A Beginning.

BY SARAH WINTER KELLOGG.

Kate was eleven; Johnny was six Dora was "going on" five. It was nearly Christmas, and Kate had her mind set upon making Johnny a prepers, for Aunt Mary had sent him a pretty pair on his birthday, blue with akı ot of pansies. Neither could the present be mittens, lest grandma might be offended; for she could do little else but knit, and considered it her right to keep the family hands and feet

Johnny, being the only boy, slept in winter on a lounge in the sitting-room, and this suggested to Kate the thing to make for him, -a cover for the lounge cushion.

One afternoon, when the mother had gone to stay with grandma, who was sick, Kate attempted a beginning. She brought the scrap-bag from the attic, and settled little Dora by the window to report Johnny's approach. He had gone to the baker's for a loaf of bread. Then she emptied the bag in the middle of the floor and began picking out the woolen pieces which would do to put together for the cover. She had set aside a scrap of yellow flannel, and a piece of Johnny's new pepper and salt suit, and was thinking about taking a third bit,-a blue merino, bright, but moth-eaten, -when there was a cry from the sentinel at the window:

"Johnny's comin'!" Kate, in a panic, snatched up the pieces by great handfuls, and crowded them back into the bag, asking if he was almost to the gate. She wouldn't have little Johnny see even the thread and needle she was to make his present with; it must be a complete surprise to him. When the scraps were all in the bag under the lounge, Dora said

Aaron Bridges." "Well, I think it's a pity," Kate said, "if you can't tell Johnny from Aaron Bridges, who is a head taller and has red hair."

She dragged out the bag, and again candy." emptied the pieces on the floor. "Anyhow, they both wear caps," said

Dora defending herself. "Yes, they do, and a hen and a

gander both wear feathers," said Kate. "Oh yes, but," and Dora bobbed her head in triumph, "they aint both of them hens, and they aint both of them ganders."

"Well, now," said Kate amused, "begin again; keep a good look out. and tell me if you see Johnny coming but please, don't mistake every boy in town for him."

"I'd rather pick out the pieces; you watch for Johnny," said Dora.

"That's always the way with little girls; they never want to do what they can do. You'd better stand up in the chair, and then you can see farther down the street."

So Dora mounted a chair, and turned her face to the window, looking very tall, and Kate went on turning over the scraps and added to Dora: "You must keep your eyes on the

street. You musn't stop to watch me. Johnny might come while you're watching me, and ruin everything." Dora returned to her sentinel watch,

and immediately cried ont that Johnny was coming.

Kate seized the bag with one hand, and a heap of scraps with the other, and then ran to the window to see if Dora's report was true.

"Where?" she asked. Where is he?" "Right there," said Dora. "Don't you see his blue scarf?"

"What a goose you are!" cried Kate. "That's crazy Polly Perkins. I should think you could tell that great tall crazy woman with a sun-bonnet from your own little boy brother."

"Anyhow," said Dora, "you talk as if little brothers was sometimes girls."

Kate laughed and then said: "If you'll keep a good watch, Dode, and tell me truly when Johnny's coming, I'll make your doll a princess dress."

"Well," Dora agreed, "I'll look hard's I can, and I'll tell really-true next time."

"Well, please, Dody, do."

Dora turned her face street-ward and Kate went back to examining the scrap-bag. She soon had a good pile of gay bits selected, but in the midst of her work, she heard on the walk the tramp tramp of a boy's boots, coming around the house to the side door. "There he is !" cried Kate, starting and grabbing the scraps, as she darted a swift glance at the faithless Dora,

fast asleep, seated in her chair. Kate had just time to get all the pieces thoroughly mixed and crowded back into the bag, when Johnny came stamping in.

"I'm so glad he didn't see the backward, V or W. It's hard to say pieces," Kate thought, not realizing them backward; it's like dragging the that no beginning was yet made toward the cushion-cover. The sitting-room being the only one warmed, Kate could not take her Christmas work to another. "After Johnny goes to bed, I can work on it," she thought; "he always

goes early." Bnt that night Johnny got interested

in a story, and when his bed-time came, ny. Wait; may be you'll like the last little farther.

"It's so nice," he pleaded; "about a poor little boy named Philip. He hung up his stocking Christmas night,

"Of course he did," said Kate. In ed," etc., etc., reading in a voice purstories they always get their stockings posely as monotonous as the slow grindfilled. I shouldn't wonder if he found it full of gold pieces. I wish things her ear : Johnny was snoring ! happened in sure-enough as in storybooks; and I wish boys were as good

out of books as in, and would go to bed at their bed-time.' "I will go truly, as soon as I see if Phillip found anything in his stocking," said Johnny, falling to on the story.

