

FOR OUR YOUNG READERS.

DAY BY DAY.

"Little by little," the Tempter said, "As a dark and cunning snare he laid. To the young, unwary test. Little by little, day by day, I will tempt the soul away. Into the broad and flowered way. Till the ruin is made complete."

"Little by little, sure and slow. We fashion our future of bliss or woe. As the present passes away, Our feet are climbing the stairway bright, Up the rocks and through the trees, Or gliding downward into the night. Little by little, and day by day." —*Christian Union.*

MRS. TRIPIT.

Grandmother's Story of How She Overcame Her Foolish Years.

"Afraid to go up-stairs in the dark," said Bob Morris; "if that isn't just like a girl! Now, that's what I call real downright silly!"

Poor Betty's lips began to quiver, and grandma, seeing there was about to be a shower, said:

"Well, now, children, that reminds me of a story."

Frowns and tears alike disappeared, as the children gathered around Grandmother's Chair, in delighted anticipation, and so she began:

"When I was a little girl I was very foolish and silly—indeed, a great deal more so than you. And the evening was a time of great trial to me. My brothers and sisters were all a good deal older than I. And we were no sooner gathered around the fire in the evening, than they would begin to say: 'OSS, run up and get us some corn to pop!' 'Bring me my slippers, little one.' 'Run down and get us some apples; there's a good girl!' I was an obliging little thing, and had not the heart to refuse, and so I would go in fear and trembling, and come running back pale and breathless; for all of the dark places—cellar, garret, long shadowy hall and bedroom, had their terrors for me."

"I had never told my fears to any one, for my mother was too busy to have much time to talk quietly with me, and, as for my brothers and sisters, they would have laughed at my troubles."

"That dear old kitchen! I can remember just how pleasant it looked in the winter evenings."

"My mother usually sat knitting or sewing by the light of a candle at a little stand, and the children gathered around the hearth, popping corn, eating butterbeans, roasting apples and telling stories."

"To all this I was obliged to say fare-well at seven o'clock precisely. Our bedrooms never knew the warmth of a fire, and the bare painted doors were only covered here and there with a strip of rag carpeting for a rug. Having said my prayers at my mother's knees, I bounded up the narrow stairs by the faint light from below, and sprang into bed. The door was left open in the parlour on cut-off. Children have their trials, and discipline as well as grown people."

"And the door was shut." For many years I never heard that portion of the parable of the foolish virgins without a vivid picture of that fireside with all light and warmth, and the cold sense of banishment coming over me as them.

"About this time I read a story which took strong hold of my fancy. I do not remember the title, but it was about a boy who was naturally timid, and who determined to overcome his foolish fears and bravely braves the way in which all his hobgoblins melted into thin air, or proved to be sons of familiar objects seen in a new light, when he marched up to them, was very amusing and encouraging. This story made a deep impression upon me, and I resolved not to be overcome by this boy."

"I now began to discipline myself to go about alone in the dark, and if I saw anything mysterious, to go boldly up to and examine it."

"There was a closet opening out of my room, and one night, after I had gone to bed, I saw that the door was open, and just inside there seemed to be standing a tall, queer-shaped old woman. Though I was very much frightened, I hesitated but for a moment, and then jumped up and ran toward the closet, thinking whatever she might be, I would slam the door in her face and shut her in; but as I came near to her, I saw that my old woman was nothing but a big portly rag-bag hanging from a nail, over this hung a stiff 'dog-cabin' sunbonnet with a long vase, and beneath the bag protruded an old pair of boots."

"Many a laugh did my brothers and sisters have over my old woman," when I told them about her. Tom named her 'Mrs. Tripit,' and said the thought she was remarkably well developed for a lady who fed entirely upon 'cold pieces.'

"A few experiences like this gave me great courage, but the worst was yet to come. One warm summer night I had been out to play with a friend, and coming home late, had gone to bed tired. It must have been in the middle of the night, that I woke with a start—perhaps from a bad dream—and saw a tall, white object at my bedside. In the dim星光 I could not distinguish the outlines, but it would advance and recede, and then stand still. It was a mysterious appearance, and well calculated to frighten a child, and my first impulse was to cover my head with the bedclothes, but that I had resolved never to do again."

"Now is the time to be brave!" I said to myself, and though my heart seemed to stand still, and I grew cold from fear, yet with a resolution which even now I look back upon with wonder, I gathered myself up and sprang at the object. Whatever it was, I determined to do battle. Before I reached the door, the mystery was made clear to me. There was a terrible crash, and the voice of my mother from below, called: 'My child, what has happened?'

"Nothing," I answered, "I only fell over a chair, that's all."

"Yes, it was only an old high-backed rocking-chair, over which a seat had been laid to air, and the summer night wind had gently waved its long folds to and fro, and out of this my fears had conjured a strange and ghostrly figure. As I clambered back into bed, half crying with the pain of my bumps and bruises, and half laughing in the excitement of triumph, I re-solved that in future the darkness should have no terror for me."

"And how about Mrs. Tripit?" said Bob.

