LITTLE WOMEN

BY

LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

ADAPTED FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

BY

C. BRUUS.

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Sissejuhatus.

Louisa May Alcott (lu'i:zə mei ɔ:lkət) sündis aastal 1832 Germantown'is Ameerika Ühisriikides. Tema isa, Amos Bronson Alcott, oli silmapaistev õpetaja ja mõtteteadlane. Mõni aasta peale Louisa sündimist asusid vanemad elama Bostoni, Massachusettsi osariigi pealinna. Siin tutvus Alcott'i perekond filosoofi Ralph Waldo Emerson'iga (1803—1882), ja tema lastele kirjutas Louisa May Alcott oma esimesed jutud, mis pärastpoole „Flower Fables" nime all ilmusid. Kui aastal 1861 Ameerikas kodusõda lahti puhkes, võttis Miss Alcott sellest tegelikult osa ja töötas tükk aega halastajaõena Washingtonis. Peale kodusõja lõppu (1865) reisis ta ühe vanema naisterahva seltsilisena Euroopas, tutvudes Prantsusmaaga, Šweitsiga ja Saksamaaga. Juba enne kodusõda ja selle kestel oli ta ühe Bostoni ajalehe kaastöölisena selles oma jutte avaldanud. Nüüd, peale kojutulekut hakkas ta veel agaramalt tööle kirjanduse põllul. Ta kirjutas palju jutte, millest „Little Women" ja „Little Men" kõige kuulsamaks on saanud. Ta suri aastal 1888.

I.

THE FOUR GIRLS.

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have lots of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy.

"We've got father and mother, and each othert anyhow," said Beth, contentedly, from her corner.

The four young faces on which the fireligh, shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly:

"We haven't got father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never", but each silently added it, thinking of father far away, where the fighting was. For Mr. March, their father, was an officer in one of the Northern armies of the American Civil War.

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2. won't — will not. 3 Jo — short for Josephine. 4. Meg — short for Margaret. 6. for some girls to have — that some girls have. 6./7. lots of things — a great many things. 8. Amy short for Amelia. 9. we've got — we have. 10. Beth short for Elisabeth. 19. American Civil War (1861—1865) — the war between the Northern and the Southern States of North-America. The former wished to do away with slavery, but the latter were against this. The war ended with the victory of the Northern States.

Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said:

"You know the reason mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas; it's going to be a hard winter for every one; and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure, when our men are suffering so in the army."

"But we have only got a dollar each, and the army wouldn't be much helped by our giving that. I agree not to expect anything from mother or you, but I do want to buy that book for myself; I've wanted it *so* long," said Jo, who was a bookworm.

"I planned to spend mine in new music," said Beth, with a little sigh, which no one heard but the hearthbrush and kettle-holder.

"I shall get a nice box of drawing pencils; I really need them," said Amy decidedly.

"Mother didn't say anything about our own money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun; I'm sure we work hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her boots in a gentlemanly manner.

"You said the other day you thought we were

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2. you know the reason mother proposed not having — you know why mother proposed not to have. 3. it's going to be — it will be. 10. I do want — I really want. 12. I planned — I intended, wished. 13. but — except. 14. kettle-holder — a piece of cloth for holding the kettle when hot. 19. let's — let us.

a deal happier than the King children, for they were fighting and fretting all the time, in spite of their money."

"So I did, Beth. Well, I guess we are; for though we do have to work, we make fun for ourselves, and are a pretty jolly set."

"Jo does use such slang words," observed Amy, with a reproving look at the long figure stretched on the rug. Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her apron pockets, and began to whistle.

"Don't, Jo; it's so boyish."

"That's why I do it."

"I detest rude, unlady-like girls."

"I hate affected chits."

"Birds in their little nests agree," sang Beth the peacemaker, with such a funny face that both sharp voices softened to a laugh.

The clock now struck six; and, having swept up the hearth, Beth put a pair of slippers down to warm. Somehow the sight of the old shoes had a good effect upon the girls, for mother was coming, and every one brightened to welcome her. Meg lit the lamp, Amy got out of the easy-chair without being asked, and Jo forgot how tired she was as she sat up to hold the slippers nearer to the blaze.

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1. a deal happier — much happier. 3 I guess — I think, I suppose. 4. we make fun for ourselves — we amuse ourselves. 5. a pretty jolly set — quite a merry company. 6. slang words — words in common use, but considered in some of their senses to be outside of standard English 8. immediately — at once. 21. to welcome — to greet.

"They are quite worn out; Marmee must have a new pair."

"I thought I'd get her some with my dollar," said Beth.

"No, I shall! cried Amy.

"I'm the oldest," began Meg; but Jo said:

"I'm the man of the family now papa is away, and *I* shall provide the slippers, for he told me to take special care of mother while he was gone."

"I'll tell you what we'll do," said Beth; "let's each get her something for Christmas, and not get anything for ourselves."

"That's like you, dear! What shall we get?" exclaimed Jo.

Every one thought for a minute; then Meg said: "I shall give her a nice pair of gloves."

"Shoes," cried Jo.

"Handkerchiefs, all hemmed," said Beth.

"I'll get a bottle of Cologne," added Amy.

"Let Marmee think we are getting things for ourselves, and then surprise her. We must go shopping to-morrow afternoon," said Jo. And just then Mrs. March came home.

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1. Marmee (ma:mi:) — mother. 3. I'd get — I would get. 7. now — now when, now that. 9. he was gone — he was away from home. 11. get — buy. 21. go shopping — go to the shops in order to buy something.

II.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Jo was the first to wake in the gray dawn of Christmas morning. No stockings hung at the fireplace, and for a moment she felt disappointed. Then she slipped her hand under her pillow, and drew out a little crimson-covered book. She knew it very well, for it was that beautiful old story of the best life ever lived. She woke Meg with a "Merry Christmas," and bade her see what was under her pillow. A green-covered book appeared. Presently Beth and Amy woke, to find their little books also — one dove-coloured, the other blue; and they all sat looking at them and talking about them.

"Where is mother?" asked Meg, as she and Jo ran down to thank her for their gifts, half an hour later.

"Goodness only knows. Some poor creature came begging, and your Ma went straight off to see what was needed. There never *was* such a woman for giving away food and drink, clothes and firing," replied Hannah, who had lived with the family since Meg was born, and was considered by them all more as a friend than a servant.

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3. no stockings hung — Christmas presents are put into stockings. 5. slipped — put. 7. that beautiful old story — the Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan. 9. bade her see — told her to see. 11. dove-coloured — bluish-gray. 17. Ma — mamma.

"She will be back soon, I guess; so have everything ready," said Meg, looking over the presents which were collected in a basket and kept under the sofa, ready to be produced at the proper time.

"How nice my handkerchiefs look, don't they? Hannah washed and ironed them for me, and I marked them all myself," said Beth, looking proudly at the somewhat uneven letters which had cost her such labour.

"Bless the child, she's gone and put 'Mother' on them instead of 'M. March;' how funny!" cried Meg.

"There's mother; hide the basket, quick! cried Jo, as steps sounded in the hall.

"Merry Christmas, Marmee! Lots of them! Thank you for our books," they cried in chorus.

"Merry Christmas, little daughters! But I want to say one word before we sit down to breakfast. Not far away from here lies a poor woman with a little baby. Six children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire. There is nothing to eat over there; and the oldest boy came to tell me they were suffering hunger and cold. My girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?"

They were all unusually hungry, having waited

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4. to be produced -- to be taken out. 10. she's gone and put — she has been so foolish as to put. 14. lots of them! — we wish you many merry Christmas Days. 15. in chorus ('kɔ:rəs) — all together.

nearly an hour, and for a minute no one spoke; only a minute, for Jo exclaimed:

"I'm so glad you came before we began!"

"May I go and help to carry the things to the poor little children? asked Beth eagerly.

"*I* shall take the cream and the muffins," added Amy, heroically giving up the articles she most liked.

Meg was already packing up the cakes, and piling the bread into one big plate.

"I thought you'd do it," said Mrs. March, smiling as if satisfied. "You shall all go and help me, and when we come back we will have bread and milk for breakfast, and make it up at dinner-time."

They were soon ready, and the procession set out. Fortunately it was early, and they went through back streets, so few people saw them, and no one laughed at the funny party.

A poor, bare, miserable room it was, with broken windows, no fire, ragged bed-clothes, a sick mother, a wailing baby, and a group of pale, hungry children cuddled under one old quilt, trying to keep warm. How the big eyes stared, and the blue lips smiled, as the girls went in!

"Ah! it is good angels come to us!" cried the poor woman, weeping for joy.

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7. the articles she most liked — the things which she most liked. 18. bare — without any furniture.

"Funny angels in hoods and mittens," said Jo, and set them laughing.

In a few minutes it really did seem as if kind spirits had been at work there. Hannah, who had carried wood, made a fire, and stopped up the broken panes with old hats and her own shawl. Mrs. March gave the mother tea and gruel, and comforted her with promises of help, while she dressed the little baby as tenderly as if it had been her own. The girls, meantime, spread the table, set the girls round the fire, and fed them like so many hungry birds.

That was a very happy breakfast, though the four lasses didn't get any of it: and when they went away, leaving comfort behind, I think there were not in all the city four merrier people than the hungry little girls who gave away their breakfasts, and contented themselves with bread and milk on Christmas morning.

"That's loving our neighbour better than ourselves, and I like it," said Meg, as they got out their presents.

Mrs. March was both surprised and touched; and smiled with her eyes full as she examined her presents, and read the little notes which accompanied them. The slippers went on at once, a new handkerchief was slipped into her pocket, well scented with

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2. set them laughing -- made them laugh. 13. lasses — girls; any — anything. 22. with her eyes full — full of tears.

Amy's cologne, and the nice gloves were pronounced "a perfect fit."

And so with love, and work, and play, the day went on until the evening, when Hannah appeared, with "Mrs. March's compliments, and would the ladies walk down to supper?"

This was a suprise, and when they saw the table they looked at one another in rapturous amazement. There was ice-cream—actually two dishes of it, pink and white—and cake, and fruit, and French bonbons and in the middle of the table four great bouquets of hothouse flowers!

III.

THE LAURENCE BOY.

That sight quite took their breath away; and they stared first at the table and then at their mother, who looked as if she enjoyed it immensely.

"Is it fairies?" asked Amy.

"It's Santa Claus," said Beth.

"Mother did it," guessed Meg.

"Aunt March sent the supper," cried Jo.

"All wrong; old Mr. Laurence sent it," replied Mrs. March.

1./2. were pronounced to be a perfect fit — were declared to be perfectly fitting. 8. amazement — surprise. 15. stared — looked in surprise. 18. Santa Claus ('sæntə'klɔ:z) — the old man who brings presents to good children on Christmas Eve.

"The Laurence boy's grandfather! What in the world put such a thing into his head? We don't know him," exclaimed Meg.

"Hannah told one of his servants about your breakfast-party; he is an odd old gentleman, but that pleased him. He knew my father, years ago, and he sent me a polite note this afternoon, saying he hoped I would allow him to express his friendly feeling toward my children by sending them a few trifles in honour of the day. I could not refuse, and so you have a little feast at night to make up for the bread-and-milk breakfast."

"That boy put it into his head, I know he did. He's a capital fellow, and I wish we could get acquainted. He looks as if he'd like to know us; but he's bashful, and Meg is so prim she won't let me speak to him when we pass," said Jo, as the plates went round, and the ice began to melt out of sight, with ohs! and ahs! of satisfaction.

"You mean the people who live in the big house next door, don't you?" asked one of Jo's girl friends who had come in. "My mother knows old Mr. Laurence, but says he's very proud, and don't like to mix with his neighbours. He keeps his grandson shut up when he isn't riding or walking with his tutor, and

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5./6. that pleased him — he liked it. 7. note — a short letter. 11. to make up for — to compensate. 14. a capital fellow — a fine boy. 23. don't like — does not like.

makes him study dreadfully hard. We invited him to our party, but he didn't come. Mother says he's very nice, though he never speaks to us girls."

"Our cat ran away once, and that boy brought her back, and we talked over the fence, and were getting on capitally, all about cricket, and so on, when he saw Meg coming, and walked off. I mean to know him some day, for he needs fun, I'm sure he does," said Jo decidedly. "What lovely flowers!"

"I never had a bouquet before; how pretty it is!" and Meg examined her flowers with great interest.

Beth whispered softly, "I wish I could send my bunch to father. I'm afraid he isn't having such a merry Christmas as we are."

"Jo! Jo! where are you?" cried Meg at the foot of the garret stairs a few days later.

"Here," answered a husky voice from above; and running up, Meg found her sister eating apples and crying over a book on an old three-legged sofa by the sunny window. This was Jo's favourite refuge; and here she loved to retire with half a dozen apples and a nice book, to enjoy the quiet and the society of a pet rat who lived near by, and didn't mind her a bit. As Meg appeared, Scrabble the rat whisked into his

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6. cricket ('krikit) — a game played with bats and a ball. 7. walked off — went away. 7./8. I mean to know him — I wish to get acquainted with him. 23. didn't mind her a bit — was not at all afraid of her. 24. whisked — ran.

hole. Jo shook the tears off her cheeks, and waited to hear the news.

"Such fun! only see! a regular note of invitation from Mrs. Gardiner for to-morrow night!" cried Meg, proceeding to read it with delight

"'Mrs. Gardiner would be happy to see Miss March and Miss Josephine at a little party on New-Year's Eve.' Marmee is willing we should go; now what *shall* we wear?"

So Meg went away to "accept with thanks", and look over her dress, while Jo finished her story, her four apples, and had a game of romps with Scrabble.

On New-Year's Eve the two younger girls played dressing-maids, and the two elder were absorbed in getting ready for the party. There was a great deal of running up and down, laughing and talking, and at one time a strong smell of burnt hair pervaded the house. Meg wanted a few curls about her face, and Jo undertook to pinch the papered locks with a pair of hot tongs.

"Ought they to smoke like that?" asked Beth, from her perch on the bed.

"It's the dampness drying," replied Jo.

"What a queer smell! it's like burnt feathers," observed Amy, smoothing her own pretty curls with a superior air.

6./7. Miss March, Miss Josephine — the eldest daughter is addressed by her family name, the younger sisters only by their Christian names.

"There, now, I'll take off the papers and you'll see a cloud of little ringlets," said Jo, putting down the tongs.

She did take off the papers, but no cloud of ringlets appeared, for the hair came off with the papers, and the horrified hair-dresser laid a row of little scorched bundles on the table before her victim.

"Oh oh oh? what *have* you done? I'm spoilt! I can't go! my hair, oh my hair!" wailed Meg, looking with despair at the uneven frizzle on her forehead.

"Just my luck! you shouldn't have asked me to do it; I always spoil everything! I'm very sorry, but the tongs were too hot, and so I've made a mess," groaned poor Jo.

"It isn't spoilt; just frizzle it, and tie your ribbon so the ends come on your forehead a bit, and it will look like the last fashion. I've seen lots of girls do it so," said Amy consolingly.

After various mishaps Meg was finished at last, and by the united exertions of the family Jo's hair was got up and her dress on.

"Have a good time, dearies," said Mrs. March as the sisters went daintily down the walk. "Don't eat much supper, and come away at eleven when I send Hannah for you."

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2. ringlets — curls, locks. 13. I have made a mess of it — I have spoilt everything, I have done it rather clumsily. 16. so the ends — so that the ends. 17. lots of girls — many girls. 22. have a good time — amuse yourselves.

As the gate clashed behind them a voice cried from a window:

"Girls, girls! have you both got nice pocket-handkerchiefs?

"Yes, yes, and Meg has Cologne on hers," cried Jo, adding with a laugh as they went on, "I do believe Marmee would ask that if we were all running away from an earthquake."

IV.

THE LAD.

Mrs. Gardiner, a stately old lady, greeted the girls kindly, and handed them over to the eldest of her six daughters. Meg knew Sallie Gardiner, and was at her ease very soon; but Jo, who didn't care much for girls or girlish gossip, stood about with her back against the wall and felt as much out of place as a colt in a flower-garden. Half a dozen jovial lads were talking about skates in another part of the room, and she longed to go and join them, for skating was one of the joys of her life.

But no one came to talk to her, and one by one the group near her dwindled away, till she was left alone. She saw a big, red-headed youth approaching

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12. was at her ease — felt comfortable. 15. felt out of place — was not at her ease. 16. jovial — merry, joyful. 18. longed — wished. 20. one by one — one after another. 21. the group dwindled away — the lads went away.

her corner, and, fearing he meant to talk nonsense to her, she slipped into a curtained recess, intending to enjoy herself in peace. Unfortunately, another bashful person had chosen the same refuge; for, as the curtain fell behind her, she found herself face to face with the "Laurence boy".

