

moved slowly together downward over the page, to the first commandment, where they stopped, and the child again read the inspired words.

"Who spoke *dese* words?" again asked Daddy Will.

"God," Kate devoutly replied.

"Jis so; de Lord said 'em," he responded. And so with each of the commandments, until the fifth was reached, when he put the question once more with special emphasis: "*Who spoke dese words?*" receiving again the same response from the absorbed child.

"Jis so; 'God spake dese words, and said'—Read 'em with me, Miss Cath'rine."

In low and reverent tones the two read the commandment aloud together, Daddy emphasizing certain of the words as they read, thus: "Honbur thy father *and* thy mother, that *thy days may be long in the land* which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

The little pink finger and the huge black index came to a full stop under this commandment, and Daddy Will, like a relentless fate, resumed:

"Dat's what de Lord promises dose children who honour their father *and* their mother—their days shall be long in de land. But, Miss Cath'rine, He make no sich promises to dem children who do *dishonour* to their father or their *mother*."

Here the full enormity of her iniquity rushed upon Kate's mind, and she sobbed out, in an agony of penitence, "Oh, Daddy Will, I did not mean to do dishonour to mamma. I am very sorry. Do you think God will forgive me?"

"In *course* He will, my dear Little Apple Blossom," said the old man, relaxing into tenderness on the instant. "De Lord's ears are allers open to hear de cries of His sorrowful children. Let us ask Him to help us."

And the old man and the child knelt together beside the dead colonel's chair, and joined in the petition, "Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law." Then, kissing her on the forehead with a kiss that seemed like a benediction to the softened little one, Daddy Will rose from his knees, and said, "Now de Little Apple Blossom will run to mamma, and ask her to kiss and forgive her sorry little daughter."