

Bessie Taylor.

Bessie Taylor was a very discontented girl. She was never pleased with anything—always looking out for what was disagreeable, and not for what was pleasant in anything. She was going away from home, and her grandmother asked her if she would have a rose to put in the bosom of her dress. So, being fond of flowers, she told her that she would like one. Away went her grandmother, with her cane in her hand, into her little garden, and gathered the finest rose that grew there. There was two buds growing on the same stem with the rose, and the leaves were as fresh and as green as the leaves of a rosebud could be. You may suppose that Bessie was not a little surprised when her grandmother snipped off the rose, the two buds and the green leaves, with her scissors, and offered Bessie Taylor the stem alone, all covered with thorns.

"Oh, grandmother, this is not a rose! Do you think that I will put that ugly stem in my dress without a single flower or leaf upon it? No; that I never will!"

You do not deserve to have roses growing in your garden if you spoil them in this way."

"Perhaps not," mildly replied her grandmother; "but there are other people in the world besides me who spoil their roses."

"Then," said Bessie, they must be very silly people."

"I think so, too," replied her grandmother. "And now I will tell you the name of one of them; it is Bessie Taylor."

Bessie reddened to her very ears, while her grandmother said:

"It has pleased God, Bessie to mark your life with many blessings mingled with a few cares, and you are continually neglecting your blessings and remembering your cares. If, then, you thus willfully despise your comforts, repine over your troubles, what is this but throwing away the flowers and green leaves of your life and sticking the thorns in your bosom?"

Who is like Bessie Taylor?—*National Baptist.*

Rock-a-bye Baby.

A certain spider—found in the southern part of Europe—makes a curious cradle to preserve her babies through the cold winter, so that the spider family shall not be exterminated. She makes a silk case somewhat the shape of a bal-

loon upside down, not quite half an inch long, and fitted with a door or cover, which may be opened, though she leaves it carefully closed. In this are placed the eggs, from which the little spiders will come out in the spring. To protect them from enemies and from cold, the anxious mamma makes an outer case of exactly the same shape, only about an inch long, and of course larger all around, also fitted with a closed door. Between the two cases the space is stuffed with a golden-brown colored silk, which she spins herself, and makes it warm and comfortable inside. The whole thing is hung to a bush, and left throughout the winter.—*Ec.*

The True Wife.

Oftentimes I have seen a tall ship glide by against the tide as if drawn by some invisible bow-line, with a hundred of strong arms pulling it. Her sails were unfilled, her streamers were drooping, she had neither side-wheel nor stern wheel; still she moved stately, in serene triumph, as with her own life. But I knew that on the other side of the ship, hidden beneath the great bulk that swam so majestically, there was a little toilsome steam tug, with a heart of fire and arms of iron, and was tugging it bravely on, and I knew if the little steam tug untwined her arms and left the ship it would wallow and roll about and drift hither and thither, and go off with the reflux tide, no man knows whither. And so I have known more than one genius, high decked, full freighted, idle-sailed, gay-pennoned, but that for the bare, toiling arms and brave warm-beating heart of the faithful little wife that nestled close to him, would have gone down with the stream and have been heard of no more.—*OLIVER WENDELL HOMES.*

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