"Dear me, I didn't know any one was here!" stammered Jo, preparing to back out as speedily as she had bounced in.

But the boy laughed, and said pleasantly, though he looked a little startled:

"Don't mind me; stay if you please. Let us talk."

That put Jo at her ease, and she laughed as she said:

"We did have such a good time over your nice Christmas present."

"Grandpa sent it."

"But you put it into his head, didn't you, now?"

"How is your cat, Miss March?" asked the boy, trying to look sober, while his black eye shone with fun

"Nicely, thank you, Mr. Laurence; but I am not Miss March, I'm only Jo," returned the young lady.

"I'm not Mr. Laurence; I'm only Laurie."

"Laurie Laurence; what an odd name!"

"My first name is Theodore; but I don't like it,

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1. fearing he meant to talk nonsense — fearing that he should talk nonsense. 8. to back out — to go back. 8. speedily — quickly, fast. 9. bounced in — slipped in. 17. grandpa — grandpapa.

for the fellows called me Dora, so I made them say Laurie instead."

"Do you like parties?" asked Jo.

"Sometimes; you see, I've been abroad a good many years, and haven't been about enough yet to know how you do things here."

"Abroad!" cried Jo; "oh, tell me about it! I love to hear people describe their travels."

Laurie didn't seem to know where to begin; but Jo's eager questions soon set him going, and he told her how he had been at school in Vevey, where the boys never wore hats, and had a fleet of boats on the lake, and for holiday fun went walking trips about Switzerland with their teachers.

Laurie's bashfulness soon wore off, for Jo amused him and set him at his ease again. She liked the "Laurence boy", and took several good looks at him, so that she might describe him to the girls; for they had no brothers, and very few boy cousins, and boys were, indeed, almost unknown creatures to them.

"Curly black hair, brown skin, big black eyes, long nose, nice teeth, little hands and feet, tall as I am; very polite for a boy, and altogether jolly. Wonder how old he is?" thought Jo.

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1. I made them say — I asked them to call me. 10. set him going — made him speak. 11. Vevey — a town in Switzerland. 15. wore off — disappeared. 16. set him at his ease — made him feel comfortable. 17. took several good looks at him — looked at him attentively.

Laurie was in the midst of an account of Heidelberg, when Meg appeared in search of her sister. She beckoned, and Jo reluctantly followed her into a side-room, and found her on a sofa holding her foot, and looking pale.

"I've sprained my ankle. It aches so, I can hardly stand; and I don't know how I'm ever going to get home," she said, rocking to and fro in pain.

"I'm sorry; but I don't see what you can do, except get a carriage, or stay here all night," answered Jo, softly rubbing the poor ankle as she spoke.

"I can't have any carriage without its costing ever so much; I dare say I can't get one at all, for most people come in their own, and it's a long way to the stables, and no one to send."

"I'll go."

"No, indeed; it's past ten, and dark as Egypt. I'll rest till Hannah comes, and then do the best I can."

Hannah scolded when she came, and Meg cried, and Jo was at her wits' end, till she decided to take things into her own hands. Slipping out, she ran down, and finding a servant, asked if he could get her a carriage. Laurie, who had heard what she said, came up and offered his grandfather's carriage, which had just come for him, he said.

12/13. ever so much — very much. 20. was at her wits' end — did not know what to do.

"It's so early — you can't mean to go yet," began Jo, looking relieved, but hesitating to accept the offer.

"I always go early — I do, truly. Please let me take you home; it's all on my way, you know; and it rains, they say."

That settled it; and, telling him of Meg's mishap, Jo gratefully accepted, and rushed up to bring down the rest of the party. Hannah hated rain as much as a cat does; so she made no trouble, and they rolled away in the luxurious close carriage, feeling very festive and elegant. Laurie went on the box, so Meg could keep her foot up, and the girls talked over their party in freedom.

Jo told her adventures, and by the time she had finished they were at home. With many thanks they said "Good-night" to Laurie, and crept in, hoping to disturb no one; but the instant their door creaked two little night-caps bobbed up, and two sleepy but eager voices cried out:

"Tell about the party! tell about the party!"

Jo had saved some bonbons for the little girls, and they sat eating them, and hearing the thrilling events of the evening.

"I declare, it really seems like being a fine young

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7. gratefully — thankfully. 14/15. by the time she had finished — when she had finished. 16. crept in — came in noiselessly. 17. instant — moment. 17. the instant their door creaked — the instant when their door creaked. 18. bobbed up — sprang up. 22. thrilling — interesting.

lady, to come home from my party in my carriage, and sit in my dressing-gown, with a maid to wait on me," said Meg, as Jo bound up her foot with arnica, and brushed her hair.

"I don't believe fine young ladies enjoy themselves a bit more than we do, in spite of our burnt hair and old gowns," said Jo.

And I think Jo was quite right.

V.

BURDENS.

"Oh dear, how hard it does seem to take up our burdens and go on!" sighed Meg, the morning after the party, for the holidays were over.

"It wish it was Christmas or New-Year all the time; wouldn't it be fun?" answered Jo, yawning dismally.

"We shouldn't enjoy ourselves half so much as we do now. But it does seem so nice to have little suppers and bouquets, and go to parties, and drive home in a carriage, and read, and rest. It's like other people, you know, and I always envy girls who do such things — I'm so fond of luxury," said Meg.

So Meg went down, wearing an injured look, and wasn't at all agreeable at breakfast-time. Every one seemed rather out of sorts, and inclined to croak. Beth

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2. to wait on — to serve. 3. arnica — a medicine prepared of the flowers of a plant named Arnica. 10. how hard it does seem — how hard it seems indeed. 20. I'm fond of — I like. 23. out of sorts — in a bad temper.

had a headache, and lay on the sofa trying to comfort herself with the cat and three kittens; Amy was fretting because her lessons were not learned; Jo *would* whistle, and make a great racket getting ready; Mrs. March was very busy trying to finish a letter, which must go at once; and Hannah was ill-tempered, for being up late didn't suit her.

"There never *was* such a cross family!" cried Jo, when she had upset an inkstand, broken both boot-laces, and sat down upon her hat.

"You're the crossest person in it!" returned Amy, washing out the sum, that was all wrong, with the tears that had fallen on her slate.

"Beth, if you don't keep these horrid cats down in the cellar I'll have them drowned," exclaimed Meg angrily, as she tried to get rid of the kitten, which had swarmed up her back, and stuck just out of reach.

Jo laughed, Meg scolded, Beth implored, and Amy wailed because she couldn't remember how much nine times twelve was.

"Girls! girls! do be quiet one minute. I *must* get this off by the early post," cried Mrs. March.

"Cuddle your cats, and get over your headache, Bethy. Good-bye, Marmee; we are a set of rascals

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3. Jo would whistle — Jo whistled nevertheless. 15. I'll have them drowned — I let them drown. 17. swarmed up — climbed up. 17. out of reach — where she could not reach it with her hand. 24. a set — a company.

this morning, but we'll come home regular angels. Now then, Meg;" and Jo tramped away.

They always looked back before turning the corner, for their mother was always at the window, to nod, and smile, and wave her hand to them. Somehow it seemed as if they couldn't have got through the day without that, for whatever their mood might be, the last glimpse of that motherly face was sure to affect them like sunshine.

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When Mr. March lost his property in trying to help an unfortunate friend, the two oldest girls begged to be allowed to do something towards their own support at least. Margaret found a place as nursery governess, but she was unhappy in the work. Jo happened to suit Aunt March, who was lame, and needed an active person to wait upon her But Aunt March was not very kind to Jo.

Beth was too bashful to go to school; it had been tried, but she suffered so much that it was given up, and she did her lessons at home, with her father. Even when he went away, Beth went faithfully on by herself, and did the best she could. She was a housewifely little creature, and helped Hannah to keep home

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2. tramped away — walked, went away. 7. mood — temper. 8. the last glimpse — the last look. 12. towards their own support — to support themselves. 16. to wait upon her — to be about her, to serve her. 20/21. by herself — alone.

neat and comfortable. Long, quiet days she spent, not lonely nor idle, for she was by nature a busy bee.

There were six dolls to be taken up and dressed every morning, for Beth was a child still, and loved her pets as well as ever. There was not one whole or handsome doll among them. Beth cherished them all the more tenderly for that very reason, and set up a hospital for infirm dolls. They all were fed and clothed, nursed and caressed, with an affection which never failed.

One forlorn fragment of a doll had belonged to Jo, and, having led a rough life, was left a wreck in the rag-bag, from which it was rescued by Beth. Having no top to its head, she tied on a neat little cap, and, as both arms and legs were gone, she hid these deficiencies by folding it in a blanket, and devoting her best bed to the invalid.

If any one had known the care lavished on that dolly, I think it would have touched their hearts, even while they laughed. Beth brought it bits of bouquets; she read to it, took it out to breathe the air, hidden under her coat; she sang it lullabies, and never went to bed without kissing its dirty face, and whispering tenderly, "I hope you'll have a good night, my poor dear."

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5. her pets — her dear dolls. 7. for that very reason — just for that reason, just therefore. 8. infirm — weak, sick. 9. affection — love. 15. both arms and legs were gone — it had lost both arms and legs. 17. the invalid — the doll without arms and legs.

Beth had her troubles as well as the others; and she often "wept a little weep", as Jo said, because she couldn't take music lessons and have a new piano. She loved music so dearly, tried so hard to learn, and practised away so patiently at their jingling old instrument, that it did seem as if some one ought to help her.

Nobody did, however, and nobody saw Beth wipe the tears off the yellow keys, that wouldn't keep in tune. She sang like a little lark about her work, never was too tired to play for Marmee and the girls, and day after day said hopefully to herself, "I know I'll get my music some time, if I'm good."

If anybody had asked Amy what the greatest trial of her life was, she would have answered at once, "My nose." When she was a baby, Jo had accidentally dropped her into the coal-scuttle, and Amy insisted that the fall had ruined her nose for ever. Her nose was not big, nor red; it was only rather flat, and all the pinching in the world could not give it a fine point.

Such were the burdens the four lasses had to bear.

VI.

EXPERIENCES.

"Has anybody got anything to tell? It has been such a dismal day I'm really dying for some amusement," said Meg, as they sat sewing together one evening.

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5. practised away — went on practising. 13. the greatest trial — the greatest trouble. 16 Amy insisted — A. always said. 17. ruined — spoilt. 23. I'm dying for — I am longing for.

"I saw something that I liked this morning," said Beth. "When I went to get some oysters for Hannah, old Mr. Laurence was in the fish shop, but he didn't see me, for I kept behind a barrel, and he was busy with Mr. Cutter, the fishmonger. A poor woman came in with a pail and a mop, and asked Mr. Cutter if he would let her do some scrubbing for a bit of fish, because she hadn't any dinner for her children, and had been disappointed of a day's work.

"Mr. Cutter was in a hurry, and said 'No,' rather crossly. So she was going away, looking hungry and sorry, when Mr. Laurence hooked up a big fish with the crooked end of his cane, and held it out to her. She was so glad and surprised she took it right in her arms, and thanked him over and over. He told her to 'go along and cook it,' and she hurried off, so happy! Wasn't it nice of him? Oh, she did look so funny, hugging the big, slippery fish."

When they had laughed at Beth's story, they asked their mother for one; and after a moment's thought she said:

"As I sat cutting out blue flannel jackets to-day at the rooms, I felt very anxious about father, and thought how lonely and helpless we should be if any-

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4. I kept behind a barrel — I was standing behind a barrel. 4/5. he was busy with Mr. Cutter (kʌtə) — he was talking to Mr. Cutter. 8/9. had been disappointed of a day's work — had got no work to-day. 13. cane — stick. 13. held it out to her — reached, gave it to her.

thing happened to him. It was not a wise thing to do, but I kept on worrying, till an old man came in. He sat down near me, and I began to talk to him, for he looked poor, and tired, and anxious.

"'Have you sons in the army?' I asked.

"'Yes, ma'am; I had four, but two were killed; one is a prisoner, and I'm going to the other, who is very sick in hospital,' he answered quietly.

"You have done a great deal for your country, sir," I said, feeling respect now, instead of pity.

"'Not a mite more than I ought, ma'am. I'd go myself, if I was of any use; as I am not, I give my boys, and give them free.'

"He spoke so cheerfully, looked so sincere, and seemed so glad to give his all, that I was ashamed of myself. I had given one man, and thought it too much, while he gave four, without grudging them; I had all my girls to comfort me at home, and his son was waiting miles away to say 'good-bye' to him, for ever, perhaps. I felt so rich, so happy, thinking of my blessings, that I made him a nice bundle, gave him some money, and thanked him heartily for the lesson he had taught me."

That story was a lesson for Meg and Jo, teaching them not to trouble over the small burdens they had to bear. There are so many big troubles in life, that

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6. ma'am — madam. 9. a great deal — very much.

the little ones that come to us day by day ought to seem very small indeed, and not worth worrying over.

VII.

BEING NEIGHBOURLY.

"What in the world are you going to do now, Jo?" asked Meg one snowy afternoon, as her sister came clumping through the hall, with a broom in one hand and a shovel in the other.

"Going out for exercise," answered Jo, with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes.

"I should think two long walks this morning would have been enough. It's cold and dull outside, and I advise you to stay warm and dry by the fire, as I do," said Meg with a shiver,

"I can't keep still all day, and not being a pussy-cat, I don't like to doze by the fire. I like adventures, and I'm going to find some."

Meg went back to toast her feet, and read *Ivanhoe,* and Jo began to dig paths with great energy. The snow was light; and with her broom she soon swept a path all round the garden, for Beth to walk in when the sun came out; for the invalid dolls needed air. Now the garden separated the Marches' house from that of Mr. Laurence.

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1. day by day — every day. 14. and not being — and as I am not. 17. to toast — to warm. 17. Ivanhoe ('aivənhou) — a novel by Walter Scott which gives a picture of England in the XII century.

On one side of the hedge was their old brown house, looking rather bare and shabby. On the other side was a stately stone mansion, with a big coach-house, well-kept grounds, and a conservatory. Yet it seemed a lonely, lifeless sort of house; for no children frolicked on the lawn, no motherly face ever smiled at the windows, and few people went in and out, except the old gentleman and his grandson.

That afternoon all was quiet at the big house; curtains down at the lower windows; servants out of sight, and nothing human visible but a curly black head leaning on a thin hand, at the upper window.

"There he is," thought Jo; "poor boy! all alone, and sick, this dismal day! It's a shame! I'll toss up a snow-ball, and make him look out, and then say a kind word to him."

Up went a handful of soft snow, and the head turned at once, the big eyes brightened, and the mouth began to smile. Jo nodded, and laughed, and flourished her broom as she called out:

"How do you do? Are you sick?"

Laurie opened the window.

"Better, thank you. I've had a horrid cold, and been shut up a week."

"I'm sorry. What do you amuse yourself with?"

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3. mansion — house. 6. frolicked — played, were merry. 11. nothing human visible — nobody to be seen. 14. I'll toss up — I'll throw up. 25. What do you amuse yourself with — with what do you amuse yourself.

"Nothing; it's as dull as tombs up here."

„Don't you read?"

"Not much; they won't let me."

"Have some one come and see you, then."

"There isn't any one I'd like to see. Boys make such a row."

"Isn't there some nice girl who'd read and amuse you? Girls are quiet, and like to play nurse."

"Don't know any."

"You know me," began Jo, then laughed, and stopped.

"So I do! Will you come, please?" cried Laurie.

"I'm not quiet and nice; but I'll come, if mother will let me. I'll go and ask her. Shut that window, like a good boy, and wait till I come."

With that Jo shouldered her broom and marched home, wondering what they would all say to her. Laurie was in a little flutter of excitement at the idea of having company, and flew about to get ready; brushing his curly pate, putting on a fresh collar, and trying to tidy up the room, which, in spite of half-a dozen servants, was anything but neat.

Presently there came a loud ring, then a voice

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3. they won't let me — they will not allow me. 4. have some one come and see you — let some one come and see you. 5. there isn't any one I'd like to see — there is nobody whom I should like to see. 7. who'd — who would. 19. to fly about — to make haste, to be in a hurry. 20. pate — head. 22. was anything but neat — was not neat at all.

asking for "Mr. Laurie," and then a surprised-looking servant came running up to announce a young lady.

