

LITTLE DILLY-DALLY.

I don't believe you ever
Knew any one so silly
As the girl I'm going to tell about—
A little girl named Dilly,
Dilly-dally Dilly!
O, she is very slow;
She drags her feet
Along the street,
And dilly-dallies so!

She's always late to breakfast
Without a bit of reason,
For Bridget rings and rings the bell
And wakes her up in season.
Dilly-dally Dilly,
How can you be so slow?
Why don't you try
To be more spry,
And not dilly-dally so?

'Tis just the same at evening;
And it's really quite distressing
To see the time that Dilly wastes
In dressing and undressing.
Dilly-dally Dilly
Is always in a huff;
If you hurry her
Or worry her
She says, "There's time enough."

Since she's neither sick nor helpless,
It is quite a serious matter
That she should be so lazy that
We still keep scolding at her.
Dilly-dally Dilly,
It's very wrong, you know,
To do no work
That you can shirk,
And dilly-dally so.—*Selected.*

THE BOY WHO COULDN'T BE TRUSTED.

"Speak for it!" said Harvey; and he held up his fingers, as if there was something in them, and waited for his dog to take a seat on his hind-feet, and bark a request for it; but the dog did no such thing: instead, he poked his nose between the rails of the fence, and looked surly.

"Why, what a dog!" said Harry Wheeler, who was on a visit to Harvey, and waiting to see the dog perform. "Now, my Trusty, the minute I bring him anything, and hold it up, so, will speak just as plain. Everybody knows what he says."

"This dog used to do so," Harvey said, looking crossly at him. "I'm sure I don't know what's got into him; he doesn't mind at all. He ought to be whipped."

Just then, Miss Lily Barr came out to see the fun. She was Harvey's sister; she was in time to hear what was said

"I know just what's got into him, Harvey Barr," she said; "and, if I were a dog, I would do exactly so. He doesn't believe a word you say. You cheat him all the time. You snap your fingers, and say, 'Speak for it!' and you haven't got a thing for him; and he knows it. What should he speak for? If I had a dog, I wouldn't cheat him."

"Pshaw!" said Harvey. "As if a dog knew when he was cheated."

"Why, of course he does! If he don't, why wouldn't he mind, when you spoke to him? He used to ask so nicely for things, but now, he knows you are just doing it to fool him."

"Well, he ought to mind, whether I have anything or not," Harvey said. "A dog ought to mind. Anybody who wouldn't mind, isn't worth a penny. Papa makes us mind, whether he has anything for us or not."

"Oh, Harvey! As if papa ever cheated us! You never heard him say: 'Come here, and I'll give you something,' and then not do it, after all."

"I don't care,—if he did say so, we would have to mind him."

"But he *won't* say so, ever,—because it isn't right; and I don't think it is right to treat a dog so: it just ruins him,—mamma said so. Mamma said Aunt Hattie was bringing up her Tommy just as you bring up your dog. She tells him to be a good boy, and she will bring him something; but she always forgets it; and Tommy knows she will. He says, 'Oh, pooh!—she won't.' I suppose that is exactly what your dog is saying to himself now."

"Boys are boys, and dogs are dogs," said Harvey; but he jumped down from the fence, and went away. He had made up his mind that there was no use in trying to have the dog "speak." Whether it was bad bringing up or not, he wouldn't mind.

HOW NELLIE PLEASED NOT HERSELF.

NELLIE went down to the lake one day to see her brothers sail their new boat, the Swan. She took her dear doll with her. They had great fun for a while. The boat sailed about as if she were a real swan. At last Robert said, "I wish we had a passenger." Then he looked right at Nellie and her doll. Marie Antoinette smiled, but Nellie looked sober. That morning her text had been, "Even Jesus pleased not himself." She had been trying very hard all day to keep this text in mind. Now her heart said, "This is a chance to please not yourself."

Nellie knew that the water would not hurt Marie's blue flannel suit and her Tam O'Shanter cap. Both her feet had been broken off long ago, so there was no danger of getting them wet. Still, it was hard to think of her going out on that deep water in such a little boat. The text said itself over in Nellie's heart once more. Then she spoke very quickly: "Boys, you may have Marie for a passenger if you will tie her in very tight."

The boys shouted, "Three cheers for Nellie!" They were so glad to have a passenger that they did not care if she was a little longer than the boat. They tied her very carefully on one side of the mast. Then they put stones on the other side to make the boat balance. Then they gave a gentle push, and away went the Swan with her precious freight.

It seemed a whole day to Nellie before Robert drew the little boat to land again. She was such a happy little girl when she held her doll safely in her arms once more!

That evening Nellie asked her mamma if she thought such a little thing would count as "pleasing not herself." Mamma only kissed her little girl a great many times, but Nellie thought she meant "yes."

PAYING MAMMA OFF.

"I LOVE 'ou, mamma," said Nellie one day, as she climbed over the end of the sofa, and printed a warm kiss on mamma's cheek. "I love 'ou, mamma, and I want to pay 'ou off."

"Why, Nellie, what makes you love me?"

"Because 'ou loves me, and takes care of me when I's sick."

Mamma had just been telling Nellie of the love of God for us, and this made her want to show her love for mamma. Mamma had just said that we can never pay God back for all that he has done for us, but we ought to show our love to him in every way we can.

Do you think Nellie can ever pay mamma back for all she has done for her? It will keep her working a long time if she does. But it is right for children to show their love for their parents, even if they cannot pay back all they owe. And they should do it every day. What if God should take papa or mamma to himself before they learn how much you love them?

"O DEAR!" exclaimed Edith to her doll. "I do wish you would sit still; I never saw such an uneasy thing. Why don't you act like grown people, and be still and stupid for awhile?"