

LITTLE FOLKS

How the Yellowbird Told.

(Sidney Dayre, in 'Christian Register.')

'Here, Lulu, do you want these?'

'O auntie, all those?'

'Yes, every one of them.'

'Oh, thank you, Aunt Alma. May I divide them with Kitty?'

'Yes.'

Lulu held up the front of her short apron, and then ran away with a beaming face and a lap full of scraps of silks, laces, spring and summer goods of all sorts and of all the colors of the rainbow.

They were samples. The family lived in the country, and most of the shopping was done by sample. Every spring and fall they would come by dozens, yes, hundreds, many of them being used in the selection of cunning frocks for Lulu's cunning self. When they were no longer needed, the greater number of them were turned over to Lulu to be used in dressing her doll. Also Kitty's doll; for Lulu always divided with her best friend, and they always worked together at their dressmaking.

A few days later Aunt Alma said:

'Lulu, I left some samples here on the chair. Did you see anything of them?'

'Why, yes, auntie, I took them for Alexandra's graduating frock. I thought you left them there for me.'

'I want to use them, dear. Do you think they could be found?'

'I think so,' said Lulu. 'I'll go and see.'

Aunt Alma went with her to aid in the search, feeling well repaid by the sight of Alexandra's graduating frock. The frock itself could not, of course, be made up of samples; but they were used for everything into which they could possibly enter. Bright bits of silk and ribbon were sewn together for a sash and displayed with lavish extravagance in bows on waist, sleeves and skirt. Bits of lace and ribbon made a charming hat, and she had bright-colored bows on her shoes.

Aunt Alma liked a plainer effect; but Lulu thought differently, and

she had as good a right to her opinion as anybody.

The missing samples were not on the graduating frock; but there were plenty of other small garments on which they might have been placed, so the search was not a short one. All the clothes were gone over, all the store of samples hunted through.

'I might have given it to Kitty,' said Lulu.

They crossed the street to Kitty's house and went through the same

the couch. They raised the fly-bar to see if it could have slipped under. They went outside and lifted the rugs on the porch. But no sample of lace was found.

'It was a bit of Valenciennes,' said Aunt Alma, 'larger than an ordinary sample; for it was a bit left off the collarette of sister Bertha's graduating gown, and I was going to send it to get a little more. Now, Lulu, my little girl, if you think it could possibly be on anything of yours—'



FINDING THE LOST SAMPLE IN THE NEST.

search. And there, tucked as handkerchiefs into the belts of Kitty's third and fourth best dolls, were the bits of dainty lawn. Aunt Alma begged them back, promising more, saying, with a smile, as she went away:

'Don't touch any more samples without leave, little girl.'

Lulu resolved with all her heart she never would, in spite of which more trouble about samples came one day very soon.

'Lulu,' said Aunt Alma, 'I had two or three samples of lace here at the window, and one is gone. Do you know anything of it?'

'No, I don't, auntie,' said Lulu very firmly.

They hunted behind chairs and

'It isn't, Aunt Alma. I never saw it.'

'Or, if you have lost it, if only you will tell of it frankly.'

'I haven't seen it, Auntie.'

'It could not have gone without hands.'

It was very perplexing and distressing. More lace was needed and there was not a scrap except what was made into the pretty collarette. Only a little wanted to go down the waist with soft, puffy chiffon, all white, which Lulu thought a great mistake; for, how much prettier it would be if something like Alexandra's graduating frock, all ribbon bows of all colors!

All the downstairs rooms were thoroughly searched, all around