"All right, show her up, it's Miss Jo," said Laurie, going to the door of his little parlour to meet Jo, who appeared, looking rosy and kind, and quite at her ease, with a covered dish in one hand, and Beth's three kittens in the other.

"Here I am, bag and baggage," she said briskly. "Mother sent her love, and was glad if I could do anything for you. Meg wanted me to bring some of her blanc-mange; she makes it very nice, and Beth thought her cats would be comforting. I knew you'd laugh at them, but I couldn't refuse, she was so anxious to do something."

It so happened that Beths' idea was just the thing; for, in laughing over the kits, Laurie forgot his bashfulness, and grew sociable at once.

"That looks too pretty to eat," he said, smiling with pleasure, as Jo uncovered the dish, and showed the blanc-mange, surrounded by a garland of green leaves, and the scarlet flowers of Amy's pet geranium.

"It isn't anything, only they all felt kindly, and wanted to show it. Tell the maid to put it away for your tea; it's so simple, you can eat it; and, being soft, it will slip down without hurting your sore throat. What a cosy room this is!"

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8. bag and baggage — with all my things; cp. Germ. mit Sack und Pack. 11. blanc-mange (blə'ma:nʒ) — a dish made of cream. 15/16. was just the thing — was just right.

"It might be, if it was kept nice; but the maids are lazy, and I don't know how to make them mind. It worries me, though."

"I'll right it up in two minutes; for it only needs to have the hearth brushed, so, — and the things put straight on the mantel-piece, so, — and the books put here, and the bottles there, and your sofa turned from the light, and the pillows plumped up a bit. Now, then, you're all right."

And so he was; for, as she laughed and talked, Jo had whisked things into place, and given quite a different air to the room. Laurie watched her in respectful silence; and, when she beckoned him to his sofa, he sat down with a sigh of satisfaction.

VIII.

NEW FRIENDS.

"Now, shall I read aloud?" said Jo.

"Thank you; if you don't mind, I'd rather talk," answered Laurie.

"Oh! I'll talk all day, if you'll only set me going. Beth says I never know when to stop."

"Is Beth the rosy one, who stays at home a good deal, and sometimes goes out with a little basket?" asked Laurie, with interest.

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4. I'll right it up — I'll set it in order. 11. whisked things into place — put the things into their right place. 12. air — look, appearance. 17. if you don't mind — if you have nothing against it. 19. if you'll only set me going — if you will only let me talk.

"Yes, that's Beth; she's *my* girl, and a regular good one she is, too."

"The pretty one is Meg, and the curly-haired one is Amy, I believe?"

"How did you find that out?"

Laurie coloured up, but answered frankly, "Why, you see, I often hear you calling to one another, and when I'm alone up here, I can't help looking over at your house, you always seem to be having such good times. I beg your pardon for being so rude, but sometimes you forget to put down the curtain at the window where the flowers are.

"When the lamps are lighted, it's like looking at a picture, to see the fire, and you all round the table with your mother; her face is right opposite, and it looks so sweet behind the flowers, I can't help watching it. I haven't got any mother, you know;" and Laurie poked the fire to hide a little twitching of the lips that he could not control.

The solitary, hungry look in his eyes went straight to Jo's warm heart. Laurie was sick and lonely; and, feeling how rich she was in home-love and happiness, she gladly tried to share it with him. Her brown face was very friendly, and her sharp voice unusually gentle, as she said:

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8. I can't help looking — I look involuntarily. 16. I can't help watching — cp. 8 17. I haven't got any mother — I have no mother.

"We'll never draw that curtain any more, and I give you leave to look as much as you like. I just wish, though, instead of peeping, you'd come over and see us. Mother is so splendid, she'd do you heaps of good and Beth would sing to you if I begged her to, and Amy would dance; Meg and I would make you laugh, and we'd have jolly times. Wouldn't your grandpa let you?"

"I think he would, if your mother asked him. He's very kind, though he doesn't look it; and he lets me do what I like, pretty much, only he's afraid I might be a bother to strangers," began Laurie, brightening more and more.

"We aren't strangers, we are neighbours, and you needn't think you'd be a bother."

"Do you like your school?" asked the boy.

"Don't go to school; I'm a business man—girl, I mean. I go to wait on my aunt, and a dear, cross old soul she is, too," answered Jo.

Laurie opened his mouth to ask another question; but remembering just in time that it wasn't manners to make too many inquiries into people's affairs, he shut it again, and looked uncomfortable.

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2. I give you leave — I allow, permit you. 7. we'd have jolly times — we should spend our time merrily. 10. he doesn't look it — he does not look kind. 19. soul — person. 21. it wasn't manners — it was not polite. 22. to make too many inquiries — to ask too many questions.

Jo didn't mind having a laugh at Aunt March, so she gave him a lively description of the fidgety old lady, her fat poodle, and the parrot that talked Spanish. And when she told about the prim old gentleman who came once to see Aunt March, and, in the middle of a fine speech from him, how Poll had plucked his wig off, the boy lay back and laughed till the tears ran down his cheeks, and a maid popped her head in, to see what was the matter.

Then they got to talking about books; and to Jo's delight she found that Laurie loved them as well as she did, and had read even more than herself.

"If you like books so much, come down and see ours. Grandpa is out, so you needn't be afraid," said Laurie, getting up.

"I'm not afraid of anything," returned Jo, with a toss of the head.

"I don't believe you are!" exclaimed the boy.

Laurie led the way from room to room, and so they came to the library, where Jo clapped her hands and pranced, as she always did when especially delighted. It was lined with books, and there were pictures and statues, and little cabinets full of coins and curiosities, and queer tables, and bronzes.

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1. Jo didn't mind having a laugh — Jo had nothing against a laugh. 2. fidgety — nervous, restless. 9. what was the matter — why he was laughing, what had happened. 10. they got to talking — they began to talk.

"What richess!" sighed Jo, sinking into the depths of a velvet chair, and gazing about her with an air of intense satisfaction. "Theodore Laurence, you ought to be the happiest boy in the world."

"A fellow can't live on books," said Laurie, shaking his head, as he perched on a table opposite.

Before he could say more, a bell rang, and Jo sprang up, exclaiming with alarm, "Mercy me! it's your grandpa!"

"Well, what if it is? You are not afraid of anything, you know," returned the boy, looking wicked.

"I think I am a little bit afraid of him, but I don't know why I should be. Marmee said I might come, and I don't think you're any the worse for it," said Jo.

"I'm a great deal better for it, and ever so much obliged," said Laurie gratefully.

"The doctor to see you, sir," said a maid, who beckoned as she spoke.

"Would you mind if I left you for a minute? I suppose I must see him," said Laurie.

"Don't mind me. I'm as happy as a cricket here," answered Jo.

Laurie went away, and his guest amused herself in her own way. She was standing before a fine por-

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2. gazing about — looking about. 5. to live on books — to feed on books. 14. I don't think you're any the worse for it — I don't think it has done you any harm. 15/16. ever so much obliged — very grateful. 17. The doctor to see you — the doctor has come to see you. 19. would you mind — would you have anything against it.

trait of the old gentleman, when the door opened again and, without turning, she said, as she thought, to Laurie, "I'm sure now that I shouldn't be afraid of him, for he's got kind eyes, though his mouth is grim, and he looks as if he had a tremendous will of his own. He isn't as handsome as *my* grandfather, but I like him."

"Thank you, ma'am," said a gruff voice behind her; and there, to her great dismay, stood old Mr. Laurence.

IX.

DOCTOR JO.

Poor Jo blushed till she couldn't blush any redder and her heart began to beat uncomfortably fast as she thought of what she had said. A second look showed her that the living eyes, under the bushy gray eyebrows, were kinder even than the painted ones; and there was a sly twinkle in them, which lessened her fear a good deal.

The gruff voice was gruffer than ever, as the old gentleman said abruptly, after a dreadful pause, "So, you're not afraid of me, hey?"

"Not much, sir."

"And you don't think me as handsome as your grandfather?"

"Not quite, sir."

"And I've got a tremendous will, have I?"

"I only said I thought so."

"But you like me, in spite of it?"

"Yes, I do, sir."

That answer pleased the old gentleman; he gave a short laugh and shook hands with her.

"What have you been doing to this boy of mine, hey?" was the next question, sharply put.

"Only trying to be neighbourly, sir;" and Jo told how her visit came about.

"You think he needs cheering up a bit, do you?"

"Yes, sir; he seems a little lonely, and young folks would do him good, perhaps. We are only girls, but we should be glad to help if we could, for we don't forget the splendid Christmas present you sent us," said Jo eagerly.

"Tut, tut, tut; that was the boy's affair. I shall come and see your mother some fine day. Tell her so. There's the tea-bell. Come down, and go on being neighbourly."

"If you'd like to have me, sir."

"Shouldn't ask you if I didn't;" and Mr. Laurence offered her his arm with old-fashioned courtesy.

"Hey! why, what has come to the fellow?" said the old gentleman, as Laurie came running downstairs, and stopped with a start of surprise at the astonishing sight of Jo arm in arm with his grand-father.

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4. to this boy of mine — to my boy. 6. only trying — I have only been trying. 7. came about — happened. 8. a bit — a little. 9. young folks — young people. 14. tut — an exclamation expressing impatience. 16. to go on — to continue. 19. if I didn't — if I didn't like to have you. 21. come — happened.

"I didn't know you'd come, sir," he began, as Jo gave him a triumphant little glance.

The old gentleman did not say much as he drank his four cups of tea, but he watched the young people, who soon chatted away like old friends, and the change in his grandson did not escape him. There was colour, light and life in the boy's face now, and genuine merriment in his laugh.

"She's right; the lad is lonely. I'll see what these little girls can do for him," thought Mr. Laurence.

When they rose Laurie said he had something more to show her, and took her away to the conservatory. It seemed quite fairy-like to Jo, as she went up and down the walks, enjoying the blooming walls on either side, the soft light, the damp, sweet air, and the wonderful vines and trees that hung above her. Her new friend cut the finest flowers till his hands were full; then he tied them up, saying, "Please give these to your mother, and tell her I like the medicine she sent me very much."

They found Mr. Laurence standing before the fire in the great drawing-room, near a grand piano which stood open.

"Do you play?" she asked, turning to Laurie.

"Sometimes," he answered modestly.

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2. gave him a triumphant glance — looked at him triumphantly.
5/6. the change did not escape him — he noticed the change.

"Please play now; I want to hear it, so that I can tell Beth."

"Won't you first?"

"Don't know how; too stupid to learn, but I love music dearly."

So Laurie played, and Jo listened. Her respect and regard for the "Laurence boy" increased very much, for he played remarkably well, and didn't put on any airs. She wished Beth could hear him, but she did not say so; only praised him till he was quite abashed, and his grandfather came to the rescue.

"That will do, that will do, young lady. His music isn't bad, but I hope he will do as well in more important things. Going? Well, I'm much obliged to you, and I hope you'll come again. My respects to your mother; good-night, Doctor Jo."

"Good-night, Laurie."

"Good-night, Jo, good-night."

X.

SHY BETH.

After that all the girls but shy little Beth went often to see Laurie and his grandfather, and all sorts of pleasant things happened, for the new friendship flourished like grass in spring.

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4. too stupid — I am too stupid. 9. airs — affected manners. 12. that will do — that will be enough. 14. I'm much obliged to you — I thank you very much. 20. but — except.

What good times they had, to be sure! Such games, such skating frolics, such pleasant evenings in the old parlour, and now and then such gay little parties at the great house. Meg could walk in the conservatory whenever she liked, and revel in bouquets; Jo read the books in the library to her heart's content; and Amy felt herself quite grand in the carriage.

But Beth, though yearning for the grand piano, could not pluck up courage to go to the "mansion of bliss", as Meg called it. She went once with Jo, but the old gentleman, not being aware of her shyness, stared at her so hard, and said "hey" so loud, that he frightened her so much that her "feet chattered on the floor", she told her mother; and she ran away, declaring she would never go there any more, not even for the dear piano.

No persuasions could overcome her fear, till the fact coming to Mr. Laurence's ear in some mysterious way, he set about mending matters. During one of the brief calls he made he said to Mrs. March:

"The boy neglects his music now, and the piano suffers for want of use. Wouldn't some of your girls like to run over, and practise on it now and then, just to keep it in tune, you know?"

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1. to be sure — certainly, without doubt. 3. now and then — sometimes; gay — merry, joyful. 6. to her heart's content — as much as she liked. 9. could not pluck up courage — had not courage enough. 11. not being aware — taking no notice. 20. calls — visits.

Beth took a step forward, and pressed her hands tightly together to keep from clapping them, for the thought of practising on that splendid instrument quite took her breath away.

Before Mrs. March could reply, Mr. Laurence went on with an odd little nod and smile:

"They needn't see or speak to any one, but run in at any time, for I'm shut up in my study at the other end of the house. Laurie is out a great deal and the servants are never near the drawing-room after nine o'clock. Please tell the young ladies what I say, and if they don't care to come, why, never mind."

Here a little hand slipped into his, and Beth looked up at him with a face full of gratitude as she said:

"Oh, sir! they do care, very, very much!"

"Are you the musical girl?" he asked as he looked down at her very kindly.

"I'm Beth; I love it dearly, and I'll come if you are quite sure nobody will hear me—and be disturbed."

The old gentleman softly stroked the hair off her forehead, and kissed her, saying:

"I had a little girl once with eyes like these; God bless you, my dear. Good-day, madam."

And away he went in a great hurry.

How blithely Beth sang that evening, and how they all laughed at her, because she woke Amy in the

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12. if they don't care to come — if they don't wish to come. 12. never mind — do not trouble yourself. 25. blithely — happily, gaily.

night by playing the piano on her face in her sleep! Next day, having seen both Laurie and the old gentleman out of the house, Beth, after two or three retreats, fairly got in at the side-door, and made her way as noiselessly as any mouse to the drawing-room, where her idol stood.

Quite by accident, of course, some pretty, easy music lay on the piano; and, with trembling fingers, and frequent stops to listen and look about, Beth at last touched the great instrument, and straightway forgot her fear, herself, and everything else but the music.

After that the little brown hood slipped through the hedge nearly every day, and the great drawing-room was haunted by a tuneful spirit that came and went unseen. She never knew that Mr. Laurence often opened his study door to hear the old-fashioned airs he liked; she never saw Laurie mount guard in the hall to warn the servants away; she never suspected hat the new music which she found in the rack was put there for her especial benefit.

"Mother, I'm going to work Mr. Laurence a pair of slippers. He is so kind to me I must thank him, and I don't know any other way. Can I do it?" asked Beth, a few weeks after.

"Yes, dear; it will please him very much, and be a nice way of thanking him."

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4. made her way — went. 8. music — musical compositions. 14. was haunted — was visited. 16. airs — songs, melodies.

So the pattern was chosen, the materials bought, and the slippers begun. Beth worked away early and late until they were finished. Then she wrote a very short, simple note, and, with Laurie's help, got them smuggled on to the study-table one morning before the old gentleman was up.

XI.

BETH AND THE PIANO.

When that excitement was over Beth waited to see what would happen. All that day passed, and a part of the next, before any acknowledgment arrived, and she was beginning to fear she had offended her friend. On the afternoon of the second day she went out to do an errand, and give the invalid doll her daily exercise.

As she came up the street on her return she saw three—yes, four heads popping in and out of the parlour windows; and the moment they saw her several hands were waved, and several joyful voices screamed:

"Here's a letter from the old gentleman; come quick, and read it!"

"Oh, Beth! he's sent you—" began Amy, but she got no further, for Jo stopped her by slamming down the window.

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18. screamed — cried, shouted. 20. quick — quickly.

Beth hurried on. At the door her sisters seized and bore her to the parlour in a triumphal procession, all pointing, and all saying at once, "Look there! look there!" Beth did look, and turned pale with delight and surprise; for there stood a little cabinet piano, with a letter lying on the glossy lid directed to "Miss Elizabeth March."

"For me?" gasped Beth, holding on to Jo, and feeling as if she should tumble down—it was such an overwhelming thing altogether.

"Yes, all for you, my precious! Isn't it splendid of him? Don't you think he's the dearest old man in the world? Here's the key in the letter; we didn't open it, but we are dying to know what he says," cried Jo, hugging her sister, and offering the note.

"You read it, I can't, I feel so queer. Oh it is too lovely!"

And Beth hid her face in Jo's apron, quite upset by her present.

