

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CHILDREN'S TREAT.

I THINK we had been at Linwick about a fortnight when Mrs. Aidel, the clergyman's wife, came to ask aunt Mary if we should all like to go and see the school-children have tea on the lawn in front of the Rectory. They always had a treat in June, and another in December. At the winter treat there was a sort of examination, and prizes were given away to the children; but in summer it was only tea and games, there was no examination.

We were very much delighted at the prospect of going to the Rectory, for we had heard about this school treat ever since we came to the village. Indeed, little Tommy Tubbs had talked of nothing else for the last week, and he had told his mother that he should not eat any dinner on the day of the treat, in order that he might enjoy his tea more. Mrs. Tubbs had made him a new pinafore for the occasion, of holland wrapping, faced with scarlet braid. Tommy was a short, thick,