

acher asked her of good people... What becomes of was the next ques- class for a no- boys sang out in into soap-grease... hn Wesley.

spotted hog is just same pen when I's ago,' and he re- the same animal,' d not killed and answered, 'Why, eats all the will ty there aint no buying another.'

ve who considers st evil of life; nor s pleasure to be ro.

alist brother was ny of 'em, we sus- to a man who was orally with great th of his belief in at if he didn't pull s ways, the differ- ishment he would ment would be so able to him.

ey are going, at the sky, light growing, shooting high, be coming ng of day,— n his gloaming, atch, and pray.

CORNER.

Y CART. the donkey cart, ear! oh dear! ay clothes so smart ear! oh dear! d Tommy, and Billy in a Christmas pie; a "hurrah! hi!" ar! oh dear!

he would not go, ear! oh dear! d be half so slow, ear! oh dear! e were only in fan- just only one! would make him run ear! oh dear!

he ran away! ear! oh dear! s could make him ear! oh dear!

John Thompson's keys of water were y we were not all ear! oh dear!

of the donkey cart, ear! oh dear! d of our clothes so ear! oh dear!

d of our dinner and ut either were we, d as it ever could be, ear! oh dear!

S CHRISTMAS NET.

ught, as he walked one of the most un- g. Yet it was Christ- n't snowing, and he comfortable home, should find a loving her's footstep," and im with a shower of

as look so dull and as not in a happy had been thinking crosses, and vexa- until he had grown jealous of those who an himself. It was had troubles, that the he had invested his proved to be no bet- yet he was not an all probability there by something in the and more secure con- s beginning to grow its own sake, so he pointment keenly, and gaily decked shop, he his loss, and of course

er; run to meet him," g; but the children did ng, for they had hur-

ried to the door, and were almost pulling their father to pieces in their struggling for "the first kiss," which, however, was not given quite so readily as usual. Little Mrs. Morley soon perceived that her husband was not in the proper state of mind to enjoy Christmas, and that the children's gay chatter about the mysterious delights of the coming day was not pleasing to him, so she quietly took them off to bed, where, after saying their evening prayers, and hanging up their stockings, they soon fell asleep, with a smile on their faces, and gladness of heart which pervaded their very dreams.

Then Mrs. Morley tripped downstairs and said to her husband, "The chicks are asleep, and now I'm ready to go out with you to buy the presents for them." "I've no money for presents," said Fred.

"Why not, Fred? The poor children will be so dreadfully disappointed."

"Well, I can't help it; I've been disappointed too."

"Oh, what has happened dear? anything dreadful?" and Mrs. Morley's eyes opened wide with terror and surprise.

"You know well enough about the money I lost in that rashly concern."

"Is that all?" Mrs. Morley was about to say with a sigh of relief, for she had feared that there was some fresh trouble in store; but she wisely checked herself, and said, "Yes, I know that; but I thought we had got over that trouble. It won't mend matters however much we fret."

"No; but I wish to mend them by saving."

"I wish you had told me before, Fred, or I wouldn't have spent so much on the dinner. It seems too bad for the children to be disappointed, if we can help it."

But Fred was not to be moved. He said it would teach the children a lesson, not to be so confident in future. Of course, he was sorry to disappoint them, but it would do them good another time.

Mrs. Morley, however, did not believe in teaching such young children worldly wisdom. She fancied it was better for them to place a great deal of confidence in their father and mother. She liked them to look forward to their simple pleasures, and she wished to make their childhood a very happy time, not by foolishly indulging them, but by giving them as many little treats as she could afford.

Beyond that she would not go on any account, and although she knew that her husband could afford to give the children their usual presents, she knew that it would be of no use to argue with him, so she wisely left him, and went upstairs to put on her bonnet and shawl.

"Where are you going?" asked Fred, when she reappeared.

"Only a little way. I shall not be gone long." And she went out, through one short street, and down a long one, quite unconscious that her husband was following her and observing her movements. He watched her as she passed a milliner's shop, and gave an involuntary wistful glance at a bonnet handsomely trimmed with ribbon and velvet. But she hurried on to a large toy shop, not, however, before he had guessed her motives. She was going to deny herself the bonnet for which he had given her the money a day or two before, for the sake of the little ones' pleasure. Surely bonnets and ribbons were as dear to the female mind as money was to his own, and if Bessie could deny herself, why couldn't he?

Mrs. Morley was looking into the shop window, and started when a hand was laid on her shoulder, and her husband's voice asked her what she was going to do.

"I couldn't bear for the children to be disappointed," she said hastily, "So I have only done without something that I really didn't want, and it won't hurt any one else. You won't mind will you?"

Of course he didn't mind, but entered the shop with her, and when she had completed her small purchases he bought a handsome doll and a curious india-rubber man, who danced on a string, and seemed to be looking with great delight over a box which he held before him.

Alice and Nelly will be delighted to-morrow morning. I can just imagine

them now, the darlings, can't you, Fred?"

"Yes; I think after all, that the pleasure will do them more good than the disappointment would, and when I came to think it over I found that I could afford to give them a little pleasure, even if—" He didn't finish his sentence, for he could not talk of his loss without feeling grieved and angry.

"And I like Christmas to be a happy day, and the best day of the year to them. Don't you, Fred?"

At twelve o'clock that night the house was dark and silent; only puss, prowling about with eyes accustomed to the darkness, saw some large, well filled stockings hanging from two little cribs, in which two rosy cheeked little girls were sleeping soundly, too soundly even for dreams of Santa Claus.

Before it was light there was a whispered "Nelly, are you awake?" a buzz of young voices, and then shout after shout of glee, as the treasures were discovered, more by the sense of feeling than that of sight.

From that time there was very little chance for any one to sleep, and Fred said to his wife, in a drowsy, but good humoured tone, "Just listen to those children. It's all your fault, Bessie, for if it hadn't been for you, I shouldn't have gone out last night, and perhaps I should have had a longer sleep this morning."

"No, you wouldn't," replied Mrs. Morley; "the children would have been awake just as early, and they would have disturbed you by crying instead of laughing, and you wouldn't have liked that, I know. But it is growing late; I must get up, or the breakfast won't be ready, and even the pudding won't make up for that, will it?"

"Dear me!" she cried, suddenly, when after lighting a candle, she espied the coveted bonnet upon the dressing table. "Fred, how did this come here?"

"Better ask Santa Claus, I suspect he's the guilty party."

"Nonsense, it was you, dear, kind old Fred. How did you know I liked it?"

"I haven't heard you say so yet, but I hope to see you wear it this morning. I think we shall have a fine day."

Then the children ran in with their presents for "father;" but the best reward Fred received for the outlay of his money was the pleased happy look on the faces of his wife and children, the consciousness that he had overcome his own selfish, grasping nature; and the glorious Christmas sunshine of goodwill which pervaded his small household made it bright and pleasant as the wealthiest in the land.

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