

CHILDREN'S CORNER

PICKING OUT THE PLUMS

By E. B. S. LATER
He put his thumb
And pulled out a plum
And said, "What a great boy am I!

It was little Jack Horner who did
that, as you all know. But I want to
tell you of a child who acted very much
like him.

It was a little girl who was visiting
another, not long ago. She had a
bookcase, and she had a musty,
pushing them all out of place, as if
they were not of much consequence.

But no; the fact was, about the
library, that it contained some two
hundred and fifty books, which had
been carefully culled over not long be-
fore, and many new ones added.

And the speaker was a child of some
nine or ten years, perhaps, who could
not have many years experienced in
reading. I feel quite certain that she
had never read one half the books in
the library, small as she seemed to con-
sider it.

What did she mean by "a good
book"?
"Ah, there is the secret! This little
girl, like many other Sunday-scholars
whom I have seen, had doubtless pick-
ed out most of the attractive looking
stories, and books with plenty of pictures,

For, from the tone of her voice, she
evidently thought it was something
very fine to have read through all that
was good for anything in the Sunday-
school library.

What do you think about it, young
friend? Is it not rather babyish to
pick out the "plum" books, and pass
over those which your teachers and
friends will assure you, are really good,

Do our little Sunday scholars always
remember to be grateful to their kind
teachers and friends?

And, one more question. What
would you say to a baby who picked
out all the plums from his cake and
then asked for more?—Churchman,
(Hartford).

JOHNNIE'S POLOGY.

Johnnie was always in great haste to
do anything that gave him pleasure. I
am sorry to say that sometimes the same
feet that ran so eagerly to the coasting-
place dragged slowly one behind the
other when there was an errand to be
done. But when there was a cry of fire,

One day Johnnie, standing by the
kitchen window, spied the red-coats and
gilt-trimmed caps of the village band.
No sooner did he see than he rushed
out, giving the door a swing behind
him. Back it came against his mother's
elbow, making her dash the milk she
was carrying over the new calico dress
of Mrs. Baldwin, a neighbor who had
just come in to give her a recipe for
pickling plums.

"Johnnie! Johnnie!" called Mrs.
Liston, but Johnnie was already half-
way down the street.
When he came back, his mother
talked to him very severely about the
trouble these careless habits of his made
trouble around, and ended by saying she
wished he would go and ask Mrs. Bald-
win's pardon. Johnnie did not like to
ask pardon any better than some other
little boys you may know; besides, Mrs.
Baldwin was not a favorite with him.
She always looked as if she thought
him the worst boy that was ever made.
Naturally, he did not receive his moth-
er's suggestion with favor.

"It mortifies me," continues Mr. Lis-
ton, "to have people think I don't bring
up my boy as a gentleman. What a
rude unladylike woman people must
judge me to be when they see you act so
roughly!"

"But, mother," protested Johnnie,
"you're not to blame. You try to make
me nice and quiet, but I forget."

"People don't know that, and they
judge mothers by their children. I
want mine to be an honor to me."

Johnnie had grown so used to being
called rude and careless that he did not
mind it much; but he loved his mother
dearly, and the thought that he was
bringing disgrace upon her cut him to
the quick. He studied the tea kettle for
a long time, and then he said, "I
should go to Mrs. Baldwin and polog-
ize, don't you suppose she would think I
had a polite mother?"

"I think she would," replied Mrs.
Liston.
Johnnie kicked the wood-box until
the copper toes of his shoes were as
bright as newly coined gold dollars.
Suddenly he said, "I'll go; but I bet
she'll say something hateful!"

"If she does you must remember how
much trouble you have given her, and
make no impudent reply."

Johnnie walked slowly down the gar-
den to the gate, which he latched be-
hind him. This was one of the grounds
on which the feet went slowly.

"I am sorry, Mrs. Baldwin," he be-
gan, "Mother always tells me to be
quiet, but I forget, and—"

"You're tight to be sorry," interrupted
Mrs. Baldwin. "My brand new calico
that I never had on but once before,
but run right home and sell your hat
that is three pounds of sugar to seven
of plums, instead of five, as I told her;
and shut the gate after you, for the last
time you went out you left it open, and
my Smith's bridle got it and it did
tramp all over the garden. I don't
see why you can't remember! If you
were my son—though I am glad you
aren't—I reckon I'd make you. But
hurry back before your me gets these
plums in."

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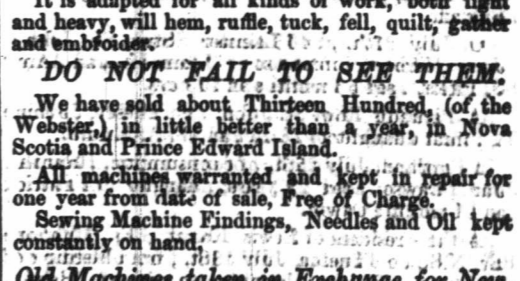
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