

undoubtedly

AL/1798



For
Private Circulation amongst those
whom it may concern.

It was the seventh day of the week,
on the twenty fifth of the month called
February, in the year One Thousand
Eight Hundred and Seventy One.



A day like that which
King Solomon described
when he said "Lo, the winter
is past, the rain is over and gone;
the flowers appear on the earth; the
time of the singing of birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle is heard
in our land". A day, when

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old mother Nature turned herself
in her sleep, not quite waking up.
But her rigid features relaxed, her
eyes opened slightly, the grim hard
lines about her mouth vanished, and
her lips were parted with a smile;
while o'er her silvery locks passed
gleams of gold - they were fast-chang-
ing to the flaxen curls of youth -

At these symptoms of a com-
ing change; the snow clouds hurried
off to their fastnesses in the North,
scudding away so hastily, that one
overtaking the other, they were jostled,
and crowded together, and rolled

into a heap in one corner of the sky, leav-
ing the rest of the heavens a clear expanse
of the deepest blue. The Wind brushed his
loud voice and spoke that day in the
gentlest-whisper and softest-tone. The
glorious Sun sent forth his warmest
beams, and there was rejoicing through-
out the land.

"Thou hast fanned the sleeping Earth
till her dreams are all of flowers;
And the waters look in mirth
for their overhanging bowers;
The forest seems to listen,
for the rustle of its leaves;
And the very skies to glisten
in the hope of summer eve's."

In a certain large and well regulated Establishment for the Education of young Ladies, there was a hum of joyous voices - the week's studies were ended, the afternoon was lovely, and the pleasant walks in the long garden were soon gay with life.

In companies of two, or three, or some times four, they walked up and down, arms linked together, chatting merrily - others bounded high into the air from the elastic plank amongst the trees, sending forth peals of ringing laughter - a few of the younger ones chased each other over the grass, their shawls and cloaks loosely held together, flew be-

hind them, or trailed along the ground.

The sun shone brightly on the gay scene, and all was seeming health and joy. Looking closer I beheld a form invisible to the youthful band, moving about amongst them. A stern and prim looking old Lady, I recognised her at once, Mrs Bedone-by-asyou-did, or, as she may be better known by some, Mrs Just Retribution.

The young ladies had met with her often, they knew her rules; and now she walked unseen amongst them to examine each as she passed, and if her rules had been disobeyed or forgotten there would be punishment in store. Not a single pair of feet escaped her searching gaze - some were

all right, and the old lady gave a nod of satisfaction as she saw the thick soled boot, or the pair of glossy overshoes - but there were many with dainty boots of thin kid or velvet, with soles not much thicker than brown paper, and slight slippers of various sorts. No doubt the wearers of these had looked at the sunny sky, and said how dry the walks must be, quite as dry as the play room floor - perhaps so, but they were a great deal colder. And then if the walks were dry, the grass was not. They would probably have looked in the old lady's face, had she questioned them, and have told her as they believed in sincerity, that they were not walking on the grass at all - one, forgetting that she had just run

across from one walk to another to join her friend. And some others who had walked on the path where it was broad enough for four, had been walking all the way up the side path on the edges of the grass, sometimes off and sometimes on - the soles of their boots were damp, they knew it not, but the old Lady did. Then she turned her attention to the shawls & cloaks. Some there were who appeared to think the back alone needed protection, a large thick shawl was over their shoulders but quite open and unfastened in front. Others were attired in cloaks flying loosely, & scarcely a neck tie or handkerchief were to be seen; and yet if any of them had dressed to go into the town or to meeting, they would have worn a close fitting thick jacket, a neck tie, probably

also a fur collar and a muff!

The old Lady finished her scrutiny, smiled a grim smile, & began her secret work. She gave a sly pinch to the delicate wouls of one pair of thin boots, causing it speedily to swell till she could scarcely swallow. Scratched the tonsils of another, stabbed the side of a third, tickled the nostrils of a good many - and scraped their chests - and then walked away repeating to herself some of the wise sayings from the Book of Proverbs - such as "Those diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will turn upon him" - "A prudent man foreseeth the evil; but the simple pass on, and are punished" -

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but

he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" - The chastening came again and again, but did they learn wisdom? There were headaches, and sore throats, and pains in the back, and pains in the chest, stitches in the side, sneezing, sore eyes, and a chorus of coughing! There were hot drinks, linsed poultices, mustard applications, hot bottles, breaths in bed, and belladonna, arsenicum & Bryonia, and weary feet of those who had ^{to} nurse, and care, and anxiety to the Lady Principal - And the warmer the weather the more the colds increased. and the secret was not found out. - And Mrs Just-Re-tribution laughed again and

again and said "never fear, they
will learn to obey me in time, poor
dears - and to know that 'prevention
is better than cure', and "a word to
~~the~~ the wise is sufficient -"

By a frequent victim of the old Lady.



Question
for the Editor
"Notes and Queries"

At what age is a young lady ca-
pable of taking care of her self, away
from her mother? because in these
large Establishments for the Education
of young Ladies, it is not possible to
provide accommodation for a number
of Nurse Maids to see that the young
Ladies put on thick boots & are suitable
clothed when they go into the
garden, especially during the recess.

9. III. 1871.