"I'll read as fast as I can." "And skip all the long words," said

Kate. "See here: I'll read to you of the pious Acadians are found, the after you get to bed.'

rather be read to than read, any day.

or night either.

"Katie, don't you think it's mean that Phillip didn't get something in his stocking beside candy, - something to sent. What should it be? Not slip- play with? A drum is splendid; ruba-dub-dub! rub-a-dub-dub!"

"There, hush! try to go to sleep," said Kate.

She sat quiet as a statue, the book before her, staring at the picture Phillip on Christmas morning, jacketless, barefooted, inspecting his plump stocking by lamp-light. She dared not turn a leaf, or move a finger, and scarcely breathed. After what seemed a long, long waiting, she asked in a very low tone :

"Are you asleep, Johnny?" "No," said Johnny. "I keep

thinking 'bout Phillip. What kind of candy do you s'pose it was he got in his stocking? I hope it was gum-drops and chocolate-creams."

"Never mind about that. Just go to

Again there was silence, while Kate looked at the shadows about the room at the clock; at the picture of Philip. and read over, for the twentieth time, -or the hundredth, or the thousandth, it may be, -the contents of that Christmas stocking.

At length she thought Johnny must surely be asleep, he lay so quiet, and she felt so very anxious to make a beginning. She rose softly and tiptoed over to the lounge, where he lay with his face to the wall. She bent over and peeped. His wideopen eyes turned to

"Aren't you asleep yet?" said Kate, with some impatience.

"No," said Johnny, sadly. "I keep worrying about Philip yet. Do you think his candy was those mean old "Why, no; it isn't Johnny, it's peppermint things that taste like medicine and smart the tongue?"

"No," said Kate, with ready sympathy. "I think it was cream-candy. The stocking bulges out in one place just the shape of a stick of cream-

"Let me see where it does," said Johnny, eagerly, sitting up.

Kate, remembering his trait of holding on," decided that the quickest way to quiet him was to bring the book and show him the picture.

"Don't you see, the stocking sticks out right there, just like there was a piece of cream-candy."

Johnny did see, or imagined he did, a slight irregularity in the line of the stocking-picture, and lay down. Kate arranged the bedclothes about him, and said, soothingly:

Now, go to sleep, darling." "I will, said Johnny, obediently. A period of silence ensued, while Kate waited, matching in her mind a blue square to a brown merino one, and a green to a red. "No," she thought,

'I'll put drab and red together." Katie," said a smothered voice from "What is it, Johnny?" said Kate

hopelessly. "Wasn't it a very little bit of creamcandy? The stick-out in the picture is such a little stick-out.

"Why, no," said kind Kate, in a re-assuring tone. "I think the stickout is a good-sized stick-out, and I'm sure the candy was a good large piece. "I'm so glad," said Johnny, settling

himself on the pillow. Kate waited. Tick! tock! tick for four minutes this was the only

"If he stays quiet one minute longer," Kate thought, watching the clock, it must be he's asleep, and then I can

" Kate !" "Oh, dear ! dear !" said Kate growing vexed. "What is the matter now. Johnny?"

"Guess you'll have to give me some soothing sirup to make me sleep," said Johnny. Next to candy he liked soothing sirup.

"Oh, Johnny!" said Kate in imploring tones, "won't you please go to sleep!"

"I can't, Katie ;- I keep thinking about Philip. I'm afraid some big boy took a bite of his cream-candy, and took more'n half. Big boys always do Sarsaparilla take more'n half.' "I'll tell you Johnny. Say your

letters backward. That will keep you from thinking about Philip, and will get you to sleep."

Johnny promised, and again Kate tucked him in, and for a moment everything was quiet. Then he again

"Katie!" "Why don't you mind me and say

your letters backwards, as I told you?" Kate demanded. I'm going to," Johnny answered, when you tell me which comes first

"Well", said Kate, relenting, never mind, I'll read to you.' She began to fear that there might be fifty other stoppages before the alphabet backward would be finished.

She read an essay on the "Art of Reading." In the midst of the first paragraph her reading was interrupted. "It isn't a pretty piece," said John-

part better," said sly Kate. Well," Johnny assented, turning

Kate went on reading about the "importance of a distinct enunciation." and about the "indispensable condiand I want to see if he got anything in tion to good reading that the author's meaning should be clearly apprehending of a coffee mill. Suddenly she stopped; a welcome sound came to

> Then Kate brought out the scrapbag from the oven of the kitchen-stove, where she had hid it, and soon actually made a beginning.

Christmas in Acadie.