Jo opened the paper, and began to laugh, for the first words she saw were: —

"Miss March,

"Dear Madam,"

"How nice it sounds! I wish some one would

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2. bore her — carried her. 4. turned pale — became pale. 5. a cabinet piano — an upright piano. 6. directed — addressed. 9. tumble down — fall down. 11. precious — dear. 14. we are dying to know — we have the greatest desire to know. 15. offering — giving her. 18. upsed — confused, bewildered.

write to me so!" said Amy, who thought the old-fashioned address very elegant.

"I have had many pairs of slippers in my life, but I never had any that suited me so well as yours. I like to pay my debts, so I know you will allow 'the old gentleman' to send you something which once belonged to the little granddaughter he lost. With hearty thanks, and best wishes, I remain,

"Your grateful friend and humble servant,

"James Laurence."

"There, Beth! Laurie told me how fond Mr. Laurence used to be of the child who died, and how he kept all her little things carefully. Just think; he's given you her piano!" said Jo.

"See the brackets to hold candles, and the nice green silk, puckered up with a gold rose in the middle, and the pretty rack and stool, all complete," added Meg, opening the instrument and displaying its beauties.

"'Your humble servant, James Laurence;' only think of his writing that to you," said Amy, much impressed by the note.

"Try it, honey; let's hear the sound of the baby piano," said Hannah, who always took a share in the family joys and sorrows.

11/12. how fond Mr. Laurence used to be of the child — how Mr. L. loved the child. 18. displaying — showing. 20. think of his writing that to you — . . . that he has written that to you. 22. honey — dearest. 22/23. the baby piano — the small piano. 23. took a share — took part.

So Beth tried it, and every one pronounced it the most remarkable piano ever heard. It had evidently been newly tuned, and put in order; but, perfect as it was, I think the real charm of it lay in the happiest of all happy faces which leaned over it as Beth lovingly touched the beautiful black and white keys, and pressed the shiny pedals.

"You'll have to go and thank him," said Jo by way of a joke, for the idea of the child's really going never entered her head.

"Yes, I mean to; I guess I'll go now, before I get frightened by thinking about it;" and, to the utter amazement of the assembled family, Beth walked deliberately down the garden, through the hedge, and in at the Laurences' door.

They would have been still more amazed if they had seen what shy Beth did afterwards. If you will believe me, she went and knocked at the study door, before she gave herself time to think; and when a gruff voice called out, "Come in!" she did go in, right up to Mr. Laurence, and held out her hand, saying, with only a small quaver in her voice, "I came to thank you, sir, for—"

But she didn't finish, for he looked so friendly that she forgot her speech; and only remembering that

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1. pronounced it — said that it was. 8. you'll have to go — you must go. 11. I mean to — I mean to go and thank him. 12. to the utter amazement — to the greatest surprise.

he had lost the little girl he loved, she put both arms round his neck and kissed him.

If the roof of the house had suddenly flown off, the old gentleman wouldn't have been more astonished; but he liked it—oh dear, yes! he liked it amazingly; and was so touched and pleased by that confiding little kiss that all his crustiness vanished, and he just set her on his knee, and laid his wrinkled cheek against her rosy one, feeling as if he had got his own little granddaughter back again.

When she went home, he walked with her to her own gate, shook hands cordially, and touched his hat as he marched back again, looking very stately and erect, like a handsome old gentleman, as he was.

When the girls saw that performance, Jo began to dance a jig, by way of expressing her satisfaction; Amy nearly fell out of the window in her surprise; and Meg exclaimed, with uplifted hands, "Well, I do believe the world is coming to an end!"

XII.

ALL PLAY AND NO WORK.

"The first of June; my pupils are off to the seashore to-morrow, and I'm free! Three months' holiday how I shall enjoy it!" exclaimed Meg.

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4. astonished — surprised. 12. cordially — heartily. 16. by way of expressing — (in order) to express. 21/22. are off to the seashore to-morrow — will go . . .

"Aunt March went to-day, for which, oh, be joyful!" said Jo.

"What shall you do all your holiday?" asked Amy.

"I shall lie abed late, and do nothing," replied Meg. "I've been routed up early all winter, and had to spend my days working for other people; so now I'm going to rest and revel to my heart's content."

"Hum!" said Jo, "that dozy way wouldn't suit me. I've laid in a heap of books, and I'm going to improve my shining hours reading on my perch in the old apple-tree."

"Don't let *us* do any lessons, Beth, for a while, but play all the time, and rest, as the girls mean to," proposed Amy.

"Well, I will, if mother don't mind. I want to learn some new songs, and my dolls need fixing up for the summer; they are dreadfully out of order, and really suffering for clothes."

"May we, mother?" asked Meg, turning to Mrs. March, who sat sewing in what they called "Marmee's corner".

"You may try your experiment for a week, and see how you like it. I think by Saturday night you'll

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4. abed — in bed. 7. revel to my heart's content — enjoy myself as much as I like. 8. wouldn't suit me — would not please me. 9. I've laid in — I have provided myself with. 10. my shining hours — my holidays. 17/18. they are suffering for clothes — they have no clothes.

find that all play and no work is as bad as all work and no play."

"Oh dear, no! it will be delicious, I'm sure," said Meg.

Next morning Meg did not appear till ten o'clock; but her solitary breakfast did not taste good, and the room seemed lonely and untidy, for Jo had not filled the vases with flowers, Beth had not dusted, and Amy's books lay scattered about. Nothing was neat and pleasant but "Marmee's corner", which looked as usual.

Jo spent the morning on the river with Laurie, and the afternoon reading up in the apple-tree. Beth went to her music, rejoicing that she had no dishes to wash.

Amy put on her best white frock, smoothed her curls, and sat down to draw under the honeysuckles, hoping some one would see and inquire who the young artist was. As no one appeared but an inquisitive daddy-long-legs, who examined her work with interest, she went for a walk, got caught in a shower, and came home dripping.

At tea-time they all agreed that it had been a delightful, though unusually long day, and they assured their mother that the experiment was working finely.

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5. solitary breakfast — the breakfast which she had to take alone, 6. untidy — not in order. 12. rejoicing — feeling glad. 15. honeysuckle — a climbing plant with beautiful cream-coloured flowers, so named because honey is readily sucked from the flower. 16. inquire — ask. 17. inquisitive — curious. 18. daddy-long-legs — a kind of gnats with very long legs.

She smiled, said nothing, and, with Hannah's help, did their neglected work.

It was astonishing what a peculiar and uncomfortable state of things was produced by the "resting and revelling" process. The days kept getting longer and longer; the weather was unusually variable, and so were tempers; and an unsettled feeling possessed every one.

No one would own that they were tired of the experiment; but by Friday night each acknowledged to herself that they were glad the week was nearly done. Hoping to impress the lesson more deeply, Mrs. March resolved to finish off the trial in an appropriate manner so she gave Hannah a holiday, and let the girls enjoy the full effect of "no work and all play" by other people.

When they got up on Saturday morning there was no fire in the kitchen, no breakfast in the dining-room, and no mother anywhere to be seen.

"Mercy on us! what *has* happened?" cried Jo, staring about her in dismay.

Meg ran upstairs, and soon came back, looking relieved, but rather bewildered, and a little ashamed.

"Mother isn't sick, only very tired, and she says she is going to stay quietly in her room and let us do the best we can."

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10. the week was done — the week was over. 11. to impress — to fix in the mind. 22. bewildered — confused, perplexed.

The girls were surprised; but there was plenty of food in the larder, and, while Beth and Amy set the table, Meg and Jo got breakfast, wondering as they did so why servants ever talked about hard work.

But the breakfast was not very nice, for the boiled tea was bitter, and Meg burned the cakes instead of baking them.

"Never mind, Meg, I'll get the dinner and be servant," said Jo, who knew still less than Meg about cooking.

So Meg retired to the sofa, and Jo, with perfect faith in her own powers, immediately sent a note inviting Laurie to dinner.

"Get what you like, and don't disturb me; I'm going out to dinner, and can't worry about things at home," said Mrs. March, when Jo spoke to her. "I never enjoyed housekeeping, and I'm going to take a holiday to-day, and read, write, go visiting, and amuse myself."

"Everything is out of sorts, somehow," Jo said to herself, going downstairs. "There's Beth crying; that's a sure sign that something is wrong with this family. If Amy is bothering Beth, I'll shake her."

Feeling very much out of sorts herself, Jo hurried into the parlour, to find Beth sobbing over Pip, the

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1/2. plenty of food — much food. 15. can't worry — cannot trouble myself. 20. out of sorts — out of order, out of temper. 25. sobbing — crying, weeping.

canary, who lay dead in the cage, with his little claws extended, as if imploring food, for want of which he had died.

"It's all my fault - I forgot him — there isn't a seed or drop left — oh, Pip! oh, Pip! how could I be so cruel to you?" cried Beth, taking the poor thing in her hands, and trying to restore him.

Jo peeped into his half-open eye, felt his little heart, and finding him stiff and cold, shook her head, and offered her domino-box for a coffin.

"Put him in the oven, and may be he will get warm and revive," said Amy hopefully.

"He's been starved, and he sha'n't be baked, now he's dead. I'll make him a shroud, and he shall be buried in a grave; and I'll never have another bird, never, my Pip! for I am too bad to own one," murmured Beth, sitting on the floor with her pet folded in her hands.

"Now, don't cry, Bethy; it's a pity, but nothing goes right this week, and Pip has had the worst of the experiment. Make the shroud, and lay him in my box; and after the dinner-party we'll have a nice little funeral," said Jo, beginning to feel as if she had undertaken a good deal.

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2. extended — stretched. 2. imploring food — asking, begging for food. 7. restore — return to life. 12. revive — return to life. 13. he's been starved — he has been allowed to die of hunger. 13/14. now he's dead — now when he is dead. 16. to own — to have, possess.

XII.

JO THE COOK.

Leaving the others to console Beth, Jo departed to the kitchen, which was in a state of confusion. Putting on a big apron, she fell to work, and got the dishes piled up ready for washing, when she discovered that the fire was out.

"Here's a sweet prospect!" muttered Jo, poking vigorously among the cinders.

Mrs. March went out, and a strange sence of helplessness fell upon the girls as her gray bonnet vanished round the corner. But despair seized them when, a few minutes later, Miss Crocker appeared, and said she'd come to dinner.

Now, Miss Crocker was a thin, yellow old lady, with a sharp nose and inquisitive eyes, who saw everything, and gossiped about all she saw. They disliked her, but they had been taught to be kind to her, because she was old and poor, and had few friends.

Language cannot describe the anxieties, experiences, and exertions which Jo underwent that morning.

"Well, they can eat bread and butter if they are hungry; only it's mortifying to have to spend your whole morning for nothing," she thought as she rang the bell half an hour later than usual, and stood, hot,

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2. departed — went. 3. in a state of confusion — in disorder. 4. she fell to work — she began to work. 8. cinders — ashes. 10/11. vanished — disappeared. 13. she'd come — she had come. 22. it's mortifying — it makes one angry.

tired, and dispirited, surveying the feast spread for Laurie, accustomed to all sorts of elegance, and Miss Crocker, whose curious eyes would mark all failures, and whose tattling tongue would report them far and wide.

Poor Jo would gladly have gone under the table, as one thing after another was tasted and left; while Amy giggled, Meg looked distressed, Miss Crocker pursed up her lips, and Laurie talked and laughed with all his might, to give a cheerful tone to the festive scene.

Jo trusted most of all in the fruit, for she had sugared it well, and had a jug of rich cream to eat with it. Miss Crocker tasted it first, made a wry face, and drank some water hastily.

Jo, who had refused, thinking there might not be enough, glanced at Laurie, but he was eating away manfully, though there was a slight smile about his mouth, and he kept his eye fixed on his plate. Amy, who was fond of delicate fare, took a spoonful, choked, hid her face in her handkerchief, and left the table suddenly.

"Oh, what is it?" exclaimed Jo, trembling.

"Salt instead of sugar, and the cream is sour," replied Meg, with a frown.

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1. dispirited — discouraged; surveying — looking over. 3. mark — see. 4 tattling — gossiping. 4. report them — speak of them. 17. glanced — looked.

Jo uttered a groan, and fell back in her chair; she turned scarlet, and was on the verge of crying, but she met Laurie's eyes, which *would* look merry; the comical side of the affair suddenly struck her, and she laughed till the tears ran down her cheeks. So did every one else; and the unfortunate dinner ended gaily after all.

"I haven't strength of mind enough to clear up now, so we will sober ourselves with a funeral," said Jo, as they rose; and Miss Crocker made ready to go, being eager to tell the new story at another friend's dinner-table.

They did sober themselves, for Beth's sake, Laurie dug a grave under the ferns in the grove, little Pip was laid in, with many tears, by his tender-hearted mistress, and covered with moss, while a wreath of violets was hung on the stone which bore his epitaph, composed by Jo, while she struggled with the dinner:

"Here lies Pip March,
Who died the 7th of June,
Loved and lamented sore,
And not forgotten soon."

As twilight fell, one by one they gathered in the porch, and each groaned or sighed as she sat down, as if tired or troubled.

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2. was on the verge of crying — was almost crying. 3. would look merry — looked merry in spite of it. 17. epitaph — inscription on a tombstone or monument. 23. as twilight fell — as it grew dark.

"What a dreadful day this has been!" began Jo.

"It has seemed shorter than usual, but *so* uncomfortable," said Meg.

"Not a bit like home," added Amy.

"It can't seem so without Marmee and little Pip," sighed Beth, glancing, with full eyes, at the empty cage above her head.

As she spoke, Mrs. March came in and took her place among them.

"Are you satisfied with your experiment, girls, or do you want another week of it?" she asked,

"I don't!" cried Jo decidedly.

"Nor I," echoed the others.

"You think, then, that it is better to have a few duties, and live a little for others, do you?"

"Lounging and larking don't pay," observed Jo, shaking her head. "I'm tired of it, and mean to go to work at something right off."

"Mother, did you go away and let everything be, just to see how we'd get on?" cried Meg, who had had suspicions all day.

"Yes; I wanted you to see how the comfort of all depends on each doing her share faithfully. Don't you feel that it is pleasanter to help one another, to have daily duties which make leisure sweet when it comes,

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4. not a bit — not at all. 6. with full eyes — with tears in her eyes. 13. echoed — repeated. 16. lounging and larking don't pay — it is not worth while idling and fooling about. 18. right off — at once. 24. pleasanter — more pleasant.

and to bear or forbear, that home may be comfortable and lovely to us all?"

"We do, mother, we do!" cried the girls.

"Then let me advise you to take up your little burdens again; for though they seem heavy sometimes, they are good for us, and lighten as we learn to carry them. Work is wholesome, and there is plenty for every one; it keeps us from mischief, and is good for health and spirits."

"We'll work like bees, and love it too; see if we don't!" said Jo. "I'll learn plain cooking for my holiday task; and the next dinner-party I have shall be a success."

"I'll make the set of shirts for father, instead of letting you do it, Marmee. I can and I will, though I'm not fond of sewing," said Meg.

"I'll do my lessons every day, and not spend so much time with my music and dolls. I am a stupid thing, and ought to be studying, not playing," was Beth's resolution; while Amy followed their example, by declaring, "I shall learn to make button-holes, and attend to my parts of speech."

XIV.

LITTLE FAITHFUL.

Before very long there came a chance for the four girls to carry out their good resolutions, for their

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22. parts of speech — grammar.

mother was sent for to Washington, to nurse Mr. March, who lay ill in hospital there. Left alone with Hannah, the girls did their best to be good and useful.

For a week the amount of goodness in that family would have supplied the neighbourhood. It was really amazing, for every one seemed in a heavenly frame of mind, and self-denial was all the fashion. But relieved of their first anxiety about their father, for good news came from the hospital, three of the girls insensibly relaxed their praiseworthy efforts, and began to fall back into the old ways.

But Beth kept on, with only slight relapses into idleness. All her little duties were faithfully done each day, and many of her sisters' also, for they were forgetful. When her heart got heavy with longings for mother, or fears for father, she went away into a certain room, hid her face in the folds of a certain dear old gown, and made her little moan, and prayed her little prayer quietly by herself.

Nobody knew what cheered her up, but every one felt how sweet and helpful Beth was, and they fell into a way of going to her for comfort or advice in their small affairs.

They all felt that they had done well and deserved praise. So they did; but their mistake was in

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1. was sent for -- was called, was told to go; Washington ('wɔʃiŋtən) — the capital of the United States of North America. 4. amount — sum. 21/22. they fell into a way of going to her — they began to go to her; way = habit.

ceasing to do well; and they learned this lesson through much anxiety and regret.