"Well," said grandma, "Mrs. Tripit and I were on very intimate terms for a long time. Many a piece of faded ribbon for my dolls, and many a scrap of bright calico for my patch work, was furnished me by her. And I soon came to regard her in the light of an old familiar friend. But one day, on my return from a visit, I was met by Tom

with the announcement that 'he had very sad news for me.' Tom was a regular teaze, and I knew by the twinkle in his eye—in spite of his long face—that it was nothing very serious."

"Had anything happened to Bella?" (my doll) I inquired.

"No, Sir," he said, solemnly. "It's Mrs. Tripit! You must be prepared to see her greatly changed. It's all the fault of that rascal, the tin peddler; he came here in your absence and has stolen her heart away. And, now, shall she be but the wreath of her former self?"

"He escorted me to the closet door, and, sure enough, there was poor Mrs. Tripit, sun-bonnet, boots and all, but her once well rounded form was in a state of collapse, and she had a forlorn and dejected look. It was mournful and yet laughable to see."

"Never mind, Sir," said Tom, "she'll pick up and come round again, if she has the right kind of diet." And with that we slammed the door, and ran away laughing heartily—hard-hearted children that we were."

"And now, my dears, it's time for you to go to bed." "Oh, dear! is that it?" said the children.

"You," said grandma, "is that the last I remember of Mrs. Tripit, and with her fitted away the last laughbear of my childhood!" —*Rebecca Hart.*

THE GOLD BASKET.

How Little Vi Was Tempted to Steal a Little Gold.

It was only a trifling sum of white china, with gilt bands around it; but little Vi admired it very much, and called it "mamma's gold basket."

One afternoon Aunt Emily came to make a call, and mamma brought in the basket filled with nice large Florida oranges. After everybody had eaten an orange, and Aunt Emily had gone, Sister Anna set the basket on the kitchen table, and that was the way the trouble began.

Little Vi went out there all alone to play with the cat.

She chased her around and around the room, till by and by kitty, getting tired of the sport, jumped into a chair, and got upon the table.

"Come down! come down!" said little Vi. "You must not sit still those orange-peelings with your nose. Come down!"

But Kitty did not come; she was trying to decide whether the beautiful young balls were good to eat. Then Vi caught her by the tail and pulled her. She did not do it roughly, but somehow that gold basket got in the way—perhaps Kitty's paw touched it, perhaps it was Vi's arm—but, at any rate, the basket was overturned, and down it fell, broken in pieces upon the floor.

Vi stared in surprise at the dreadful ruin, and then she stared at the oranges rolling, helter-skelter, under the stove. "Who'd do that? How did it fall?" thought she.

But next moment it came over her that she herself was to blame. "Why, I didn't mean to! That pretty basket! What will mamma say?" Little Vi's forehead was full of wrinkles; her eyes were full of tears. She stood so still that you could almost hear the fly on the roll of towel snuffing its wings.

"I'll get 'em mamma! I did it, and I'm sorry. No, I'll hear kitty did it; I guess kitty did it. Kitten, kitten!" The little girl moved one foot, and then she stood still again. The clock ticked very loud—you know how loud a clock does tick sometimes—and the fly on the towel gazed at Vi, and she gazed at that fly.

"No, I won't tell mamma anything; I won't go into the parlor at all! I'll go out in the yard, and then mamma will see a new light, when he marched up to them, was very amusing and encouraging. This story made a deep impression upon me, and I resolved not to be overcome by this boy."

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RELIGIOUS READING.

THE UNWORN ANVIL.

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door. And in the dark ringed its vapor eddies. Then looking in I saw him, a poor old man, with his hammer worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had?" said I. "To wear and batter all these hammers say?"

"Just one," he answered, then with twinkles.

"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word.

For ages skeleto-blows have beat upon, Yet, though the tones of Fauns, Vestures, was heard.

The anvil is unworn—the hammers gone.

—*Lois Gage, in Current.*

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSONS.

THE FIRST QUARTER.

JAN. 18.—Paul's Farewell to Jerusalem. Acts 20:20-26.

JAN. 25.—Paul's Visit to Jerusalem. Acts 21:1-14.

FEB. 1.—Paul at Jerusalem. Acts 21:15-23.

FEB. 8.—Paul's Assailed. Acts 21:24-26.

FEB. 15.—Paul Before the Council. Acts 21:27-36.

MAR. 1.—Paul Sent to Felix. Acts 23:1-12.

MAR. 15.—Paul Before Felix. Acts 23:13-22.

MAR. 15.—Paul Before Agrippa. Acts 26:1-18.

MAR. 25.—Paul Venerated. Acts 26:19-23.

MAR. 26.—Rev. Mr. S. C. Seece of Song Missionary, Templeton or other Song selected by the school.

—*How to Use a Sunday School.*

TALMAGE VS. INGERSOLL.

A Large Reward for Bible Victims—Women and the Bible.

How Little Vi Was Tempted to Steal a Little Gold.

How the Discipline of Affection Blinds.

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