

man because he wears a shabby coat, or hawks vegetables through the streets, instead of sitting in a counting house." Harry was right.

ONLY A SMILE.

Yes, it was only a smile, but it shone like a ray from the Sun of Righteousness. It lighted the face of a little girl as she hurried along the street, and the first to see it was a pale-faced, middle-aged lady on whose shoulders the cares of life had fallen not lightly.

"What a lovely little girl!" she mused, when Mary had passed. "It's a blessing to meet a girl or boy with a smile like that," and as she thought of it there appeared upon her own face a smile like unto that of Mary's.

Mary paused for a moment in front of a toy store, and as she stood admiring the lovely playthings in the window a poorly dressed little maiden stopped also. The latter eagerly eyed the pretty toys, and seemed to be thinking how pleasant it would be to own just one of them.

As Mary was about to pass on the stranger glanced at her, and forthwith noticed the smile with which that look was returned. On Mary went, but the little girl stood gazing after her as though she were a creature of unusual beauty. Such a smile, the child thought, and all for her,—for her, who had known so few smiles in her brief lifetime!

She watched the figure till it disappeared, then she turned to the show window again. But the toys had lost their attractiveness since that kind little girl had smiled so lovingly. She glanced down the street, but Mary was nowhere to be seen. Already a happy smile lighted her own countenance, and she went her way with a merry heart.

Mary was hurrying on, meanwhile, and the next one to be thus blessed was a young man. His face wore an anxious, uneasy expression, and he glanced nervously here and there. He walked quite rapidly, but not so fast that he failed to see little Mary. One look into that smiling, upturned face and he, too, caught her eye with its expression of love. On they passed, she to smile on someone else,

and he to—slacken his pace, pause, and to take one long look at the small figure as it hurried through the surging crowd.

"The first smile I've seen since mother died," he thought. "That is, the first one that meant something. That's the way she used to smile when she begged me to stay out of bad company. I—I guess I won't go with the boys to-night. I'm going to my room and read some of her letters. But I wish someone else would smile like that."

He turned down a quiet street and presently was entering one of the dwellings there. But just then he heard a footstep on the stairway, and met a little girl who smiled with the same love that Mary had shown.

"Why, Maggie!" he exclaimed, cheerily. "What makes you so happy, child?"

"I met a little girl who smiled—at me."

"So did I," returned the young man, and he described our little Mary.

"That's the same one I saw," said Maggie.

"It made me so happy that I forgot everything else."

"And it made me think of my mother and our happy country home. Did I ever show you

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mother's picture, Maggie? Then come, and you shall see it. And I'll tell you how happy I used to be before I began to drift, and what hopes mother had for me, her only boy."

Maggie went with him gladly, for to her he was a tried and trusted friend—she even called him brother sometimes. And she listened to his story (of which she had as yet known but little) to his heart-broken confessions of wrong-doing and to his determination to be a man. He told her, also, the story of Christ, a story she had never heard, and there and then the two gave themselves into His keeping.

"And I'll tell you, Maggie," he said at length. "If you'll smile like that girl did, and as you did awhile ago, it'll be one of the best things you can do for me."

"I will; you do the same, I wonder if Jesus smiled that way when He was here?"

"Yes," was the reply. "And He does yet."

So we see what Mary's smile had done. The young man had been saved from a great temptation, and had chosen the way of life and perfect love. To this same joy he led little Maggie, and both were now happy in the peace to which "only a smile" had led them.

were to be separated; one would be in India, another in China, another in Rome, another in Ephesus. Christ ascended in order that he might be with them, whether they were in China or India, or in any other part of the world.

The Ascension of Christ does not mean the departure or going away of Christ from us. No, it means the drawing near of Christ to each one of us. It is by the Ascension, and also by the work of the Holy Ghost, as we shall see next Sunday, that our dear Lord is able to be with His children, wherever they may live. He can be with a child who lives here, and also with a child who lives in Calcutta in India.

How much we feel this every time we are at the holy Service of the Eucharist! Our dear Lord is with us in the Sacrament, and we sing our hymns to Him, and at the same time He is present in the Sacrament in some church far, far away, and other little children are kneeling before Him, and praying to Him, and singing hymns to Him, perhaps in some language quite different to that of ours.

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