

games for the younger ones, with a dolly for little May, and a box of parlor magic for restless Willie, the only boy of the party.

On the last package of all Rose read her own name, and when she opened it and found a copy of Miss Alcott's delightful "Little Women," she gave an irrepressible cry of delight and turned to give aunt Margaret a kiss and a hearty embrace.

Then the refreshments were served, and soon afterwards the maids came to take the children home, and as they took their leave, May's little speech, "Aunt Mardet, I've had a velly dood time," was echoed by one and all.

When Rose and her aunt were left alone together, Rose exclaimed, "Aunt Margaret, it was lovely, how came you to think of it?"

Aunt Margaret smiled. "You see how easily the cobwebs disappeared, my dear, and I see, too, that my Rosebud has found out the way."

"Have I really, but how, auntie?" and a puzzled look appeared on the pretty face.

"He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city," said aunt Margaret, softly, "and the Golden Rule, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.'"

"Yes, but I can't—always," said Rose, with a doubtful sigh.

Aunt Margaret put her arm around her niece and drew her down on the sofa beside her.

"Yes, always, by God's help, my dear, and your own earnest endeavor. Rose, you will find cobwebs everywhere,—all through your life. There is never an end to them, but in each, as you brush it away, you will find a shining dewdrop of happiness, to refresh you and give you courage to press onward, and ever on. Keep this in mind, and gain a victory at every step, for it is always these little things that tell, and then if the moment ever comes when you are called upon to do a great action you will not fail. Not every one, my Rose, is forced to break down iron gates, or bear the heaviest cross; but there is never a pathway so full of flowers that it is free from cobwebs, so gather each precious pearly drop, my dear, as you brush away each web and thank God for the beautiful flowers, that have fallen to your share, even when some of them are sharp with hidden thorns."

ONE WAY OF DOING "STRAIGHTWAY."

"FRANK, when are you going to take that parcel to Mrs. Jones? You know it was left here for her over a week ago."

The speaker was Frank's mother. Mrs. Jones was a poor widow living in the neighborhood.

Frank's reply was: "Oh, I'll take it to her sometime. I suppose there is no hurry."

"I don't know whether there is or not. The package may contain something that she greatly needs."

"Well, I guess it's all right. I'll leave it some time when I'm going near her house."

Grandpa sat in the room in which this conversation was being held. He had his Bible in his hand, as usual, but he looked over the top of his spectacles at Frank while the boy was answering his mother.

"Frank," said he, "there's an old fashioned word in this Book that you don't seem to pay much attention to."

"What is it, sir? asked Frank respectfully.

"It's 'straightway,' have you ever noticed the places where it's found?"

"I think not, sir."

"Well, once Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, and He saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, busy fishing. He told them that if they would follow after Him He would make them fishers of men, that is, He would show them how to persuade others to follow Him too. They didn't wait to ask Him how He would do this, or how soon He wanted them, or how long it would do to wait. The Book says, 'STRAIGHTWAY they forsook their nets, and followed Him.' There's an example of promptness isn't there?"

"Then we go on reading here in the first chapter of Mark, and we find that, after calling Simon and Andrew, Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, also engaged in fishing. Then He didn't stop to say, 'I'll be here another day, and that will be soon enough to call these two to follow Me.' The story says, 'STRAIGHTWAY He called them. Then they left their nets and their servants and their father, and went after Him immediately.' So here we have Jesus and two of His disciples, all setting us an example of promptness.

"We go on to read then that they went to Capernaum. Then Jesus, 'straightway, on the Sabbath day, entered into the synagogue, and taught.' You notice He didn't say, another week will do quite as well. He did His work at once. So here we have His example again.

"Now I turn over to the Acts of the Apostles, and I find this word repeated. You remember the story of the jailer of Phillippi. You know how there came an earthquake while Paul and Silas were in prison, and how the keeper was frightened when he discovered that the prisoners' fetters were loosed, and how relieved he was to find that they had not all escaped, and how he was converted through the preaching of Paul and Silas. Then there comes our word again, 'He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and all his, STRAIGHTWAY.'