

The Family Circle

WHEN I'M GROWN UP

I think, when I'm a grown-up man,
I'd like to be

A tram conductor, if I can;
Or, let me see—

It would be very, very nice
To keep a shop,
Where I could eat vanilla ice
And never stop.

I'd like to be a soldier, too;
It must be fun
To lie down flat, as soldiers do,
And fire a gun.

And then I'd like to flour my face
And be a clown,
Like two we saw, who ran a race,
And both fell down.

But when I'm tired, it seems to me
What I enjoy
The best of all is just to be
My mammy's boy.

WOLFGANG MOZART'S PRAYER

Many years ago in Salzburg, Austria, two little children lived in a cottage surrounded by vines, near a pleasant river. They both loved music, and when only six years of age Frederica could play well on the harpsicord. But her little brother produced such strains of melody as were never before heard from so young a child. Their father was a teacher of music, and his own children were his best pupils.

There came times so hard that these children had scarcely enough to eat: but they loved each other, and were happy in the simple enjoyment that fell to their lot.

One pleasant day they said: 'Let us take a walk in the woods. How sweetly the birds sing, and the sound of the river as it flows is like music!'

So they went. As they were sitting in a shadow of a tree the boy said: 'Sister, what a beautiful place this would be to pray!'

Frederica asked, wonderingly: 'What shall we pray for?'

'Why, for papa and mamma,' said her brother. 'You see how sad they look. Poor mamma hardly ever smiles now, and I know it must be because she has not always bread enough for us. Let us ask God to help us.'

'Yes,' said Frederica, 'we will.'

So these two children knelt down and prayed, asking the Heavenly Father to bless their parents, and make them a help to them.

'But how can we help papa and mamma?' asked Frederica.

'Why, don't you know?' replied Wolfgang. 'By and by I shall play before great people, and they will give me plenty of money, and I will give it to our parents, and we'll live in a fine house, and be happy.'

At this a loud laugh astonished the boy who did not know that anyone was near them. Turning, he saw a fine gentleman on horseback. The stranger made inquiries, which the little girl answered, telling him: 'Wolfgang means to be a great musician: he thinks he can earn money, so we shall no longer be poor.'

'He may do that when he has learned to play well enough,' replied the stranger.

Frederica answered: 'He is only six years old, but plays beautifully, and can compose pieces.'

'That can not be,' replied the gentleman.

'Come to see us,' said the boy, 'and I will play for you.'

'I will go this evening,' answered the stranger.

The children went home, and told their story to their parents, who were much pleased and astonished.

Soon a loud knock was heard at the door, and on opening it the little family was surprised to see men bringing in baskets of food in variety and abundance. They had an ample feast that evening.

Thus God answered the children's prayer. Soon after, while Wolfgang was playing a sonata which he had composed, the stranger entered, and stood astonished at the wondrous melody. The father recognised in his guest Emperor Francis I. of Austria.

Not long after the family was invited by the Emperor to Vienna, where Wolfgang astonished the royal family by his wonderful powers.

HELPING

Anna May came home from the kindergarten, and showed her mother the things she had made. A darning basket that was full of stockings stood between the two, and upon this basket Anna May spread her treasures. Mother paused in her mending to look at them.

'I like to do this best,' Anna May said, as she unfolded a pink and green paper mat woven in basket-work.

'That is just like the work I am doing,' said mother.

Anna May's eyes opened wide. 'Why, mother,' she cried, 'you're darning!'

'Yes,' mother agreed. 'But see!' She held a mended stocking close beside the woven paper mat. Anna May could see that the soft thread that mother used was woven in and out across the worn place in the stocking just as her paper slips were woven: the tiny black squares showed in mother's pattern just as the pink and green squares showed in the paper mat.

A lovely thought popped into Anna May's head! She had three brothers, and there was only mother to darn for them all! 'Mother,' she begged, 'may I learn to darn! And then we could do weaving together!'

That was the beginning of what Anna May called her 'new kind of kindergarten work,' but what mother declared was the best kind of home-helping.—*Youth's Companion*.

THE PUZZLED RECRUIT

A drill sergeant was drilling the recruit squad in the use of the rifle. All went smoothly until blank cartridges were distributed. The recruits were instructed to load their pieces and stand at 'ready,' and then the sergeant gave the command:

'Fire at will!'

Private Lunn was puzzled. He lowered his gun.

'Which one is Will?' he asked.

AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

'Now, in order to subtract,' the teacher explained, 'things have always to be of the same denomination. For instance, we couldn't take three apples from four pears, nor six horses from nine dogs.'

'Teacher,' shouted a small boy, 'can't you take four quarts of milk from three cows?'

QUITE RIGHT

'Patience and perseverance will accomplish all things,' was a favorite saying of an old miller.

He had just made this remark in a train one day on the way to market, when a pompous individual in the corner turned to him crossly and said:

'Nonsense, sir. I can tell you a great many things which neither patience nor perseverance can accomplish.'

'Perhaps you can,' said the miller, 'but I have never yet come across one thing.'