













THE COMING.

A sibilant rattle on the tatted stair. A pause, a gentle footstep's muffled fall.

Through the light music of her talk, a strain Of middle rocky rattle, like the thimble.

CHILD AND MOTHER.

On the brow of a hill at the edge of a town there stood a big stone house. Everything about the place had a cold, inhospitable look.

I know a rich man who is afraid to open up these short cuts to his heart for fear they will damage his property.

"I will stay here no more," she had said sternly. "You are wicked and God does not love you, and I do not love you."

"I have come back to you," she moaned. "I do love you, my child. I did not mean to be hard. I do love you."

The gentle head was uplifted with all its golden glory of curls, and the sad stern eyes looked upon her like two pale, wintry moons.

Where there is a sewing machine in the home it should be used as much as possible in the family mending.

This mother expected of her child an intelligent comprehensive obedience, as if she were her own equal in years and training.

"It's a girl's own fault if she is treated with disrespect by her employers," said one pleasant-faced, gentle-mannered young woman.

child wandered away, away from the sunny slopes of mother's love, and on out into the lonesome wilds of a Siberian night of darkness where her little heart began to freeze.

Every child does not know that if you do a kind or loving act to some person and that person dies he or she will become a guardian angel.

One dreary day when nature was pent with rain and the wind sobbed in the trees and all earth waited in the strange mysterious interval before the dismal renewal of the year.

One night the white winged host of guardian angels, over both mother and child, were all in tears.

"Don't do it, mamma. You break my heart. Forgive me, mamma, and take me in your arms. I will be good, just only forgive me, mamma. I'm so lonesome, my heart will break, and I'm so afraid of the dark, mamma."

The mother pushed away the clinging hands and went away from the sound of the vibrant little voice in all its sweet beseeching.

She only pretended that she had gone. In the next room she sat listening to the sobbing of her child to the cry, "Forgive me, mamma, and come back," and then to the solemn silence that fell upon all the house.

And then in the heart of the night a something real stirred in the mother's heart, that was warm under all her false doctrines and ignorant ways and cruel trainings, and for the first time the deep meaning of the cry, "Only forgive me, mamma," seemed to melt into her heart.

She went back into the dark room, to the forlorn little figure by the bleak and empty hearth. Her heart ached as her eyes looked down on the strayed untended locks of hair on the bent head.

"I have come back to you," she moaned. "I do love you, my child. I did not mean to be hard. I do love you."

"It's a girl's own fault if she is treated with disrespect by her employers," said one pleasant-faced, gentle-mannered young woman.

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