

A Little Sinner.

Little Goldlocks sat on a cricket at her mamma's feet, hearing papa read in the Bible. He read all about the flood, and the ark, and Noah, and the animals. When papa shut the book Goldlocks sat with her chubby hands folded thinking very hard.

"The rain fell and fell," she said to herself, "and then the ark went into the deep water, and Noah, and his folks and all the cattle and sheep went too. If Jimmy will be Noah, I will be Noah's wife, and we can have the bath-tub for the ark, and the shower bath will make rain enough, I guess."

Goldlocks didn't say one word out loud, but she sat there on her cricket, thinking and thinking. At last, after everybody had left the room, she went to look up Jimmy. He was only four years old, and Goldlocks was six. You see, she was two years older than her little brother, and ought not to have led him into mischief.

"Want to make a flood, Jimmy?" asked Goldlocks.

"What kind of a flood?"

"Why, like Noah's! We'll play that all the folks in the house are bad, and we are good; and I 'spose we might have the canary for a dove, and the geranium for an olive-tree to light on. Come up here into the bath-room, and I'll show you."

So off trotted that little mischief of a Goldlocks, up to the bath-room, as fast as her short, fat legs would carry her, and Jimmy trotted after her.

"Now, I'll show you," she said. Then she got into the bath-tub. But she soon saw that she wasn't in the right place.

"The wicked folks ought to be in here," she said, "cause the good ones didn't get wet. We'll have the clothes-basket for the ark."

So Jimmy climbed into the basket, and Goldlocks turned on the shower-bath.

"Where am the bad ones?" asked Jimmy.

"We'll have the gray cat for one," said Goldlocks, "cause she scratched me 't'other day."

"She scratched me two, free, six times," said Jimmy.

Then Goldlocks caught the gray cat and took her oldest dollies, and put them in the flood. Jimmy sat in the ark, laughed and clapped his hands. Kitty didn't like being a sinner in the flood, and she struggled hard to get out; but the little girl held her down stoutly.

"Jump out of the ark, Jimmy," she said, "and open the bird-cage door; we must have a dove. You can climb on the sewing-machine. Mamma lets Dick out quite often."

Jimmy obeyed, and then ran back to his refuge. But just as he was safely seated in his ark there was a splash and a cry, and nothing was left of Miss Goldlocks but her feet sticking up in the air. She had fallen into the flood. Jimmy screamed as hard as she could, and mamma came in great fright. The poor half-drowned cat rushed out as mamma opened the door, and the canary came very near going too.

"What's all this?" asked the mother, as she pulled poor, streaming Goldlocks from the water.

"It's the flood and I'm Noah," said Jimmy.

"And I meant to be Noah's wife," said Goldlocks, "and the cat was one of the sinners."

"And you got into the sinners place?" said mamma.

"Yes," sobbed the child.

"Well," said mamma, as she put the birdie back in his cage, "you were doing just as the people did in Noah's time. They disobeyed God, and you have disobeyed me; so you got into the right place after all."

"Well, I dess I'm saved, anyhow," said Jimmy scrambling out of the ark. —MRS. M. F. BUTTS, in *Christian Register*.

How to Wash Laces.

Now that lace and muslin ruffles are universally worn, the pleasure of the possessors is a little dashed by the knowledge that the pretty varieties will lose their freshness, and half, at least, of their beauty in the wash, unless recourse be had to the expensive skill of a French laundress. But if they are washed at home after the following manner, they may hold up their heads with the best of the unwashed: Cover half a dozen wires or porter bottles with old stockings, sewed on to fit as tightly as possible. On these baste the soiled lace, carefully catching down every tiny loop in the border. The work is tedious but necessary. When the lace is fastened, cover the bottle in hot suds made of fine soap, and change the cooling suds to hot again several times a day. Or, better still, put the bottle in the boiler, and let it boil two or three hours, by which time the lace will be quite clean. Set the bottle in the air, and leave it till the lace is nearly but not quite dry. Then rip the lace off carefully, and press it in a book for a few hours. It will come out spotless, not too white, and with the almost imperceptible stiffness which new lace has. Even point lace emerges unscathed from this process. With half a dozen bottles much lace can be cleaned at once, and the lace can be tacked on at odd minutes.

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[Extract from the Baltimore "American," December 21, 1878.]

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