

Children's Department

JUST 'FORE BEDTIME COMES.

Folks can talk 'bout spring and summer, But the jolliest time o' the year Is the first cold night of winter, When the air is sharp and clear, And you all sit close by the fire, When you've finished your homework sums, For Grandpa, he'll tell you a story If you're good, 'fore bedtime comes.

He'll tell 'bout the days when the farm lands Was all one mighty wood, And the gaunt wolves, hunger-driven, Roamed through the solitude; And 'bout the Injun's war cry That made the blood run cold, Till you fancy the night wind's howling Is the Injun's cry of old!

Then you draw your chair up closer, As you think of the fierce wolf's pack, And the lonely settler wending His way through the forest's track, Till you all grow strangely silent, While only the kettle hums, And the cat purrs soft in dreamland, Just 'fore bedtime comes.

—Helen Baptie Lough.

THAT ONE TALENT.

I'd rather be talented than pretty," more than one school girl has been heard to say. One of these ambitious young creatures would like to play like Paderewski; another is quite sure she would never know an unhappy moment if she could sing like Patti; a third sighs because she will never rival Rosa Bonheur as an artist; while a fourth, more aspiring still, would like to excel in all the modern accomplishments.

"The man in the Bible had five talents," she will say, "so I don't see why I shouldn't play, and sing, and paint, and recite, and even write poetry into the bargain."

"I wasn't there when the talents were being given out!" another may exclaim, some girl who has never learned that to disparage one's self is quite as ill-bred as to praise one's self. "I am not clever about anything, so I shall not be condemned for burying even one talent in a napkin."

Such an assertion as this is made without due thought. Except in some asylum for idiots, it would be difficult to find any one who is not clever about something. Many young peo-

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There are other talents which young persons in general are not apt to admire, and yet may oftener be turned to good account than they might imagine. As an illustration may be mentioned a kind of action on the part of a good-hearted little girl who was hopelessly backward at school, but quite skilled as a candy-maker.

Hearing that one of the students in a nearby college would not be able to go home at Christmas, this little girl suggested to her mother that a box of chocolate-drops might make him feel less sad and lonely, and receiving permission, went to work to make them in her best style, thus bringing her one talent into play for brightening somewhat the life of a neighbour.

Cultivate that one talent, whatever it may be, which you are tolerably sure you possess, and you need not feel discouraged because of the five talents you may see in the possession of some of your companions.—Clara Marshall, in The Young Churchman.

THE END OF THE GAME.

"Let's play, 'I have something in my mind,'" suggested Sylvy. "But I haven't!" yawned Virginia. "Nor I!" laughed the rest. The Good-for-Naughts (it was their

own choice of a name) were "in session" at Sylvia's, as usual. It was so pleasant at Sylvy's, and then, Aunt Margaret was usually there, across the room, in her low rocker. She was there now. The Good-for-Naughts were very fond of Aunt Margaret.

"But we ought to do something, girls," urged Sylvy. "Let's do this way—the one who guesses shall treat the rest to—to—chocolates, say Hazen's just got in a luscious new lot."

"All right—go ahead," cried Virginia, "but I shan't guess. I'd rather be treated! Catch me falling into that little trap!"

"Catch me!" chorused the rest, And Sylvy laughed.

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carried on, "the i, with the great- al has the appear- or, reflecting every finer, as he looks see himself as in a can form a very the purity of the , the fire is with- moved from the Refiner, watching ess" the purifying f earth. His hand now separating the r the dross of sin ver eagerly watch- e purifying work is oment's delay, He purified soul is re- e, again, when it is eted; it is when the in us, so that He a mirror. Raise flames and see the u with tender pity love.—Canon Body.

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