

VOL. X.

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No. 3.

Nobody's Kitty.

Nobody's kitty was out in the snow.

Nobody's kitty had nowhere to go. Nobody's kitty cried: "Miew, miew, miew!

Somebody pity me. Do, do, do!"

So somebody peeped from a window high.

She saw little kitty and heard her cry. Somebody pattered down stair by stair, With blue, blue eyes and with golden hair.

Somebody gathered the wanderer in; Nobody's kitty, so cold and so thin. Nobody's kitty was somebody's pet. Ha, ha! my tale is not ended yet.

Somebody's doggie barked: "Bow, wow, wow!

So I'm to be nobody's doggie now!"

"Fie!" said his mistress; "fie! that is not true:

I've room in my heart for kitty and you."

General Jack and His Army.

He was a poor little general, lying flat on the nursery

had been beaten-terribly beaten- in a fez and a silk sash stuck full of in battle. Who was the enemy? A dreadful knives? An Indian with his

belt ornamented with scalps? Oh, no! General Jack's enemy was worse than these. The Russian and the Turk can only hurt the body, but Jack's enemy hurts the soul, and spoils it so that the angels cannot love it.

The truth is, Jack had been having a terrible tussle with General Ill Temper and Colonel Ob-sti-na-cy, and at last Commo-dore Crying had come upon the scene, and they had quite finished him.

He lay there sobbing and wiping his eyes with his little pocket handker-chief. Suddenly the door opened and somebody, tall and slender and dressed in white, came softly in. It was a very sweet somebody, and she smiled in the little



and his eyes red and swollen. He as big as a whisk-broom? A Turk forehead.

floor, his face all stained with tears, frightful Russian, with a moustache boy's face and kissed him on the

"What has become of your army, General Jack?" she whispered.

"Oh, mamma! I forget all about it."

"And you didn't muster General Love and Colonel Per-se-ver-ance and Captain Good-nature, and have them on the ground ready to meet the enemy?"

"No, mamma; I guess you needn't call me General Jack any more. No use tryin' to be a soldier!"

"So you are going to be a de-sert-er, that dreadful char-ac-ter which you despise so much. Suppose papa had de-sert-ed when he went with his reg-i-ment to Vicksburg? How sorry and ashamed his little son would have been all his life. And how sad papa will feel if I write to him that General Jack has de-sert-ed his colors and that the enemy has put him in prison!"

"I haven't any colors," said Jack, his eyes bright-en-ing, "nor any shoulder-straps."

"You must win them. The first time that you bring your army off the battlefield in good order, and leave Ill Temper and Laziness and all those naughty fellows groaning with their wounds, I will make you some shoulder-straps and work you a silk flag with em-broi-der-ed stars."

"What will the stars mean?"

"We will let them mean States of mind—in-no-cence, goodness, kindness, care for others, per-se-ver-ance, faith-ful-ness, in-dus-try."

"That will be lovely," said General Jack, putting his arms round his mother's neck. "I don't believe I want to secede from these States. But you'll have to help fight."

"I'll be Sec-re-tary of War," said mamma, "and Sec-re-tary of the Treasury, too, and keep you in supplies."

So General Jack began again to fight the battle of life with new courage. And I am glad to tell you that he won his shoulder-straps before long. After that he started a company of little boys, and they had a color-bearer to carry the beautiful flag that mamma made for him. And the best of it is, no boy is allowed to



be color-bearer who does not deserve it. If a color-bearer does a mean action the flag is taken from him and given to the bravest, most truthful, most gen-er-ous boy of the company. But each boy is al-low-ed to win back the lost honor by good behavior.

Would you like to belong to General Jack's company and fight in his army?—Mrs. M. F. Butts.

Jerry's Kindling Wood.

BY MRS. E. J. RICHMOND.

"RAT, tat, tat."

Mrs. Green came to her door.

Three little boys, with three little beelbarrows of kindling wood stood

wheelbarrows of kindling wood, stood there.

"Just what I wanted," said Mrs. Green. "But whose shall I buy?"

"Jerry's," said Tom Hood, coming close to her side.

