

Our Little Sister.

By Esther Moore.

Copyrighted 1903 by The Authors Publishing Company. The National Publishers Supply Co.

The sun was sending long lines of yellow light through the western windows of the pleasant school room. Forty pairs of little hands were busy putting books and slates away for the day, and forty pairs of little feet shuffled restlessly in their eagerness to be free.

Miss Boyd gave a tired sigh as the last small kindergarten was out of sight. Had to-day, she wondered, been more than unusually full of bruised heads and cut fingers demanding her attention, hair-ribbons and apron-strings to be tied, and small outbreaks of mischief to be checked? She rested her head on her desk. Later, pattering, came the sound of bare feet down the hallway; the door was timidly opened. Was it a lost cap or book, she wondered; but there was no patience in the thought. Her soul was full to overflowing with a boundless love for all child life, and though

In her work among the children she had entered many strange homes and brushed against all kinds and conditions of humanity, but, notwithstanding her experience, the first sight of little sister startled her.

The few sunbeams which found their way through the narrow window seemed to loiter gladly in the red-gold of the child's hair, which lay in rich profusion on the pillow and framed a face of surpassing loveliness. As Miss Boyd leaned over the sleeping child—this sweet, tender flower breathing out its delicate life amidst the futility of a tenement house—as she noticed the transparent whiteness of the little face in vivid contrast to the brilliant red of the lips, she wondered what the eyes would reveal. As if in answer to her silent question, the little one stirred, and slowly the white lids were lifted. The tears came into Miss Boyd's own as they met them.



"Well, little one, what is it?"

her body might sometimes weary of the constant demands upon it, her heart remained strong and rested. She turned to little German Freddy with the smile which the smallest kindergarten said made you "feel so comfy," and there was no trace of fatigue in the bright voice as she said: "Well, little one, what is it?"

"Our little sister," stammered Freddy, "she wants to see you."

Miss Boyd laid her hand upon the boy's shaggy hair. "Tell me about your little sister," she said. "Oh, she's just our little sister," replied Freddy, "and she's sick all the time, her bed is by the window, and when you go by she all the time says 'I want to see the good teacher.'"

"Very well, Freddy, I will come tomorrow. Will that do?" Freddy shifted his weight to the other foot. "When I came to school to-day she said, 'Maybe the good teacher will come home with you tonight, Freddy.'"

And "the good teacher" went, for was it not a little child who wanted her?

In the sleeping child nothing, save perhaps, the wonderful whiteness of the face, seemed to indicate suffering. The story was all in the eyes. Brown they were, without one gleam or sparkle which belongs to the eyes of childhood. Eyes which had stared up all the pain and suffering of long days and "nights devoid of ease," eyes which, in a man or woman, make the heart ache, but once seen in a little child haunt forever.

Miss Boyd leaned over and kissed the white forehead. "I have come, little sister," she said.

The child smiled faintly. "Ah, it is the good teacher," she said. "I know you would come, and then her eyes wandered hungrily to some sweet wood violets which Miss Boyd wore. Taking them from her belt, the teacher said with a simple smile, "Would you like them? My boys and girls bring me some every day, and I should like to share with you." The glad light which flashed into the child's eyes showed that they could speak a language other than plain. "I cannot

hold them," she said; "please put them on my pillow;" and then for the first time Miss Boyd noticed that the small hands were shrunken and misshapen and lay on the bed as if lifeless.

The child looked at them with a sad little smile. "Mutter says they will not always be so," she said. "Some day I shall go to God's country and He will touch my poor hands and make them all well. Then I can gather violets for myself—when I'm in God's country."

Many a day after this found Miss Boyd at the bedside of the little sufferer, and the violets always came with her. There was only one thing the little one loved better than the violets, and that was her father's violin.

He was a stolid old German with sleepy blue eyes—sleepy except when he was bending over little sister or his beloved violin. Then he seemed transformed, and a world of love and tenderness shone in his face. "Play about the country, vater," little sister would say when her pain was very great, and Miss Boyd would close her eyes and listen to brooks babbling through green meadows, the glad voices of birds and the low crooning of summer winds. She could almost smell the violets and see the blue of June skies as the man breathed the country into his violin. And gradually the lines of pain on the child's face would disappear and only the sad eyes told the story of anguish.

"It is always so," said her mother. "The vater's violin can soothe her better than anything else. But it will not be long ere the great vater takes her in his arms and soothes her forever."

A week had passed and Miss Boyd had not called at the house, when one day Freddy said, "Miss Boyd, our little sister's going to die, and mother wants you to come tonight if you can." Miss Boyd found a wonderful change in the little child. The look of pain and suffering had gone from the eyes, and in its place was a light which only the whispers of messengers from God's country could have brought.

