

potatoes and ran away. Where she went, or what she did, mother did not know; but when she came to set the table her face was pleasant to look at, and she stopped on her way to the pantry to kiss her mother.

"I'm going, motherie; and I'll have as nice a time as I can, and not grumble a bit."

She looked very pretty in her blue dress with its deep lace collar and bright ribbons in her hair. At least her mother thought so; though when Helen came down in all the glory of her garnet silk and gold bracelets there was certainly a difference.

It wasn't a young people's party entirely; in fact it was a sort of family Christmas gathering, to which all the city aunts and uncles and cousins had come; and there were some elegant dresses there, and Carrie, in her old blue one, did really feel a good deal alone. Yet she went cheerily through the evening, helping with the charades and the music, helping in a dozen quiet little ways that nobody knew about, and yet trying to keep out of notice as much as possible.

Cousin Helen played and sang, and did both very nicely, while Carrie only played accompaniments for others to sing.

Later in the evening there was a whispering between two of the city cousins, and presently it became known that Mr. Ames, who was Uncle Howard's college friend, was a wonderful singer, and would entertain the company if anybody could be found who would play for him.

"I wish he would sing the 'Storm King' for us," said Aunt Alice; "it is the most wonderful thing! I would like to have mother hear it. Helen, couldn't you play it for him?"

"I! No indeed; his music is so awful hard, and he is awfully particular; and that piece I don't know, anyway."

But Aunt Alice was determined that her mother should hear the "Storm King." She talked with Mr. Ames, and then she moved among the guests trying to find one who was willing to play the accompaniment. Not a cousin could be found; they were all afraid of the great singer, and the difficult-looking music. At last the girl in the blue dress grew ashamed of herself.

"Aunt Alice, I will play it!" she said, coming out from her corner.

"You!" said Aunt Alice, in surprise, for Carrie was one of the youngest of the cousins. "Do you know it?"

"No, ma'am, I don't know it; but I can play from the notes."

Then did Helen look at her young cousin in respectful astonishment.

"Can you play pieces that you do not know?" she asked her.

"Why, yes," said Carrie, laughing. "I can if

they are not very hard; I ought to, I have taken lessons steadily for three years."

"Well, but I have taken lessons for most five years, and I can't do it."

"Carrie is very faithful with her practising," said Carrie's mother, with a pleased smile.

And Carrie played the accompaniment, which really was difficult, and played it so well that Mr. Ames, the great singer, told her he never had a player who pleased him better.

And don't you think she forgot all about her blue dress, until her attention was called to it in a very strange way.

"She not only plays remarkably well," said Mr. Ames to his wife, "but she is the best-dressed young girl in the room."

"Yes," said Mrs. Ames, "I noticed that; all the rest of the young people are over-dressed. She must have a sensible mother."

They did not know that Carrie stood just behind them, and heard it all. But really I think it did her good; just as honest compliments often do good. It made her realize that there were two sides to the question of fine dresses.—*The Pansy*.

News of the Churches.

BELLEVILLE.—From this place come words of cheer. Rev. A. W. Main is winning golden opinions. Additions have been made to the membership, the attendance at the services and at the Sabbath school increases; all feel trustful and cheery.

BROADHEAD, WIS.—We have received a copy of the *Broadhead Independent*, with a notice of a "Scotch Social" held at the residence of our old friend Rev. F. Wrigley, of whom it says that "during the year and a-half spent in our midst, he has drawn to himself a wide circle of friends, not only by the practical value of his pulpit ministrations, but by his cordial winning manner as a gentleman, and his spirit of ever ready sympathy and helpfulness toward all classes." Our congratulations we send to our brother and his family; may they long enjoy peace and prosperity.

FERGUS.—A church was organized in Fergus on Sunday, March 9. It began with thirty members and the promise of more to follow. Fergus was taken up as a preaching station about ten months since, by the pastor of the Garafraxa churches, and notwithstanding the fact that the Salvation Army commenced services in the village one month after, at the same hour, the congregation has grown to respectable proportions.

HOWICK AND TURNBERRY.—Rev. W. W. Smith writes:—I have now been in this field, as temporary supply, since February 1, and expect to remain until