



GRANDMOTHER'S VISIT.

GRANDMA has come! O mamma, grandma has come!" cried Gracie, joyfully, as she skipped to the door. Dick ran after her, shouting, "Good, now we'll have a merry time."

Little Neddie had forgotten all about the dear old grandma, so he stood very still and looked at her soberly, as she entered the room.

"Has Neddie forgotten grandma?" was her question as she took the little fellow in her arms, and covered his face with kisses.

"I forgot once, but I shan't never again," answered Neddie, as he slipped from her arms, and shyly watched her as she tried to unfasten her bonnet.

"Let me help you, grandma," said Gracie, and her nimble fingers soon untied the strings.

"Thank you, dear. My old fingers are cold and stiff. Yours are better. By-and-bye they may open my basket." She did not see roguish Dick peep into it.

"Yes, grandma, but I'll carry your things away first;" and her willing feet tripped away with the wrappings.

When the last thing was put away, grandma said, "Now open my basket, Gracie."

"Oh, what a nice dolly!" cried Gracie, as soon as she saw the pretty thing folded so nicely in its dainty white blauket.

"I knew 't was there before you saw it," said Dick. "But dolls ain't much. What have you got for me, grandma?"

"Dick," said his mother, "be patient. I think Neddie will have his present first, to-day."

"O Neddie, see this nice horse on wheels!" exclaimed Gracie. She was almost as much delighted as Neddie with the pretty toy. His sparkling eyes showed his delight, although he said nothing then.

"Here, my boy," said grandma at last; "here is yours at the very bottom of the basket," and she handed Dick a handsome white-handled knife.

"Thank you; it's just what I wanted. You are the best grandmother alive."

"Is it worth waiting for?" asked grandma, with a quiet smile.

"I guess it is. I'll remember to be patient next time, I'm sure I will. The best often comes last."

After the presents had been sufficiently examined and praised, and grandma had eaten a good warm dinner prepared by her kind daughter, papa came home from his work, and the entire family gathered around the large, old-fashioned fire-place for an

evening's talk. Grandma then told them all about her home, and about her long and tiresome journey. Thus the evening passed very pleasantly away, and all felt that the presence of grandmother had brought additional sunshine and happiness to the household. Blessed be the children who have an old-fashioned grandmother. As they hope for length of days, let them love and honour her, for we can tell them they will never find another.

LET'S PLAY.

Oh! the blessed and wise little children,
What sensible things they say!
When they can't have the things they wish
for
They take others, and cry, "Let's play."

"Let's play that the chairs are big coaches,
And the sofa a railroad-car;
And that we are all taking journeys,
And travelling ever so far.

"Let's play that this old broken china
Is a dinner-set rare and fine,
And our tin cups filled with water
Are goblets of milk and wine."

"Let's play every one of our doilies
Is alive and can go to walk,
And keep up long conversations
With us if we want to talk.

"Let's play that we live in a palace,
And that we are queens and kings,
Let's play we are birds in a tree-top,
And can fly about on wings.

"Let's play that we are school-keepers,
And grown people come to our school;
And then punish them most soundly
If they break but a single rule."

Oh! the blessed and wise little children,
What sensible things they say,
And we might be happy as they are
If we would be happy their way.

What odds 'twixt not having and having
When we have lived out our day?
Let us borrow the children's watchword,
The magical watchword, "Let's play."

GOOD ADVICE.

Do not be late at Sunday-school if you can help it. It is not right to sleep later on Sunday than at other times. We should try to spend all of God's day in his service.

A LITTLE boy once walked thirty-two miles to get a Bible, he wanted one he could call his own. Would you take as much trouble as that?