

cessful he had been. "She thinks so much of him and for him, that he does not think enough for himself—not in the way we want to see him think. He is a dear little fellow, but there is no question about it, he has been spoiled, though with him the spoiling has taken a different effect from the one we associate with the word. He is not fretful or peevish, or cross, but he is mightily bent on his own way, and generally contrives to get it, through his pretty winning talk and his force of character. If he were to go with Maudie to one of those mixed homes for boys and girls whose parents are in India, the chances are that he would make himself the pet and plaything of the house, and get another year or two of spoiling almost the same as if he stayed here with us. It is not for us to decide, of course. But if Mr. Douglas proposes a little boy's school for him, I should not think it right to oppose the decision."

"I suppose not; you generally know best, Aunt Lois. But he does seem such a baby for boarding school—only just seven."

"But he is as tall and as strong as many boys of eight; and he is as forward in mind, too, though not at his book. Still he is brimming over with intelligence, and will soon make up for the lack of regular teaching. He is a dear little fellow, and I shall grieve to part from him, but I am convinced that school is the place for him, and will do him more good than anything. He is sure to be a favorite wherever he goes, and I do not think Guy could fail to be happy anywhere."

But we had not got him back yet. We tried not to be anxious, but it was rather a poor attempt; and at ten o'clock a fresh alarm came upon us. Mary looked into the room with a scared face, and seeing that Maudie was not with us, advanced towards the window where we were sitting, and said:—

"If you please, ma'am, I don't want to frighten you, but Dick the stableboy has just been to the back door to say as Billy is back in the paddock again. He found him just outside, walking round and round trying to get in. And he's got the saddle and bridle on all safe; but Master Guy has't been seen nowhere about the place, and they all turned out to hunt the place over before Dick came to tell us, for fear we should be frightened."

Frightened we most certainly were. It was a terrible thing to think what might have happened to the child. The only comfort of any kind was that coachman was upon the road we believed him to have taken, and that if the little boy had been thrown, he would come upon him before long.

"And he might have got off Billy himself, ma'am, as Dick do say, to run after a butterfly, or pick a flower, or stretch his legs a bit. And Billy, he might think as he'd done enough, and set off for home by himself. They all say he is a bit artful, is Billy. But I thought I must come and tell you about it, though I don't want to frighten you."

Well, we could not sit still after that. We went out into the stable-

yard, and found that all the men on the place were there talking and speculating. One of the gardeners had been down the road, and had got one rather important bit of intelligence. An old road-mender, who was at work not half a mile away from the house, told him that just when he got to work, at six o'clock in the morning, a little boy on a brown pony had come riding up, and asked him to pull the girths of the saddle tight, which he did. The little gentleman was very merry and free-spoken, and told him he was going out for a spree, and he opened his purse to give him a penny for his trouble, and showed the old man quite a lot of money.

(To be Continued.)

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COL. T. U. FOGG.

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