

in upon her. She only remembered she was in the country when she looked for the spire and couldn't find it; and when, instead of the ticking of the clock, she heard the cows lowing near by, and the hens cackling under her very window; for she had been taken to a farm-house, which once belonged to her father, and where she was born nearly seven years before. She had lived the first two years of her life there. When her mamma in the next room heard May stirring, she was soon beside her, and gave her some new milk to drink, quite warm from the cow. Then May rose and got her clothes put on. She asked her mother when the doctor would come, and her mother said that here they must go to see the doctor instead of his coming to see them; for this doctor wasn't like town doctors, and made it a rule to see his patients out of doors, if they were at all able to go. He was very strange in his ways, and did a great deal of his work in secret when people were not thinking of him at all.

May was accordingly put into a perambulator, and the servant wheeled her through one field and then another. When at last they had crossed a road and passed through a gate into a field lying on the slope of a little gentle valley, May grasped her mamma's hand tight, and said excitedly—

"That is where I first saw the brown cow—yes, there," pointing down towards the water.

And then her mother all at once remembered how when May was a little thing, just begun to walk, the nurse had a pet cow that she used often to take May out to see, and it was so fond of nurse that it would follow her about in the field. And one day, when Jessie was patting her favourite "Brownie," the bull from the neighbouring farm had broken loose, and had got into this field, and made a rush at nurse, who snatched May up in her arms and ran, pursued by the bull, which would no doubt have seriously hurt them, had it not been that a labourer, seeing the danger, got over the fence and took May in his arms, and with his goad drove back the bull, while Jessie, as she confessed afterwards, stood trembling and crying, now that she saw the bull driven back. The man had taken the child in his arms, as he felt this would be safest, because nurse in her fright might fall and hurt her. Not very long after this, May's father and mother left the farm and went down to Scotland to see some of their friends before settling in London. They stayed there nearly two months, and instead of returning by the railway they took a fancy to sail in the steamer as the weather was delightful.

There were some cattle in the fore part

of the vessel, at which May was so very much afraid that she cried whenever she was taken upon deck: but one of the sailors, a very thick little man, spoke to her so kindly that she was quieted at last, and laughed when nurse held her up to see the poor cattle, which must have felt so strange on the sea. And when May's mamma sat down beside her in the afternoon and told her all this May said—

"I was sure the dream was real, mamma. Are all dreams real, like that one? and it must be real, you know, though I confused the brown cow with the bull. I had forgot all about the fright in the field, of course."

"Well, May, very often our most unpleasant dreams would be easily explained if we only knew a little more; at any rate, now I think of it, I am convinced your dream is just a confused recollection of what took place five years ago, and it is very distinct, too, when you come to think of it."

"And I would never had got to remember about the fright, if you and nurse and me hadn't come down here."

"No, it isn't very likely, child; but then you see when we are oppressed with sad and painful thoughts, whether they come to us at first in dreams or not, we should always believe that if we only saw a little more, or got to know some very little thing we don't know, we should find that it was foolish to trouble ourselves so much about them. Your nature was craving for the fresh air, and the streams, and the green fields, and your imagination in sleep took you back to this place, the only country place you were in for any length of time, notwithstanding that everything seemed so confused; and now that you have come to the very field where 'Brownie' used to roam about, there is no fear, I think, of unpleasant dreams of that kind coming to you any more."

"No, mamma, I think not; but it was a strange dream: and wasn't it very strange too for us to come down here just to find it all out?"

"Yes, May, and that is the way we always find things out; it looks as if it were all by chance, but God knows better, who gradually leads us so as to convince us that all is for our good, however strange and trying it may seem to us."

"But we've forgot the doctor!" said May, with the gravest of looks.

"Oh, no, the doctor saw you, though you didn't see him, child, and he says you will soon be strong and big."

"He must be a very sharp doctor," said May; "but I must watch him better next time: I was so taken up about the dream! Yes, I suppose, that *must* have been it!"

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