

provingly, and took his case, while the new friend whisked busily about full of importance, and so in a few days the family decided that the little black dog had come to stay, and mamma named him "Blackie." He followed Rover everywhere, and papa said he believed Rover had decided to keep a dog himself, as an assistant, and after that the little fellow was known by the whole family as "Rover's dog."—Alice Turner Curtis.

THE MOST "HONOURABLE MENTION"

Dorothy and Uncle Ralph were having one of their twilight talks. It was Saturday evening.

"How about the essay, Dot? Did you finish it?"

"Yes." Dorothy sighed a little. "Yes, Uncle Ralph, I finished."

"And will it take the prize?"

"Uncle Ralph!" Dorothy's voice was reproachful and protesting. "It isn't fair to make fun of me; and you know very well I never dreamed of taking the prize for anything. But I'll tell you"—this confidentially—"I did rather hope I might succeed in getting 'honourable mention.' You

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and father would have been just a little proud of that, wouldn't you? But—"

"Well?"
"Nothing, only it did seem as if there were nothing but interruptions from the moment I sat down with my paper and pen. First, there was Nora to ask something about the puff tarts—as if any other dessert wouldn't have done just as well to-day. Then Clarice came with her doll's bonnet-strings in a knot that must have taken at least ten minutes to untie; and directly after her, Fred, with a button off his coat. Before I had finished the second page, little Kitty Conrow ran in to ask my advice about the trimming of her hat, and Harry, to see if I could not do something for his kite, and—oh, I can't tell you half of them! Even mother had to come once. Poor mother!—she was so sorry to disturb me; but I don't think one of the others thought it mattered a bit. Positively I felt quite cross sometimes. Now, what kind of an essay could a girl write under those circumstances—a girl like me, you know, who isn't very clever anyway? I did my best, but there'll be no 'honourable mention' for Dorothy Evans!"

"I don't know, Dot." Uncle Ralph spoke reflectively. "Having to stay in this corner—that's the bother of a broken leg, you know—I can't help hearing a good many things. I heard Nora, for instance, saying to herself as she came away from the library door this morning: 'Bless Miss Dorothy's heart for a rare lady!' And I heard Clarice singing her doll to sleep in the little rocking-chair yonder. The tune of her lullaby was 'Sweet Galilee,' but the words were just 'Dear Dor-o-ty! dear Dor-o-ty!' over and over. And it must have been your neighbour Kitty whose voice I heard under the window, telling some one delightedly that Dorothy had given her 'just the loveliest idea' for her hat. At any rate, it was Harry and no other who was declaring so emphatically to his playmates, 'I tell you, fellows, our Dot's a brick!' Fred, too—Fred said to me as he was going out to the office this afternoon: 'Have you ever noticed what pretty hands Dorothy has, Uncle Ralph? I have thought of the very thing for a graduation present for her!'"

"It's a silver thimble!" laughed Dorothy, who is an October child, and was longing for an opal ring.

"It's no such thing. But I never tell secrets. I was only going to say that the best of all the things I heard to-day was the ring in your mother's voice when she said: 'Dorothy is such a comfort!' Won't that do for 'honourable mention,' Dot?"

"I should think it would!" There was a little quiver in Dorothy's low voice, and the brown head went down on the arm of the invalid's chair. "Why, Uncle Ralph, it's better than the prize itself, if only —" and then she could say no more at all, but Uncle Ralph understood.

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