

"Nobody could love me now, missie. I have—"

"I love you, big man," interrupted Nan, taking hold of Geordie's hand as it rested on the spade.

"Heaven bless you for the words missie, said Geordie. Just the other day I saw a lady drop her purse, and I was in the act of putting it in my pocket, unobserved by the passers by, when the picture of your innocent little face and the saddened eyes of my mother rose up before me, and I hurried after the lady, anxious to put the temptation out of my way. I felt I was unworthy to receive her thanks, and I stoutly refused the coin she offered me for restoring the purse to her. Ah, missie, there was a time when I was an innocent little boy, walking at my mother's side as she went about her work on our farm. But these days are gone now. My father died when I was about twelve, and I took advantage of my mother's foolish fondness, and did pretty much as I liked. Before I was twenty I had spent nearly all my father's savings through gambling and other vices. I paid no heed to the gentle remonstrances of my poor mother, and so I went my ways, till at last I felt ashamed of the disgrace and poverty I had brought upon her, and I slipped away one summer morning long before my mother was astir. I worked my way here to Glasgow, earning little what became of myself, for life had no interest for me, and—"

"Oh, big man, it was dreadful naughty to go away without telling your mother."

"I started at Nan's words, for the latter part of Geordie's speech had been addressed to me when I went to fetch the child from standing so near the coal dust. Geordie resumed his shovelling with such vigor that I thought he wished nothing to be said regarding his past life, about which in a soft moment he had been tempted to speak. I took wee Nan into the house, and she soon forgot her 'big man's' troubles when she began to play with her toys. But though wee Nan could understand but little of Geordie's story, she knew he was unhappy and that he had made his mother vexed by his conduct. Nan never saw Geordie after that without pleading with him to go away back to his mother vexed by his conduct. Nan had found out by some means that his mother was still alive, and working hard on the farm to pay up her son's debts. Nan met with many a rebuff from Geordie before he had at last promised to save up money for the railway journey home. But as soon as Geordie gathered a few shillings for the purpose he would disappear for a few weeks, and when he would turn up again his savings were all spent. I got tired of Geordie's conduct, but the persistent wee Nan kept urging him to go home."

"Yes," said Nan's father, "and Geordie told me that the money for his railway ticket had been gathered up in Nan's bank."

"All Nan's Saturday pennies went into 'big man's' bank too," said Mrs. Martin, as she recalled how often her wee Nan had refrained from purchasing 'choes,' so as to add to 'big man's' savings, which she was keeping for him."

Alick Martin rose to go, and as he bade his brother "good-bye," he said, quietly:—"And yet, James, you wonder for what purpose Nan existed—why she was ever sent into the world at all. Would that we could all fulfill our mission here as she has done herself!"—St. Andrew.

"Rabbi Duncan," the famous Scotchman, used to say sagaciously, "True conversion most frequently consists of four stages: First, the head; secondly, the heart; thirdly, the mouth; and fourthly, the pocket; but, from the third to the fourth there is a long passage with cataracts to impede progress worse than those in the Nile."

WHAT THE BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS FOUND OUT.

By Hilda Richmond.

"This bitter cold weather is very hard on the birds and little animals in the grove," said Papa Vance one cold night. "We have had snow on the ground for a long time, and they will starve unless a thaw comes."

"Why, papa, I thought the squirrels always laid away plenty of nuts," said Dorothy. "Mamma said they carried them away to hollow trees."

"But you remember, my dear, the snow came before they had a chance to get plenty of food," said papa. "When we have an open winter, which means the ground is bare, the squirrels can dig under the fallen leaves even in winter and find food. The birds eat weed seed and all sorts of things they find, but when snow is deep they often go hungry."

"Let's feed them to-morrow, Dorothy," said Fred. "I'll scatter a lot of crumbs so they can have a feast."

"Won't the crumbs be lost in the snow?" asked wise little Dorothy.

"I am afraid they will, but the birds are too timid to come to the house where the ground is bare."

"We'll sweep a nice bare place under the trees," said Dorothy. "I don't want the birdies to starve."

So early the next morning the children took two old brooms and hurried to the grove. It was hard work, and they soon were panting, but the thought of the hungry birds kept them at the task even though their arms ached, and presently a nice, big table was all ready.

"Now for the wheat and crumbs," cried Fred, hurrying back to the house. "Breakfast will be served a little late this morning, but we can do better to-morrow."

