

CHILDREN AND FORBID THEM NOT TO COME

PEACE ON EARTH

CANADA

GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

SUPPER LITTLE

UNTIL 6

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Katie Foster's Mistake.

A LITTLE girl named Katie was once taken by her mother to visit a poor woman named Bruce. On her return home her father said:

"Well, Katie, and how do you like Mrs. Bruce?"

"Not at all, papa."

"Why not, Katie? what makes you dislike her?"

"I don't dislike her, exactly, papa, but there is nothing in her for me to like. She is old, and rather lame, and very un-nice looking; and she dresses so shabbily, and lives in such a poky little house."

"So when mamma gets old and loses her good looks, she must not be surprised at your not caring about her, especially if she should happen to be poorer, and live in a poky little house; eh, Katie?"

"O, but that is not the same thing, papa. Mamma would still be mamma wherever she was and however she looked; besides, she is a lady to begin with."

"And Mrs. Bruce is not a lady?"

"Certainly not, papa," said Katie, decidedly. "Why, she wears print—common print—dresses; and her furniture is very shabby, and she does all her own gardening!"

"And yet she seems to be a friend of your mamma's, Katie."

"Yes," answered the little girl, in a tone of perplexity.

She looked at her mother, but an amused smile was all the explanation she received.

"Mamma asked her to come and spend a whole day with us, papa."

"Did she?" said Mr. Foster, laughing at the evident disapproval with which the invitation was regarded. "I am glad of it, Katie; for it is always a real pleasure to me to see Mrs. Bruce."

"Then she is your friend too, papa!"

"She has been that a long time, Katie, and one of the best friends I have ever had."

"O, papa, I can hardly believe that!"

"Yes, Katie, I owe a great deal to Mrs. Bruce; for if it had not been for her I should never have had your mamma for my wife."

"Why not, papa? What could she have to do with it?"

"You must ask your mamma, Katie; she will tell you all about it."



assist her mother in the care of her younger brothers and sisters."

"Had they not any servants, mamma?"

"Only one, Katie; so that there was plenty of occupation for both mother and daughter; especially as the whole of the needlework, including the dress-making, was done at home."

"I should not have liked that, mamma," said Katie, who was already half tired of the strip of muslin that she was hemming.

"No, Katie, I am afraid some of the little ones would have fared very badly if they had had to depend upon you for the mending of their stockings or the making of their pinafores. But you have not been taught to do such things, and Margaret had."

"Is Mrs. Bruce's name Margaret?"

"Yes, dear. She was handy with her needle, and she was fond of work, so that she was a great help to her mother; and she has often told me how useful she found it in after life to be able to make and to cut out different articles of clothing. In-

deed, I scarcely know how she would have managed at one time without, for it seemed to be the only way in which she could earn money for her own support."

"But was she forced to earn money, mamma? Could not she always live at home?"

"Not always, Katie. She was nearly grown up when her father died suddenly, and they were left very poor."

"O, mamma, how bad it must have been for them! What did they do?"

"Kind friends came forward to help them; but they had many difficulties to struggle with. The boys were apprenticed to some trade, the girls went out as governesses, and the mother was assisted in opening a school."

"And did Mrs. Bruce become a governess?"

"Yes. At first she found the change exceedingly trying, for, in addition to the pain of parting from all her near relatives and going to utter strangers, she did not happen to get among nice people; but at length she was very comfortable, for a lady, with whom they had been intimate for many years, engaged her for her children, and treated her just as if she were one of themselves."

"Was she there long, mamma?"

"Two or three years; and she would have