

“ ‘How can you help knowing?’ said I. Then I began at the beginning, and told the whole story. How I rose feeling irritable, and was provoked to speak the *first cross word*; how he told me my things were not as nice as his mother’s, and went off vexed; then how he got over it, and forgot all about it, and would not help me to feel good-natured by saying he was sorry. How I had brooded over it all the week,—how it had festered away in my heart, and poisoned all my enjoyment. What torrents of tears I had shed when alone, as I thought it was all over with us, and we should never love again as we had once loved.

“He heard me through without making a single remark, and then he burst into a loud laugh. ‘I want to know, Annette,’ said he, ‘if this is what has ailed you all this week?’

“ ‘Yes,’ said I. Upon this, he checked our Dobbin, and began to turn round.

“ ‘What are you going to do?’ said I.

“ ‘Going back,’ said he, ‘if this is all that is the matter with you.’

“I laughed as heartily as he did; for, now my sin was confessed, I felt very happy; but I pulled the other rein and drew the whip-lash over Dobbin’s ears, and away he went like a bird towards my mother’s home.

“But we made a resolution, then, Kate, that if either had aught against the other, it should be settled before the sun went down; that we might go to sleep, if not at ‘peace with all the world,’ at least at peace with each other, forgiving and forgiven. This resolution we have faithfully kept, and I have never seen another week of such misery as I have been telling you about, and I trust I never shall. I hope you will find in your new relations, Kate, all the enjoyment we now do. This is the best wish I can offer you,—and that your first cross word may also be your *last*.”



RULES OF HEALTH.—Live moderately, exercise freely, bathe daily, rise early, dress lightly, take things coolly, avoid the blues, eschew wine, shun doctors and drugs, lawyers and lawsuits, marry a good wife, and endeavor to make her happy.