

## OUR LADY'S LILY

### A TRUE STORY.



INE years ago Miss Ormonde went to Vienna as governess to Shura Raminoff, the only child of a very wealthy Russian banker ; as madame his wife was a great invalid, Shura spent most of her time with her nurse, a Russian peasant named Katherinka, or with her governess. Mr. Raminoff, though an atheist, had a most chivalrous respect for the Blessed Virgin; madame was a Jewess; while Katherinka belonged to the Greek Church and had a wonderful love for God's Holy Mother. This love she planted in Shura's little heart—every night the child would kiss the picture of the Madonna that hung in her nurse's room and speak to it in a sweet, confiding way. Seeing how she loved the shabby print, her father, who travelled much, brought from Florence an exquisite little painting of our Blessed Mother. This was the one thing Shura valued. She was happy when she had it, miserable without it.

"When Miss Ormonde first saw her she was only six, but tall for that age, very slight and graceful, with beautiful dark eyes that lighted up wonderfully when pleasure or anger kindled the fire in their depths. The long golden hair fell in curls, framing a face fair as an angel's. But Shura could be very wilful when she liked, and in the beginning Miss Ormonde found her post a trying one. But the child soon learned to love her, and called her "Missie," a name of her own inventing.

"One day she had been particularly naughty, and as Katherinka was ill, the poor governess had to look after her from morning till night. At last bed-time came—Shura was snugly tucked into her cot, quiet and