



A MOONLIGHT SLEIGH-RIDE.

SCHOOL'S OUT.

BY JENNIE MAYCOCK.

Hear the merry laughter,
See the scampering about,
Catch the happy glances
Of the children just let out.

"Quit your noise," says some one.
They're very rude, no doubt,
But I love the merry clatter
Of the children just let out.

So let them, then, be merry,
And put every care to rout,
For they'll have enough of heart-ache
These children just let out.

When life's work is ended,
May we in glory shout
With happy hearts and voices—
"We're the children just let out."
Woodstock.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THIS?

How would you like to get up in the night to go to school? Well, that is what some of the children in Alaska have to do.

In Northern Alaska the winter school term is one long night. Lamps are of course used in the school-room. But great confusion often arises from the absence of the sun, whereby to mark day from night. The people are mostly savages, and have no way to tell the time. Sometimes all knowledge of it is lost, and it often happens that the children are roused up by the ringing of the school bell just as they have gone to sleep. Many times they have gone

to school without their breakfast, and their eyes so heavy with sleep that they could hardly hold them open. Of course they can't do much with their studies. How would you like to get up and go to school in the dark?

BRIGHT EYES' IRONING.

The mention of "ironing day" suggests at once a glowing fire, with shining hot flat-irons. But that is not what it means in Korea. A missionary gives a lively account of what Bright Eyes, a little Korean girl, learned to do in the mission school at Seoul, Korea.

Among other things, she was taught to wash and iron. To prepare her clothes for washing, she first ripped them apart, as Koreans always do; then wet them in lye water and beat them on rocks with a stick, and then boiled them; then she dyed them some bright colour, like red or green or purple, and starched them.

But the ironing was the queerest part of it. She fixed a round, smooth stick of wood into pivots or little holes, so that it would turn; then she put her cloth over this and turned the round stick with her foot very slowly, at the same time beating it rapidly with two long, smooth sticks, one in each hand.

Usually two girls iron together, one on each side, and the clatter, clatter of the four sticks in perfect time is not unpleasant to hear; and though it may seem to you that they cannot make the clothes look nice this way, I can assure you that they do.

As the New Testament had all been

translated into Korean, the girls were taught about Jesus and his life and death and Bright Eyes learned to love Jesus as her Saviour.

After a while she was taught to read Chinese, and at last the missionary began to teach her to play on the organ. This was a great privilege; and Bright Eyes liked it so well and tried so hard that after a while she played for opening exercises in the school, and for church and Sunday-school, and now she does this all the time.—*Over Sea and Land.*

DOLLS OF OLDEN TIMES.

Dolls were used by little girls in very early times, we are told. In the ruins of Babylon and Nineveh have been found small terracotta figures and many beautiful images in ivory which are thought to have been the dollies with which little girls in Assyria played more than two thousand years ago.

The dolls with which the children in Greek and Roman cities amused themselves were made of clay. Their arms and legs were jointed and attached to their bodies by threads. There were also dolls of ivory and wax, but these were the playthings of the richer girls.

The earliest English dolls were made of rags or wood. The wooden dolls had no joints, some of them had no arms or legs and they were very strange, uncouth-looking things.

Many people have tried to find out how the word "doll" came to be used. After a good deal of study the wisest and most learned men have come to the conclusion that it comes from "Dolly," which is another form of "Dorothy," a favourite name for girls in England two hundred years ago, and still in use both in England and America.

Before the word doll came into use the word which was used to describe the favourite plaything of all girls in all countries was "baby," and dollies are still called "babies" by a good many little girls whom you and I have met.—*Apples of Gold.*

A FUNNY RIDE.

The children lived in a little cabin home, and all three of them (Nell, Rob, and Lizzie) were taking a gay "make-believe" ride on an old log. Fido jumped and barked as if he enjoyed the fun as much as anybody.

A gentleman who was passing down the road stopped and laughed. "Good morning, little folks. That is rather slow riding. Wouldn't you like a horse and carriage?"

"Yes, sir," said Rob; "but we haven't any, so we are getting the most fun we can out of what we do have."—*Sunbeam.*