"You see, Brother Jack and I jest want pennies for candies, and he wants to buy some tea for his mother."

"You are a kind boy," said Mrs. Green,

"No, only common," said Tom.
"Jack and me ain't sick or hungry.
But Jerry's mother is sick and can't
work, so they don't have anything."

Mrs. Green gave each boy two rosy apples, and Tom and Jack went on with their wheelbarrows.

She told Jerry to go 'round to the fortune.

shed and empty his wheelbarrow. Then she took him into the kitchen and gave him a good dinner. She put bread, cakes, and apples into a large box, and placed them on the wheelbarrow.

"Now we'll go to the store for your tea, and then you must take me to see your sick mother," she said.

"I'm 'shamed to have you go there, lady," he said, "and you've gin me more than the kindlin's is wuth."

"Never mind," said Mrs. Green.

They found the poor hovel where the sick woman lay, and her husband sitting beside her—sober.

"I'm a brute," he said. "My poor wife has worked herself to death trying to feed us, but I'll never drink another drop, God helping me. If I can get work I'll try to give her a good home."

Mrs. Green got a nice warm meal for the sick woman and her husband, and said:

"I believe you are a man and will keep your word."

And he did.

Jerry's mother soon got well, and they left the hovel for a nice home. Jerry went to school with Tom and Jack.

And he said that Tom's kindness in helping him sell his kindling wood was the begginning of their good fortune. Rein, the Shepherd Boy. BY URSULA GARDNER.

LITTLE Rein—a pale, timid boy lived many years ago among the mountains in England. The other boys who lived near him were rosycheeked, strong, romping boys, noisy and daring, who made fun of Rein because he could not climb and run about as they did. If he tried to play with them he soon grew tired. If he went walking with the girls and boys, or tried to climb the mountains, he soon lagged behind and they called him coward.

He was a brave little fellow, for all that.

After a while he gave up playing with them and kept by himself. He would rather be alone than endure their rough teasing.

The grown-up men, too, when not at work would drink, use harsh words, and act roughly.

All this hurt poor, gentle Rein. So when he did not have to mind the sheep, Rein would creep away by himself and spend long afternoons drawing pictures with a sharp stone on pieces of bark. When he had to mind the sheep they took all his care, and his thoughts were only for them. He had to watch lest they go astray. If any harm came to them he would be scolded.

On Sundays he put on his best clothes and crept along till he came to the little chapel, where he loved to hear the singing.

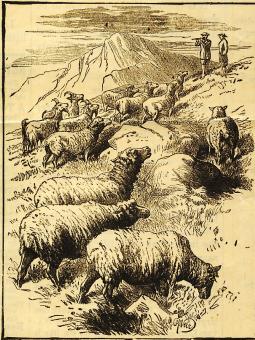
One day the preacher told the story of the Good Shepherd. That took strong hold of little Rein's heart. He knew all about sheep, he thought, for was he not a kind of little shepherd himself? So he lis-ten-ed ea-ger-ly to every word, and the Good Shepherd himself drew near and blessed the sickly child and became his dearest friend.

Rein strove with all his heart to

boys now to tempt Rein to get angry or to use bad words. It was no use for the men to ask him to drink liquor. Rein did not care for such things. His life was to be a copy of the pure, holy, and patient Jesus.

One day a stranger came to the mountain where Rein lived. He was a great artist. He told Rein wonder-ful tales. They went over the mountains together.

Once when they were crossing a narrow ledge of rock the man's foot slipped and he fell down the steep



side and lay so quiet that Rein thought he must be dead. climbed down to where the man lay.

"Can you help me?" whis-per-ed

What could Rein do? He was a weak boy, while the man was large and heavy, but not now able to walk. If left all alone he might bleed to death, for he was badly hurt.

Rein breathed this prayer:

"Good Shepherd, Thou didst give Thy life for the sheep; help me please Him. It was no use for the now." And bending over the man,

he said, "Put your arms around my neck and I will carry you back."

"You cannot," said the man in a very weak tone.

"The Good Shepherd will help me," said Rein.

