

## DOLLY AND THE FAIRY.

One day Dame Nancy was making some cakes for tea, and because two or three little friends were coming in to play with Dolly that afternoon she wanted to make them extra nice. She called out to Dolly to put on her hat and go to Perkins for some peel and sugar.

"Oh, bother," said Dolly. "I can't; I'm busy."

"You will go," answered her mother quietly but firmly, "or else I shall be cross with you, and Dolly knew she meant it, so she got up sulkily, took the piece of paper with directions, and slowly walked out of the door; but instead of going to the shop she turned out of the main street went up into the woods, and remained there until nearly four o'clock, when she came back just as her little friends arrived to play with her. Now, as you may wonder why, being so naughty, Dame Nancy let her have her little friends, I will tell you the reason. Whilst Dolly was walking about the house, rude and sulky, a little fairy happened to fly in through the open window, expecting to find nothing but cheerfulness and merriment in such a nice cottage with so kindly and busy a housewife. Imagine, then, her great surprise on seeing this little girl, who was only about six years old, come into the kitchen with so bad-tempered a face that the fairy looked into the milk jug to see if the contents had not turned sour. She followed Dolly until it was evident she was not going to the grocer's shop at all. The fairy then flew back to Dame Nancy, and putting an acorn on the table waved her wand over it and turned it into the sugar and peel.

"Ah, that's a good girl," cried the mother, surprised at Dolly's unexpected speedy return, "see what a help you can be when you like."

"It wasn't your little girl that brought you the things," said a soft voice "it was I. Your little girl has gone up to the woods."

Dame Nancy looked about for some time unable to see who it was that spoke. "Here I am," said the fairy, "on the top of the flour tub." But even then the dame had to put on her spectacles to see her. At last she succeeded, and the two had a good talk about Dolly and her naughty ways.

"Let the children come all the same, and I'll do the rest," said the fairy.

And so the children came, and when Dolly returned she was surprised that she was not sent to bed; on the contrary, her mother met her smiling, telling her to change her frock quickly and make herself look nice and clean, which she did, and they all had a good romp until tea-time. You never saw such a tea as they were called in to partake of, all sorts of cakes and biscuits jam, and fruits—and I don't know what else, for the fairy had supplied them on purpose, so that Dolly's eyes danced with delight, for though she found it too much trouble to help make the cakes, she liked them well enough when made, and she was soon settled with two nice cakes, all sugar on the top, in front of her, but what was her surprise, when on going to put the cake into her mouth she suddenly found it would not open, and yet the moment she put the cake down and did not want to eat, her teeth parted easily. Perplexed and frightened she was about to cry out when she heard a little voice whisper in her ear, "Little girls that won't help mamma cannot expect to eat nice things." At this her conscience pricked her so much that she did not say a word, and both the cakes disappeared as if she had eaten them, so no one knew what was going on except Dame Nancy, who saw and heard everything, but took no notice as she had been told. This went on all tea-time. Dolly saw beautiful apples, grapes and biscuits come on to her plate, yet the moment she tried to eat her mouth refused to open. The next day at breakfast it was just the same, the only thing that her teeth allowed her to eat being dry bread. At the end of two

days she was unable to bear it any longer, and she told her mamma what was happening to her, and her mother took the opportunity to ask her to be a better girl. After that Dolly never refused to do anything her mother wished her to do, and she even performed many little things without being asked.

## THE CHESTNUT BAR.

The wind cried aloud to the chestnut bar,

"Open, come open to me!"

And he blew with his might

Till the bar shook with fright.

But never a bit opened she.

Then the sun smiled down on the little green bar,

"Please open," he coaxed, "to me!"

And she shone so warm

That the bar in alarm

Wid under the leaves of the tree.

Jack Frost came hurrying down the hill.

"Ho, ho, ha, ha!" laughed he,

And the bar laughed back

Till her brown sides cracked,

And then out fell the chestnuts three,  
Christine H. Hamilton, in Youth's Companion.