"Meg, I wish you'd go and see those poor folks again; you know mother told us not to forget them," said Beth, ten days after Mrs. March's departure.

"I'm too tired to go this afternoon," replied Meg, rocking comfortably as she sewed.

"Can't you, Jo?" asked Beth.

"Too stormy for me, with my bad cold."

"I thought it was almost well."

"Why don't you go yourself?" asked Meg.

"I *have* been every day, but the baby is sick, and I don't know what to do for it. Its mother goes away to work, and its sister takes care of it; but it gets worse and worse, and I think you or Hannah ought to go."

Beth spoke earnestly, and Meg promised she would go to-morrow."

"Ask Hannah for some nice little dish, and take it round, Beth, the air will do you good," said Jo: "I'd go, but I want to finish my story."

"My head aches, and I'm tired, so I thought some of you would go," said Beth.

"Amy will be in presently, and she will run down for us," suggested Meg.

"Well, I'll rest a little, and wait for her."

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24. will be in presently — will come at once.

So Beth lay down on the sofa. An hour passed, Amy did not come; Meg went to her room to try on a new dress; Jo was absorbed in her book, and Hannah was sound asleep before the kitchen fire. So Beth quietly put on her hood, filled her basket with odds and ends for the poor children, and went out into the chilly air with a heavy head, and a grieved look in her patient eyes.

It was late when she came back, and no one saw her creep upstairs and shut herself into her mother's room. Half an hour after Jo went to "mother's room" for something, and there found Beth sitting on the medicine chest, looking very grave, with red eyes, and a camphor bottle in her hand.

"What's the matter?" cried Jo, as Beth put out her hand as if to warn her off, and asked quickly:

"You've had scarlet fever, haven't you?"

"Years ago, when Meg did. Why?"

"Then I'll tell you — oh, Jo, the baby's dead!"

"What baby?"

"That poor woman's; it died in my lap before she got home," cried Beth, with a sob.

"My poor dear, how dreadful for you! I ought to have gone," said Jo, taking her sister in her lap as she sat down in her mother's big chair, with a remorseful face.

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3. was absorbed in her book — was attentively reading her book. 4. was sound asleep — was sleeping fast. 7. chilly — cool, cold. 13. grave — serious. 15 put out — stretched out.

"It wasn't dreadful, Jo, only so sad! I saw in a minute that it was worse, but the girl said her mother had gone for a doctor, so I took baby and let the girl rest. It seemed asleep, but all of a sudden it gave a little cry, and trembled, and then lay very still. I tried to warm its feet, and the girl gave it some milk, but it didn't stir, and I knew it was dead."

"Don't cry, dear! what did you do?"

"I just sat and held it softly till its mother came with the doctor. He said it was dead. 'Scarlet fever, ma'am; ought to have called me before,' he said crossly. The mother told him she was poor, and had tried to cure baby herself. He was kinder then, but he turned round all of a sudden, and told me to go home and take belladonna right away, or I'd have the fever."

"No, you won't!" cried Jo, hugging her close, with a frightened look. "Oh, Beth, if you should be sick I never could forgive myself! What *shall* we do?"

"Don't be frightened, I guess I sha'n't have it badly; I looked in mothers book, and saw that it begins with headache, sore throat, and queer feelings, like mine, so I did take some belladonna, and I feel better," said Beth, laying her cold hands on her hot forehead, and trying to look well.

"If mother was only at home!" exclaimed Jo, sei-

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4. all of a sudden — suddenly. 11. ought to have called — you should have called. 15. belladonna — medicine prepared from a poisonous plant named Belladonna; right away — at once. 19. I guess — I think. I sha'n't — I shall not.

zing the book. She read a page, looked at Beth, felt her head, peeped into her throat, and then said gravely, "You've been with the baby every day for more than a week, so I'm afraid you're going to have it, Beth. I'll call Hannah, she knows all about sickness."

"Don't let Amy come; she never had it, and I should hate to give it to her. Can't you and Meg have it over again?" asked Beth anxiously.

"I think not; don't care if I do; serve me right, selfish pig, to let you go, and stay reading myself!" muttered Jo, as she went to consult Hannah.

"Now, I'll tell you what we'll do," said Hannah "we will have Dr. Bangs; then we'll sent Amy off to Aunt March's to keep her out of harm's way and you girls can stay at home and amuse Beth for a day or two."

XV.

DARK DAYS.

Beth did have the fever, and was much worse than any one but Hannah and the doctor suspected. Meg stayed at home and kept house, feeling very anxious and a little guilty when she wrote letters in which no mention was made of Beth's illness. She could not think it right to deceive her mother, but Han-

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6/7. I should hate — I should not like, I should be sorry. 9. don't care if I do — I don't care, if I have it over again; serve me right — I deserve it. 14. to Aunt March's — to Aunt March's house. 14. to keep her out of harm's way — to keep her from getting ill. 21. no mention was made — nothing was said.

nah wouldn't hear "Mrs. March being told, and worried just for such a trifle."

Jo devoted herself to Beth day and night; not a hard task, for Beth was very patient, and bore her pain uncomplainingly as long as she could control herself. But there came a time when, during the fever fits, she began to talk in a hoarse, broken voice, to play on the coverlet, as if on her beloved little piano, and try to sing with a throat so swollen that there was no music left; a time when she did not know the familiar faces round her, but addressed them by wrong names, and called imploringly for her mother.

How dark the days seemed now, how sad and lonely the house, and how heavy were the hearts of the sisters as they worked and waited, while the shadow of death hovered over the once happy home!

Laurie haunted the house like a restless ghost, and Mr. Laurence locked the grand piano, because he could not bear to be reminded of the young neighbour who used to make the twilight pleasant for him. Every one missed Beth. The milkman, baker, grocer and butcher inquired how she was; the neighbours sent all sorts of comforts and good wishes, and even those who knew her best were surprised to find how many friends shy little Beth had made.

One morning when Dr. Bangs came, he looked long at Beth, held the hot hand in both his own a minute, and laid it gently down, saying in a low tone to Hannah:

"If Mrs. March *can* leave her husband, she'd better be sent for."

Hannah nodded without speaking, for her lips twitched nervously. Meg dropped down into a chair, and Jo, throwing on her things, rushed out into the storm. She was soon back, and, while taking off her cloak, Laurie came in with a letter, saying that Mr. March was much better. Jo read it thankfully, but her face was so full of misery that Laurie asked quickly:

"What is it? is Beth worse?"

"I've sent for mother," said Jo; "the doctor told us so."

As the tears streamed fast down poor Jo's cheeks, she stretched out her hand in a helpless sort of way, and Laurie took it in his, whispering, with a lump in his throat:

"I'm here; hold on to me, Jo dear! And now I'll tell you some good news. I telegraphed to your mother yesterday, and she'll be here to-night."

"Laurie spoke very fast, and turned red, for he had kept his plot a secret, for fear of disappointing the girls or harming Beth. Jo grew quite white, and flew out of her chair with a joyful cry, "Oh, Laurie! oh, mother! I *am* so glad!"

"It will be all right." laughed Laurie. "Why, you

1/2. she'd better be sent for — it would be better to send for her. 4. dropped down — sat down, fell. 5. throwing on — putting on hastily; rushed out — ran out. 15/16. with a lump in his throat — with a feeling of pressure in his throat.

see I got fidgety, and so did grandpa. We thought your mother ought to know. She'd never forgive us if Beth—well, if anything happened, you know. Your mother will come, I know, and the late train is in at two A. M. I shall go for her; and you've only got to keep Beth quiet till that blessed lady gets here."

And now a breath of fresh air seemed to blow through the house, and something better than sunshine brightened the quiet rooms; everything appeared to feel the hopeful change. Beth's new bird began to chirp again, and a half-blown rose was discovered on Amy's bush in the window.

Every one rejoiced but Beth; she lay in that heavy stupor, alike unconscious of hope and joy, doubt and danger. All day she lay so, only rousing now and then to mutter, "Water!" All day Jo and Meg hovered over her, watching, waiting, hoping, and trusting in God and mother; and all day the snow fell, the bitter wind raged, and the hours dragged slowly by.

But night came at last and every time the clock struck, the sisters, still sitting on either side of the bed, looked at each other with brightening eyes, for each hour brought help nearer. The doctor had been in to

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1. I got fidgety — I got nervous. 4. the late train is in — the late train arrives. 5. A. M. — ante meridiem (Latin) = before noon; P. M. — post meridiem = past noon. 9/10. appeared to feel — seemed to feel. 11. a half-blown rose — a half opened rose 14. unconscious of — not knowing, not feeling.

say that some change for better or worse would probably take place at midnight, at which time he would return.

Hannah, quite worn out, lay down on the sofa at the bed's foot, and fell fast asleep, and the sisters sat till the clock struck twelve, watching Beth, for they fancied a change passed over her wan face. The house was still as death, and nothing but the wailing of the wind broke the deep hush. Weary Hannah slept on, and no one but the sisters saw the pale shadow which seemed to fall upon the little bed. An hour went by, and nothing happened except Laurie's quiet departure for the station. Another hour, and still no one came.

It was past two, when Jo saw Meg kneel by the bed with her face hidden. A dreadful fear passed over Jo, as she thought, "Beth is dead, and Meg is afraid to tell me."

A great change seemed to have taken place. The fever flush, and the look of pain, were gone, and the beloved little face looked pale and peaceful in its utter repose. Jo felt no desire to weep or to lament. Leaning low over this dearest of her sisters, she kissed the damp forehead, and whispered, "Good-bye, my Beth; good-bye!"

But, waked by the stir, Hannah started out of her sleep, hurried to the bed, looked at Beth, felt her hands,

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6/7. they fancied — they imagined it seemed to them. 7. wan face — pale face. 9. hush — silence.

listened at her lips, and then whispered, "The fever's turned; she's sleeping natural; her skin's damp, and she breathes easy. Praise be given! Oh, my goodness me!"

Before the girls could believe the happy truth, the doctor came. He smiled, and said, with a fatherly look at them, "Yes, my dears, I think the little girl will pull through this time. Keep the house quiet; let her sleep, and when she wakes, give her this."

"See," said Meg, coming up with a white, half-opened rose, "I thought this would hardly be ready to lay in Beth's hand to-morrow if she—went away from us. But it has blossomed in the night, and now I mean to put it here, so that when the darling wakes the first thing she sees will be the little rose, and mother's face."

"Hark!" cried Jo, starting to her feet.

Yes, there was a sound of bells at the door below, a cry from Hannah, and then Laurie's voice, saying in a joyful whisper "Girls, she's come! she's come! and here's your father with her!"

1/2. the fever's turned — the fever has taken a favourable turn. 2. she's sleeping natural — she is sleeping naturally, soundly. 2/3. she breathes easy — she breathes easily. 6/7. she will pull through — she will not die, she will recover. 15. hark! — listen!

VOCABULARY.

Märk ' näitab, et järgmine silp on rõhutatud.

PAGE 5.

Christmas ['krismәs] — jõulud
present [preznt] — kingitus
to grumble [ʌ] — nurisema
rug [ʌ] — vaip
'dreadful [e] — hirmus
to sigh [sai] — ohkama
fair [fɛә] — ilus, õiglane
lot — hulk
pretty ['priti] — ilus
to add [æd] — juurde lisama
anyhow ['enihau] — ikkagi, igatahes
contented [kәn'tentid] — rahuldatud, rahul
corner [ɔ:] — nurk
to brighten [braitn] — heledaks, selgeks minema
cheerful ['tʃiәful] — rõõmus
to darken [*a*:] — tumenema
sad [æ] — kurb
perhaps [pә'hæps] — võib-olla
'silent [ai] — vaikiv, vaikne
to fight [fait], fought [fɔ:t], fought — võitlema
'army [*a*:] — sõjavägi
Civil War ['sivil wɔ:] — kodusõda

PAGE 6.

reason [ri:zn] — põhjus
to pro'pose — ette panema
I ought [ɔ:t] — ma peaksin
pleasure ['pleʒ ә] — lõbu, rõõm
to suffer [ʌ] — kannatama
to a'gree [i:] — nõus olema
to ex'pect — ootama, lootma
to buy [bai], bought [bɔ:t], bought — ostma
bookworm ['bukwә:m] — „raamatukoi", lugemise harrastaja
to plan [æ] — kavatsema
music ['mju:zik] — noodid
hearthbrush ['ha:Θbrʌʃ] — kaminahari
kettle — katel
to hold, held, held — hoidma
nice [nais] — kena, ilus
to draw [ɔ:] — joonistama
to need [i:] — vajama
decidedly [di'saididli] — kindlasti
to give up — loobuma
fun [ʌ] — nali, lõbu
to earn [ə:n] — teenima
to examine [ig'zæmin] — waatlema, uurima
heel [i:] — kand, konts
manner [æ] — komme, viis

PAGE 7.

to fight — kaklema, kiskлema
to fret — kiuslema, kapriitsema

in spite of — kiuste, hoolimata
to guess [ges] — arwama, oletama
jolly ['dʒɔli] — rõõmus, lustiline
slang [slæŋ] — žargoon
to observe [əb'zə:v] — tähele panema, märkusi tegema
to reprove [ri'pru:v] — laitma, ette heitma
to stretch — sirutama
immediately [i'mi:djətli] — kohe
apron [eiprən] — põll
to whistle [wisl] — wilistama
to de'test — wihkama, mitte sallima
rude [u:] — toores, wiisakusseta, kaswatamatu
to hate [ei] — wihkama
affected (ə'fektid) — edew
chit — plika, tita, lapsuke
peacemaker ['pi:smeikə] — rahutegija, lepitaja
to strike [ai], struck, struck [ʌ] — lööma
sweep [swi:p] swept, swept — pühkima
hearth [ha:Θ] — kolle, tulease
slipper — tuhwel
effect [i'fekt] — mõju
to welcome ['welkəm] — terwitama, tere tulemast ütlema
easy-chair ['i:zi't∫ɛə] — tugitool
blaze [ei] — leek, tuli

PAGE 8.

to wear [wɛə], wore [wɔ:], worn [wɔ:n] — kuluma
to provide [prə'vaid] — muretsema
special ['spe∫əl] — eriline
to exclaim [iks'kleim] — hüüatama
gloves [glʌvz] — kindad
handkerchief ['hæŋkət∫if] — taskurätt
to hem — palistama
Cologne [kə'loun] — Köln, kölniwesi
to surprise [sə'praiz] — üllatama

PAGE 9.

merry — rõõmus
dawn [ɔ:] — koit
stocking — sukk
disapointed [disə'pointid — pettunud
to slip — libisema, libistama, pistma
pillow ['pilou] — padi
crimson [krimzn] — punane
to wake [ei], woke and waked, woke — äratama, ärkama
to bid, bade [bæd], bidden — käskima, paluma
to appear [ə'piə] — ilmuma
presently ['prezntli] — warsti, peagi
gift — annetus, kingitus
creature ['kri:t∫ə] — olewus
to beg — kerjama
straight [streit] — otse
firing ['faiəriŋ] — küte, kütteaine
to con'sider [i] — arwama, pidama (millekski)
servant ['sə:vənt] — teenija

PAGE 10.

to co'llect — koguma, korjama
basket [a:] — korw
to produce [prə'dju:s] — esile tooma, tootma
proper — kohane, õige
to iron ['aiən] — triikima
to mark [a:] — (pesu) märkima
proud [au] — uhke
uneven ['ʌn'i:vn] — ebataſane,
labour ['leibə] — töö, waew
she's gone and put — ta on (kätte) wõtnud ja . . .
to hide [ai] — peitma
to sound [au] — kõlama, koſtma
hall [ɔ:] — koda, eeſtuba
to huddle [hʌdl] hunnikusse ajama
to freeze [fri:z] — külmetama
unusually [ʌn'ju:ʒuəli] — harulda ſelt

PAGE 11.

eagerly ['i:gəli] — agaralt, õhinal
cream [i:] — (piima) koor
'muffin [ʌ] — ſai, kukkel
heroically [hi'rouikəli] — kangelaslikult
'article [a:] — asi
to pile [ai] — laduma (hunniku)
to satisfy ['sætisfai] — rahuldama
procession [pro'seʃən] — rongikäik
fortunately ['fɔ:tʃənitli] — õnnelikult
party [a:] — ſeltskond
bare [bɛə] — paljas
miserable ['mizərəbl] — hale, wilets
ragged ['rægid] — närune
sick — haige
to wail [ei] — nutma, kaebama
pale [ei] — kahwatu
to cuddle [ʌ] — koos lamama
quilt [kwilt] — tekk
to stare [stɛə] — wahtima
to smile [ai] — naeratama
to weep [i:], wept, wept — nutma

