

The Time to be Pleasant.

"Mother's cross," said Maggie, coming out into the kitchen with a pout on her lips.

Her aunt was busy ironing, and she looked up and answered Maggie: "Then is the very time for you to be pleasant and helpful. Mother was awake a good deal of the night with the baby."

Maggie made no reply. She put on her hat and walked off into the garden. But a new idea went with her—"The very time to be pleasant is when other people are cross."

"True enough," thought she, "that would do the most good. I remember when I was ill last year, was so nervous that if anyone spoke to me I could hardly help being cross; and mother never got cross or out of patience, but was quite pleasant with me. I ought to pay it back now, and I will."

And she jumped up from the grass on which she had thrown herself, and turned a face full of cheerful resolution towards the room where her mother sat soothing a fretful, teething baby.

"Couldn't I take him out to ride in his carriage, mother? It is such a sunny morning," she asked.

The hat and coat were brought, and the baby was soon ready for his ride.

"I'll keep him as long as he's good," said Maggie, "and you must lie on the sofa and take a nap while I am gone. You are looking dreadful tired."

The kind words, and the kiss that accompanied them, were almost too much for the mother, and her voice trembled as she answered, "Thank you, dear; it will do me a world of good. My head aches badly this morning."

What a happy heart Maggie's was as she turned the carriage up and down the walk! She resolved to remember and act on her aunt's good words. "The very time to be helpful and pleasant is when everybody is tired and cross."—*Young Reaper*.

What a Little Girl Did.

A good many years ago a little girl of twelve years was passing an old brick prison in the city of Chicago, on her way to school, when she saw a hand beckoning to her from behind a cell-window, and heard a weary voice asking her to please bring him something to read.

For many weeks after that she went to the prison every Sunday, carrying the poor prisoner a book to read from her father's library. At last one day she was called to his death-bed.

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And all this because a little girl heard and heeded the call to help a suffering soul.—*The Home*.

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