[From the N. Y. World.] In Acadie and those districts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where descendants people celebrate Christmas with a play "All right," said Johnny, who'd alike to the Passion plays which still linger in Middle Europe. The villagers assemble on Christmas Eve at the house He went into the next room, and un- of the patriarch of the settlement, al Agent. dressed, and soon came back and lay bringing with them their pictures of deon the lounge under cover, while Kate votion, crucifixes and images of the read rapidly about Phillip and what he Virgin and Ste. Anne. The room is found in his stocking on Christmas decorated with these and with sprigs of evergreen, and at the foot of the rude "And that's all," she said at length, family altar, which is ablaze with can-

closing the book; "and now go to dles, is a cradle containing a figure of the infant Jesus. A maiden dressed in They were quiet for a moment, when white and blue represents the Virgin and an elderly man Joseph. The night is spent in singing the canticum of Ste. Anne, and relating the ancient traditions of Normandy-how Emerenkana, mother of Ste. Anne, saw visions on the plains of Sephor, two leagues from Nazareth; how the angels waited for the departing soul of Stollan, father of Ste. Anne, as he lay on his deathbed, and how while Ste. Anne was in her cradle, Seral, a blind man of Nazareth, knelt by its side, and on taking her infants hands into his own, was miraculously cured. Just before midnight there is a knock at the door. The company rise, and making an act faith, bid the patriarch ask who is there. Carrying a lighted taper in one hand and his crucifix in the other, the old

> man stands at the door and sings : D'ou-viens-to, bergere, D'ou viens-tu? Outside are maidens arrayed in their Norman best, with caps and kirtles, and their leaders, who is called the shep-

herdess, replies, singing : Je viens d l'etable De m'y promerer; J'ai vu un miracle Ce soir arrive.

The old man within replies :-Qu' as-tu vu, berger Qu' as-tu vu ? and the colloquy goes on

> I saw a little child In a manger old, On the straw so clean, Placed full tenderly.

Was there nothing more, shepherdess, Was there nothing more? Mary, his blessed mother, Gave him milk to drink;

While Joseph, his holy father, Trembled with the cold. Was there nothing more, shepherdess,

Was there nothing more? The cow and the patient ass Stood by that manger old. And with their loving breath Warmed the little child.

Was there nothing more, shepherdess, Was there nothing more ?,

Three little angels Came down from heaven. Singing the anthem Of the Only Son.

Ho! enter then, dear shepherdess, Euter and pray with us!

The door is opened, and as the shepherdess and her attendants enter the Virgin rises from the cradle, and spreading her hands over the figure of the infant, sings:

> Shepherdess, behold and see Thy dream fulfilled : Behold the King of Galilee Whom Herod would have killed!

O'N and after Monday, November 17th, Trains will run on this Railway, in connection with the Intercolonial Railway, daily, As the clock strikes midnight the (Sundays excepted) as follows: company kneels while the Virgin and shepherdess lift the infant figure upon the altar; then, as they suddenly ele-Chatham June'n, Arrive vate a crucifix, all rise and sing. .

It is finished! From the cradle to the grave ! It is finished The life that alone can save !

The lights on the altar are put out, and the company, after mutual congratulations, separates. The following evening they gather again and the same ceremonies are performed. But the laudable custom is dying out.

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A HIGHLY CONCENTRATED CURES EXTRACT OF SYPHILIS, RED JAMAICA SCROFULA, SARSAPARILLA SALT-RHEUM, DOUBLE IODIDES. Space torbids the giving SKIN-DISEASES, place, in favor of this great medicine. Is not one certificate, however, from an

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SPLEEN, RHEUMATIC prepared, as one of the best possible combinations AFFECTIONS, to constitute an effectual remedy, for the cure of Blood Impurities. So far as DISEASES my experience leads me OF THE with this remedy, I can testify to its great value in the treatment of al KIDNEYS, Strumous and Cachectic BLADDER affections, as Glandular En largements, and a wide AND range of skin affections; as URINARY a reliable preparation for general use as a blood puri-ORGANS,

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Nork.-Dr. Channing's Sarsaparilla is put up in and retails at \$1.00 per bottle, or Six Bottles for Five Dollars. Sold by Druggists generally, and most Country Stores. Be sure, and ask for Dr Channing's Sarsaparilla and take no other. If not readily obtained in your locality, address the Gener-

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All kinds, for sale at the Miramich Bookstore

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General Business.

NOTICE

Parish Returns and County Accounts A LL COUNTY AND PAPISH Officers, who have A not yet made their Returns, and all persons having accounts against the County, are requested to make their Returns, and render their Accounts forthwith, duly vouched and attested to this office preparatory to audit of the same.

SAM'L THOMSON, Office of Sec'y Treasurer

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