PAGE 12.

hood [hud] — karbus (peakattena tarwitataw wihmakuue osa)
mitten — labakinnas
really ['riəli] — tõesti
spirit — waim
pane [ei] — aknaruut
shawl [ɔ:] — ſall, rätt
gruel — kaeraleem
to comfort ['kʌmfət] — trööstima, lohutama
'tender — õrn, lahke
meantime['mi:ntaim] — wahepeal
to spread [e] — laotama
to spread the table — lauda katma
to leave [li:v], left — jätma
to con'tent oneself — rahuldama
both . . . and — nii . . . kui ka
to touch [tʌtʃ] — puudutama, liigutama
note [nout] — märkus, ſedel

accompany [ə'kʌmpəni] — ſaatma, kaaſas olema
to scent [sent] — lõhnutama

PAGE 13.

to pronounce [prə'nauns] — ütlema
'compliment — terwituš
rapturous ['ræptʃərəs] — tormiliſelt waimuštatud
amazement [ə'meizmənt] — imeštuš
actually ['æktjuəli] — tõeliſelt, tegelikult
ice-cream ['ais kri:m] — jäätis
dish — kauſs
bonbon — kompweff
bouquet ['bukei] — lillekimp
hothouse — triiphoone
breath [breθ] — hing, hingamine
to stare [stɛə] — waatama, wahtima
to enjoy [in'dʒɔi] — rõõmu tundma, maitsma
im'mensely — üliwäga
fairy ['fɛəri] — haldjaš, fee, nõid
wrong [rɔŋ] — ekslik, wale

PAGE 14.

polite [pə'lait] — wiiſakaš
to allow [ə'lau] — lubama
to ex'press — wäljendama
trifle [ai] — tühine aſi
honour ['ɔnə] — au, auštuš
to refuse [ri'fju:z] — tagaſi lükkama, mitte nõuš olema
feast [i:] — pidu, piduſöök
capital ['kæpitl] fellow — tore, ſuurepärane poiſs
to get acquainted [ə'kweintid] — tuttawaks ſaama
'bashful [æ] — häbelik
prim — uhke
to melt — ſulama
satisfaction [sætis'fækʃən] — rahulolemine, rahuldus
to mix — ſegama, ſegunema; läbi käima (kellegagi)
tutor ['tju:tə] — koduõpetaja

PAGE 15.

dreadfully ['dredfuli] — hirmſašti
to invite [in'vait] — kutſuma (külaliſeks)
fence [fens] — aed, hekk
capitally ['kæpitəli] — ſuurepäraſelt
decidedly [di'saidədli] — kindlašti
to whisper ['wispə] — ſoſiſtama
bunch [ʌ] — kimp
to be afraid [ə'freid] — kartma
garret [æ] — pööningukamber
stairs [stɛəz] — trepp
husky [ʌ] — kare
favourite ['feivərit] — armaš, meeldiw
refuge ['refju:dʒ] — pelgupaik
to retire [ri'taiə] — tagaſi nema, taanduma
quiet ['kwaiət] — rahu, waikuš
society [sə'saiəti] — ſelts, ſeltskond

a pet rat — lemmikrott
to whisk — lipsama

PAGE 16.

tear [tiə] — pisar
regular ['regjulə] — korra=pärane
invitation [invi'teiʃn] — kutse
to proceed [prə'si:d] — asuma, (tegewuſele), käsile wõtma
delight [di'lait] — rõõm
to accept [ək'sept] — wastu wõtma
game [ei] — mäng
to romp — hullama, möllama
absorbed [əb'sɔ:bd] — süwenenud
to burn [ə:] — põletama, põlema
to pervade [pə'veid] — läbi tungima, läbistama
curl [kə:l] — lokk, kähar
to undertake [ʌndə'teik] — ette wõtma, eneſe peale wõtma (üleſande)
to pinch — näpistama, pigistama
tongs [ʌ] — tangid
to smoke [ou] — ſuitſema, ſuitſetama
queer [kwiə] — imelik
'dampness [æ] — niiskus
to smooth [smu:ð] — ſilitama, ſiledaks tegema
superior [sju'piəriə] — üllem, üleolew
air [ɛə] — wiis, ilme

PAGE 17.

to horrify ['hɔrifai] — hirmutama, ehmatama
row [ou] — rida
to scorch [skɔ:tʃ] — kõrwetama
victim — ohwer
to spoil — rikkuma
despair [di'spɛə] — ahastus, meeleheide
frizzle — lokikeſed
mess — ſegadus, korratus
te groan [ou] — ägama, oigama
ribbon [ribən] — pael, lint
fashion ['fæʃən] — mood
to console [kən'soul] — trööstima, waigistama
various ['vɛəriəs] — mitmeſugune
mis'hap [æ] — äpardus, õnnetus
to unite [ju'nait] — ühendama
exertion [ig'zə:ʃən] — jõupingutus
dainty [ei] — õrn, peenike
walk — kõnnitee, jalgrada

PAGE 18.

to clash [æ] — lakſuma
to believe [bi'li:v] — uskuma
earthquake ['ə:θkweik] — maawäriſemine
stately ['steitli] — tore
to greet [i:] — tertwitama
gossip — keelepekſmine, lobiſemine
colt [ou] — warſs
jovial ['dʒouviəl] — lõbutujuline

to talk [tɔ:k] — juttu ajama
to skate [ei] — uiſutama
to long — iḫkama, igatſema
to join [dʒɔin] — ſeltſima, üḫinema
to dwindle — kaduma
youth [ju:Θ] — noormees
to approach [ə'proutʃ] — läḫenema

PAGE 19.

to fear [fiə] — kartma
'nonsense — rumalus, lollus
curtain ['kə:tin] — eesriie, kardin
recess [ri'ses] — pelgupaik
to intend [in'tend] — kawatſema
peace [pi:s] — rahu
unfortunately [ʌn'fɔ:tʃənitli] — õnnetul kombel
dear me! — heldekene! kallis aeg!
to stammer [æ] — kogelema
to back — taganema
speedily [i:] — kiiresti, ruttu
to bounce in [au] — ſisſe kargama
pleasantly ['plezntli] — lõbusasti
to startle [a:[— kohkuma
to stay [stei] — jääma, wiibima
sober [ou] — karske, mõistlik, tõſine
dod [ɔd] — kentſakas, weider

PAGE 20.

instead [in'sted] — ſelle aſemel
abroad [ə'brɔ:d] — wälismaal
to describe [di'skraib] — kirjeldama
travel [æ] — teekond, reis
eager [i:gə] — aḫne, kärſiin, uudisḫimuſt põlew
to wear [wɛə], wore, worn — kandma
fleet [i:] — laewastik
lake [ei] — järw
to go walking trips — jalareiſuſib, jalaränuakuib tegema
bashfulness — häbelikkus, argus
to amuse [ə'mju:z] — lõbustama
several ['sevrəl] — mitu
creature ['kri:tʃə] — olewus
skin — nahk
polite [pə'lait] — wiiſakas

PAGE 21.

account [ə'kaunt] — aruanne, jutustus
to search [sə:tʃ] — otſima
to beckon [bekn] — kutſuma (pea- ehk käeliigutuſega)
reluctantly [ri'lʌktəntli] — wastumeelt
pale — kahwatu
to sprain [ei] — nikastama
ankle [æŋkl] — pahkluu, jalakeder
to ache [eik] — walutama
to rock — kiikuma, õõtſuma
to and fro ['tu:ən'frou] — edaſi ja tagaſi
pain — [ei] — walu
to rub [ʌ] — hõõruma
stable [ei] — tall
to scold [ou] — tõrelema

wit — meeleterawus, mõistus, tarkus
to decide [di'said] — otsustama
to offer — pakkuma

PAGE 22.

to relieve [ri'li:v] — kergendama
to hesitate ['heziteit] — kõhklema
to settle — kindlaks määrama, otsustama
'gratefully [ei] — tänulikult
tu rush [ʌ] — jooksma, jõõstma
luxurious [lʌg'zjuəriəs] — tore
festive — pidulik
freedom ['fri:dəm] — wabadus
adventure [əd'ventʃə] — juhtumus
to creep [i:], crept, crept — ronima, hiilima
to disturb [dis'tə:b] — segama, häirima
instant ['instənt] — silmapilk
to creak [i:] — kriuksuma
to bob up — üles kargama
to save [ei] — kõrwale panema, säästma
thrilling — põnew, õudust ärataw
e'vent — sündmus, juhtumine
to declare [di'klɛə] — kinnitama, tõendama

PAGE 23.

gown [au] — kleit
to enjoy oneself [in'dʒɔi] — rõõmustuma (maitsma)
to bind [ai], bound [au], bound — siduma
burden [bə:dn] — koorem, raskus
to yawn [jɔ:n] — haigutama
dismally ['dizməli] — kurwalt
to envy ['envi] — kadestama
luxury ['lʌkʃuri] — toredus
to injure ['indʒə] — haawama
agreeable [ə'gri:əbl] — mõnus
to incline [in'klain] — kalduma
to croak [krouk] — kraaksuma, ägama

PAGE 24.

headache ['hedeik] — peawalu
kitten — kassipoeg
racket [rækit] — müra, ragin
to be ill-tempered ['il'tempəd] — halwas tujus olema
to suit [sju:t] — kohane olema, sobima
cross — pahane, wihane
to upset [ʌp'set] — ümber lükkama
boot-lace ['bu:t leis] — saapanöör
sum [ʌ] — summa, ülesanne
slate [ei] — kiwitahwel
'horrid — hirmus
to drown [au] — uputama
'angrily [æ] — wihaselt
to get rid — lahti saama, wabanema
to stick, stuck [ʌ] — kinni jääma, kinni hoidma
to reach [i:] — ulatama, kätte saama
to scold [skould] — tõrelema
to implore [im'plɔ:] — paluma

to cuddle [kʌdl] – kaiſutama
rascal ['rɑ:skəl] — kelm

PAGE 25.

to nod — nokutama (peab)
to wave [weiv] — lehwitama
mood [u:] — tuju
glimpse — pilk
to affect [ə'fekt] — mõjuma
property ['prɔpəti] — waran=dus
unfortunate [ʌn'fɔ:tʃənət] — õnnetu
to support [sə'pɔ:t] — toetama, üles pidama
nursery governess ['nə:səri-'gʌvənis] — lastekaswata=janna, bonn
unhappy [ʌn'hæpi] — õnnetu
lame [ei] — lombakas
to suffer ['sʌfə] — kannatama
to give up — loobuma
faithful ['feiθful] — truu

PAGE 26

neat [i:] — puhas, kena
comfortable ['kʌmfətəbl] — mugaw, mõnus
idle [aidl] — laiſk, tööta
bee — meſilane
handsome ['hænsəm] — ilus
to 'cherish [e] — õrnasti hoolitſema, kalliks pidama
tenderly — õrnasti, lahkesti
reason [ri:zn] — põhjus
to set up — aſutama
in'firm [ə:] — nõrk, jõuetu, haige
to nurse [nə:s] — hoidma, talitama, rawitſema
to caress [kə'res] — kalliš=tama
affection [ə'fekʃən] — ar=mastus
to fail [ei] — nõrkema, wä=henema
forlorn [fə'lɔ:n] — kadunud, mahajäetud
'fragment [æ] — tükk
rough [rʌf] — kare
wreck [rek] — jäänus
rag-bag [ræg bæg] — kaltſu=kott
to rescue ['reskju:] — päästma
hide, hid, hidden — peitma
deficiency [di'fiʃənsi] — puude
'blanket [æ] — tekk, waip
to devote [di'vout] — pühen=dama
to 'lavish [æ] — raiskama, pillama
to breathe [bri:ð] — hingama
air [ɛə] — õhk
lullaby ['lʌləbai] — kiigelaul
dirty [ə:] — määrdinud

PAGE 27.

trouble [trʌbl] — mure
as well as — ſamuti, nii=ſama kui
weep, wept — nutma
to practise ['præktis] — har=jutama
patiently ['peiʃəntli] — kan=natlikult
to jingle [dʒiŋgl] — kliriſema
to wipe — pühkima
key [ki:] — klahw

tune [tju:n] — wiis, ſiin: hääl
lark [*a*:] — lõoke
trial [traiəl] — mure, meele=härm
accidentally [æksi'dentəli] — juhuslikult, kogemata
to drop — kukkuda laſkma, maha pillama
coal-scuttle [koul-skʌtl] — ſõekaſt
to in'sist — peale käima, tõendama
to ruin [ruin] — hävitama
flat — lame
point — ots
lass [læs, l*a*:s] — tüdruk, plika
to bear [bɛə], bore, borne — kandma
experience [iks'piəriəns] — kogemus
to sew [sou] — õmblema

PAGE 28.

oyster ['ɔistə] — auster
barrel ['bærəl] — waat, tünn
fishmonger ['fiʃmʌŋgə] — kalakaupleja
pail [ei] — pang, ämber
mop — küürilapp
to scrub [ʌ] — küürima
hurry [hʌri] — rutt
crossly — pahaſelt
sorry — kurb
to hook up ['huk 'ʌp] — üles tõſtma (konkſuga)
crooked [krukid] — kõwer
cane [ei] — kepp
to hug [ʌ] — kaiſutama
slippery — libe
anxious ['æŋkʃəs] — murelik
helpless — abitu

PAGE 29.

to worry ['wʌri] — kurwastama, mures olema
tired [taiəd] — wäſinud
to kill — tapma, ſurmama
prisoner ['priznə] — wang
pity [i] — kaastundmus
mite [ai] — natuke, tſipake
sincere [sin'siə] — õiglane, awameelne
to be ashamed [ə'ʃeimd] — häbi tundma
to grudge [grʌdʒ] — nuriſema
to bless — õnnistama
bundle [ʌ] — kimp

PACE 30.

worth [wə:θ] — wäärt
world [wə:ld] — maailm
afternoon ['*a*:ftə'nu:n] — päraſtlõuna
to clump [ʌ] — raskel ſammul kõndima
broom [u, u:] — luud
shovel [ʃʌvl] — kühwel, labidas
exercise ['eksəsaiz] — motſioon, liikumine
mischievous ['mistʃivəs] — kelmikas
to twinkle [twiŋkl] — pilgutama
dull [ʌ] — nüri, igaw, tume
to advise [əd'vaiz] — nõu andma, ſoowitama
dry [ai] — kuiw

shiver [i] — wärin
to doze [ou] — tukkuma
to roast [ou] — küpsetama
to dig, dug [ʌ] — kaewama
path [pa:ϴ] — rada, jalgtee
energy ['enədʒi] — tegu=wõim, energia
sweep, swept — pühkima
to separate ['sepəreit] — la=hutama

PAGE 31.

hedge [hedʒ] — aed, hekk
'shabby [æ] — närune, wilets
mansion ['mænʃən] — härras=maja
coachhouse ['koutʃhaus] — tõllakuur
conservatory ['kən'sə:vətori] — triiphoone
lifeless ['laiflis] — elutu
to 'frolic [ɔ] — lõbutsema
lawn [ɔ:] — muru
human ['hju:mən] — inimlik
visible ['vizibl] — nähtaw
to lean [i:] — toetuma
shame [ei] — häbi
to toss up — üles wiskama
to 'flourish [ʌ] — wiibutama
'horrid — hirmus, kole
cold [ou] — külmetus, nohu

PAGE 32.

tomb [tu:m] — haud
row [rau] — lärm, kära
nurse [nə:s] — hoidja, talitaja, rawitseja
to shoulder [ou] — õlale wõtma
flutter [ʌ] — segadus, rahutus
excitement [ik'saitmənt] — erutus, ärewus
idea [ai'diə] — mõte
pate — pea
'collar — krae, kaelus
to tidy up — koristama, puhastama
to ring — kõlistama

PAGE 33.

to announce [ə'nauns] — kuulutama, teada andma
parlour [pa:lə] — wõõrastetuba
dish — kauss, liud
bag — kott
baggage ['bægidʒ] — kraam
briskly — elawalt, ruttu
to refuse [ri'fju:z] — tagasi lükkama (ettepaneku)
sociable ['souʃəbl] — jutukas, seltsiw
to un'cover [ʌ] — lahti tegema, awama
to surround [sə'raund] — ümbritsema
garland ['ga:lənd] — lillewanik, lehisepärg
scarlet ['ska:lit] — helepunane
simple — lihtne
to slip — libisema
to hurt [hə:t] — haiget tegema
sore [sɔ:] — walus, haige
throat [ϴrout] — kurk, kael
cosy [ou] — mugaw

