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Poetry.

THE MERRY HEART GOES ALL THE WAY

When you come to a wearisome bit of the road,
Where the stones are thick and the path is steep,
And the back is bowed with the load of the load,
As the narrowing way is hard to keep,
Don't stop just then for a wasteful sigh,
But challenge the worst with steadfast cheer;
If nowhere else there is help on high—
God's angel will hasten, your pioneer.

When you reach a lonesome bit of the road,
Curtained about with mist and murk,
And you hear faint sounds from the dread above,
Where shivering dim bogeymen lurk,
Just laugh to scorn their doleful cries—
This is the place to whistle and sing:
Brush the fog from your fearless eyes,
And close to the faith of your father's cling.

When you stand at a sorrowful bit of the road,
And a hand you loved has loosed its clasp;
When dreams are dried that in sweetness flowed
And flowers drop from your listless grasp:
Can now take heart for further on
There are hope and joy and the dawn of day;
You shall find again what you thought was gone:
'Tis the merry heart goes all the way.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

Select Family Reading

How Cherry Saved the Day

By Marion McHardy Thornton

THE two little gray houses on opposite sides of the struggling country road might almost have been a pair of comfortable old twins, so nearly alike were they in size and shape, in windows and doors and chimney. Perhaps the likeness was more properly that of father and son, since one was perceptibly grayer and more worn than the other.

Young Timothy Dill had built the newer one in those days when he brought his beautiful young wife to make a home for him across the way from his father's house. Old Timothy Dill himself was old and gray and lived lonesomely in a stately mansion two miles away in the town. The youngest child had long since passed into other hands, while the widow and children of Timothy the third kept the laugh from ever ringing in the little gray house of his wedding days.

Cherry loved every inch of the grayness, peopled to her imagination with visions of departed Dills and warmed with the happy life that she and Tim and the little mother managed to live in it every day. Almost as well she loved the "Twin," as she and Tim called the older house, and a narrow path wore across the roadside grass beside to her frequent visits to Uncle Dan Colling and Aunt Mary, whose declining years were being passed under its peaceful roof.

"There was a little round pie going into the oven this very minute, that, if it happened anything at all, would have been perfectly sure that it was intended for Aunt Mary's dinner.

"It's just as fat and plump, mamma," declared Cherry, shutting the oven door carefully. "Aunt Mary does love plump pies. So does Uncle Dan, though he pretends he doesn't care.

"I guess they like any kind of pies your fingers have been in," laughed the little mother, as Cherry, they're a good deal happier some day than they would be if you didn't have a figure like the pie." She spoke quietly.

Cherry laughed too, a tender, little laugh. "Oh, I'll make an angel cake, maybe, if I have time, you know. It's—there, I've just enough sense to make some tarts for Tim's dinner to-morrow. They don't take up a whole room in his pail, and he says they do taste so good! Oh, mamma, he broke a fifty piece yesterday! Wasn't that pretty good for Timothy? The foreman says he's real quick. Oh, I'm so glad to be thankful that the brass works are so near, so that he can go to 'em!"

The little mother softened a sigh away underneath her cheery voice. "Oh, yes, we ought. I hate to have him work quite so hard, but he'll be fine in his new clothes for school this fall when he gets them."

Cherry sympathized the sigh and hurried to add:

"Timmie doesn't mind the work, but a bit—he says so. He says it's pretty to see the shine come out. And then we have such fun nights! It's molasses candy night tonight, you know. Now, I'll make the beds in a twinkle and by that time Aunt Mary's pie will be ready to run over with—

Aunt Mary was anything but late in the gray kitchen when Cherry popped in at the back door. She gave her apron flung neatly on its hook in the corner, the rocking-chair in the window was empty, and the kitchen clock gave her dinner. A square figure with silk Cherry's heart, sat by the window toward the best room, half afraid of what she might see there.

"Why, Aunt Mary, what's the matter?" she faltered, as she saw the tears on her aunt's cheeks.

"Oh, my dear, I'm ashamed of myself, I'm so ashamed! Cherry, I'm ashamed of myself!"

"Why, what's the matter? Whatever happened? Is Uncle Dan—"

"No, he's all right. It's—it's—