

THE BEAUTIFUL MISS GERTY.

THERE, mamma, I should like a lady-doll for my birthday."

Little Kitty said this as she stood beside her mother. In a week's time Kitty would be five years old, and of course she was thinking a great deal about her birthday and the presents her parents would give her.

"Why a lady-doll?" said her mother.

"Because I have a baby, and a sailor boy, a naughty Nancy with short hair and little petticoats just like mine, and it would be so nice to have somebody quite grand and grown up."

Mamma laughed and said, "Well, we'll see."

When Kitty opened her eyes on her birthday she saw something at the foot of her bed, and in a moment more she clasped in her arms the most charming doll she had ever seen. Its hair was put up in plaits and rolls like her dear mamma's, it had pink cheeks and blue eyes, and a silk dress trimmed with lace.

Kitty determined to call it "the beautiful Miss Gerty," and when nurse came to wash and dress her, she was still admiring her new treasure.

"Now, Miss Kitty," said nurse, "you won't pout over getting up to-day, I hope. I am sure you wish to be fresh and nice for breakfast, and you can't be clean unless you are washed."

For once Kitty got through her toilet without a tear.

The day so well begun proved a happy one. Some little girls came to play with Kitty in the afternoon, and in the evening, as a great treat she was allowed to sit up to late dinner.

Nurse had just taken off her stuff frock to put on a white one, when she was called away, and Kitty caught up the beautiful Miss Gerty.

"Why, my dear," she said, "I believe that you have never been washed, and nurse says that you can't be clean unless you are washed. Oh, well, perhaps I shall just have time to do you."

Off went the silk dress on the floor, and in a minute more the beautiful Miss Gerty was standing in a bowl of water, while Kitty grasped the big sponge ready to give her a good sousing.

"Stop, Stop!" cried nurse. "What are you doing? You'll spoil your doll."

Kitty was so amazed that she stopped short.

"But Miss Gerty must not be dirty," she said. "Why will water spoil her? You say it is so good for me."

"Because she is not made to be washed," said nurse, "and you are."

Nurse took up the poor doll dried her directly, and managed so well that both Kitty and Miss Gerty were dressed in time for dinner.

You may think from all this that Kitty was quite a good little girl,

and so she was; but she was quite a naughty little girl also. She had a very quick temper, and would stamp and scream when she felt cross. This brought her into sad trouble, and one day, in a fit of passion, she threw the beautiful Miss Gerty on to the floor, and cracked her neck so badly that her head nearly came off.

Then indeed Kitty was very sorry, and ran to tell her mother about it.

"Oh, what shall I do!" she said. "I get angry all over just in a minute. I struck nurse, and I have broken my precious Miss Gerty. How I do wish I could be good, but the naughtiness sticks and sticks to me."

"Only Jesus can make you good, my darling," said her mother. "Jesus can take our sins away and wash us clean in His most precious blood."

That was a strange and wonderful washing to think of. Kitty stood silent while her mother tied up Miss Gerty's neck with ribbon and made her right and beautiful again.

"Mamma," she said earnestly, "I do wish that my badness could be washed right away."

And then her mother taught her a little prayer: "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Do you wonder whether Kitty did grow up a good girl? I am sure she did, if she went on praying, for Jesus always hears the prayers of little children.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS.

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