

be the first words he said but these tremendous ones: "I declare, I would give five dollars for a good mouser! Such times as we have with mice around these premises! That's the way with an old place! Old family residences are humbugs!"

"Five dollars for a good mouser!" Mrs. Colonel Bates came soon, and she and mamma talked and talked on a number of subjects which at another time would have pleased little Sarah. Just then her heart was too full of that one sentence to attend to anything else. "Five dollars for a good mouser!" And there was no hope of Colonel Bates giving that five dollars or any other to the missionary cause of his own account.

There was not in all the town a better mouser than Tabby, and little Sarah knew it. And five whole dollars! It made her heart beat fast and tears come in her eyes. It took her two days to decide the matter, during which time she had so little appetite and moped around so sadly that her mother feared she was going to get down with the measles.

One morning little Sarah knew by the way her heart was beating while she was dressing that she had decided. Tabby was to be put in the willow basket and taken to Colonel Bates by her own sad little self. She hurried now; she wanted not to change her mind. Tabby was easily coaxed from her perch in the grape arbour, and swiftly little Sarah's feet flew over the ground, and she was at the Colonel's just as that gentleman was going through the hall on his way to breakfast. He opened the door for her himself.

"If you please, sir," said little Sarah, holding up the basket and speaking fast, "I have brought Tabby; she is a good mouser, and I know the missionaries ought to have the five dollars, but I love her very much, and would you please hurry and give it to me, so I won't hear her mew again?"

"What? what? what?" sputtered Colonel Bates. "What have we here? Who are you, little one, and what am I to give you?"

"The five dollars, if you please; you said you would, you know, for a good mouser; and Tabby is the best one that ever was, and mamma says so; and the missionaries need the money—the heathen

people do, you know—and I mustn't be selfish and keep Tabby. Will you be very good to her?" and a great tear, hot from little Sarah's blue eyes, splashed on the Colonel's hand.

"Bless my body!" he said, and stood dazed for a moment; then he threw back his great head and laughed so loud that little Sarah was amazed; then he took out his pocket-book.

"So I promised five dollars for a mouser, did I? Who told you?"

"Nobody did, sir; I heard you say it the day when you talked with a man."

"Just so; my tongue is always getting me into scrapes. Well, here goes! Colonel Bates is a man who always keeps his word. Here's your five dollars and if it doesn't do the heathen good, it ought to, for your sake."

Now, as this only happened last week, of course I can't tell how Tabby behaved, nor what the effect of her society was on Colonel Bates, nor what the children of the mission band said when little Sarah brought her five dollars.—The Pansy.

SET THE CLOCK RIGHT.

A story is told of a coloured man, who came to a watchmaker and gave him two hands of a clock, saying:

"I want yer to fix up dese han's. Dey jess doan keep no mo' kerec' time for mo' den six mums."

"Where is the clock?" answered the watchmaker.

"Out at de house on Injun Creek."

"But I must have the clock."

"Didn't I tell yer dar's nuffin de matter wid de clock 'ceptin' de hands? an' I done brought 'em to you. You jess want de clock so you kin tinker wid it an' charge me a big price. Gimme back dem han's."

And so saying he went off to find some reasonable watchmaker.

Foolish as he was, his action was much like that of those who try to regulate their conduct without being made right on the inside. They go wrong but refuse to believe that the trouble is with their hearts. They are sure that it is not the clock, but the hands that are out of order. They know no more of the need of a change in their spiritual condition than the poor negro did of the works of his clock. They are unwilling to give themselves over into the hands of the great Artificer, who will set their works right, so that they may keep time with the great clock of the universe, and no longer attempt to set themselves according to the incorrect time of the world. And their reason for not putting themselves into the hand of the Lord is very similar to the reason the coloured man gave. They are afraid the price will be too great. They say, "We only wish to avoid this or that bad habit." But the great Clockmaker says, "I cannot regulate the hands unless I have the clock. I must have the clock."

Life!

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"Pearl of the year,"—

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