

Children's Department.

Why Minnie Could not Sleep.

She sat up in bed. The curtain was drawn up, and she saw the moon: and it looked as if it were laughing at her.

"You need not look at me, Moon," she said. "You don't know about it; you can't see in the daytime. Besides, I am going to sleep."

She lay down and tried to go to sleep. Her clock on the mantel went "tick-tock, tick-tock." She generally liked to hear it; and to-night it sounded just as if it said, "I know, I know, I know."

"You don't know, either," said Minnie, opening her eyes wide. "You weren't there, you old thing; you were up stairs."

Her loud noise awoke the parrot. He took his head from under his wing, and cried out, "Polly did!"

"That's a wicked story, you naughty bird," said Minnie. "You were in grandma's room; so now!"

Then Minnie tried to go to sleep again. She lay down and counted white sheep, just as grandma said she did when she couldn't sleep. But there was a big lump in her throat. "Oh, I wish I hadn't."

Pretty soon there came a very soft patter of four little feet; and her pussy jumped up on the bed, kissed Minnie's cheek, and then began to "pur-r-r-r, pur-r-r-r." It was very queer; but that, too, sounded as if pussy said, "I know, I know."

"Yes, you do know, kitty," said Minnie; and then she threw her arms around kitty's neck and cried bitterly. "And—I guess—I want—to—see—my—mamma!"

Mamma opened her arms when she saw the little weeping girl coming, and then Minnie told her miserable story.

"It was awfully naughty, mamma, but I did want the custard-pie so bad, and so I ate it up, 'most a whole pie; and then—I—I—oh, I don't want to tell, but I 'spect I must—I shut kitty in the pantry to make you think she did it. But I'm truly sorry, mamma."

Then mamma told Minnie that she had known all about it. But she had hoped that the little daughter would be brave enough to tell her all about it herself.

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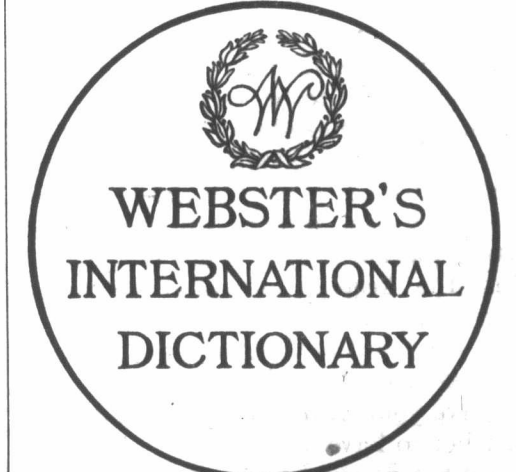
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