

Children's Department.

"Boy."

CHAPTER II. - Continued.

"Doddles, come and sit by the stream," said Boy; "I have ever so much to say to you, and I want to empty my heart right out to you."

"What is it, little one?" said his friend, as they sat down together, and Boy rested his head on the other one's knee.

"I can't understand things, Doddles," he began; "there seems to be a muddle somewhere."

"Yes, Boy," answer the curate; "we all fancy things are in a muddle sometimes, but that is only because we cannot see clearly; everything really is all right, you know."

"Oh! can't you 'plain better than that," exclaimed Boy impatiently. "If God makes everything, why did he take my pair away? Why is Maria so disagreeable? Why doesn't mother love me as much as the others? And why has I only got my own little self, and no one to care for me?"

The child stopped for the want of breath, and the gentle man by his side looked up at the sky and echoed the "Why" in his heart.

"Well, Boy," Doddles began, "you know I care for you, darling, and many others to do too; but it is very difficult to understand I know. I wish I could make things better for you."

"Try, Doddles, try," eagerly entreated the child; "I know if you try you can, plain why things seem so upside down."

"Well, Boy, listen, and I will see if I can make it clear to you. Do you remember that table Lady Selby brought from Florence?"

"Yes, Doddles, I remember."

"With the lovely pattern of roses and other flowers?"

"Yes," answered Boy again. "and I remember asking what it was made of, and father 'plained it was a mosaic."

"And what is a mosaic, Boy," asked the curate.

"Why, lots, and lots, and lots of little bits of different coloured stones all fitted in, and fitted in, till they make one big beautiful pattern."

"Yes, Boy, you are quite right."

"But that's nothing to do with what I particularly want to know," said Boy impatiently.

"Wait a minute," answered Doddles. "It has everything to do with what I mean. Now, try and see. The world is a great big bit of mosaic, which the Master-hand is working at."



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"And that's God," put in Boy.

"Yes, God has the whole idea in His mind, and we are all the little pieces being fitted in."

"What is the pattern called?" said Boy, interrupting, with a light in his eyes as if he was

"Stung by the splendor of a sudden thought."

"The pattern," said Mr. Dodsworth looking up at the sky, "is *Christ Himself, and the redeemed race in Him*. You remember, Boy, the text in your little book?"

"Yes—Wednesday," said Boy; and he added in a gentle tone, "He came into the world that all might be saved."

"That is quite right. So now are you beginning to see? Often little bits of the pattern are worked out in God's plan, and we cannot see a whole flower clearly, then it looks like a muddle to us. Sometimes a tiny bit is fitted in at once, and its work is done, it is no longer needed."

"That's my pair," said Boy, "and now I know why God called her home."

"And some pieces take a long time fitting in, but they are all used—all needed," Doddles added with a dreamy look in his eyes. Then—"But some are only the ground-work, just put to show up the pattern, and it does not seem to us as if they were any good."

"I specs they are, Doddles," said Boy, slipping his hand into his friend's, telling by instinct that sympathy was needed here. "And, Doddles," he went on, "I shouldn't be at all surprised if Jesus didn't like ground-work bits best, really, for you sees they keeps the pattern in its place."

"Oh, Boy!" said Doddles, "I have never thought of that before, and it is a new idea. Child, where did you get it?"

"I specs," said Boy, gravely, "that the angels whispered to me. They often tells me things."

"How do you know?" asked the Curate.

"Because I had a text once," explained Boy, "which I never could understand, though I tried very particularly, till at last in a sermon at a children's service I kept quite awake by pinching my legs, then it was all quite clear. So I tells them heaps and heaps and heaps of things now, and they answers in my dreams."

"What was the text, Boy?" asked Doddles.

"In heaven there—that's the children," said boy, fearing his friend would not understand—"In Heaven their angels do always behold the face of our Father."

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And the tears stood in Doddles' eyes as he realized the nearness of an angel now.

(To be continued.)

"Thath Right."

Emma and Theodore, two sweet, blue-eyed children, aged two and five years, always sat, while in the dining-room, at their own little table, where they were waited on by Katie, their nurse. One day little Emma having finished her dinner, was clamoring to be taken down. Katie had left the room for a moment and the buzz of conversation at the large table quite drowned the tiny voices, until Theodore was seen to slip quietly down from his chair, go around the table, and drawing back his sister's little high chair—

take her in his arms and lift her gently to the floor. The baby stood for a moment with serious, upturned face, the blue eyes looking gratefully into her brother's, then the sweet baby voice lisped: "Thath right, Theodo! God lovth little boyth that help their little thithers down out of their high chairth!" And with hands clasped, the tiny toddlers ran off to their play, while we children of a larger growth, who had been spectators of the scene, were left to ponder over the sweetness of it.

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