"She does not suffer," said the mother. "The doctor says she will go tonight, and we wanted you."

And so the mother and father and the "good teacher" sat by the bedside watching and waiting while little sister passed into the silent land. Only the tick-tock of the clock and the shortened breathing of the child broke the stillness of the room.

Suddenly she half raised herself. "The country," she said, and tremblingly the vater took his violin—but alas! the babbling of the brook had the sound of tears running through it; the songs of the birds were hushed and sad; the low crooning of the winds was changed to sobs and moans. All the anguish of the father's breaking heart was voiced in his violin. The music ended with a crash, and, leaning over the little misshapen hands, the strong man wept.

"Never mind, vater," whispered the child, "the good God will not let you forget the gladness—some day you will play it again," and with a little sigh she slipped from the arms of the weeping father into the arms of the Heavenly Father—into God's country.

"Our little sister is all well now," said Freddy to his schoolmates the next week. "Mutter says she runs in the meadows and gathers violets for herself now—away up there in God's country."

The gladness has not yet come back to the vater's violin. Sometimes, though, there is a little throb of joy, like a laughing spirit struggling to be free, and the mother will say, with tears in her eyes, "Ach! the gladness—some day he will play it again."

OKLAHOMA BRIEFS.

The first slaying which Guthrie has had in ten years was during last month.

The water works bond proposition at Geary carried at the election. There were only four votes against it.

W. O. Collins, who shot and killed N. F. Marshall last July, in Oklahoma City, was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

It is claimed that there is oil all around Thomas, but in what quantities is not known. Creeks east and west of town show it on the surface of the water.

It is becoming generally known that there are many thousands of acres of land on the Canadian river north of Sayre about thirty miles which are yet subject to entry. People are coming in from many points and traveling north to take up this land.

Nowhere in Oklahoma are the prospects for securing both oil and gas in paying quantities so good as in Kay county, says the exchanges in that part of the territory. They have already drilled two holes northeast of Kildare, in both of which gas and oil were struck in considerable quantities, the oil proving on analysis to be of superior quality.

C. W. Rambo, territorial treasurer, filed with the governor his statement, covering the condition of the treasury at the close of business on February 28. Amount received from all sources during month, \$192,884; amount paid out, \$212,820; balance on hand, \$605,778; decrease since report of January, \$22,052; balance in general revenue fund, \$89,000; in public building fund, \$254,000; in bond interest fund, \$35,000.

Territorial Bank Commissioner Cooper has given permission to the following banks to begin operations: First Bank of Falls, \$5,000 capital; Gustave Hamill, president; Frank Lucas, cashier. State Bank of Carnegie, \$5,000 capital; W. T. Clerk, president; C. H. Brand, cashier. Chattanooga State Bank of Chattanooga, \$5,000 capital; F. R. Wright, president; C. W. Sears, cashier. Citizens State Bank of Violet, \$10,000 capital.

Something of a curiosity in the shape of a "madstone" is in the possession of a barber at Blackwell. The stone is of regular in shape, would be nearly a cubic inch in size. It is of a light brown color of a porous nature and when seen through a magnifying glass presents rather a remarkable appearance. One peculiarity of these stones is, that they are said to be found nowhere but in the stomach of a deer, and that they are formed by the petrification in the stomach, of something the deer has eaten.

INDIAN TERRITORY.

South McAlester will soon have the honor of being the first city in the Territory to have street cars.

Rance Ross fell from his horse last week at Catoosa and died of his injuries. One foot was caught in a stirrup and he was dragged a long distance by the frightened horse before becoming disengaged.

The city of Chickasha may have to defer a number of contemplated public improvements that are badly needed owing to the inability of the city to collect taxes on real estate until a patent is received from the United States land office.

Several projects are on foot for a more thorough effort at prospecting for mineral in the Mustang Cabin creek country. Prospecting has been going on for some time past, and hardly a day passes without evidences of zinc being found. Where there are so many surface indications of the existence of lead, zinc and copper there are certainly good reasons to expect that something of value will be found.

Prospectors have looked over the Spavinaw hill in the Cherokee nation for mineral and after a careful inspection of the country it was found that mineral existed. Enough has been learned about the lead and zinc of the Spavinaw country to warrant a mining company being organized for the purpose of developing the lead and zinc mines of the Cherokee nation. It is believed there is as fine lead and zinc in the Spavinaw hills as in the Missouri-Kansas district around Joplin.

