

Children's Department.

A Cup of Cold Water.

Little Patty Collins sat on the cottage door-step with a puzzled expression on her rosy face. She was gazing at a picture representing a scene of Eastern travel—a woman at a tent door reaching out a cup of water to a thirsty traveller.

Patty had turned to that picture because the sermon she had heard yesterday had been on that very subject, and had made a great impression on the little girl. She seldom understood much of sermons, but somehow she had taken in a good deal of this one, and was now trying her best to think how she could carry it out.

"How could I do it, Lucy?" she said at last, appealing to her elder sister, who stood sewing by the kitchen window. "The minister said that we could all give a cup of cold water, but no one wants it as I can see; we've so few neighbors and every one has a well the same as we have."

"He didn't only mean that we were to give cold water, Patty," explained Lucy gently; "but he said we should be ready for Christ's sake to show little kindnesses, and you know in those hot Bible lands water is scarce, and to give a cup is often a very charitable act."

"Yes; and I would like to give a cup of water," repeated Patty slowly. "I'll ask father when he comes home if he knows of anyone who wants any."

Patty was not a very clever child, and one idea at a time was as much as she could grasp. The neighbors would sometimes declare that the little girl was "wanting," and certainly she was very much behind other children in ordinary knowledge, but for all that she had plenty of ideas in her fair head, and father would not have changed his little maid—his dead wife's last legacy—for the cleverest child in the kingdom.

Patty waited till after supper and then began: "Father, you mind the



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sermon yesterday; could I give anyone a cup of cold water? I would so like to."

Father didn't answer immediately, and Patty crept on to his knee, and nestled against him.

"A cup of cold water," he repeated at last. "I know many that would be better and happier if they drank nothing else, but there's not so many of that sort hereabouts, and I thank God for it, for I should not like my girls to live amongst drunkards; but if my little maid wants an opportunity of giving a glass to those that want it, I think I know how it can be done."

"Do you! Oh, father, how nice you are!" exclaimed Patty delightedly; "how am I to begin?"

"Why, look here, Patty, see what a long, dusty road it is from here to the town, not a tree nor a bit of shelter anywhere. Now, if I were to put the garden bench and the little round table by the lilac-tree outside our gate, I dare say many a passer-by would be glad to rest, and you could get them a

glass of water and put it on the table in front of them."

"Yes! yes! of course I could!" said Patty—then coaxingly, "Could you do it now, father?"

Father got up at once, though he had already done a long day's work, and perhaps would not himself have chosen such a job at the end of it. But he saw Patty's heart was set on it, and that was enough for him, and after half-an-hour's hard work the bench was firmly fixed in the shade with the little table in front of it.

It was holiday time, and though Patty had some house work to do, she found many an opportunity on the following day of watching the bench, and was pleased when an old market-woman rested there for some minutes. She was not thirsty, however, for it was early yet, so Patty's rosebud mug was still unused. About midday, however, just as the sun was at the hottest, a sailor came in sight, limping wearily along, with a bundle on a stick over his shoulder.

"Hi, Missy!" he called out on seeing Patty, "Is there any chance of getting a drop of drink anywhere hereabouts?"

"Yes!" said Patty demurely, "sit you down, and I'll fetch you some," and filling the mug with sparkling water, she quickly took it to the weary man.

He sat on the bench, and eagerly took the cup from Patty's hand—then looking at it exclaimed in a disappointed tone, "What! Adam's ale, is it?" However, thirst prevailed, and tossing it off he smiled good-humouredly, and declared it to be "Rare good drink too!" and he then asked if he might rest a bit, as he had come a long way and was footsore?

Patty's answer was easy to guess, and when at last refreshed and rested the young man got up to go, he told Patty that his mother would like to thank her for doing him this good turn.

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