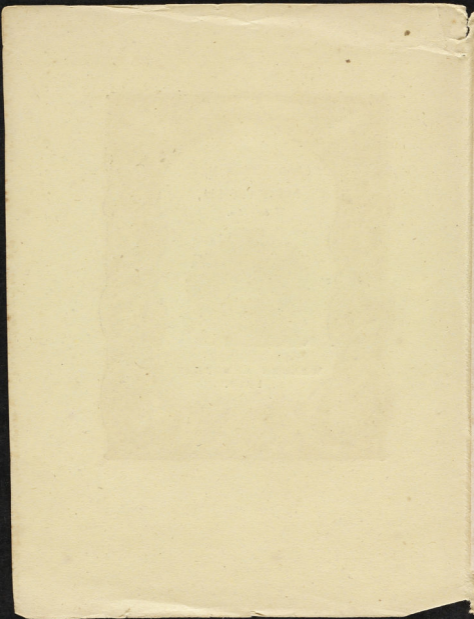
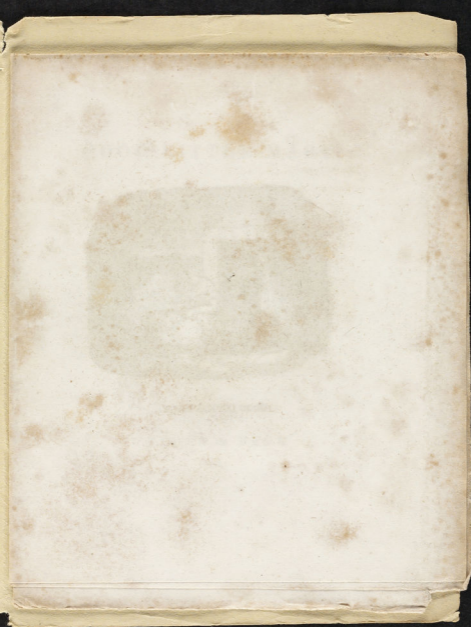


GOOD LITTLE MARY,
NOISY CECILIA,
&c., &c.



PROVIDENCE:
WEEDEN AND PEEK.
1849.







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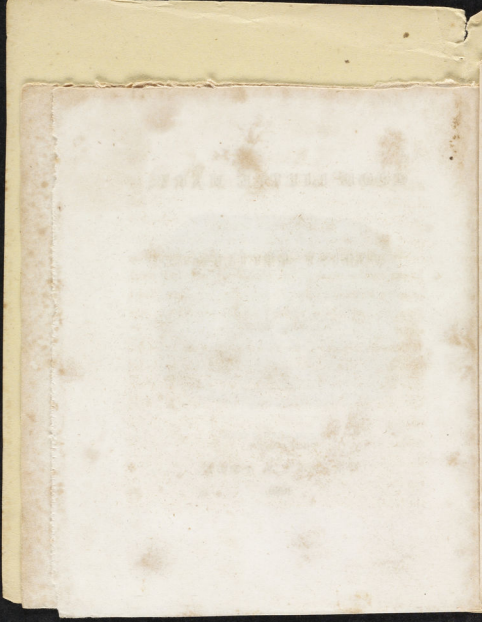
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GOOD LITTLE MARY.

You will think the younger sisters are my favourites, for I have another story in my head of one, who was much better to be trusted than an elder one who was twelve years old : and she of whom I am going to tell was only eight.

Their mother was a country-woman, and kept cows and pigs, so she was obliged to go to market, and leave her little baby to the care of Peggy her eldest daughter, who was old enough to take care of it, if she had liked the trouble ; but that was not the case ; for as soon as her mother was gone, she popped the poor little creature into the cradle, and told Mary to sit by it for a minute or two, and she would return directly ; but that she never did, till she heard old Dobbin trotting down the lane, and then in she

ran, and if her sister had the baby on her lap, snatched it up in her arms, that her mother might think she had never left it

Little Mary never told tales of her sister, though her mother was sometimes angry that she had not finished her task of knitting; and she could not help it, for the baby often cried, and would not stay in the cradle, and Mary was obliged to hold it on her lap all the time her mother was away.

One morning, the good woman was making ready to go to market, and as she had a good deal to do, she said she should not return so soon as usual: so she put some food for the baby by the fire, to keep it warm, and told Peggy to be very careful to feed it if it cried, and try to sing it to sleep: but Peggy had something to do, which she liked better: so away she went, and Mary hardly knew what to do: for the baby did nothing but cry: it was cry

ing when the naughty girl put it into the cradle and left it, but she did not trouble her head about the matter.

Poor Mary warmed the food, and then took the child upon her lap and fed it as well as she was able, and as she had seen her mother do: and as it was then quiet, she began to sing lullaby with such a sweet little voice that it fell fast asleep.

I do not think you will be sorry to hear that Peggy's naughtiness was now discovered: her mother had forgotten something, which she was to have taken with her; so, instead of staying longer than usual at market, she came back half an hour sooner, and was much surprised to find Mary alone with the baby: and as Peggy was not to be found, though she called and inquired for her all round the house, she soon heard from her neighbors, that this was the way she always did: so her mother, as she was of no use to her, sent her to a farmer, where she could not play any of her tricks, but was made to work

very hard; and Mary, as she grew older, became every year more useful, and lived very happy with her mother and the little baby, of whom she always took the greatest care.

NOISY CECILIA.

