

alarm, I saw a figure stand. It was strangely like my own, and I seemed to be looking at myself, while all the time knowing I was in another place. Suddenly the figure stretched out its arms in a vain effort to grasp at something, and sprang forward into the terrible depth. I screamed and awoke.

"I considered the matter, and found I, too, in my day-dreams, had been reaching forth vaguely after mere empty delights, and grasping at nothingness. I was not then under the immediate influence of God's grace, but with my vivid imagination I was also blessed with a reasoning mind, and not wholly devoid of common sense. I resolved to give up my silly indulgence and seek to turn the time usually lost in it to better account by closer attention to study, and little kindly offices done for those around. If I can persuade you, my dear niece, to do the same," concluded Aunt Kate, "I shall do well."

Story of an Apple.

"I'll not lose my hold upon this tree for anybody," said a rosy-cheeked apple. "Who wants to fall down yonder to be gobbled up by some one of the young folks, I would like to know?"

"But think of the pleasure you would give them," said her sister.

"Pshaw!" and our apple tossed herself about so scornfully as to be in great danger of falling off at once.

The farmer came and gathered all her plump and rosy sisters and piled them up in delicious-looking heaps, ready for the row of barrels placed alongside.

But our apple hid herself under the leaves, only bobbing out into the sun when he was well on his way to another tree.

When Nell and Robbie came with long poles "a gleaning," she was obliged to hide again, and very cunningly, for their eyes are very bright and sharp.

"There, they are gone at last," thought she, and settled herself for a sunbath.

"Yes, it is rather lonely," she answered to the wind's questioning, "but I don't mind that."

But the wind grew colder, and the sun gave her less and less of warmth with every passing day; the leaves grew brown and dropped away, one by one, from her sides.

"I declare I, too, would drop down among the grasses if I could," she said, "for I am tired of this; I wonder where the children are." Then she tried very hard to shake herself free, but alas! the autumn weather had so toughened and shrivelled her stem, that there was no breaking it.

"I am bound; my own selfishness has chained me here," said the apple, dismally. "I shall stay here till I freeze and thaw, and freeze and thaw, and dry up into just such a light, good-for-nothing, weazened old apple as I saw the wind making sport of the other day; dear me!"

Strange, wasn't it? But just then Nell and Robbie in the window seat caught sight of the red apple bobbing about at a great rate on her high perch.

What a rush and shout and scramble there was for her, and how she did enjoy being "halved" and gobbled up by the very children she had hidden from.

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