

MOTHER'S SERIES.

The PASSIONATE CHILD



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THE PASSIONATE CHILD.



THERE was once a little girl named Ellen. She was sometimes very good, but she had a bad way of being very often in a passion, and her mamma took great pains to break her of it, as it made every one dislike her, and her mamma wished every one to love her.

She was at breakfast one day, and her slice of bread and butter fell from her hand on the floor, instead of saying to her nurse "Pick up my bread and butter, if you please," she called out, "Pick it up, pick it up, I say; I will have it,—get it for me."

Her good Nurse said, "Miss Ellen, when you ask me for it in a proper manner. I shall take pleasure in getting it for you; but not till then."



Instead of doing as her Nurse told her, and as a good little girl would have done, Ellen began to scream and cry, and threw down her cup, spilling the milk all over the table; and when Nurse took her down from the chair, to put her in another room, away from her little sisters, who were sitting at the same table with her, I am sorry to tell you, this naughty girl kicked her good Nurse.

Think what a very bad little girl this was! Poor Nurse was quite vexed and ready to cry, to see the little child which she had taken so much care of, use her in such a cruel manner. As Ellen's kind mamma was just then passing the door, to go up stairs, she heard the noise, and went into the room. There she saw her poor passionate little Ellen just in the act of kicking her Nurse! She stood still for some time looking on, and thinking what a very wicked child her dear little Ellen was. At last she asked the Nurse to hand her a strong wide ribbon,—and then she said to Ellen, "I am very sorry to see that you



do not know the proper use of your feet, and therefore I shall take away the use of them from you."

She then took the wide ribbon, and having put Ellen on a small stool, she tied her legs together with it, so that she could not walk; she then left her in a room by herself, and told Nurse not to untie her till she gave her leave.

It was a very fine summer morning; the sun shone bright, and the little birds sang sweetly in the trees; while Ellen's sisters and brothers, having all been good children, were permitted to take a ramble in the fields. But poor Ellen! she was forced to sit on a stool, with her feet tied; she tried to get up, but found that she could not walk, so she was obliged to sit down again, and sadly vexed she was.

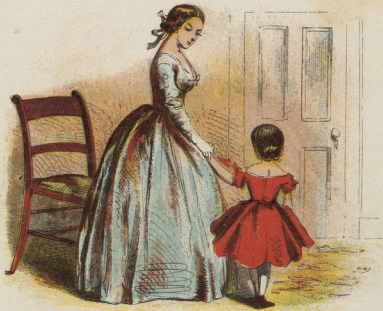
Her Nurse, who was very good to her, and loved her still, although she had kicked her, went into the room to see her. Ellen asked her to untie the ribbon; but nurse said, "No, Miss Ellen, that I can not



do, for your mamma has thought it right to tie your feet ; but I will go down and ask her to forgive you."

While Nurse was gone down stairs to ask Ellen's mamma to forgive her, Ellen thought she would never get in such a passion with her Nurse again.

But her mamma would not let her be untied ; she was so angry with her, that, though it was very kind in Nurse to intercede for her, yet she said she should stay where she was till dinner time ; and if she cried about it, she should sit there again after dinner. The Nurse then went out to take a walk with one of her little sisters, and Ellen was left alone once more. Very unhappy was the poor naughty girl, and very long the time seemed to her, in which she sat there with her feet tied, and without any thing to do. At last dinner time came and her mamma came up and untied the knot, and Ellen said she was very sorry for her naughty and cruel conduct.



So her mamma took her by the hand and led her down stairs, telling her she was glad to see her feel sorry for her fault, and she hoped this would be a lesson to her not to be so bad again.

Ellen was not happy or merry all day, from thinking of her bad conduct in the morning ; and she took great care for a long time, not to kick any one again. But one day as her Nurse was dressing her, she would not stand stil', but ran about the room, and gave her Nurse the trouble of running after her.

At last she said, "Very well, Miss Ellen, you may now run about as much as you please, I will not dress you at all." Ellen did not like this ; she wished to be dressed, for she knew that the governess and her older sisters would be kept waiting for her ; but then she did not like to stand still, which was very silly in the little girl ; for how could Nurse tie her dress or apron if she ran about all the time.



When she found Nurse would not dress her, she began to cry and screamed out, "I will be dressed; you shall dress me." But when Nurse told her she would not do it unless she asked her in a proper manner, she lifted up her hand and hit her good Nurse three or four hard slaps on the arm, which made her arm quite red.

The Nurse said, "Oh, fie! Miss Ellen! now you must go down to breakfast without being dressed; and what a shame that will be!"

Then she took Ellen and led her to the breakfast room, and told the governess what the naughty child had done.

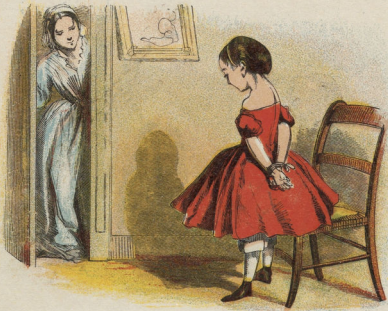
As the children sat at breakfast, their mamma came in to see them. When she had curtsied to the governess, she asked if they were all good? But looking round, she said, "What is the matter with Miss Ellen? she looks as if she had been a bad girl." The governess then told Ellen's mamma what she had done; and as soon as the breakfast



was over, her mamma tied her hands behind her, and put her in a corner. "For," said she, "hands were given us to hold our knife, and fork, and spoon, and to play with our dolls when we are young, and to work with when we are grown up; but not to strike with. And so I shall now tie your hands as I did your feet the other day."

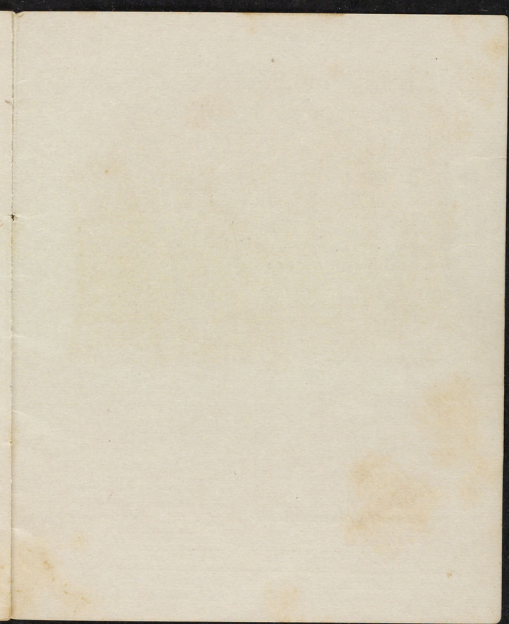
Poor Ellen found this was worse than having her feet tied; she wished to dress her doll, but could not; she wished to play with a new set of little tea things which her mamma had given her when she was good; but she found that when her hands were tied she could not do any thing that she liked. She cried very much; but that was of no use, and she could not even wipe her eyes.

At length her governess came and looked into the room to see if Ellen was sorry for her fault, and would try to be a good girl. She found the little girl very sorry, and quite willing to become good. So



the governess went to her mamma and begged her to forgive Ellen. Then Ellen's mother went into the room where she was, and untied her hands, and let her come out of the corner ; and very glad she was to get her hands free once more ; she went immediately to her Nurse and begged her pardon, as well as her dear mamma's, and then resolved she would never kick or strike any one again.

Little Ellen now thought she would no longer be such a wicked girl. She saw that she had grieved the best of mother's by her disobedience, and made herself very unhappy ; so instead of continuing obstinate and fretful, she soon became the most obedient and docile child in the family.



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