



The “Book of Remembrance”

This is a story of long ago when a dear mother was asked to care for a sick neighbor, perhaps for a long time. Because of the fever, she could not take her little ones with her or even see them, though she would be near them all the time. So she told her children what they should do while she was away. She wrote out the instructions carefully so that if they forgot anything, there were Mother’s written words to remind them.

Now it happened that just across the way there lived some children with whom Mother did not wish her little ones to play with because they were so rude. So, though their street was very pleasant and shady, Mother wrote in her book, “Don’t play in the street while I am gone.” These bad children were always tempting her little ones to come out and play with them.

Another “don’t” that Mother wrote was, “Don’t go to Sunset Rock till I come back,” This was a cliff where Mother often took the children to see the sunset. But it was a dangerous place for little ones to go without a safe hand to guide them. At the end of her letter Mother wrote, “Be good and faithful children till Mother comes home.”

She gave each one their duties. Roger was to get the wood and water. Marion, the oldest, was to be cook and housekeeper, while Betty was to be dishwasher and helper with small chores. Kissing them tenderly and giving them to the heavenly Father for care, Mother went to the suffering neighbor. Father was to tell her every day how the children were doing. Many were the sweet messages sent to Mother and returned with comfort and good cheer to the children.

Between the dining room and kitchen of their house, there was a small window through which dishes could be passed. Mother thought of this, and when her patient was asleep and resting well, she would slip over into the dining room. Standing at this little window, she could see her children doing their morning work.

It made Mother so happy to see them busy about their work, trying to please Mother with all their heart. She saw that if they were not sure about anything they always ran to her letter to make sure that they were doing things just right. How precious it seemed to hear the little plans to surprise Mother, and with what a glad heart she went back to her work.

After a week, some kind people had heard of the poor lady’s sickness and sent a nurse to care for her, so Mother could come home. What rejoicing among the children the morning she arrived! They led her through all the house, telling her about their work, their troubles and the good times. Then Mother sat down, opened a little book and read to them the things that she had heard and seen them doing while she was away. There were Betty’s sweet sayings, Marion’s careful instructions, and Roger’s great plans-ail for Mother’s



sake. When they heard all this, they were very happy. To think that while they were working and planning to please their Mother, she had often been with them, hearing and seeing all their ways.

“And now for the reward,” said Father. “Mother needs rest and my children deserve a treat, i have arranged to take you all to the mountains for a week. Will that do?” “O, yes, Father! Yes, indeed!” cried the children all together. And to the mountains they went.

Do you know that there is One who loves you even more than Mother and Father can love you, and He has gone “into a far country to receive a kingdom and to return?” He has given all of His children their work. And He has left with us His book of instructions, so that we may learn just how to do our work to please Him. In it He warns us about that enemy and his wicked children, who will try to take His faithful little ones into sin and ruin them. In this Book He says, “Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.”

Like Mother at the window, He watches over His children, “and a book of remembrance is written before him” of all that they do. And soon dear Jesus will come again to destroy that wicked one with all his wicked children, but to reward His own for their faithful, loving work. Then, when He takes them home to His own beautiful city, it will be joy indeed to receive the rewards that He has for them. Let’s all have a part in that joy! ❖