

"Here we are," answered two voices in concert. "Over here by the lily."

"Come in the house now," said mamma. "It's going to rain."

"We ca-a-n't," called the voices. "We're planted!"

"What do you suppose they are doing?" said mamma to grandma; and grandma said with a smile that she would go and see.

But when she did "see," she laughed so hard that her gold-bowed glasses fell off and mamma came out to see, too.

"What are you doing that for?" asked mamma, laughing when she saw her little girls in their queer fix.

"Cause we want to grow faster," exclaimed Elsa. "The lily has grown taller than either of us, and we thought maybe if we were planted in the ground as it is, it wouldn't take us so long to grow up to be young ladies."

"You dear little simpl-tos!" laughed mamma. Then the big drops began to patter down on the walk, and she hurried the two child-plants into the house. "Pulling them up by the roots," as Frances said.

That night when the blue-gingham-apron blossoms had changed to white-night-gown lilies, and the two children were safely planted in their proper bed, she had a good, long mother-talk with them, telling them that God had so arranged it that children should grow beautiful in a different way from lilies, more slowly, because their beauty and use were so much greater.

"It's only a part of growing up to get tall like auntie and mamma," said she; "and not the best part either. Little children grow by learning their lessons every day, by doing just as they are told, by being kind and pleasant to everyone and loving each other—loving God most of all. This makes the heart grow, and without this growing it doesn't do anyone any good when children grow tall and handsome and strong. So be patient, little girls, about growing up. That will come in good time without your working for it, but you can help or hinder the heart-growth as you are studious, obedient and loving, or idle, disobedient and selfish."

"I'm going to try to grow in God's way," said Frances softly; and Elsa murmured, "I, too."

HOW JACK KEPT HIS PROMISE.

It was the writing hour in Master Laird's room, and nothing but the subdued scratch of forty pens, moving swiftly and silently across the two score copy-books, was to be heard. The master looked round over the rows of eager faces before him with evident approval, and when the bell tapped for change of employment, he said quietly,—

"Boys, this afternoon is so beautiful, and the ice is in such splendid condition, that I have concluded to give you the half-holiday I promised you, and go with you for a turn upon the river. You may

put your books aside, and pass in order down the stairs. After which, get your skates ready and wait quietly at the front gate until I join you."

What a merry, light-hearted set of boys they were as they stood around in little groups talking in subdued tones of the pleasures in store for them that bright, wintry afternoon.

Presently a lad of thirteen made his appearance, swinging his satchel of books in his right hand, while under his left arm was tucked away a little parcel that looked very much like his skates.

"Why do you trouble with your books, Jack?" asked Dan Harold. "You don't propose to stand still long enough to study a lesson this stinging day, do you?"

"I am not going to the river today, Dan," answered Jack cheerily, "but all the same I wish the rest of you a jolly time."

"I thought you would be the first fellow on the ice," said Dan. "You are the best skater in the lot."

"I would enjoy the fun ever so much, but I can't go this afternoon."

"What is the reason you can't?" demanded Dan.

"You intended to stay at school, and you may rest assured the master will not allow us to remain on the ice after four o'clock. You must be sick, Jack Clover."

"I never felt better in my life," responded Jack, "but for all that, I can't stay."

He's afraid of what his mother will say!" said Joe Morton.

"Jack is none of your 'fraid-babies," said Dan, patronizingly. "Why, he's within an inch of my height, and mother would be sure I was sick if I ran to her every time I wanted a little fun."

"I am no 'fraid-baby, Dan, but I must admit that Joe has guessed the real reason why I cannot remain. I promised mother, a year ago, that I would never go to the river without her permission, and I would be a coward if I broke my word," Jack said, firmly.

"But the ice is perfectly safe," urged Dan. "If it had not been, the master would not have given us the privilege of trying it, unasked. Mothers are all scary, but they soon get over their fussing when they find they can't run things to suit themselves. Come right along; have a good time with the rest of us, and your mother will rest easy, because she will know nothing about it until the fun is all over."

"But that would be deceiving her, and then she would lose confidence in me," replied Jack. "That's the veriest nonsense," laughed Dan. "A fellow's mother is not like any other body. She never goes back on him."

"Then he should never go back on her," insisted Jack. "At any rate, I am not going to break my promise."

"What is the trouble, boys?" asked Mr. Laird, as he joined his scholars at the gate.

Dan related what had passed between himself and Jack, and

then appealed to the teacher for his decision.

"I am quite sure that if Jack's mother understood all the circumstances in the case, she would give ready consent to his afternoon's enjoyment. I think the trouble with mothers is that boys are usually venturesome, and often risk their lives on the ice when there is actual danger," said Mr. Laird. "If Jack's mother were in reach I would advise him to go and consult her, but as the walk to his home is over a mile, I believe she would excuse him if he went under my care."

"Of course she would," said Dan and Joe in a breath. "I am sure she would not want him to walk three solid miles just to save her from an hour's anxiety," added Joe. "That's all sheer nonsense."

DIED.

At Foresters Falls, Ont., on the 24th day of June, 1898, in the 83rd year of his age, John Coleman, formerly of Keupville and Lyn.

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FORTY-YEAR ANNUITIES

Sealed Tenders for the purchase of Terminable Annuities running for a period of 40 years, issued under authority of an act of the Ontario Parliament, 47 Vic., Chapter 31, will be received by the undersigned at his office, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on or before 14th day of July next, at 2.30 p.m., when the tenders will be opened in the presence of such of the applicants, or their agents, as may attend.

The annuities will be in the form of certificates signed by the Provincial Treasurer, in which certificates the Provincial Treasurer will agree to make half-yearly payments at his office, at Toronto, or in London, England, of sums of \$100, or larger sums, or their equivalent in sterling at the par of exchange (£20 10s. 11d.), on the 30th day of June and 31st day of December in each year, for forty years from 30th day of June instant, the first half-yearly certificates being payable on the 31st December next.

The total amount of annuities to be issued in 1898 is \$5,700 annually, but tenders will be received for any part of the same not less than \$200 annually.

Tenders may, if preferred, be upon condition that the annuities be payable in sterling in London, England. In each case the conversion will be at the par of exchange, \$4.86 2-3 to the pound sterling. Tenderers will be required to state the purchase money which will be paid for either the whole annuities offered or such portion as may be tendered for.

Notification of allotments will be given to tenderers on or before 20th July, and payments from the persons whose tenders are accepted must be made within ten days thereafter at the office of the Provincial Treasurer in Toronto, but if, from any cause, the purchase money is not paid by the 1st day of August next, purchasers who have not then paid will be required to pay interest on their purchase money from that date to date of payment, at the rate of interest which the investment will yield, according to their respective tenders.

The Annuity Certificates will be delivered at the office of the Provincial Treasurer in Toronto, where, if desired, they may be specially registered.

The Provincial Treasurer reserves the right to determine what tender is most advantageous to the Province, but no tender will necessarily be accepted. Tenders should be on the accompanying form.

Envelopes containing tenders should be endorsed, "Tender for Province of Ontario Annuities."

Further information may be obtained on application to the Provincial Treasurer.

R. HARCOURT,
Provincial Treasurer.

Provincial Treasurer's Office, Toronto, 2nd June, 1898.

P.S.—No unauthorized advertisement will be paid for.

Note.—Illustration of calculation on interest basis: At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum (or in strictness 1 1/2 per cent. half-yearly), present payment of \$2,320.36 would represent an annuity of \$100 for 40 years, \$50 payable each half-yearly.