



### Emily and the Baby.

So, Emily returned last night from her long visit in the country, and very glad she is to come home ; though her grandmother and aunts could not have been kinder, and Purley cottage is a pleasant place to be staying at in any season of the year. But Emily dearly loves her parents and her brother ; and she thought of them so often, that the time seemed long while she was away. Besides this, there was the baby, little Fanny, whom she had never seen. No wonder that Emily was overjoyed when her father came to fetch her home !

It was late last night before they came in from their journey, and she could only take a little peep at the baby as it lay sleeping in its cot. But this morning she was up betimes. One run round the garden she had to please her brother, and stopped two minutes to talk to the parrot in its cage ; but she has not been out of the nursery since the little one was awake. It seems as if she would never be tired of kissing its soft and delicate cheek, and twining its tiny fingers round her own.

Now the darling is dressed ; and

nurse, with many injunctions to be careful, has placed her in Emily's arms. How happy and pleased is the little girl to be thus trusted ! How fondly she gazes on the half sleeping infant, while her heart is full of love more deep and tender than words can tell. Take care of it ! Oh ! never fear, good nurse ; you may see that Emily would not hurt her sweet baby for the world !

If little Fanny should live, it will not be long before she learns to know her sister, and to laugh at the sound of her merry voice. By-and-by, as she grows older, she will try to imitate her looks and ways ; and whatever she does, whether it be right or wrong, baby will wish to do the same. What a powerful motive this should be for Emily to strive against her faults ! How would she grieve hereafter to see little Fanny become passionate and self-willed ; sometimes disobedient to her parents, and often careless about the commands of God. Yet this will certainly happen if Emily does not resolutely set about the amendment of her own conduct ; for the example of an elder sister has