## INFORMATION.

Halfpence and farthings were introduced in 1800.

No less than 225,000 persons live in furnished lodgings in Paris.

Coffee has none of the constituents of coffee, and its sole use is as an anæsthetic. The extent to which it is used is without doubt destroying the coffee trade of the country, for people might as well drink decoctions of charred wood as the bulk of the so-called coffee mixtures offered to them. No wonder that the consumption of the 'fragrant berry' is rapidly declining in this country. It has been said that even the purchase of the berries (supposed) underground does not protect the consumer against fraud.

The omnibuses in Brussels are fitted with letter boxes in which passengers or persons living along the road may deposit letters. The boxes are removed and emptied at the end of each journey.

In India a native visitor never takes his departure of his own accord. Etiquette requires the host to dismiss him, which he does in the politest way possible, not by saying "Go," but by saying hospitably, "Pray come again; the sooner we see your face, the pleasanter it will be."

"To the bitter end" is a phrase of nautical origin. Admiral Smyth's "Sailor's World-Book" says that the 'bitter end' is that part of the cable which is abaft the bitts, and therefore within board when the ship rides at anchor. And when a chain or rope is paid out to the bitter end, no more remains to be let go.

If asked, "What animal makes itself heard farthest?" everyone would answer, and rightly, "The lion." It is not so well known that after the roar of the lion comes the hoot of the owl, or that while the cat can be heard ten times further off than a dog, the hare, with its awesome scream, can be heard far further off still.

The smallest bird of Europe is the gold-crested wren, and of America the humming-bird. The smallest quadruped in the world is the pigmy mouse of Siberia. One of the most diminutive plants is the Arctic raspberry, which is so small that a six-ounce phial will hold it, branches, leaves, and all.

A general impression prevails that a Creole must be a coloured person. As a matter of fact, anyone born in a West Indian colony is a Creole of that colony, whether he or she be English, Scotch, Irish, Chinese, Hindoo, or Portuguese in blood. If a Chinese boy, born in Trinidad or British Guiana, were asked if he was a Chinaman, he would promptly reply that he was a Creole of that colony.

## SATURDAY NIGHTS.

A peculiar charm has ever attached to Saturday nights. Burns in his "Cotter's Saturday Night" has framed it in a sentiment which will be typical as long as our language lives.

The peaceful scene in the humble, but clean and happy home of the Scotch peasant, where the children gather around the fragrant, but ample meal, and later engage in solemn praise and prayer unto the Giver of all good, can never be forgotten.

In its termination of the duties of the week, and its preparation for the coming Sabbath, it possesses a dual character.

One hardly knows whether it partakes more of the vanishing days of toil or the anticipation of the day of holy rest to follow. It should be a time for the grateful review of the week, of appreciation of its blessings, as well as humiliation and repentance for its faults. It should serve as a neutral territory between the life of toil during six days and the day of worship.

No business or social joys or cares should be allowed to pass by it to mar the Sabbath.

Much of the benefit of Sabbath observance will be found in the proper use of Saturday nights. If it is a suitable time to prepare our clothing and our bodies for the Sabbath, it will also be found helpful to use it as a time for the preparation of our minds and hearts for the high and heavenly privileges of God's day.

The Jews counted their Sabbath to commence with the sunset before. We do not suggest a similar estimate of the Christian Sabbath, but we believe it should have a good wide margin on the side towards life's exacting duties, and its often distracting pleasures.

In the reign of Edward the Sixth, Latimer mentions it as a proof of his father's prosperity that, though but a yeoman, he gave his daughters five pounds each for their portions.

Roger Bacon is said to have invented the magic lantern about the year 1260.

The British Museum Library increases at an average rate of one hundred volumes a day.

Cherish ideals as the traveler cherishes the north star, and keep the guiding light pure and bright and high above the horizon.—Newell Dwight Hillis.

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