Prosperity in the territory, is an assured fact and the consequent expansion of trade and wealth is but a question of time. Its fitness for close settlement, the comparative certainty of rainfall, and the natural resources, make it an attractive goal for the farmer, the artisan and the capitalist. Banks are being formed, new business houses opened, railroads are being extended and the number of newspapers increased. In many of the towns the population is constantly increasing.

J. Pierpont Morgan has one of his country homes situated in wilds so remote that deer from the adjoining forest nibble the honeysuckle decorating its veranda.

Book on Japanese Artists. Author Morrison is writing a book on Japanese painters, which he hopes will furnish a complete handbook for English readers on the subject. He has been for many years a serious student and collector of Japanese pictures.

An Enthusiastic Gaffer. The Duke of Devonshire has lately become an enthusiastic gaffer and has engaged Ben Hurst, the expert, to photograph him.

A QUESTION AND AN ANSWER.

Why the Farmer Became Chummy With His Overnight Guest.

"I was up North to look at a piece of wild land last fall," said a Detroit real estate agent, "and circumstances obliged me to put up with a farmer for over Sunday. Saturday night, after I got to bed, I heard the old folks talking in confidence.

"Well, Susan, what do you make of him?" asked the husband.

"Looks honest?"

"Yes."

"Talks all right."

"Yes."

"Has probably got some money to pay his bill Monday morning?"

"I guess so. I guess you needn't worry, Samuel."

"But I shall, mother. I shall keep right on worrying till after breakfast tomorrow morning. Then I'm going to ask him whether he'd rather go to meeting or play poker, and I'll know by his answer just what sort of a man he is."

"The question came in due time," said the agent, "and I was prepared to answer it. My answer appeared to settle all doubts in the minds of the family. We became chummy at once." "Because you went to church with them?" was asked.

"Well, no. I guess it was because the old man started the game by holding a pat flush!"—Detroit Free Press.

He Went West and Prospered.

Freeland, Kans., Mar. 9th.—One of the most prosperous farmers in Harper County is Mr. N. H. Mead. Some thirty-four years ago he left his home near Clarence, N. Y., and came to Kansas. Here he has thrived splendidly and last year harvested over one hundred and forty acres of wheat alone.

But everything has not gone well with Mr. Mead for his health has not been good for the last few years. He has suffered a great deal with kidney and bladder trouble and could get nothing to stop it. Lately, however, he has improved a great deal and he says that he has none of the old symptoms left and is feeling splendid again. He used Dodd's Kidney Pills and this remedy seemed to work wonders in his case. He says himself: "Dodd's Kidney Pills have made me well. They are all right and a reliable remedy for kidney trouble. They helped me right from the start giving me great relief, and finally cured me."

Russell Sage Still Optimistic.

Russell Sage predicts that the unexampled prosperity that the country is enjoying will continue unabated throughout 1903. The past predictions of the veteran of Wall street have frequently been in the nature of storm warnings, but it is evident from his opinion as expressed recently to a representative of the Chronicle that he sees no danger ahead.

"I think the general business conditions the country over are sound," Mr. Sage said, "and that we shall have another year of prosperity fully equal to the last. Railroad earnings continue large, with the traffic heavy. The country is in a position to do a greater business than ever before, and I see no reason why it should not be done. The financial and stock market outlook is good. Just now things are pretty quiet in the stock market, so that there is little to say of it. There is no discouraging sign anywhere, and nothing of a nature to give concern so far as I can see. I think the outlook is very bright for better prices, and I expect to see a bull market."—New York Correspondence Chicago Chronicle.

Tunneling the Alps.

The work on the Simplon tunnel is progressing rapidly on both sides of the Alps; about 4,000 workmen are employed on the tunnel and not less than 6,000 on the Italian section of the road between Isella, at the mouth of the tunnel, and Arosa, the present terminus of the railway running north from Milan. It is now practically certain that the road will be completed within the estimated time—that is to say, by July 1, 1905—as nearly two-thirds of the tunnel was finished on July 1, 1902, and the worst obstacles have already been met and mastered. The greatest of the impediments was the ever-increasing heat in the tunnel, caused by the growing volume of water, which, although it starts at the summit of the mountain, 6,000 feet above the line of railway, after percolating through beds of limestone becomes almost boiling hot, and flows into the tunnel at a temperature of from 112 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, rendering not only work but life impossible without resort to artificial means of refrigeration.

Kitchener's Fad.

Lord Kitchener, like every one else, has certain fads and fancies, and one point on which he is most particular is the appearance of his dinner table and household equipments generally. Among other items despatched by his order to grace the Durbur entertainments was a quite beautiful glass dinner set of finest cut glass, embellished with the Viscount's coronet, and with "K" beautifully embossed in gold on graving.