PAGE 34.

to mind [maind] — hoolt kandma
hearth [ha:ϴ] — kolle

to brush [ʌ] — harjaga puhastama
straight [streit] — otse
mantel-piece ['mæntl'pi:s] — kaminasims
air [ɛə] — välјanägemine, ilme
re'spectful — aupaklik
satisfaction [sætis'fækʃən] — rahuldustunne

PAGE 35.

to colour up ['kʌlərʌp] — punastama
'frankly [æ] — wabalt, otsekoheselt
pardon ['pa:dn] — andeksand
rude [ru:d] — tooreš, wiisakuseta
opposite ['ɔpəzit] — wastu
I can't help — ma ei saa parata, ma pean paratamatult
sweet — magus, armas
to watch [ɔ] — waatlema
to poke [ou] — liigutama (roobiga)
to twitch — tõmblema
solitary ['sɔlitəri] — üksik, üksildane
'happiness — õnn
to share [ʃɛ:ə] — jagama
unusually ['ʌn'ju:ʒuəli] — harulдaselt

PAGE 36.

leave [i:] — luba
splendid — tore
heap [i:] — hunnik, hulk
to bother [bɔðə] — tülitama, tüütama
stranger ['streindʒə] — wõõras
business ['biznis] — äri
soul [ou] — hing
to re'member — mäletama
inquiry [in'kwaiəri] — pärimine, küsimine
affair [ə'fɛə] — asi

PAGE 37.

lively [laivli] — elaw
description [di'skripʃən] — kirjeldus
fidgety ['fidʒiti] — närwiline, rahutu
poodle [pu:dl] — puudel
parrot ['pærət] — papagoi
speech — kõne
to pluck off — ära tõmbama
wig — parukas
to pop in — sisse pistma
to toss — wiskama (üles), raputama
to lead the way — ees minema, juhtima, teed näitama
library ['laibrəri] — raamatukogu
to prance [a:] — uhkelt kõndima
to line — wooderdama, katma
statue ['stætju:] — kuju
cabinet — kapp wäärtasjade hoiuks
coin — metallraha
curiosity [kjuəri'ɔsiti] — kuriosum, iseäralik ja huwitaw asi
queer [kwiə] — weider, kentsakas

PAGE 38.

depth [depΘ] — ſügawuš
velvet — ſamet
in'tense — põnew, pinguš, jõuline
to perch [ə:] — ištuma (nagu linď õrrel)
alarm [ə'la:m] — hirm, ehmatuš
wicked ['wikid] — õel, kelm
gratefully ['greitfuli] — tänulikult
cricket ['krikit] — rohutirts, kilk
guest [gest] — külaline
portrait ['pɔ:trit] — näopilt

PAGE 39.

grim — tige, karm
tremendous [trə'mendəs] — hirmuš, kohutaw (ſuuruſelt wõi jõult)
gruff — kare
dismay [dis'mei] — ehmatuš
to blush — punaštama
bushy [buʃi] — tihe, paks
eyebrow ['aibrau] — ſilmakulm
to paint [ei] — maalima
sly — kawal
to twinkle — pilgutama
to lessen [lesn] — wähendama
abruptly [əb'rʌptli] — järsku

PAGE 40.

to cheer [tʃiə] — rõõmuštuma
old-fashioned ['ouldfæʃnd] — wanamoodne
courtesy ['kə:tisi] — wiiſakuš
start — wõpatuš, jahmatuš
to astonish [ə'stɔniʃ] — imeštuſt äratama

PAGE 41.

triumphant [trai'ʌmfənt] — wõiduröömuš
glance [a:] — pilk
to chat — lobiſema, juttu ajama
to escape [is'keip] — pääſema, tähelepanematuks jääma
genuine ['dʒenjuin] — ehtis, loomulik
'merriment — rõõm, lustilikkuš
damp — niiske
vine [vain] — wiinapuu; wäätkaswud
above [ə'bʌv] — üle, pea kohal
to tie [tai] — ſiduma
medicine ['medsin] — arstirohi
drawing-room ['drɔiŋ rum] — wõõraštetuba, ſaal
grand piano ['pjænou] — tiibklawer
modest ['mɔdist] — tagaſihoidlik

PAGE 42.

'stupid [ju:] — rumal
regard [ri'ga:d] — lugupidamine
to increase [in'kri:s] — ſuurenema, kaswama
remarkably [ri'ma:kəbli] — tähelepanemiſe wäärilikult
to praise [preiz] — kiitma

abashed [ə'bæʃt] — häbelik
rescue ['reskju:] — pääs, abi
im'portant [ɔ:] — täḫtis
respects [ri'spekts] — terwitus (aupaklik)
pleasant ['pleznt] — meeldiw, mõnus
to 'flourish [ʌ] — õitsma

PAGE 43.

'frolic [ɔ] — rõõm, lõbu
parlour ['pa:lə] — elamistuba
gay [ei] — rõõmus
to revel ['revl] in — rõõmu tundma (milleſtki)
to yearn for [jə:n] — igatſema
courage ['kʌridʒ] — julgus
bliss — õnn, rõõm
to be aware [ə'wɛə] of — teadma
shyness ['ʃainis] — arglikkus
to chatter [æ] — lõgiſema (nagu ḫambad)
persuasion [pə'sweiʒən] — pealekäimine
to set about — (üḫe aſja juurde) aſuma
to mend — parandama
brief [i:] — lühike
call [ɔ:] — külaskäik
to neg'lect — ḫooletuſſe jätma
want [ɔ] — puudus

PAGE 44.

tightly ['taitli] — tiḫedalt, kõwasti
to clap — plaksutama
study [stʌdi] — kabinett
why, never mind — noḫ, siis pole ſelleſt ka wiga
gratitude ['grætitju:d] — tänulikkus, tänu
to disturb [dis'tə:b] — ſegama, ḫäirima
to stroke [ou] — ſilitama
hurry [hʌri] — rutt
blithely ['blaiðli] — rõõmſasti

PAGE 45.

re'treat [i:] — taganemine
fairly [fɛəli] — korralikult, õieti
idol ['aidəl] — ebajumal
by accident ['æksidənt] — juḫuslikult
frequent ['fri:kwənt] — ſage
straightway ['streitwei] — otſekohe
to haunt [hɔ:nt] — ſagedasti külastama
'tuneful [ju:] — wiiſirikas, muſikaalne
air [ɛə] — wiis, laul
to mount guard [maunt ga:d] — walwel ſeisma
to warn [ɔ:] — ḫoiatama
to sus'pect — kahtlustama, aimama
rack — riiul, noodipult
especial [i'speʃəl] — eriline
for her benefit — tema heaks, kaſuks, tema päraſt

PAGE 46.

pattern ['pætən] — muster
to smuggle [smʌgl] — ſalakaupa wedama, ſalaja edaſi toimetama
excitement [ik'saitmənt] — ärewus

acknowledgement [ək'nɔlidʒmənt] — tunnustus, tänuawaldus
to arrive [ə'raiv] — pärale jõudma
to o'ffend — haawama
errand ['erənd] — asja toimetus
to scream [skri:m] — kilkama, kriiskama
to slam — paukudes kinni lööma (uksе, akna)

PAGE 47.

to seize [si:z] — (kinni) haarama
to point — näitama, osutama
cabinet piano — pianiino
glossy — läikiw, sile
lid — kaas
to gasp [a:] — hinge tõmbama
to tumble [ʌ] — waaruma, kukkuma
to overwhelm [ouvə'welm] — üllatama
precious ['preʃəs] — kallis
to hug — kallistama, kaisutama
to 'offer — pakkuma

PAGE 48.

to suit [sju:t] — sobima, sünnis olema
debt [det] — wõlg
humble [ʌ] — alandlik
bracket [æ] — lühtriharu
candle — küünal
to pucker up — woltima, kortsutama
rack — noodipult
stool — taburett
complete [kəm'pli:t] — täielik
to dis'play — näitama, nähtawale tooma
to im'press — mõjutama
honey [hʌni] — mesi
share [ʃɛ:ə] — osa, jagu

PAGE 49.

to pronounce [prə'nauns] — häälдama, rääkima
remarkable [ri'ma:kəbl] — tähelepanemiswäärt
'evidently — nähtawasti
to tune [ju:] — hääle seadma, hääletama
charm [a:] — ilu, weetlus
key [ki:] — (klaweri)klahw
shiny — läikiw
pedal [pedl] — pedaal
by way of a joke — naljaks, naljana
utter ['ʌtə] — äärmine
amazement [ə'meizmənt] — imestus
to assemble [ə'sembl] — kogуma
deliberately [di'libəritli] — aeglaselt, kaalutult
to knock [nɔk] — koputama
to quaver ['kweivə] — wärisema

PAGE 50.

to fly, flew [flu:], flown [floun] — lendama
amazingly [ə'meiziŋli] — imekspandawalt
to con'fide — usaldama
'crustiness [ʌ] — karedus

to 'vanish [æ] — kaduma
wrinkled [riŋkld] — kortsunud
cordially ['kɔ:djəli] — südamelikult
stately ['steitli] — aukartust äratav, üllas
e'rect — sirge
performance [pə'fɔ:məns] — etendus
jig — kiire tants
to ex'press — väljendama
to up'lift — üles tõstma
seashore ['si:'ʃɔ:] — mereranb

PAGE 51.

to rout up [au] — üles ajama
dozy [ou] — unine
to improve [im'pru:v] — paranDama, kaunistama
perch [pə:tʃ] — õrs
to propose [prə'pouz] — ette panema
to fix up — korralDama, korda seadma
'dreadfully [e] — hirmsasti
to sew [sou] — õmblema
ex'periment — katse

PAGE 52.

delicious [di'liʃəs] — tore, kena
to taste [ei] — maitsma
un'tidy — korratu
vase [va:z,] — vaas
to dust — tolmutama
to scatter [æ] — puistama, laiali pilduma
usual ['ju:ʒuəl] — harilik
'river [i] — jõgi
to rejoice [ri'dʒɔis] — rõõmustuma
honeysuckle ['hʌnisʌkl] — lõhnav kuslapuu, lehtlaõisspuu
to inquire [in'kwaiə] — küsima
inquisitive [in'kwizitiv] — uudishimulik
daddy-long-legs — sääsk pikkade jalgadega
shower ['ʃauə] — vihmahoog
to get caught in a shower — vihmahoo alla sattuma
to drip — tilkuma
to assure [ə'ʃuə] — kinnitama, tõendama
the experiment is working finely — katse läheb, edeneb toredasti

PAGE 53.

peculiar [pi'kju:liə] — iseäraline
variable ['vɛəriəbl] — muutlik
un'settled — kindlusteta, rahutu
to resolve [ri'zɔlv] — otsustama
the days kept getting longer — päevad läksid ühtelugu pikemaks
to possess [pə'zes] — omama
to own — tunnistama
trial ['traiəl] — katse
to im'press — sisendama
appropriate [ə'proupriət] — kohane
mercy ['mə:si] — halastus
mercy on us! — taevas halasta

to re'lieve [i:] —kergendama
to bewilder [bi'wildə] — hämmaštama
bewildered — hämmaštunud, kohmetunud
quietly ['kwaiətli] — rahulikult

PAGE 54.

larder [a:] — šahwer
to boil — keetma
to bake [ei] — küpšetama
faith [feiΘ] — usk
immediately [i'mi:djətli] — kohe
out of sorts — pahas tujus
sign [sain] — märk
to sob — nuukšuma

PAGE 55.

canary [kə'nɛəri] — kanarilind
claw [ɔ:] — küüs
to ex'tend — wälja širutama, ulatama
fault [fɔ:lt] — süü
seed [i:] — seeme, tera
cruel [kru:əl] — halastamata
to restore [ri'stɔ:] — elustama, ellu äratama
stiff — kange
'coffin — puusärk
oven [ʌvn] — praeahi
to revive [ri'vaiv] — elustuma, ellu ärkama
to starve [a:] — nälga šurema
shroud [au] — šurnuriie, -lina
to bury ['beri] — matma
grave — haud
funeral ['fju:nərəl] — matuseb

PAGE 56.

to con'sole — tröösštima, lohutama
to de'part [a:] — lahkuma, ära minema
to pile up — laduma (hunnikusše)
to dis'cover [ʌ] — leidma, leiduše tegema
prospect ['prɔspekt] — wälajawaade
to mutter — ümišema, pomišema
vigorously ['vigərəsli] — tugewašti
cinders ['sindəz] — tuhk
to seize [si:z] — haarama, wõtma
to gossip — keelt pekšma
anxiety [æŋ'zaiəti] — kartus, mure
exertion [ig'zə:šən] — pingutus
to under'go — läbi elama, kannatama
to mortify ['mɔ:tifai] — wihaštama (šurmani)

PAGE 57.

to be di'spirited [i] — julguše kaotama
to survey [sə'vei] — waatlema, üle waatama
accustomed [ə'kʌstəmd] — harjunud
to spread — katma (lauda)
failure ['feiljə] — äpardus, nurjaminek
to tattle [æ] — lobišema

to re'port — teatama, jutus=tama
to giggle [g] — irwitama
dis'tressed — õnnetu, murelik
scene [si:n] — stseen, sündmus
to trust [ʌ] — usaldama, lootma
jug [dʒʌg] — kann, pott
cream [i:] — koor
wry [rai] — kõwer, wiltu
slight [slait] — kerge, wäike
delicate ['delikit] — hõrk, õrn, maitsew
fare [fɛə] — toit
to choke — kugistama, läkatama
to frown [au] — kulmu kortsutama

PAGE 58.

to utter ['ʌtə] — awaldama, kuuldawale tooma
groan [ou] — oigamine
verge [və:dʒ] — äär
'comical [ɔ] naljakas
strength [streŋθ] — jõud, ramm
to clear up — koristama
to sober [ou] — kainestama
to dig, dug — kaewama
fern [ə:] — sõnajalg
grove — hiis, puiestee
tender-hearted — õrnasüdameline
moss — sammal
wreath [ri:θ] — pärg
epitaph ['epita:f] — hauakiwi
to compose [kəm'pouz] — kokku seadma
to struggle [ʌ] — wõitlema
to lament [lə'ment] — kaebama, leinama
sore [sɔ:] — härdasti
twilight ['twailait] — hämarik
to gather ['gæðə] — korjama, koguma
porch [pɔ:tʃ] — eeskoda

PAGE 59.

