

saying, "he could eat the cakes fast enough, though he would not take the trouble of looking after them." He afterwards retired to the Isle of Athelney, Somersetshire, with a few followers, and there received information that Odum, earl of Devon, had obtained a great victory over the Danes, in Devonshire, and had taken their magical standard. On this, Alfred disguised himself as a harper, and entered the Danish camp, and was admitted to play before the chiefs. Having gained a knowledge of the state of the enemy, he directed his nobles to collect their vassals, and to meet him at Selwood in Wiltshire, which was done so secretly, that the Danes were surprised at Eddington, and completely defeated. Alfred behaved with great liberality on this occasion, given up the kingdom of the East Angles to those of the Danes who embraced the Christian religion. After a rest of some years, an immense number of Danish forces landed in Kent; on which, those who were settled in Northumberland broke their treaty, and fitting out two fleets sailed round the coast, and committed great ravages. They were, however, soon defeated by Alfred, who caused several of the pirates to be executed at Winchester as an example. Thus he secured the peace of his dominions, and struck terror into his enemies, after fifty-six battles by land and sea, in all of which he was personally engaged. But what makes him most an object of admiration, is his character as a reformer of laws and manners, and the promoter of learning. He composed a body of statutes, instituted the trial by jury, and divided the kingdom into shires and tithing; He was so exact in his government that robbery was unheard of, and valuable goods might be left on the high-road without danger of being meddled with. He also formed a parliament, which met in London twice a-year. The state of learning in his time was so low in England, that from the Thames to the Humber hardly a man could be found who understood Latin. To remedy this evil, he invited learned men from all parts, and endowed schools throughout his kingdom. He was himself a learned prince, and composed several works, and translated others from the Latin, particularly Boetius's Consolations of Philosophy. He divided the twenty-four hours into three equal parts, one devoted to the service of God, another to public affairs, and the third to refreshment. To Alfred, also England is indebted for the foundation of her naval establishment, and he was the first who sent out ships to make the discovery of a north-east passage. He died in 901, aged fifty-three.

#### KATE BOND.

*Continued.*

"Do you ask me how she could govern herself?"

I mean that she must improve the good feelings of her nature, the love of her friends

and of children; and her *benevolence*, and *conscientiousness*—she had large conscientiousness—and she must cultivate her reasoning powers, and above all, she must seek to enlarge her *reverence* by dwelling on the duty which children owe to their parents, and she must think often and seriously of God, as her Father in heaven, and pray Him to assist her by His Holy Spirit, in governing and subduing all her wrong desires and wicked feelings.

This was not an easy task for Kate, but she had promised her mother to try.

She forgot her promise however, the very morning after she made it—Christmas morning too, the hallowed morn, when our Saviour's advent is celebrated, and all Christians are rejoicing in the tidings of peace and love which he brought to earth. Oh, it is a sad thing to be angry any time; but on Christmas day it seems a most wicked sin! Never, my dear young friend, allow yourself to be angry with any one on Christmas day.

Kate Bond felt very much irritated at her sister, as I have said, and she dressed herself and went down stairs, determined to give Lucy a good scolding. To be sure Lucy was more than a year the eldest; and Miss Kate might have reflected that Lucy often, indeed, always rose first; but the impatient girl did not think of this.

As she ran down stairs, she met Dorcas, the chambermaid, with a pitcher of warm water in her hand, going towards Miss Bond's chamber.

"Where is Lucy?" bawled Kate.

"Speak softly, Miss, your mother is very sick."

"Where is Lucy, I say?" and the naughty girl raised her voice higher.

"Why, Miss Lucy is with your mother. I called her at four o'clock this morning, because your mother was so sick."

"Why did you not call me too?"

Dorcas opened her great blue eyes as wide as an owl's in the night; and her comical stare seemed to say, "What good could you have done, Miss Katy?"

Just then, Lucy softly opened her mother's door and beckoned Dorcas, who stepped lightly into the chamber. Lucy was following her, for she had not seen her sister, who stood partly in the shadow of the door; but Kate did not intend to be overlooked—"Luce," she called out shrilly, "Luce."

"Hush, Katy," said Lucy, holding up her finger, and stepping lightly up to her sister,—"Hush! mother is very ill."

"Why did you not wake me when you rose!"

"You slept so sweetly, Kate, that I could not bear to disturb you; and I have been used to waiting on mother, you know; so that it does not tire me." The sweet girl was looking pale and fatigued, but she smiled lovingly on her sister.

"You always do every thing," said Kate. She meant the expression as a taunt but the kind-hearted sister would not understand it—"O, I do not hurt myself, Kate; I have only to sit by mother—and now if you will go down and see to the children—Charley is making a noise, I hear, and little Ada will soon be up and want to be amused—so if you will go down and take care of them, I will go back to mother, and I think if she can get a nap this morning, she will be able to sit in the parlor when she wakes, and give us our Christmas presents."

Kate looked on her sister, as she named the Christmas presents, and the wholeness of the box and of her promise flashed on her mind. It seemed as if a voice whispered in her ear "Remember!" and she did remember to pray in her heart that God would assist her to keep it. She then said, softly, "Yes, Lucy, I will go down and take care of the children, and you may stay with mother."

"That's a dear girl," said Lucy, kissing her; "O, mother will soon be better and we will yet have a merry Christmas."

It would have done your heart good, my dear reader, to have seen Kate Bond in the sitting room that morning; she was so kind to her brothers; she helped Frank to get his Latin lesson, and she found Popayan on the map for Charles, over which he had been puzzling a long time, for, as he said, there is no such thing as finding the places on the map of South America, unless you know where to look for them. And then Kate brought Ada from the nursery, and amused her all the morning, a circumstance which so wonderfully astonished the nurse, that she went to Mrs Bond with the story.

"What do you think is come over Kate this morning? There she is in the sitting room, taking care of Ada and instructing her brothers, as quiet and good as Miss Lucy herself."

Mrs Bond smiled and answered—

"Kate is practising her first lesson in self-control; I am rejoiced to hear she does it so well. We must all encourage her, nurse."

"Ah, that we will; I shall speak a word of praise to her as I go down."

"O, no, nurse; I do not mean that she should be praised and flattered; only say, as a matter of course, that she has taken good care of the children, and been a quiet girl. We must not make her vain of her virtues."

So said Mrs. Bond; but when she entered the parlor, which she was able to do just before dinner was served, and saw how happy the children looked—Kate had them all around her, and seemed the happiest of the group—the good mother could scarce forbear to take her in her arms, kiss her, and praise her for behaving so nobly. She did not, however, allow such an expression