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A POR THE CHILDREN.

Never was a girl more proud of shoes than Hetty was of her scarlet slippers. For one thing she had often wished for a pair, and had never been able to obtain them before; and now her wish was gratified. It came about in this way. Hetty was on a visit to a friend, and very happy were the weeks that she spent in the country, though there was not much to see in the garden's besides chrysanthemuns. and from the fields and lanes everything had been gathered, even to the blackberries. But the house was a cheerfu: one, and the people who lived in it were kind and pleasant, so the time passed as merrily as possible.

One day Miss Robinson surprised Hetty.

"I want you to tell me what you would like best in the world," she said. " In the world?" said Hetty, wonderingly.

" Well, no; not quite that. What I really mean is this. My brother would like to make you a present because you have marked his stockings so nicely, and he wishes you to decide as to what it shall be."

Hetty's eyes brightened, and a smile that was full of delight spread over her

"It is kind of Mr. Robinson," she said, "and I know very well what I should like, only I am afraid it would cost too much money,"

"Perhaps not. Say what it is,"

" It is a pair of slippers."

" Then you shall go with me to-day aud buy which pair you please."

You may be sure that Hetty was ready when the time came, and that Miss Robinson had not to wait for her. "I know a shop," she said, "where

there are all sorts of beautiful slippers." "That is where we are going," said Miss Robinson, " for there is only one shop of the kind in the place."

When they reached and entered it, Hetty's friend quite thought that little girl would find some difficulty in making her selection; but she did not. She bad made up her mind when first she heard of the good fortune in store for her as to the pair which she would

" Well, Hetty, which would you like." "I should like the scarlet ones, please, Miss Robinson."

"Very good, then you shall have them-"

If she had not been afraid of soiling them, Hetty would like to have worn them home for she was so very pleased with them and they fitted her beautifully; but as it was, she carried them in a parcel, and put them on as soon as she reached the door-mat.

From that time until the hour of which I shall presently tell you, Hetty wore her slippeds on every possible occasion. The first thing in the morning they were put on; and so they were the last thing at night. Mr. Robinson declared that he believed Hetty slept in them; for he thought she could not bear to part from her favourite. But he was only making fun of her, for, of course, Hetty knew the slippers are not for sleeping in. It is true, however, that she wore them whenever she could, and was as proud of them as a peacock is of his tail. And yet she gave them away!

When she had stayed a few weeks with Miss Robinson she returned to her home, and one of the first things that she did when she saw her mother was to tell her about the slippers.

" Did you ever see see such beauties, mamma?" she acked.

"They are pretty, certainly," said her mother; "and are very warm and comfortable, are they not?".

"They are just levely, mamma; and I have not had cold feet since they were given to me," replied Hetty.

A few days later Hetty and her mother went to pay some visits, and among the rest of the places where they called was a small house where a poor widow woman and her boy lived. They found the woman in great distress, for the boy was sick, and she was too poor to be able to procure medicine for him; neither had she warm clothing enough to make him comfortable. He laid on two chairs, and almost the first thing Hetty noticed was that he had on his feet a pair of thick hobnailed shoes. Her mother observed it too.

"Would he not be better without his boots?" she asked.

" No, ma'am, for he is so cold that I had bard work to keep him warm at all. We cannot have a very large fire, you see, and the boots are thick and prevent his feet from being as cold as stones, as I have known them to be."

" But you might cover his feet with blanket." "Yes, ma'am, but the pain makes him so restless that he kicks a blanket off. I think it is better for him to wear his shoes, thoughthey do sometimes make him very tired."

If any one had been watching Hetty's face at that moment, he would have seen it change colour. The little girl thought first of her own warm, comfortable slippers at home, and wished the boy had a pair like them.

And then another thought came into

" Perhaps I ought to give my scarlet

slippers te him." But she sent the thought away with

some indignatiou. " No, I cannot do that. It is not required of me; and besides, it cannot

But following that thought came yet

be right, for they were given to me."

"Mr. Robinson would not mind. He would be passed."

Still, she did not feel that she could part with them so easily, and she therefore said nothing to the little boy or his mother.

But that night Hetty did not enjoy her slippers as much as usual, and she kept thinking of some words which she knew. " I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me

At last she made up her mind. She knew that she could spare the slippers; and that they would really be far more useful to the poor boy than to her. So the next day she toak them in a parcel, and said, "John, I have brought you a pair of slippers, because they will keep your feet warm, and be more comfortable than your boots."

John was too ill to thank her then, but he has done so many times since. This happened several years ago, but John never forgot it, and always declares that it was the slippers that made him well. The other day he presented Hetty with a beautiful pair; and he says that he means to spend the rest of his life in proving his thankfulness for her kindness.

A CHILD'S PETITION.

HOW SANTA CLAUS MADE ONE HOME HAPPY.

On Saturday one of the mail-sorters in the Post Office found a letter addressed to "Santa Claus." As that mythical personage has no local habitation within reach of the carriers, the officials opened the envelope, and read the contents. The letter was written by a little girl named Amy McKenzie. living with her parents at No. 59 Emerald Street, and in it she made a a touching appeal to Santa Claus not to forget her or her folks. Her little brother wants a new pair of shoes father would like a new hat; mother would be pleased with a new dress, and the little writer adds: "Now, dear Santa Claus, if you have just one little doll left, please bring it around to me, and I'll promise to be a good little girl all next year." The touching pathos of the missive and the simple faith of the little girl, made a deep impression upon the officials, and after a brief consultation it was decided that the little one should have a satisfactory Christmas. Postmaster McArthur and one of his clerks drove to the residence and found that the statements of the little girl were correct. On their return down town they drove around to several acquaintances, and it is needless to say that they in a very short time collected enough to more than satisfy the longings of the little petitioner. A pair of shoes was got for the little brother, and two or three pairs more for other members of the family; the father's and mother's wants were supplied, and a handsome doll was secured for Amy. A purse of \$25 was made up and sent along with the other gifts: and in no household in Chicago was there a happier Christmas than that in the little cottage on the obscure street,

whose guardian-angel is Amy McKen-

zie. - Chicago Tribune.

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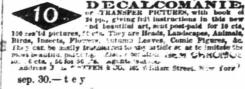
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