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F O R T H E C H I L D R E N

LITTLE MOTHERS.

By LUCY FOSTER.

On Flora and Cora and Dora and
Nora
I was calling one bright summer
day;
I said: "Here is something I don't
understand—
Won't you tell me about it, I pray?"

"Your dollies you tend with beautiful
care,
And you pet them—I see that you
do!
You dress them up gaily, and curl
their fair hair—
Pray, what do the dolls do for you?"

Then Flora and Cora and Dora and
Nora
Looked up in the greatest surprise;
They all seemed to think I was crazy,
indeed;
And all their dolls opened their
eyes.

Said Flora: "My dolly's my dearest
delight,
Of course she does nothing for me,
But I pet her and tend her from
morning to night,
Because I just love her, you see."

Said Cora: "My dolly is naughty
some days,
And throws herself down on the
floor;
But I make believe spank her, and
teach her nice ways,
And that makes me love her some
more."

Said Dora: "My dolly's my joy and
my pride,
She's lovely to look at, or touch.
I dress her, and hug her, and take
her to ride
Because I just love her so much."

Said Nora: "My dolly's a comfort to
hug,
And I know that she loves me,
you see;
For she sits in my lap, and cuddles
up snug,
And I love her as mother loves me."

Then Flora and Cora and Dora and
Nora
All said, with a shake of their
curls,
That they loved their dear dollies in
just the same way
That mothers love their little girls.

—St. Nicholas.

* * *

AN ALARMING PROSPECT.

The baby was slow about talking,
and his aunt was deploring that fact.
Four-year-old Elizabeth listened
anxiously.

"Oh, mother," she ventured at
length, "do you think he'll grow up
English? We couldn't any of us un-
derstand him if he turned out to be
French!"

* * *

A GOOD BOY.

I woke before the morning, I was
happy all the day,
I never said an ugly word, but smiled
and stuck to play.

And now at last the sun is going
down behind the wood,
And I am very happy, for I know
that I've been good.

My bed is waiting cool and fresh,
with linen smooth and fair,
And I must off to sleeps-in-by, and not
forget my prayer.

I know that, till to-morrow I shall
see the sun arise,
No ugly dream shall fright my mind,
no ugly sight my eyes.

But slumber hold me tightly till I
waken in the dawn,
And hear the thrushes singing in the
lilacs round the lawn.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

* * *

NOISY SLUMBER.

"Paul, will you please go to his
room and see if your grandpa is
asleep?"

"Yes, mother," softly said Paul on
his return, "he's asleep 'cept his
nose."

* * *

IN DISGRACE.

"I'm just as lonely as can be;
The others may not play with me
Because I took the baby's hat
And tied it on the pussy cat.

"'Twas fun to see her race about.
And try to claw the feathers out.
But fun like that, so Nursie says,
Is not the kind of fun that pays."

—Tiny Tots.

* * *

THE BUTTERNUT-TREE.

By MAUDE L. CHAMBERLAIN.

The nicest playground that I know is
beneath a butternut-tree,
Where my mother played, long years
ago, when a little girl like me.
Down by a rambling fence it stands,
and there I like to go,
And make believe it nods and speaks
as the limbs wave to and fro.

I like to think that its rustling leaves
are telling tales to me
Of the days when she was a little girl
and played beneath the tree.
They tell me that her hair was soft
and curly, just like mine;
But she didn't wear these ribbon bows
that stand up so pert and fine.

Her little gowns, so quaintly made,
would look quite queer to me
If I could see her as she looked when
she played beneath the tree.
But then, perhaps my frocks seem odd
to the tree as it looks below—
I wonder if it doesn't like best the
gowns of long ago?

And where I have my Teddy-bear to
swing beside me here
They say she had her corn-cob dolls—
they must have been so queer!
But I know she loved them, every one,
and was as happy as could be
As she softly sang them all to sleep
beneath the butternut-tree.

—Youth's Companion.

"That Reminds Me"

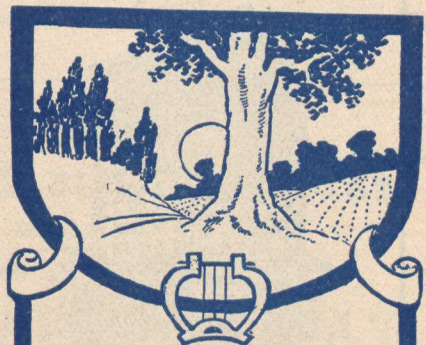
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