'empty — tühi
to satisfy ['sætisfai] — rahuldama
to echo ['ekou] — wastu kajama, kordama
duty [ju:] — kohus, kohustus
to lounge [laundʒ] — laisklema
to lark [a:] — tembutama
to get on — läbi saama
suspicion [sə'spiʃən] — kahtlus, kahtlustus
to de'pend — olenema, sõltuma
pleasant, ['pleznt] — mõnus, meeldiw
leisure ['leʒə] — waba aeg, puhkeaeg

PAGE 60.

to forbear [fɔ'bɛə] — kannatlik olema
to lighten ['laitn] — kergenema, kergeks minema
wholesome ['houlsəm] — terwe, terwisele kasulik
mischief ['mistʃif] — kelmus, koerus
health [helθ] — terwis
spirits — tuju, meeleolu

plain [ei] — lihtne
task [a:] — töö, ülesanne
bee — mesilane
success [sək'ses] — korda=minek, edu
to be a success — korda minema, edukas olema
shirt [ə:] — särk
resolution [rizə'lju:ʃən] — otsus
button-hole ['bʌtn-houl — nööpauk
to attend [ə'tend] — hoolitsema, silmas pidama
chance [a:] — juhus, võimalus
to carry out — täide saatma

PAGE 61.

to nurse — ravitsema
a'mount [au] — hulk
to supply [sə'plai] — varustama
heavenly ['hevnli] — taevalik
frame of mind — meeleolu
self-denial [di'naiəl] — ennastsalgamine
in'sensibly — tähelepanematult
to re'lax [æ] — lõdvendama
praiseworthy ['preiz'wə:ði] — kiiduväärne
effort ['efət] — püüe, pingutus
re'lapse [æ] — tagasilangus
idleness ['aidlnis] — laiskus, tööta olek
gown [au] — kleit
moan [ou] — oigamine, ohkamine
to pray — palvetama
prayer [prɛə] — palve
advice [əd'vais] — nõuanne
to deserve [di'zə:v] — väärima, ära teenima

PAGE 62.

to cease [si:s] — lõpetama, mitte jätkama
re'gret — kahetsus
departure [di'pa:tʃə] — ärasõit
to rock — kiikuma
earnestly ['ə:nistli] — tõsiselt
to promise ['prɔmis] — lubama, tõotama
to suggest [sə'dʒest] — nõu andma, ette panema

PAGE 63.

to try on — selga proovima
absorbed [əb'sɔ:bd] — süvenenud
odds and ends — seda ja teist, nipet=näpet
chilly — jahe, vilu
grieved — kurb, murelik
to creep — ronima, aeglaselt liikuma
chest — kast
grave — tõsine
camphor ['kæmfə] — kamper
scarlet fever ['ska:lit fi:və] — skarlat
lap — süle, hõlm
remorseful [ri'mɔ:sful] — täis kahetsust

PAGE 64.

all of a sudden [sʌdn] — äkki, äkitsi
to stir [ə:] — liikuma

crossly — pahaſelt
to cure [kjuə] — rawitſema, arštima
right away — otſekohe, ſilmapilk
frightened ['fraitnd] — kohkunud, ehmatanud
belladonna [belə'dənə] — belladonna
sore throut — kurguwalu

PAGE 65.

page [peidʒ] — lehekülg
gravely ['greivli] — tõſiſelt
'sickness — haigus
to hate — wihkama, mitte tahtma
serve me right — paras minule
to consult [kən'sʌlt] — nõu küſima
harm [a:] — kahju, hädaoht
she did have — tal oligi
to sus'pect — aimama
guilty ['gilti] — süüdi, süüdlane
mention ['menʃən] — maine (=mainimine), nimetus
'illness — haigus
to deceive [di'si:v] — petma

PAGE 66.

to devote [di'vout] — pühendama
pain [ei] — walu
uncomplainingly ['ʌnkəm'pleiniŋli] — kaebuſeta
fever fit [fi:və fit] — palawiku hoog
hoarse [hɔ:s] — kare
coverlet ['kʌvəlit] — waip, tekk
swollen [swouln] — paistetanud
to address [ə'dres] a person — kellegi poole pöörduma
im'ploringly — paluwalt
to hover ['hɔvə] — hõljuma
'restless — rahutu
ghost [goust] — waim, tont
to re'mind [ai] — meelde tuletama
to miss — puudu leidma
grocer [ou] — toiduainetega kaupleja
butcher [u] — lihunik
comfort ['kʌmfət] — troost

PAGE 67.

cloak [ou] — mantel
to rush — jooksma, tormama
'misery [i] — wiletſus, kurbus
to stream [i:] — woolama
to stretch — ſirutama
lump — tomp, kambas
to have a lump in one's throat — piſaraid kurgus tundma, kurgus pigistuſt tundma (liigutuſe pärast)
plot — kawa, ettewõte

PAGE 68.

train [trein] — rong
to blow, blew, blown — puhuma
to appear [ə'piə] — näima
to chirp [ə:] ſiristama
to blow — õitsma, õitſele puhkema
a half-blown rose — pooliti puhkenud (lahtilõõnud) roos

to dis'cover [ʌ] — leidma
stupor ['stju:pə] — tardumus, uimastus
alike — üheſuguſelt
unconscious [ʌn'kɔnʃəs] — ebateadlik, teadmata
doubt [daut] — kahtlus
danger ['deindʒə] — hädaoht
to rouse [rauz] — ärkama
to hover [ɔ] — wiibima (kaua üheš kohaš)
to rage — märatſema
to drag — lohiſema, aeglaſelt mööduma

PAGE 69.

probably ['prɔbəbli] — arwatawaſti
to lie down — maha heitma, pikali heitma
to watch — walwama
to fancy [æ] — ette kujutama, arwama, kujutlema
wan [wɔn] — kahwatu
hush [ʌ] — waikus
weary ['wiəri] — wäſinud
to kneel [ni:l] — põlwitama
flush [ʌ] — puna
peaceful ['pi:sful] — rahulik
utter — täielik
repose [ri'pouz] — puhkus
desire [di'zaiə] — ſoow
to lament [lə'ment] — kaebama
damp — niiske
forehead ['fɔrid] — otſaeſine
stir [stə:] — liigutus

PAGE 70.

praise be given (to the Lord) — Jumalale tänu, kiidetud olgu Jumal
truth [tru:θ] — tõde
to blossom — õitsma, lahti puhkema.

INDEX TO WORDS AND NOTES.

7 — page 7 (vocabulary). — [7] — page 7 (notes).

A.

abash 42
above 41
abroad 20
abruptly 39
absorbed 16, 63
accept 16
accidentally 27
accident 45
accompany 12
account 21
accustomed 57
ache 21
acknowledgement 46
actually 13
add 5
address 66
adventure 22
advice 61
advise 30
affair 36
affect 25
affected 7
affection 26
afraid 15
afternoon 30
agree 6
agreeable 23
air 16, 26, 34
alarm 38
alike 68
allow 14
amazement 13
amazingly 50
amount 61
amuse 20
angrily 24
anyhow 5
ankle 21
announce 33
anxiety 56
anxious 28
appear 9, 68
approach 18
appropriate 53
apron 7
army 5
arrive 46
article 11
ashamed 29
assemble 49
astonish 40
assure 52
attend 60

B.

Back 19
bade 9
bag 33
baggage 33
bake 54
bare 11
barrel 28
bashful 14
bashfulness 20
basket 10
bear 27
beckon 21
bee 26
beg 9
believe 18
benefit 45
bewilder 53
bid 9
blanket 26
blaze 7
bless 29
bind 23
bliss 43
blithely 44
blossom 70
blow 68
blush 39
bob up 22
boil 54
bonbon 13
bookworm 6
bootlace 24
bother 36
bought 6
bounce 19
bound 23
bouquet 13
bracket 48
breath 13
breathe 26
brief 43
brighten 5
briskly 33
broom 30
brush 34
bunch 15
bundle 29
burden 23
burn 16
bury 55
bushy 39
business 36
butcher 66
button-hole 60
buy 6

C.

Cabinet 37
cabinet-piano 47
call 43
canary 55
candle 48
cane 28
capital 14
capitally 15
caress 26
carry out 60
cease 62
chance 60
charm 49
chat 41
chatter 43
cheer 40
cheerful 5
cherish 26
chest 63
chilly 63
chirp 68
chit 7
choke 57
Christmas 5

cinders 56
civil war 5
clap 45
clash 18
claw 55
clear 58
cloak 67
clump 30
coachhouse 31
coal-scuttel 27
coffin 55
coin 37
cold 31
collar 31
collect 10
Cologne 8
colour 35
colt 18
comfort 12
comfortable 26
comical 58
complete 48
compliment 13
compose 58
confide 50
conservatory 31
consider 9
console 17, 56
consult 65
content 12
contentedly 5
cordially 50
corner 5
cosy 33
courage 43
courtesy 40
coverlet 66
creak 22
cream 11, 57
creep 22
crept 22
cricket 38
crimson 9
croak 23
crooked 28
cross 24
crossly 28
cruel 55
crustiness 50
cuddle 24
cure 64
curiosity 37
curtain 19

D.

Daddy-long-legs 52
dainty 17
damp 69
dampness 16
danger 68
darken 5
dawn 9
dear me 19
debt 48
deceive 65
decide 21
decidedly 6
declare 22
deficiency 26
deliberately 49
delicate 57
delicious 52
delight 16
depart 56
departure 62
depend 59
depth 38
describe 20
description 37
deserve 61
desire 69
despair 17
detest 7
devote 26
dig 30
dirty 26
disappoint 9
discover 56
dish 13
dismally 23
dismay 39
dispirit 57
display 48
distressed 57
disturb 44
doubt 68
doze 30
dozy 51
drag 68
draw 6
drawing-room 41
dreadful 5
dreadfully 15, 51
drip 52
drop 27
drown 24
dry 30
dull 30
dust 52
duty 59

E.

Eager 20
eagerly 11
earn 6
earnestly 62
earthquake 18
easy-chair 7
echo 59
effort 61
empty 59
energy 30
enjoy 13
envy 23
epitaph 58
erect 50
errand 46
especial 45
event 22
evidently 49
examine 6
excitement 32
exclaim 8
exertion 17
expect 6
experience 27
experiment 51
express 14, 50
extend 55
eyebrow 39

F.

Fail 26
failure 57
fair 5
fairly 45
fairy 13
faith 54
faithfully 25
fancy 69

fare 57
fashion 17
fault 55
favourite 15
fear 19
feast 14
fence 15
fern 58
festive 22
fever 66
fidgety 37
fight 5
firing 9
fishmonger 28
fix up 51
flat 27
fleet 20
flew 50
flourish 31
flush 69
flutter 32
fly 50
forbear 60
forehead 69
forlorn 26
fortunately 11
fragment 26
frame of mind 61
frankly 35
freedom 22
freeze 10
frequent 45
fret 7
frighten 64
frizzle 17
frolic 31
frown 57
fun 6
funeral 55

G.

Game 16
garland 33
garret 15
gasp 47
gather 58
gay 43
genuine 41
get acquainted 14
get on 59
get rid 24
ghost 66
gift 9
giggle 57
give up 6
glance 41
glimpse 25
glossy 47
glove 8
gossip 18
governess 25
gown 23
grand piano 41
gratefully 22
gratitude 44
grave 55, 63
gravely 65
greet 18
grieved 63
grim 39
groan 17
grocer 66
grove 58
grudge 29
gruel 12
gruff 39
grumble 5
guess 7
guest 38
guilty 65

H.

Hall 10
handkerchief 8
handsome 26
happiness 35
harm 65
hate 7
haunt 45
headache 24
health 60
heap 36
hearth 7, 34
hearthbrush 6
heavenly 61
hedge 31
helpless 28
hem 8
heroically 11
hesitate 22
hide 10
hoarse 66
hold 6
honey 48
honeysuckle 52
honour 14
hood 12
hook up 28
horrid 24
horrify 17
hothouse 13
hover 66
huddle 10
hug 28
human 31
humble 48
hurt 33
hurry 28
hush 69
husky 15

I.

Ice-cream 13
idea 32
idle 26
idleness 61
idol 45
illness 65
immediately 7
immensely 13
implore 24
imploringly 66
important 42
impress 48
improve 51
incline 23
increase 42
infirm 26
injure 23
inquire 52
inquiry 36
inquisitive 52
insensibly 61
insist 27
instant 22
instead 20
intend 19
intense 38
invitation 16

invite 15
iron 10

J.

Jig 50
jingle 27
join 18
joke 49
jolly 7
jovial 18
jug 57

K.

Kettle 6
key 27
kill 29
kitten 24
kneel 69
knock 49

L.

Labour 10
lake 20
lame 25
lament 58
lap 63
lark 27, 59
lass 27
lavish 26
lean 31
leave 12, 36
leisure 59
lessen 39
library 37
lid 47
lifeless 31
lighten 60
line 37
lively 37
long 18
lot 5
lounge 59
lullaby 26
luxurious 22
luxury 23

M.

Manner 6
mansion 31
mantelpiece 34
mark 10
meantime 12
medicine 41
melt 14
mend 43
mention 65
mercy 53
merriment 41
merry 9
mess 17
mind 34
mischief 60
mischievous 30
miserable 11
misery 67
mishap 17
miss 66
mite 29
mitten 12
mix 14
moan 61
modestly 41
mood 25
mop 28
mortify 56
moss 58
mount guard 45
muffin 11
music 6
mutter 56

N.

Neat 26
need 6
neglect 43
never mind 44
nice 6
nod 25
nonsense 19
note 12
nurse 26, 61
nursery-governess 25

O.

Observe 7
odd 19
odds and ends 63
offend 46
offer 21
old-fashioned 40
opposite 35
ought 6
out of sorts 54
oven 55
overwhelm 47
own 53

P.

Pail 28
pain 21
paint 39
pale 11
pane 12
pardon 35
parlour 43
parrot 37
party 11
pate 32
path 30
patiently 27
peace 19
peacemaker 7
pedal 49
perch 51
perhaps 5
pervade 16
pet 15
pile 11
pillow 9
pinch 16
pity 29
plain 60
plan 6
pleasant 42
pleasantly 19
pleasure 6
pluck off 37
point 27, 47
poke 35
polite 14
poodle 37
possess 53
practise 27
praise 42
prance 37
prayer 61
present 5
pretty 5
prim 14
prisoner 29

proceed 16
procession 11
produce 10
pronounce 13
proper 10
property 25
propose 6, 51
prospect 56
proud 10
provide 8
pucker up 48

Q.

quaver 49
queer 16
quiet 15

R.

Rack 45
rag-bag 26
rage 68
ragged 11
rapturous 13
rascal 24
reach 24
really 12
reason 6
recess 19
refuge 15
refuse 14
regard 42
regret 62
regular 16
rejoice 52
relapse 61
relax 61
relieve 22
reluctantly 21
remarkable 49
remarkably 42
remember 36
remind 66
remorseful 63
report 57
repose 69
reprove 7
rescue 26
resolution 60
resolve 53
respectful 34
respects 42
restless 66
restore 55
retire 15
retreat 45
revel 43
revive 55
ribbon 17
ring 32
right away 64
river 52
rock 21
romp 16
rough 26
rouse 68
rout up 51
row (rau) 32
row (rou) 17
rub 21
rude 7
rug 5
ruin 27
rush 22

S.

Sadly 5
satisfaction 14
satisfy 11
save 22
scarlet 33
scarlet fever 63
scatter 52
scene 57
scent 12
scold 21
scorch 17
scream 46
scrub 28
search 21
seashore 50
seize 47
self-denial 61
separate 30
servant 9
serve me right 65
set up 26
settle 22
several 20
sew 27
shabby 31
shame 31
share 48
shawl 12
shiny 49
shirt 60
shiver 30
shoulder 32
shovel 30
shower 52
shroud 55
sick 11
sickness 65
sigh 5
sign 54
silently 5
simple 33
sincere 29
skate 18
skin 20
slam 46
slang 7
slate 24
slight 57
slip 9
slipper 7
slippery 28
sly 39
smile 11
smoke 16
smooth 16
smuggle 46
sob 54
sober 19
sober one's self 58
sociable 33
society 15
solitary 35
sore 58
sorry 28
soul 36
sound 10
special 8
speech 37
speedily 19
spirit 12
spite (in) 7
splendid 36
spoil 17
sprain 21

spread 12
stable 21
stairs 15
stammer 19
stare 11
start 40
startle 19
starve 55
stately 18
statue 37
stay 19
stick 24
stiff 55
stir 64
stool 48
stocking 9
straight 9
straightway 45
stranger 36
strength 58
stretch 7
strike 7
stroke 44
struck 7
struggle 58
stuck 24
study 44
stupid 42
stupor 68
success 60
suggest 62
suit 24
sum 24
superior 16
supply 61
support 25
surprise 8
surround 33
survey 57
suspicion 59
sweep 7
sweet 35
swollen 66

T.

Talk 18
task 60
taste 52
tattle 57
tear 16
tender-hearted 58
tenderly 12
thrilling 22
throat 33
tidy up 32
tie 41
tightly 44
tired 29
to and fro 21
toast 30
tomb 32
toss 31
touch 12
train 68
travel 20
trial 27
trifle 14
triumphant 41
trouble 26
trust 57
try on 63
truth 70
tumble 47
tune 27
tuneful 45
tutor 14
twilight 58
twinkle 30
twitch 35

U.

Uncomplainingly 66
unconscious 68
uncover 33
undergo 56
undertake 16
uneven 10
unfortunate 25
unfortunately 19
unhappy 25
unite 17
unsettled 53
untidy 52
unusually 10
uplift 50
upset 24
usual 52
utter 49, 58

V.

Vanish 50
variable 53
various 17
velvet 38
verge 58
victim 17
vigorously 56
vine 41
visible 31

W.

Wail 11
wake 9
walk 17
wan 69
war civil 5
warn 45
watch 69
wave 25
wear 8
weep 11
welcome 7
wept 11
whisk 15
whisper 15
whistle 7
wholesome 60
wicked 38
wipe 27
wit 21
woke 9
wore 8
world 30
worth 30
worry 29
wreath 58
wreck 26
wrinkled 50
wry 57

Y.

yawn 23
youth 18