

three questions; then he patted Benny's head and replied: "You shall sing the carols for your mother my boy. Run home and tell Francie that I want her to be ready before service time and I shall send some one to stay with Ruth."

Benny did run, and delivered his message all out of breath.

"Before?" repeated Francie; why Benny!—why Ruth!

Dr. Barlow surely meant to let her come to the tree. Francie hardly dared think of such a thing, but Ruth looked greatly pleased. There was a little family council over the getting ready part, for Benny's clothes, especially, needed a mother's hand.

There's that frock, Francie, that Mrs. Brown gave him, of her boy's; it is clean and nice, said Ruth doubtfully. The boys will laugh, began Benny, but never mind, he added; I don't care if they do—not a bit!

So the garment was donned, and Francie had scarcely had time to pin on his collar with great efforts, when in came good motherly Mrs. Barnes to stay with Ruth.

All ready, my dears? Go on then to the church. I was to send you both. And after the service you are to go round to the House for sick folks, and you'd better sing under the back window nearest the high wall. Remember! Now I'll take care of sister, and I hope you'll have a beautiful time!

They had a beautiful time indeed. Francie was so happy to take her old place with her class, and her teacher, who had heard of her troubles, kindly welcomed her with a kiss. When the gifts were taken from the tree Francie's name was called among the rest; and Benny's face fairly beamed with delight as she passed him with both hands filled.

As the children met at the church door Francie whispered, with sparkling eyes:

Oh Ben, haven't I got something for Ruthie now! My cornucopia and this beautiful great orange; and she shall read my book first!

How nice, returned Benny. Then I can give my orange to mother, and you and I will divide my candy, and we can still play this game together.

So planning, the happy pair hurried to the hospital, taking the evergreens which Bennie had hid near the church. As their voices tremblingly began the carol a window was raised just above them.

Now mother can surely hear, they thought, and Benny threw back his head and sang with all his might:

Peace on earth, good will to men.  
Angelic voices ringing.

Christ the Lord to earth has come  
His glorious message bringing.

Ring the bells, the Christmas bells,  
Chime out the wondrous story,  
Glory be to God on high,  
Forever more be glory!

As they finished their second pretty carol, a gentle looking nurse stood beside them.

Your mother sends you her dear love, and says you have done her good, dears. Are these for her? And this nice orange? I will carry

them up, and perhaps if you can come here to-morrow afternoon she will be able to see you. Good night, and a happy Christmas to you!

Hand in hand, their hearts beating with happiness, the children ran home.

How nice and comfortable Ruth looked! But she lay still, as if tired, and Mrs. Barnes said gravely,

Wait until morning to tell sister, my dears; she needs to be quiet now.

Ruth smiled at them, and thanked her kind nurse gratefully as she bade her good-night.

Never mind! whispered Benny, gleefully; we can tell her in the morning, when we give her her presents.

Francie and Benny were awake with the dawn of the Christmas morning; but Ruth slept on until they had had their breakfast and were impatiently waiting for her to open her eyes.

Don't wake her for anything, Benny. I dare say she was awake with pain most of the night, said Francie; but we'll have everything ready.

She spread a white towel over Ruth's little stand, and on it they placed the evergreen cross, which Benny had set upright in a small box; also the orange, cornucopia, and Francie's book, with Benny's white stone on top of it. This was marked:

For dear, sweet Ruth, from her Benny.

Then, as they stood waiting, Ruth awoke, and her look of surprise and pleasure fully repaid them, without her loving words and thanks.

But when Ruth took up the white stone, her eyes filled with tears, and she exclaimed:

Oh, Benny darling, how did you know?

Know what? said Benny, wonderingly, and Francie explained:

He found it once, and he liked it so much; so he wanted to give it to you, Ruthie.

I didn't want to make you cry, though, said Benny.

No, it doesn't make me cry, smiled Ruth. I like it very much. It makes me think of my sweet verse.

What verse, Ruthie? Please tell us.

I don't know it all, and I could not find it; but I heard it once. To him that *overcometh*, it said; and then, I will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written.

The children were silent and awed, for Ruth's voice thrilled them as she repeated these words. It struck them both, too, as they had not noticed before, how very thin and wan she was growing.

You must have your breakfast, dear Ruthie, said Francie, turning away.

The little housekeeper's supplies were failing fast; there was not a bit of bread left for Ruth's toast—only some oatmeal.

And there was small prospect for a Christmas dinner; but neither of them thought of this. They had their candy for a feast, and were too young to borrow trouble.

Only Ruth wondered a little how they were to be fed; but Ruth had learned to trust.

