

girls. Poor things, they are as much overset as if she had been taken in perfect health.'

'Death is always sudden!' said Mrs. Root. 'I am sorry your father was not there.'

'I dare say he has stopped on his way home, and that is what keeps him. What has Mary been crying about?'

'Poor, dear child!' said Mrs. Root. 'I was so foolish as to say I thought I could eat some chicken broth if I had it, and she went home and killed her pet chicken, and brought it over to cook for me.'

'She certainly is the best child that ever lived!' said Isabel; 'I wish we could make it up to her, but that is one of the things that cannot be made up. How we should miss her if she did go away.'

'No fear or hope of that, my dear.'

'Well I don't know. If the ladies who sent for the measurements should send us a nice box—'

'But they won't,' said Kitty. 'They will send a parcel of old things that they don't care about themselves. Don't you remember the box they made up for us in Cherryburg?'

'Kitty has never forgiven those old calico dresses!' said Isabel, laughing.

'And the little faded gingham pinafores with all the buttons cut off,' added Kitty. 'I was glad every single thing was too small but mother's wrapper. That was pretty good?'

'Better luck next time!' said Isabel, cheerfully. 'Come, girls. Set the table and have everything ready, and I will go and milk. The milk is plenty, that is one comfort.'

'Here comes father now, riding with Mr. Galbraith in the wagon. They have got a barrel and a bale. I suppose some of the supplies must have come. Why, mother, they are unloading here! All these things can't be for us?'

'What a disappointment to faithless Kitty if they should be!' said Mrs. Root. 'Open the door for your father, my dear.'

'Well, wife and children, our fortune has come!' said Mr. Root as he entered. 'Bale and barrel are for us, besides fifty dollars in money, and a hundred—just think of that—a hundred dollars to send Mary and Emma to school at St. Mary's.'

You see, that hundred and fifty dollars was just the difference between the things that Miss Lilly bought and those she did not buy.

'Thank God! Now we can pay all our debts!' said Mrs. Root.

'They are paid!' said Root. 'I went at once to Green's, and asked him to cash the draft and take out the twenty dollars I owed him. He took his bill and receipted it, and handed it to me with the fifty dollars inside. 'That's all right, parson,' said he. 'I never calculated to collect the amount, and you're welcome to it, but I'm gladder than a thousand dollars would make me, that you offered to pay it as quick

as you got the money. It shows that you are not a humbug.'

'How very kind! I always liked Green.'

'But the box, father?'

'Yes, my dear, the box. I went to the post office first and found two letters—one from the lady who wrote to us for the measurements, and another from some one in the same place—a lady as I should think from the writing—enclosing a draft for one hundred and fifty, and telling me that fifty was for ourselves, and a hundred to send the girls to school. You may guess I was not long in going to the express office, where I found Galbraith fuming over the non-arrival of the supplies. Luckily for me he had taken over his long wagon, so I got a ride home and brought my treasures with me. I have something else for you, too! Mr. Green has sent you some tea and chocolate, and Mrs. Storer a pair of chickens.'

'It never rains but it pours!' said Kitty. 'If they had only come before, Mary need not have sacrificed her pet Snowdrop to make broth for mamma.'

'What was that?'

Kitty told the story. Mr. Root smiled, but the 'water stood in his eyes,' as Bunyan has it.

'God bless the child. What shall we do without her? But come children. Let us have a little service of thanksgiving, and then we will open our treasures.'

There was a short, earnest prayer, and the whole family united in singing Bishop Ken's doxology, 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'

[To be continued.]

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