

the first rays of the morning sun, making beautiful colors on the marble floor.

"We could see our brother and sister lilies all about us, till it seemed almost as if we were in our lovely home once more; but it was far more glorious, for we could hear the sweet voices of the choristers singing triumphantly:

"Christ, the Lord is risen again, Christ hath broken every chain; Hark! angelic voices cry, Singing ever more on high, Alleluia!"

"Our hearts were filled with joy, as we thought of the great privilege which had been given to us, to make beautiful the Lord's house on the day of His resurrection, and we know that our prayer was answered."

"I don't wonder you were happy. It was worth suffering for. I wish that I were a lily," Bessie said, wistfully.

"You need not wish that, little Bessie for your life lesson is not very different from mine," said the lily softly.

"Mine!" said Bessie. "What can you mean?"

"I will try to tell you what I mean," the lily continued.

"When you were a very little girl you lived a bright life like mine, in my happy island home. Then came your dreadful hip disease, which was like the time when we were cut down, and all your hours of pain and weakness is like my being shut up in the box for so long."

"But the last part," asked Bessie, timidly. "What can I ever do to serve my Lord, as you have done to-day?"

"Wait and see," replied the lily. "The time may be nearer than you think; whether you grow well and strong, and go out to a happy life in the world once more, or whether the dear Lord takes you to be one of the flowers in His Paradise, or you bear bravely and patiently the pain He sends you for long years more, one thing is certain, that you will be prepared to glorify and serve Him in whichever life he calls you to, far more than you could have done before all this suffering came."

"If I had not been cut down carried from my home, and shut away from the bright world, I could not have been in God's house, and honored Him this glorious Easter, the happiest day of all my life. So you, my child, are fitted to honor, glorify, and love Him as you never would have been without this long suffering."

"Have you gone to sleep without your tea?" asked a pleasant voice. Bessie started and opened her eyes to find the nurse with the tea tray in her hand standing by her bed.

The sunbeam had quiet gone, and the twilight was fast gathering.

"It must have been only a dream," thought Bessie, sadly, as she looked around; then her eyes fell on the lily beside her, gleaming like a star in the dim light, and she felt it must be true after all.

"Well," she said, as the nurse propped her up, and she began her tea, "whether it was a dream or not

I have learned my Easter lesson. I shall not fret any more about being sick, and if I am never able to do much in the world, I hope I can honor and glorify God when He takes me to Himself in Paradise, and I suppose that I can serve Him now by following the example of His patience," she added, thoughtfully, as a prayer which the sister had said in the ward the day before came into her mind. Perhaps it was only a dream; but perhaps Bessie's guardian angel told her the story as he bent over her pillow while she was asleep.



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Advisory and Contributing Editors With representatives at London and Paris.

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New York: Madison Avenue and 23rd street, Chicago: 508 Home Insurance Building San Francisco: Chronicle Building.

The price of THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, One Dollar per year; single issues ten cents. [In ordering please mention this paper].

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