Again there was a knock at the door, after morning service was over at the church, and Dr. Barlow entered with Mrs. Barnes.

Ah, it is Happy Christmas here, I see! said the good clergyman, smiling at the little group. God bless you, dear children!

Francie and Benny had been trying their new game, and Ruth lay with her treasures near her, and the white stone clasped in her hand.

What have you there, my dear? asked Dr. Barlow, noticing it.

Ask him where the verse is! whispered Francie. So then, between them, they told their pastor why Ruth liked the stone.

Mrs. Barnes turned away and wiped her eyes as Dr. Barlow took a Testament from his pocket and read Ruth's verse:

To him that *overcometh* will I give to eat of the hidden manna. And I will give him a white stone: and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

What does it mean, sir, please? Ruth asked, faintly.

Dear child, if we, through God's grace, overcome in all the trials and battles of this life, we shall know at last what the precious meaning is. The hidden manna: they shall hunger no more who eat of it. The white stone—pure, glistening with that precious name written on it which no one knoweth save him that receiveth it: they shall be forever satisfied to whom the Master will give this token of His wonderful love!

And now, Dr. Barlow went on, cheerfully, breaking the stillness in the room, I must do my errand.

Listen, my child; are you willing to let us carry you to our hospital, where you can be nursed and cared for properly?

Ruth looked up in surprise and gratitude, but then her eyes fell upon her brother and sister.

Dr. Barlow hastened to add:

Mrs. Barnes is to keep Francie and Benny until their mother is well again. She will take good care of them, and they can go to school every day after the holidays.

I have planned this with your mother, and I see you have no objection, so now I will leave Mrs. Barnes to help you all get ready, and I will send a carriage for Ruth. Oh, Ruth, how lovely! whispered Francie, almost crying with joy: You will be nursed so nicely, I do believe you will get well right away! And only think of Benny and me!

The sick girl was moved so tenderly and skillfully that she scarcely felt tired by it. Francie and Benny followed the carriage, and were allowed to go in and see their mother a little while, and then to give Ruth one kiss as she lay restfully in the whitest of beds.

And now, said Mrs. Barnes, our Christmas dinner is waiting, and my Sally is wondering what keeps us, I dare say.

Benny Foster, said Francie, im-

pressively, after they had done justice to the turkey and pudding, I don't believe anybody in the whole world has had a better Christmas than we have!

No! said Benny; and I think we ought to be real good!

Mrs. Barnes said they were the best children she ever had anything to do with.

In about six weeks their mother was able to go back with them to their home, and a much pleasanter home it was from that time, too.

They would have been very happy but for one grief, dear, patient Ruth would never return them; she was fast fading away.

I knew it, the blessed lamb, that first evening that I took care of her! said Mrs. Barnes; but children, you need never grieve for her, she is one of the Lord's own: that she is! I always think of the white stone when I see her.

She has it now; mine, I mean, said Benny, softly.

Aye, your Christmas gift; she'll be sure of the better gifts before another Christmas.

Yes, long before, Ruth had overcome, and was more than conqueror through Him who loved her.

A disinfecting compound used in Berlin, is said to possess extraordinary power to control the odors and effluvia of offensive and infectious disorders. Oils of rosemary, lavender, and thyme, in the proportions respectively of ten, two and a half, and two and a half, are mixed with thirty parts of water and one and a half part of nitric acid. The bottle should be shaken before using and a sponge saturated with the compound is left to evaporate.



## Welland Canal Enlargement.

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for the Welland Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western mails on MONDAY, the 25th day of JANUARY next, (1886), for raising the walls of the locks, weirs, &c., and increasing the height of the banks of that part of the Welland Canal between Port Dalhousie and Thorold, and for deepening the Summit Level between Thorold and Ramey's Bend, near Humberston. The works, throughout, will be let in Sections.

Maps of the several localities, together with plans and descriptive specifications, can be seen at this office on and after MONDAY, the 11th day of JANUARY next, (1886), where printed forms of tender can be obtained. A like class of information relative to the works north of Allanburg will be furnished at the Resident Engineer's Office, Thorold; and for works south of Allanburg, plans, specifications, &c., may be seen at the Resident Engineer's Office, Welland.

Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms, and, in the case of firms, except there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and place of residence of each member of the same; and further, an accepted bank cheque for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars or more, according to the work on the section—must accompany the respective tenders, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates stated in the offer submitted.

The amount required in each case will be stated on the form of tender.

The cheque or money thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the best or any tender.

By order,  
A. P. BRADLEY,  
Secretary.  
Department of Railways and Canals,  
Ottawa, 23rd December, 1885. } 34-5