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rim's Progress," and was full of heautiful stories and pictures. I could all it all to you if it wouldn't tire you,

"Oh, you've got one too? How nice! Have you got any other books? But mother looked in just now, and coughed twice. She thinks I am talking too much.

"You're not tired, ma'am?"

"I read my book, and read it, and as soon as I got to the end I began it again; and I showed the pictures to the children, and on Sundays I read out of it to father and mother. Father is tender like, and the tears would keep rolling down his cheeks when I read the prettiest parts, and one day he said,-'I'll tell you what it is Lizzic: I've a good mind to go on a pilgrimage myself.'

"I felt awful bad when he said that, for I wanted to go too; but how could I, with the bones gone out of my two legs?

"Father sat quiet, thinking and thinking. At last he got up all of a spring like, and put on his hat and went

"'Where's father gone to now?' says mother. 'Not to any of them gin-shops, I hope. "'No!' says I, 'he's gone on a pil-

grimage, I do expect.' "Mother laughed, and said that

wasn't so bad as them gin-shops, any

"But I felt bad and lonesome, and as if he'd gone and left me behind. An I couldn't get to sleep for thinking about it, till I heard his step on the stairs. He wouldn't tell me where he had been to, and we all went to sleep. But the next day he said he'd been to hear the preaching at a big church.

"'I was lifted away up to the third heaven,' says he, 'and I sang hymns too.'

"'That's a lie, Joe,' says mother; for hymns you don't know how to sing. Better own it and done with it. You was a-singing songs at the gin-shops.

"' That I wasn't, then,' says father I was at Westminster Abbey, where they bury the grand folks, and the hymns hung all round the walls, printed in letters as big as the top of my thumb. Come, if you don't believe it go with me next Sunday night and see for yourself.'

"'Indeed, I won't!' says mother. Westminster Abbey indeed! with a bonnet and shawl like mine!'

"'The preaching's for poor folks, and poor folks goes to hear it,' says father. "And ain't you a-going on a pilgrimage, after all?' says I.

"'Yes, my lass, I am,' says he. 'I'll learn all about it at the preaching, you

see.' "After he'd gone off to his work, mother says,-'I'll go with him next time, you may depend. Something's coming over him.'

"The day but one after that father come home all eager like, and, says he, - Lizzie, child, mightn't it amuse you if you had a flower a-growing in the window there? For the men talked at their work to-day about a "Society for the Promotion of Window Gardendening among the Poor," and they say there's just been a flower-show, and prizes given to them as raised the handsomest ones, Wray's girl, Betsy, got

a prize of six shillings for hers.' "'You don't say so!" says mother. "'Yes," says father; 'and what's more, I've got a beautiful rare plant for Lizzie here: pour soul, it will be

company for her these long days!' "'What makes you say "poor soul" father?' says I, "when I've got a picture, and 'a "Pilgrim's Progress," and a plant a-growing?

"'Pshaw!' says father, 'whatever ails my eyes to water so easy? See, here's the little wee thing.

"I almost screamed when I saw it, I was so glad. It was a-setting out in a little flower-pot, as it's leaves was all

"Which of you two is the biggest fool, I wonder?' says mother. 'There, now you've slopped water all over the bed-clothes and everything!'

"I was only giving my plant a little drink, says I.

"I called watering it giving it a drink, I was so silly.

"'Of course, I'm the biggest fool," says father, and he laughed real pleased

"'Everything runs to societies nowadays,' says mother. 'I wish they'd offer prizes to them as has the most children and the handsomest ones. I'd go in for it, that I would! It ain't gentlemen's children as gets all the good

"No, nor the sense, either," says fa-

"'There ain't many young ones as sets alone the day they're four months old,' says mother. 'See here! This one beats all our babies. And what did I pay for him at the shops? La, nothing at all, bless you; and so he ain't fit to fetch a prize."

"'I didn't pay anything for Lizzie's plant, if that's what vexed you,' says father. 'Hicks gave it to me. He said he got it from his wife's second cousin, whose half-brother was nephew to one of the gardeners at Osborne, and that it's something costly and precious.'

"'Next news you'll say you dug it up in Paradise,' says mother.

"May be,' says father. 'See, Lizzie, spell out the name that's wrote on this paper: or, no you can't read writing. Perhaps I can.

ing of it over, and scratching his head. he read it out, so:

" ' Calendula Officinalis.' "'That sounds splendid!' says I, and was sorry when it grew dark, because I could not watch it and see it grow. Father said that the next exhibition would be on June the 19th, 1868, and he was sure it would be a big, strong plant by that time, thick with leaves and flowers.

"And if you'll believe it, ma'am, after a while it did have a little mite of a leaf, and it grew up tall and leaned one side, and then grew some more and leaned the other side.

"Oh, it was such company for me, and I loved it so! Even mother, with all she had to do, got to watching it.

"So it went on all winter long, and in the spring a little bud came, and it took father and me a week to get over that. By-and-by, you could see little streaks of orange colour in the bud, and we talked about that, and were afraid the flower wouldn't bloom out for the right day, and then we were afraid it would bloom too soon. Somebody told father to cut a ring out of stiff brown paper and put it on to keep it back; he said they always did so with choice flowers. Then I laughed and said I was a choice flower too, for something had kept me back from growing into a big girl.

"Then father said it was good to hear me laugh, and that I was a choice flower, ring or no ring. That's just fa-

ther's way, please, ma'am. "Oh, how pretty my flower looked the day before the show! I was sure it would get the prize, for there couldn't possibly be a flower so beautiful as mine. Father carried it on his way to his work, and promised to bring it back prize and all at night.

"But I can't tell the rest now, ma'am. Something's a-squeezing and crowding at my heart, and I feel faint-like. It's nothing to be scared about. I'm often

"There! it's all gone now. But you say I mustn't talk any more? You say returned. that you'll come again to hear the rest? Thank you, ma'am.'

(To be Continued.)

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