I HAVE NOW to say a word or two of the most noisy little creature I ever met with in my life; and as she was a younger sister, and had several brothers and sisters, who were very good children, you will not think me partial to *all* the young ones, though I have mentioned two or three who have behaved better than their elders.

As to Miss Cecilia, I assure you I could not have lived in the house with her on any account. At six o'clock in the morning, the noise began: if her maid would not let her out of the nursery, she would take up any thing she



NOISY CECILIA

could get at, and drum upon the table till she awoke every creature in the house; and when she got down into the hall, her delight was to make the great dog bark, or to bring in her little cart full of stones, and if she could run with it till it overset, and the stones rolled about till the servants came to see what was the matter, she was the more delighted.

At dinner, she made so much noise by rattling her fork and spoon on her plate, that the servants could not hear when they were asked for any thing; so she was sent to dine in the nursery, and she was so troublesome every where, that nobody could bear her company.

No one, however, was so much disturbed by her as her poor Grandmamma, who would have loved her very much indeed, if she had been a good child; but she could not bear to see her come into her room, because she knew she would give her the head-ache, and make her ill all day: and she never minded what was said to her, but grew

worse and worse. She went, one morning, into her Grand-mamma's room, when she was reading, beating the drum with one hand and holding a trumpet to her mouth with the other, and the poor old lady was almost distracted : so Miss Cecilia was sent to a great distance to school, and not allowed to come home till she had left off her naughty noisy tricks.

POLITENESS.

THERE was once a young lady, who was very plain in her person, but so foolish and so vain, that she fancied herself quite beautiful, and that her shape was admired by every one who looked at her; but she was very much mistaken: for as she had never been obedient when she was a little girl, the more she was desired to hold up her head and sit straight on her chair, the more she stooped and squeezed herself into a corner, so that she was more awkward than I can possibly describe; and whenever she moved to walk across the room, she twisted herself into so many odd shapes, that she was quite ridiculous.

So far, this young lady is the only one to be blamed; and I wish I had nothing more to relate, but I cannot help it. I do not only wish my little readers, when they see

any thing wrong in others, not to imitate the fault, but that they should never laugh at, or make a mock of it; and if little George and his sister Fanny had followed my advice, they would not at this moment be confined to the nursery, after having been sent in disgrace, out of the drawing-room.

The young lady above-mentioned went, a few days since, to visit their Mamma: and as soon as she entered the room, a gentleman, nearly as fantastical as herself, rose up to give her a chair. The rest of the company, whatever they thought, were too well bred to laugh, or appear to take notice of the bowing and twisting of the gentleman and lady: but George and Fanny, I am sorry to say it, stood up directly behind them, he imitating one and Fanny the other, in such a manner that they thought every one present would be much amused with their cleverness: but they were disappointed, for the company frowned instead of laughing, and their Mamma ordered them both to quit

the drawing room, and forbade them to enter it again till they knew better how to behave themselves.

THE DANGER OF SWINGING,
AND HOW EDWARD AND LUCY WERE HURT.

EDWARD DAVIES, with his sisters Lucy and Anne, went to spend a day in the country; they were all up at six o'clock in the morning, and found breakfast ready when they arrived at their friend's house; tea and cream, and hot cakes, and currant cakes besides; and Edward and Lucy began to devour them as fast as they could eat; but little Anne said their Mamma had ordered them not to eat any cream, and very few cakes; and she certainly knew better what was fit for them than they did, and therefore she would obey her Mamma's orders.

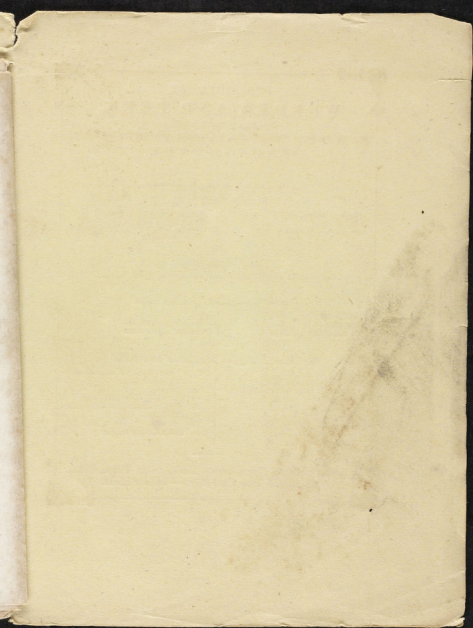
Edward and Lucy laughed at the little girl; but they

did not laugh long, for they both grew very sick about an hour after breakfast, and could not rise from their chairs. So Anne went into the garden, and saw every thing that was to be seen.

At dinner time, they were not well enough to eat much, and it was very well that they could not, for they were better in the evening; but if they had crammed at dinner as they had done at breakfast, they would have been very ill indeed.

The old lady, whom they went to spend the day with, had a swing at the bottom of her garden, which their Mamma knew, and had ordered them not to get into it on any account whatever; but the first thing Lucy did was to ask her brother to help her to seat herself upon the rope, and she began to swing so much that poor little Anne was afraid to look at her, while Edward mounted into one of the large trees, laughing at his sister, because she said they would break their necks.—But what was the end of it?

—They both fell, and returned home with their foreheads bound up, and Edward's arm very much hurt. So they were never allowed to go any where without their Papa and Mamma, whilst Anne went to every place whither she was invited, because they knew she could be trusted, and would never disobey orders.



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