And He did. It was a wonder to all how he did it, but after awhile Rein reached his home bringing the stranger with him. But it was too much for the weak child, who had never been strong.

The next morning the artist stood over the bed where poor little Rein

> was gasping for breath. "The Lord is my Shepherd" were his last words. He had given his life for the man.

Thou, God, Seest Me.

BY JESSIE MACGREGOR.

EACH word I say, In darkness or in day, The Lord can hear. For He is ever near.

I cannot hide From Him my sin and pride; For day or night To God is always light.

The Lord will be A precious friend to me, If while I live My heart to Him I give.

Herself.

A MINISTER had preached a simple sermon upon the text, "And they brought him to Jesus."

As he was going home his little daughter, who was walking beside him, said, "I liked that sermon so much!"

"Well," inquired her father, "whom are you going to bring to Jesus ?"

A thoughtful look came over her face as she replied, "I think, papa, that I will just bring myself to Him."

Her father thought that would do first rate for a beginning. It was the very best beginning she could make. Have you made such a beginning?



A Song of Spring.

I HEARD the bluebird singing To robin in the tree: "Cold winter now is over And spring has come," said he "'Tis time for flowers to rouse from sleep And from their downy blankets peep. So wake, wake, little flowers, Wake, for winter is o'er, Wake, wake, wake, The spring has come once more."

"My nest I now must build, And shortly you shall see it With pretty blue eggs filled. Then let us join once more and sing. So wake, wake, little flowers, That all the flowers may know 'tis spring. Wake, for winter is o'er. Wake, wake, wake,

The spring has come once more."

Said robin to the bluebird,

The robin and the bluebird Soon after flew away, But as they left the tree-top I think I heard them say: "If birds and flowers have work to do, Why so have little children, too. So work, work, little children, Work, for winter is o'er; Work, work, work, The spring has come once more."

A Good Gift.

If you were to give your play-mate a nice new pen-knife, and the next day you saw him blunting the edge by trying to cut a stone with it, you would say:

"I shall not give Bill anything again; he only spoils good things."

Now, God has given to each one of you a price-less gift. He has given you life. He gave you your bodies, which you are to take care of. There is something that will always harm your bodies if vou take it, for it is a strong poison. What do you think it is? Strong drink. There is nothing that so quickly harms both body and soul as does this poison, drink.

Tobacco, too, is another poison that always does harm to

the user. It injures the nerves and the heart, makes the sight poor and the breath foul.

It is because God means you to be always happy and good that we urge you never to do anything that will harm God's precious gift-your body and your life.

Our Letter-Box.

Are you not glad that cold winter with its ice and snow has gone away? March, the windy month, is really here, and though it brings rough weather, we know it cannot last long. Soon we shall have warm sunshine and bright spring days.

Our Letter-box is full as usual. Our first letter is from a boy in Dannebrog, Neb., who has worked for the interest of our little paper. He says:

I am a little boy twelve years old. I have three brothers-Oliver, Hardy, and Sankey. We got up a club for the WA-TER-LILY for 1896, and now we have one larger for 1897. We have had the WA-TER-LILY over seven years, and we like it very much. We have a nice place for skating in winter and boating in summer.

Yours for teetotal temperance,

AMANDUS HANNIBAL.

If you could only see the stream where they boat and skate you would agree with us that it is just lovely. Amandus sends us a picture of it. The trees on each side are bending over the water, which looks as clear and smooth as a mirror. He and one of his brothers are sitting in a rowboat looking right at us, but we do not know which one is Amandus. We suppose it must be he who holds

the oars, as he is the oldest. Dannebrog used to have one church and two saloons. Now it has two churches and one saloon. We hope that saloon may soon have to close its doors.

Our next letter comes from a girl in Illinois, who says:

I am a little girl eleven years old. I have been reading the WATER-LILY for three years and can't do without it. I live in the country, and go to school every day, and to Sunday-school every Sunday, and that is what I love to do. I have three brothers and three sisters and a dear papa and mamma. Papa does not drink liquor nor chew tobacco.

LYDIA BOHLANDER.

Lydia ought to be a very happy little girl with so many to love her.

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