

## A story eor the children. There was a great hush upon the arth. It seemed as if everything and

 earth. It seemed as in everything andeveryone stood still to listen. And yet the people were not listening, but
praying; for always when a year passes awy, the multitudes of those who feel
that they need the help and mercy of that they need the help and merey of
the Lord Jesus Christ take the opportunity of pleading with Him for them. The sound of the organ had quite
died away, the preacker's voice was silent, and all the congre, ation knelt as
in the presence of God. Nota sound was heard, excepting now and then a was burdened with sin and sorrow; and no one
broken.
What were the people asking for? No one knew but themselves and God.
Most likely their desires were for more ness. The minister had earnestly re commended them to spend the last few moments of the passing year in silent
prayer ard intercession; and especially to resolve then, in those solemn seconds, to give up any sin of which they
were conscious, with a full determination to live better and truer lives than before.
"We are in God's presence," he said "Let no one try to deceive Him,
can read the thoughts of the heart." And then the silence began. Among those who bowed their heads whose face bore witness to ber earnestfilled with tears; and then, just as the
time had almost gone, she buried her face in her hands, and almost groaned.
"One, two, three!"" The great clock struck the hour, and
the sound of the first stroke almost made the people start and shiver. But as soon as the twelfth stroke had rung
out on the air, the merry bells poured out on the air, the merry bells poure
forth such showers of joyous music, that forth such showers of joyous mus
"Friends, I wish yon a happy New
Year! May the who led His flock in olden times goide and bless you still until time is over and eternity has
begun." So said the minister, and then everybody wisbed everybody else
"Good morning," and soon the streets were filled with people all going in a

## homeward direction

## friend. She hastened by the side of

 her father, for she longed to gain her thought. She wished people had not so pertinaciously uttered their congra-tulations, but had allowed ber to pursue her course ; and she was both glad
and grateful when at last the door of her home clused, and she found hersclf "I hope you have not taken cold,
Ethel. Let me see if you are warm, and have been really well wrapped up You must take something before you
go up stairs," said her mother tenderly " $\mathrm{Ob}, \mathrm{I}$ am quite comfortable, mamma dear, and I should be so very glad if I
might retire at once." the girl replied.

stayed af fer minates, then cladly en-
rered ber own foom ana closed the
dJor? $Y^{\circ}$ ?
Oh God, give me strength;" so she
fell upog her knoes and lifted-her eyes
to heaven.
Then a thought came into ber mind which drove the colour from ber face,
and made her heart beat quick 1 y . and made her heart beat quickly.
"Why not do it at once: It we be
as hard to-morrow. I had better lose
tis.".

She opened the door, and went down
stairs again. He father and mothe had not yet retired, and they looked "Why, Ethel? What is the mat-
"Ma mma, I must tell you something, wecause. I have promised God that I
pould and deceit. ful; and I to not deserve to be for:
given."
given. Hush, Ethel, do not distress your-
self. We bave alwars found you a self. We bave alwars found you a
du'iful and loving child; and you krow
" Oh, mamma, pray do not talk so,
it weil be harder then you. I have been deceiving you both. think so. You have admired the pieces ed you have shown you, and $\ddagger$ have allow. but-howstant I teft toy? not mine, but some that $I$ copied and al-
tered from a boôk. I hava known that I was frong; but you were so proud of mee so happy, tbat I could not bear to urideceive you. But I never saw my conlence to-night $I$ lnelt to ask God to bless me this yent she could not go on? Hot Father, and
mother stood looking at ber in amaze. motber stood looking at ber in amaze.
ment. They could scarcely believe that ment. They could scarcely believe that
which she told them; and yet they feared that it must be true, for shie appearad
shame.
Pres
Presently her father spoke; "I am
very disappointed, Ethel; but I would
rather have a truthful daughter thau a
Then ber mother took the girl in her
arms.
"You will have a greater probability
of a bappy new year than if you had of a happy new year than if
not told the truth," she said.
"Can you ever forgive me, mother?
I did not intend to deceive you at first
but always when the opportunity of
confessing has come I have been afraid.
Mother, I want to begin this year norere
bumbly and truthfully than the last
Do you think God will have merce?"
"I will give you a new year's test,"
was the reply. "'If we confess our
was the reply.
sins, He is faithful and just to forgive
us our sins, and to cleanse us from all us our sins, and
unrighteousness.

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