

Childrens' Department.

THE BUNCH OF GRAPES.

Half-a-crown each!" cried Mary and Jane, with sparkling eyes. "How kind of aunt Kate to give us such a present!" Half-a-crown seemed a large sum in these little girls' eyes, as their presents generally came in shillings and sixpences.

"I shall buy that beautiful doll in the toyshop window, when we get out after lessons this afternoon," said Jane. "What will you buy, Mary?"

"I want to think."

"There are two dolls just alike, and it would be so pleasant for us each to have one."

Jane was not a little astonished that afternoon, when nurse, and Mary, and she had reached the town, when Mary asked her to stop at the grocer's shop.

"What, here? Have you any messages from mamma to do here?"

"No; I want to buy something myself."

"I will stand outside, then, till you come out. I am afraid to go in among all the wasps,—and there is such a smell of treacle here."

So Mary went in by herself to Mrs. Peachum, who was standing behind her counter, looking very warm, and somewhat tired, but very buxom and good-tempered, surrounded with all her riches, in the shape of piles of goodly hams, pillars of soap bars, strings of candles, russet-heaps of herrings, barrels of brown sugar, and cones of white loaf.

"What have you got in these papers?" Jane asked, when her sister came out.

"This is tea, and this sugar."

"What can you want with them?"

"You shall see," said Mary, with a smile. "I must stop at this shop, and then I shall have all."

"The baker's? You are not going to waste your money on cakes, I hope, Miss Mary?" said nurse.

"Oh no; I want a loaf. It is all right, nurse. I told mamma what I was meaning to do with my money."

Mary came out presently with a loaf wrapped in paper, which nurse said she would carry for her.

"You have wasted your money foolishly," said Jane, wondering not a little at her sister's purchases. "Why, we have as much as ever we can eat and drink at home, and plenty of all sorts of nice things."

"I don't want them for myself."

"Who for, then?"

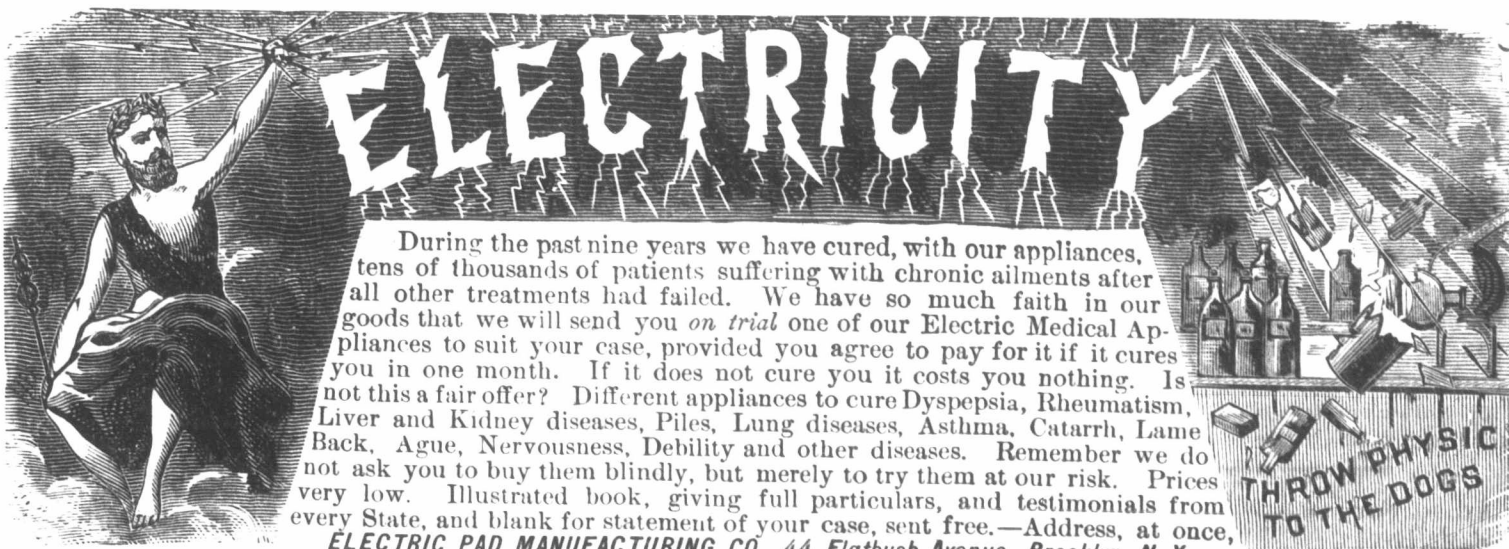
"Bessie Parkes' sister, Fanny, is ill, and you know how poor they are; and I thought it would be nice to take them these things."

"What a strange thought!"

"I fear it is; but such thoughts ought not to be strange to us, but common, daily thoughts. I was thinking yesterday how many comforts we have,—mamma and papa to love us, and kind friends, servants to wait on us, good clothes to wear, and food to eat; and then I remembered Bessie and her poor sister, and thought that they wanted everything we had, and then it seemed very sad and wrong that I should never do anything to help them. Now, if you were to buy a few grapes—"

"Indeed, I will not. What does Fanny want with grapes?"

"She is feverish, and thirsty."



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MARRIED.

ANDERSON—RUBIDGE.—On the 19th inst., at St. John's Church, Peterborough, by the Rev. V. Clementi, B.A., assisted by Canon Pettit, M.A., of Cornwall, and the Rector of Peterborough, Montague A., son of Canon Anderson, of Sorel, and manager of Union Bank, Ottawa, to Ellen Stefford, daughter of Tom S. Rubidge, C.E., Cornwall.

parcels, and asked nurse for the loaf. It was good to see poor Bessie's face; but it was some time before she could speak, she was so glad, and then she said,

"It is just what I have wanted, Miss Mary. I had no more tea, and did not know where it was to come from." Fanny seemed to have sunk into a doze again, and the children watched the wan face anxiously for a moment. "She is better, the doctor tells me,—coming round again," Bessie whispered.

"Nurse," said Jane, suddenly, "I want you to come somewhere with me. Mary can stay till you and I come back."

Nurse consented, and Mary was left alone with Bessie. She liked to talk to Bessie.

Nurse and Jane were not long in reappearing, and Jane's errand might soon be seen; for she brought a large bunch of sweet water grapes in her hand.

"There, Bessie, give her these," said Jane, offering them like "a cup of cold water given in Christ's name."

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