Fred and Dorothy crept behind some big trees, and presently a bird flew down on the table. Another and another came until there were crowds of hungry birdies, as Dorothy called them, eating their breakfasts. It must have tasted very good for they chattered and seemed to have a fine time with the crumbs and wheat.

After that it was great fun to watch the table when the meals were served. Rabbits, birds, squirrels, and even a stray cat came to enjoy the crumbs when the weather was very cold, and it took a great deal of food to keep the tiny bodies from freezing.

"I don't like it that the birds are all afraid of us," said Dorothy. "They all fly away whenever we come near."

"They will learn to trust you in time," said papa. "They are timid little creatures, and want to be sure you are their friends."

In a short time it was hard to get the tablecloth off without a lot of boarders camping on the table, as the children said when they had to brush off the new fall of snow. The little things found out that the children never would harm them, so all winter they flocked to their meals when they saw Fred and Dorothy coming. The children are planning to open their boarding-house under the trees again this winter, and I wish there were hundreds of such kind little people all over the land during the bitter cold weather.

A girl who has been taught by her mother to respect the confidence of others, learns at the same time how safe her own will be in her mother's loving care. In the desire for complete confidence between mother and daughter, neither should forget that a due reserve is both necessary and desirable in regard to the confidence of other people. No girl should repeat, no mother listen to, anything which has been obviously said to the girl alone. Besides, a desire for unlimited confidences is a sign of weakness on both sides. A certain amount of reserve is the hall-mark of all strong characters.

LETTERS FROM MOTHERS.

Every day we get yellers from mothers telling of the benefit Baby's Own Tablets have been to their little ones. Some praise them for constipation, stomach and bowel troubles; others for breaking up colds and simple fevers; some as a great help to teething babies, while others go so far as to say that the Tablets have saved their little one's life. We have thousands of letters—all praising the Tablets, for they never do harm—always good. Mrs. Robert Pierce, Bell's Rapids, Ont., writes: "I would not be without Baby's Own Tablets in the house for a day. When anything ails my little one I give her a Tablet and she is soon alright. I am sure other mothers will find them quite as satisfactory." Sold by druggists or by mail at 25 cents a box, from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Guthrie church, Alvinston, Rev. F. W. Mahaffy. Annual reports show steady and healthy progress. An increase of fifty dollars to the schemes was due to a good envelope system of monthly offering for missions. The pastor was presented with a fur-lined coat and given an extension of holidays.

Reports presented by the annual meeting of Knox church, Jarvis, decidedly encouraging, showing improvements in many respects over previous years. Treasurer's report showed a balance or hand of \$357. During the year fixtures for heating and lighting the church and manse with natural gas were installed and other improvements made. The statement from the session showed an increase in the membership and in the contributions to the schemes of the Church. The pastor is Rev. D. M. Buchanan, formerly of Lanark.

Reports from all the organizations in Knox church, Teeswater, were very encouraging. The number of members added was 114, the removals were 21, a net gain of 93. The present membership is 514. The stipend was increased by \$100, and the amount contributed for missionary and benevolent objects was \$1,865. Rev. Donald Tait, M.A., has only been minister of this charge for a few months, but he has already managed to infuse new life into all departments of the work.

The Streetsville church had a good year. The contributions for all purposes were about \$1,000 in advance of last year, a successful effort, having been made to pay off a small current loan and to make substantial improvements to the church. The missionary contributions were \$100 in advance of 1905, which was the record year up to that time. The reports from the different societies showed them to be alive and aggressive. A ladies' aid has been organized. Eighteen new members were added. Total contributions for all purposes were \$5,097. Rev. S. T. Martin, the energetic pastor, is greatly encouraged in his work.

Zion church, Brantford, under the successful pastorate of Rev. W. A. J. Martin, continues to prosper. Last year there were 60 additions and 56 removals, the net membership now being 743. The ordinary revenue exceeded last year's by \$200. The Ladies' Aid and the missionary societies showed marked progress. The ladies expended \$1,750 on refurnishing the church, etc. The congregation supports two mission fields in the West and two student fields are largely supplied by the Sabbath school. Rev. D. Macgillivray, of Shanghai, is the representative of the congregation in the foreign field. The total contributions for missions were \$1,401, including a legacy of \$1,000 from the late Miss H. Duncan. The total revenue for all purposes was \$11,397.