Simple Cure for Earache.

A simple, harmless, and infallible cure for earache is effected by making a small funnel of stiff paper and saturating a ball of cotton the size of a hickory nut with chloroform and dropping it into the funnel; place the small end of the funnel in the ear, draw a long breath, and then blow the breath into the large end of the funnel; the fumes of the chloroform are thus carried into the ear, and all pain ceases at once.

THE CELEBRATED STORY & CLARK PIANOS

Can Not be Exceeded

for tone, touch and durability. They present the highest type of American piano manufacture, and are fully warranted for ten years by one of the oldest and most responsible industries in the land. When you buy a STORY & CLARK Piano you get more actual value for every dollar you pay than you get in any other piano.

SOLO ON EASY PAYMENTS.

STORY & CLARK PIANO COMPANY

Factories—Grand Haven, Michigan.

Western Salesrooms, 914 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Mo. General Offices and Salesrooms, Chicago, Ill. Established 1859. J. W. EATOR, Jr., Mgr.



A Guaranteed Investment

Absolutely safe and yet containing the elements of speculation and large potential profit.

An arrangement has been made with two large Trust Companies to guarantee to the purchaser his return of his investment within a given number of years, choice of either Company being given.

35 Mining properties at Eldorado and Cripple Creek, Colorado, with much development work done.

3600 acre of oil lands in Huerfano County, Colo.

Unguaranteed stock 15 cents a share.

Guaranteed stock 20 cents a share.

Send for particulars, prospectus and maps to

E. M. METCALF, 622-5 New York Life Bldg. Kansas City, Mo. or EUGENE E. JACCORD, 300-1 Century Bldg. Kansas City, Mo.



VARICOCELE

A safe, painless, permanent cure guaranteed. Twenty-five years' experience. No money accepted until patient is well. CONSULTATION AND VALUABLE BOOK FREE, by mail or at office. Write to

DR. C. M. COE, 915 WALNUT ST. KANSAS CITY, MO.

The Science of Cure

A beautiful illustrated medical treatise, showing an x-ray examination with full explanation. It should be in every home. Sent FREE to any party addressing The German-American Doctors, 812 Walnut street, Kansas City, Mo.

CANCER

A Cure Guaranteed. No money accepted until patient is well. 100 page book sent free. Address, Dr. E. O. SMITH, 10th & Main St., Kansas City, Mo.

A Graphic Description.

Congressman Littlefield, of Maine, was assuring some Washington correspondents that journalistic talent is not confined to the national capital. "Why, I know of a reporter," he said, "who was describing the wreck of a vessel on the Maine coast. This was one of his sentences: 'At this moment a giant wave swept over the doomed craft and six poor sailors bit the dust.' Any of you fellows ever been in chorus: 'I hope not.'"

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Fitch

Voted For Fifteen Presidents.

H. L. Morse, of Buffalo, presses the interesting claim of being the champion voter of New York state. He cast his first ballot in 1839 for Van Buren, and his since then voted in 15 presidential and 63 state elections.

Traveling Libraries in Ohio.

From the State Library of Ohio, 803 traveling libraries, containing 22,031 books, were sent out last year at a cost of \$41,227.

Women to Graduate at Dublin.

Women, it is reported, are about to be admitted to graduate at Dublin university.

To Teach Japanese Language.

Japanese is the latest language to be added to the list taught in the University of Chicago.

America Imports Peaches.

Last year America imported 2,000,000 bushels of peaches.

We Treat You FREE

of Charge Until Cured.

You pay Only for Medicines used on your case. We Trust You for our fee. Write for Free Booklet. Established 1864.

WE CURE

Varicose, Hydrocele, Lost Manhood, Nervous Debility, Stricture, Leucorrhoea, Prostatitis, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Catarrh, St. Vitus' Dance, Epilepsy, Syphilis and All Forms of Blood Poison.

DR. SPINNEY & CO.,

900 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.

Poor Man's Chance.

It is being said in many Eastern journals and not a few Western ones that the day of the poor man in mining is gone by; that no one but a big corporation can succeed in mining any more; that it takes big capital to do anything; that most of the good mining propositions are controlled by trusts or millionaires and that there is no longer opportunity for a man with a little money. This is all a mistake. The day of the "poor" mining man was never brighter nor greater than right now.

The assertion that most of the good mines are owned by trusts or millionaires is heard most often, but there is least in that of any of the pessimistic utterances. One hears of the big millionaire owners more than he does of the thousands of substantial companies that go right on with little notoriety, paying good wages and monthly yielding dividends.

