

### 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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"Well, she can drink some of the tea you are giving her. I am going straight to the toy-shop; I want to have the doll to-day. If I gave her grapes, I should only teach her to want things she cannot have."

"But she would not want them when she got better, if she ever does get better. I don't want to persuade you to buy the grapes, if you do not wish; but come with me to Bessie's cottage first, and then I will go freely to the toy-shop with you."

Bessie's cottage lay a little outside the town, and a few minutes' walk brought the children to the door. Nurse knocked gently, and Bessie opened it, looking pale and anxious. The children knew Bessie very well, for she often came to their house to do a day's needle-work, and they and all in the house liked her for her quiet, industrious ways.

"We have come to know how your sister is," Mary said.

"Thank you, Miss Mary,—she is very poorly, I am afraid. Come in and rest, nurse, if you please, with the young ladies." So they went in to the room where the sick girl was lying.

"Is this your only room? I thought you had a bed-room up-stairs?" nurse asked.

"We have let the other, and it pays for the rent of this room,—the up-stairs room is so much a better one than this."

"Are you very poor?" Mary asked.

"Yes, Miss Mary. I could earn more when I was able to go out and work; but, now that I cannot leave my sister, and have so much to do for her, I cannot earn more than sixpence a day. The rector is very kind, though, and gives me a shilling a week." And Bessie worked hard at the coarse sewing she was doing, as she talked. The sick girl on the bed in the corner of the room seemed to be dozing, for she did not look up or speak.

"Then you have but four shillings a week to live on?" said nurse.

"Yes; but I make it do."

Just then a feeble voice came from the bed, the words spoken in so low a tone, that only Bessie could understand them.

"She wants me to give her a drink," Bessie explained.

"What is it?" Jane asked, as Bessie set the cup down after giving Fanny something to drink.

"Cold tea," Miss Jane.

"And how weak it is."

"I have no better, and she is quite content. She knows I would give her the best I have."

"I have brought you some things for her;" and Mary laid down the

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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 Obri's name."

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