperor Joseph set a good example in this respect one day when travelling in Italy. A wheel of his carriage broke down, and he repaired to the shop of a blacksmith in a little village, and desired him to mend it without delay.

"I would," said the smith; "but this being a holiday, all my men are away at church; even the boy who blows the bellows is away."

"Now I have an excellent chance to warm myself," said the unknown emperor. So, taking his place at the bellows instead of calling an attendant to do so, he followed the smith's directions and worked as if for wages. The work was finished, and, instead of the little sum which he was charged, the sovereign handed out six gold ducats.

"You have made a mistake," said the astonished blacksmith, "and given me six gold pieces, which nobody in this village can change."

"Change them when you can," said the laughing emperor, as he entered his carriage. "An emperor should pay for such a pleasure as blowing the bellows."

I have known some shop-boys who would have waited long, and sent far for help, before they would have "come down" to blowing a blacksmith's bellows. It is not boys with the best sense who thus stand upon their dignity. A readiness to oblige, and to take hold of unaccustomed work when necessary, has often been excellent business capital for a young man; while the opposite spirit never wins friends. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Sometimes the things which seem easiest are really the hardest to learn. Waiting looks like a very simple thing, but to wait patiently is sometimes a difficult thing to do. When we do not get the thing we want just at the right time, when we have to put up with something unpleasant till a change comes, we need to know how to wait patiently.