Finally, it may be justly said in answer to the assertion that opportunity no longer exists for the man with a little money, that never in the world's history were there fewer opportunities in mining for the man with a little money than in the west half of America today. Are you interested?

Send for our Booklet. It will cost you nothing and will aid you in making money.

H. A. RIEDEL & CO., Bankers and Brokers, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Nature's Flying Machine.

The largest flying machine in nature is found by Langley and Lucas to have been the Ornithomimus ingens, the greatest of the pterodactyls of the ancient days, whose body weight was probably about 30 pounds and whose extended wings measured about 20 feet from tip to tip. The largest of existing flying creatures is the albatross, which has a weight of 18 pounds and a spread of wing of 11 1/2 feet, though its wing area is but 7 square feet while it develops only a twentieth of a horse-power, and such is this bird's power of progression by mysterious soaring that a tagged individual has been known to traverse at least 3,150 miles in twelve days. Whether the pterodactyl represents the extreme possible limit of weight-carrying by wings is one of our interesting problems. Langley's steel flying machine had a supporting area of 54 square feet, a weight of 30 pounds, developed 1 1/2 horse-power, and reportedly flew from one-half to three-fourths of a mile.—Pittsburg Gazette.

Testimony from Ellen Beach-Yaw.

Story & Clark Piano Co.

Gentlemen:—I have heard the Story & Clark Piano and think it capable of the fullest expression of musical thought.—Melodiously yours, Ellen Beach-Yaw.

Extensive Farming.

General M. W. Ransom, a former United States senator from North Carolina, is devoting his time to farming, and this year will run about 250 plows.

Government Cemeteries.

Every piece of ground in South Africa containing the graves of soldiers who fell in the war has been taken over, and is to be maintained by the British War Department.

Singular Strike in Saxony.

Gera, in Saxony, has been the scene of a singular "strike." The doctors refused to treat patients belonging to sick clubs because the societies sought to reduce their fees.

Insurance Christians and Abolitionists.

Rev. C. N. Sheldon is at the head of a movement to establish at Toronto, Kan., a life insurance company that will only take policies on the lives of Christians and abolitionists.

THE "TAILOR" BIRDS OF INDIA.

This wonderful bird lives in India. It has a beak shaped very much like a shoemaker's awl. The little bird is entirely yellow in color and is only three inches long. It derives its name from the way in which it makes its nest—it selects a large leaf, hanging from the end of a twig, then it pierces a number of holes along the edge of it with its awl-like beak, and then gets the long fibers of plants, which make excellent thread, and carefully sews the edges together like a purse or bag, using its bill for a needle to carry the thread through. The ends of the thread are knotted, so as to entirely prevent them from slipping through the leaf. The stalk end of the leaf is bent and crushed so as to form a hood over the open

ing of the nest, protecting it from the sun and the rain. But what is very strange, when the leaf is not large enough to make the nest, this little bird gets another leaf, pierces it with holes and pieces the two leaves together. The interior of the nest is lined with cotton and silky grass, making a very snug and comfortable home for the little birds. The bird and its nest full of eggs are so very light that they can be suspended from the end of a slender twig. Would it not be interesting to watch this little tailor selecting the leaves, and the thread, and then piercing the holes ready to sew the leaves together to make for itself a comfortable little home?—Philadelphia Ledger.

AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY, 2,000 YEARS OLD, HAD APPENDICITIS.

An Egyptian mummy of 2,000 years ago, recently examined, showed evidences of having died of appendicitis, so that the disease is not by any means new. Four hundred cases were operated on in London hospitals last year, all but ten successfully. Sir Francis Treves has operated with success on 100 successive cases. It is said that the modern fine flour is one of the causes. The increasing occur-

rence of the trouble has opened a new field for insurance in England. One of the most important firms in London has made a new departure in the form of policies insuring against appendicitis. For a premium of 5 shillings the insured, should he undergo an operation, will have all his direct expenses paid up to \$1,000. In the event of his death under or as a result of the operation a total sum of \$1,000 will be paid.

A MONSTER BIRD CAGE FOR THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

The largest bird cage ever built is to be a part of the government exhibit at the St. Louis exposition. Those in charge of the government novelties to be displayed at St. Louis have decided to include in them some of the finest specimens from the zoological gardens of this city. There was some doubt as to the propriety of putting wild birds on exhibition, but after much deliberation it was decided to be done.

able to make a monster bird display. Accordingly, a cage 180 feet long, 60 feet wide and 60 feet high is to be built of gas pipes and wire setting, at a cost of \$18,000. It will be constructed under the direction of Dr. James L. Baker, the superintendent of the United States zoological gardens at Rock Creek park. In this great enclosure there will be birds of all kinds from every climate of the globe.