

## WHAT THE LITTLE SHOES SAID.

I SAW two dusty little shoes  
A-standing by the bed;  
They suddenly began to talk.  
And this is what they said:

"We're just as tired as we can be;  
We've been 'most everywhere;  
And now our little master rests—  
It really is not fair.

"He's had his bath, and sweetly sleeps  
'Twixt sheets both cool and clean,  
While we are left to stand outside;  
Now don't you think it mean?

"We've carried him from morn till night;  
He's quite forgot, that's plain;  
While here we watch and wait and wait  
Till morning comes again.

"And then he'll tramp and tramp and  
tramp  
The livelong summer day;  
Now this is what  
we'd like to do:  
Just carry him  
away

"Where he could  
never go to bed,  
But stay up all the  
night  
Unwashed, and cov-  
ered o'er with  
dust—  
Indeed, t'would  
serve him right".

THE HAMPER  
FROM HOME.

In all English schools for boys there is a custom still kept up of which the boys are very fond, although the masters do not look upon it with so much favour. The custom is, that when a boy's birthday comes round his parents send him a hamper of good things from home, which most schools do not think the best food to work on. The hamper in our picture is sure to be full of such good things as pots of jam, cakes, tarts, and all manner of fruits and other nice things. The owner of the hamper is surrounded by his friends, who also hope to get some share of the things.

## THE BROWN BEAR.

The brown bear is a very unsociable and solemn individual. He does not like being dragged about by a chain and made to dance at fairs to amuse little children, but he likes to wander about alone in the deep forests, where daylight can scarcely be seen through the thick trees.

When the winter comes on, he finds out some snug cave, and curls himself up in it, and goes to sleep until the spring. He

does not eat anything all that time, indeed, he cannot get out to get any food, for the snow comes and blocks up the mouth of his cave, and he is completely shut in. But he does not care for that, for he is fast asleep, and the snow keeps him nice and warm, and his breath melts a hole in the snow just sufficient to let a little air in for him to breathe. When the spring comes, he wakes up and goes in search of food. I should think he must be very hungry after having fasted all the winter.

## TWO STORIES.

## MARY'S STORY.

OH, mother! I've had the most beautiful time. Stella's house is the loveliest place in the world. I wish you could see all the fine things.

There is such a splendid piano in the parlour, and Stella's mamma played to us,



THE HAMPER FROM HOME.

just the sweetest music you ever heard, I thought, but Stella didn't care anything about it. She takes music lessons and practises an hour a day, and she hates it. Just think of it! I know I should love to learn to play the piano.

You ought to see Stella's room, with all her books and playthings. I just wanted to sit down and read the whole time, but of course that wouldn't have been polite. Stella says she doesn't like to read. Isn't it strange? We played with the dolls, and they have trunks full of the most beautiful clothes, silk, satin, and lace. Oh, you can't imagine!

It didn't seem any time at all till supper was ready and went downstairs. The table was set with the loveliest dishes—I was almost afraid to handle them for fear I should break something. There was a servant to wait on the table, and Stella's mamma was dressed so nicely, and had on such sparkling rings, and her hands were so white and pretty.

I was a little afraid of her papa, for he

didn't smile and look pleasant at us, but ate his supper quickly and went out.

I was so sorry when seven o'clock came, and I had to come home. I think Stella ought to be the happiest little girl in the world.

## STELLA'S STORY.

Oh! I've had the loveliest time, and Mary's home is just the pleasantest place! Her mother is as kind as can be, and her grandmother is such a pleasant old lady, and oh! her baby brother is so cute, worth a thousand of my dolls.

We played in the attic, and it is the grandest playroom—such lots of things to dress up in and play keep house with: and there was a splendid swing there too.

The supper was the nicest I ever ate, baked sweet apples and brown bread and milk, and the most delicious pumpkin pie. I wish our cook could make things half as good.

After supper we sat on the rug before the fireplace and roasted apples. The room was so pleasant in the firelight, and Mary's grandmother sat there with her knitting, and her mother held the baby, while her father popped corn for us and cracked butternuts.

I heard such soft sweet strains of music once in a while. Mary said it was an Æolian harp her mother fixed in the window, only a thread of sewing silk and a couple of toothpicks. Think of it! The wind made just the sweetest music on it, better than any piano.

Her grandmother was just telling us the loveliest story when Josephine came for me. I did hate to come home. I think Mary must be the happiest girl in the world.

## PROMPT OBEDIENCE.

THIS story of a little Prussian boy shows how prompt obedience saved his life.

A switchman was at the junction of two lines of railway near Prague. His lever was in his hand, for a train was just coming. The engine was within a few seconds of reaching the embankment, when the man, on turning his head, saw his little boy playing on the lines of the rail the train was to pass over. To leave his own post would be a neglect of duty, and would endanger the lives of perhaps a hundred passengers; so, like a true hero, the man stood by his lever, shouting to his child, "Lie down at once!" The train passed along on its way safely, and the frantic father rushed forward, expecting to take up an injured, most likely a fearfully mangled and lifeless body; but great was his joy on finding that the boy had at once obeyed the command of his father. He had laid down between the rails, and the whole train had passed over him without injuring him. If the boy had not promptly obeyed his father, he would probably have been killed. When the king of Prussia heard of the man's courage he sent for him, and gave him a medal for his bravery.