

able to buy some good food and warm clothes for you all. But we shall get on when father comes home, and so we must make the best of it till then. We've a loaf in the cupboard and a bit of fire in the grate, and that's more than some folks have," said Mrs. Maclean, trying to speak cheerfully, though she really felt down-hearted when she looked at the little thin pale faces of her children, and wished she could give them a better New Year's dinner than potatoes and bread. She had had some coals and a good warm blanket given her at Christmas, for which she was very grateful. She was one of those people who do not go about complaining of their poverty, and though she worked hard enough, found it a struggle to get food and clothing for herself and three children.

They were always so neat and tidy that people did not think they could be in want, and the poor little things often went hungry to bed. Lucy and Freddy gazed longingly at the tempting array in the shop-windows, and tried to make believe that their dinner of dry bread and potatoes was beef and plum-pudding, which they had enjoyed at the Christmas dinner given to the school-children by the kind vicar.

"I do wish Christmas day wasn't over," said Freddy wistfully. "We shall have to wait a whole year before it comes again."

"Never mind, my boy," said his mother; "I have a day's washing at the lady's at the 'Firs,' there, across the common, and she said maybe she'd find me some work; so there's no knowing but I may be able to get a bit of meat now and then for you, and that will help to keep the cold out."

She was putting the saucepan on the fire to boil the potatoes, when a rap at the door made them all start. "Who can that be?" said Mrs. Maclean. "Run to the door, Lucy, and see."

Lucy jumped up and undid the latch. "Why, there's no one there, mother; but, oh mother! here's a big basket—do come and look!"

Mrs. Maclean came quickly forward, Freddy ran, and Johnny raised himself up and tried hard to see. "Mrs. Maclean, wishing her a Happy New Year"—so ran the label.

"Well, I never!" exclaimed the poor woman. "It's for us, right enough. But where did it come from, and how did it get here, I wonder?"

"Open it quick, do, mother!" begged the children. What was their delight to find the store of good things inside! How they danced about in glee, and even Johnnie shouted "Hooray!" when the plum-pudding was lifted out. At the bottom of the basket lay a beautiful illuminated card,

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Makes the hair soft and glossy.

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for nearly five years, and my hair is moist, glossy, and in an excellent state of preservation. I am forty years old, and have ridden the plains for twenty five years."—Wm. Henry Ott, alias "Mustang Bill," Newcastle, Wyo.

Ayer's Hair Vigor

Prevents hair from falling out.

"A number of years ago, by recommendation of a friend, I began to use Ayer's Hair Vigor to stop the hair from falling out and prevent its turning gray. The first effects were most satisfactory. Occasional applications since have kept my hair thick and of a natural color."—H. E. Basham, McKinney, Texas.

Ayer's Hair Vigor

Restores hair after fevers.

"Over a year ago I had a severe fever, and when I recovered my hair began to fall out, and what little remained turned gray. I tried various remedies, but without success, till at last I began to use Ayer's Hair Vigor, and now my hair is growing rapidly and is restored to its original color."—Mrs. A. Collins, Dighton, Mass.

Ayer's Hair Vigor

Prevents hair from turning gray.

"My hair was rapidly turning gray and falling out; one bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor has remedied the trouble, and my hair is now its original color and fullness."—B. Onkrupa, Cleveland, O.

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with the text, "Oh Lord God of Hosts; blessed is the man that putteth his trust in Thee."

"Yes, indeed; if we did not think there is always Someone up above always watching over us, we should be miserable creatures indeed," said Mrs. Maclean. "God bless their kind hearts, whosoever it may be, that has thought of us to-day," she added, drying her eyes with her apron.

So occupied were they with the wonderful basket, that they did not see two little fair faces peeping in, their noses flattened against the window-panes, and their rosy cheeks dimpled with smiles. What a description Mrs. Mildmay had from her two children of the opening of the basket!

"I really think," said Violet, "that I enjoyed it as much as I did our Christmas-tree!"

"It was stunning!" said Walter, putting his hands in his pockets.

"Well, dears, I am sure you will agree with me that there is a great

pleasure in making other folks happy," observed Mrs. Mildmay, smiling at their contented faces.

"To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe.
To tend the lone and fatherless,
Is angels work below."

—A zealous advocate of missions was pleading his cause before the inmates of a large lunatic asylum. The patients heard him with great interest. He told how sad heathenism was in many ways: how sometimes parents cast their little children into the river to be eaten by crocodiles, and sometimes children cast out their aged parents. As he spoke one man was moved to floods of tears. The function over, the speaker expressed a desire to see this person, and he was brought. "You seemed much interested in my address?" "Yes, very much interested." "And even a little touched by what I said." "Very deeply touched," said the patient, sobbing. "May I ask what it was that so came home to you, my friend?" "I was thinking"—again he sobbed heavily—"what a pity it was that your parents had not thrown you out to be eaten by a crocodile when you were an infant."

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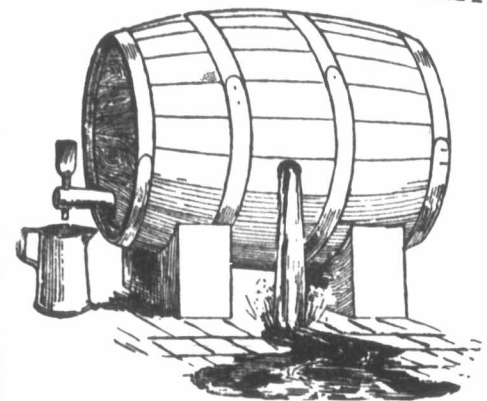
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