

another boat thought it right to interfere, and paid for Frank and Kitty, and said to Frank, supposing him to be Kitty's brother:

"You are too young to be here alone with your sister: a mistake like this exposes her to rudeness. You had much better take her home" advice which Kitty was heartily glad to hear. So on some one saying it was half-past four o'clock, she implored Frank to turn at once, or tea-time would come, and the servants would find out that they were not about the house.

Somewhat sulkily, Frank consented to remain in the lock and turn the boat. They had some time to wait, and this time, as they were going upstream, the water in the lock rose. When at last they had got free of the gates, Frank indulged in some very strong expressions about "that fellow's impudence!" Kitty was too miserable to say much; but she became very uneasy when the strength of the current they were rowing against made Frank draw in his sculls to rest, for the boat began to turn, and all her steering could not right it. Then the boy, who was dreadfully tired, asked her to take a turn while he rested, and they changed places. But all Kitty's efforts scarcely moved the boat.

"Here, I'll go on again; you're no use!" said Frank, gruffly; and Kitty was too frightened at the lateness of the hour and the seeming impossibility of reaching home to do anything but cry, and the tears were running down her cheeks like rain.

This novel appearance attracted the notice of a young lady who was comfortably reclining in a boat that was being towed by a gentleman, who was walking along the towing-path with the boat-rope round his waist.

"Charlie, stop a minute," called the lady; and he stopped where she asked Frank what was the matter with Kitty.

"Oh, nothing, thank you—at least, not much. But she's afraid we'll be late home, and the stream's so strong—Here Frank nearly, but happily not quite, broke down himself.

"Where are you going to?" asked the lady.

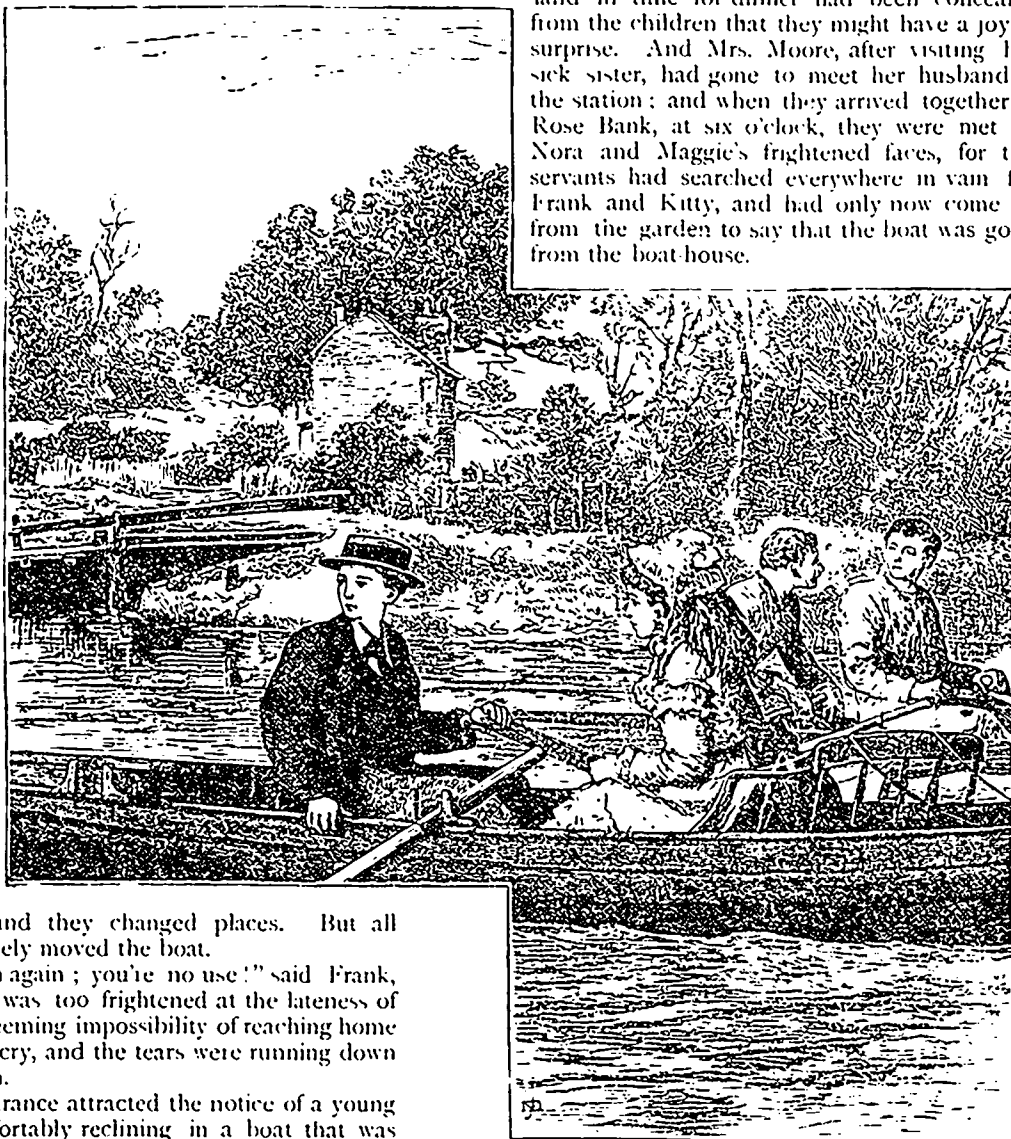
"To Rose Bank—Mr. Moore's," said Frank.

"Mr. Moore's! Oh, Charlie, this is Mr. Moore's little girl! Could she get in with me, and the boat be fastened behind ours?"

The gentleman looked rather disconsolate at this proposal that he should tow two boats instead of one; but pitying the evident helplessness of the children, he good-

naturedly agreed, suggesting that Frank should come on shore and help him to tow. This was done; and when the boat was made fast, their troubles would have been ended, but for the fact that they had no business to be there at all, and were even now dreading to arrive at Rose Bank.

What they saw when they came near was a group that made both heartily ashamed of their misconduct. Mrs. Moore was there, and, terrible to behold, Kitty's father as well. The fact that he was expected home from Ireland in time for dinner had been concealed from the children that they might have a joyful surprise. And Mrs. Moore, after visiting her sick sister, had gone to meet her husband at the station; and when they arrived together at Rose Bank, at six o'clock, they were met by Nora and Maggie's frightened faces, for the servants had searched everywhere in vain for Frank and Kitty, and had only now come in from the garden to say that the boat was gone from the boat-house.



I do not think Kitty will ever forget the stern look on her father's face. The key of the boat-house was entrusted to the old housekeeper's care, and this was a great humiliation to Kitty.

"Now if it had been Nora," said her mother, "I feel sure nothing would have induced her to forget our wishes to suit her own pleasure."

And Kitty knew that this was true, and began a hard battle with her own weakness, which will, I feel sure, end in making her worthy of the trust and confidence of those who are her best earthly friends. But in her struggles against a long-indulged habit of doing what was pleasantest instead of what was right she must often be reminded of how very hard it was to get safe home that day, although they had found no difficulty in "going with the stream."