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all the other children were so nice and clean. Mrs. Aidel stopped her at the gate, and said she could not be allowed to come to the treat in that way. It was one of the rules that all the boys and girls should have clean hands and faces, and, if possible, clean dresses too, so she must go home and make herself tidy before she could join the rest.

She was obliged to turn away, though she had come inside the gate, quite close to the tea and bread and butter, and oh! how cross she did look about it. She frowned and muttered and pouted her lips, and her face grew angry-red, even through all the dirt; but it was no use, she must go. Mrs. Aidel said, if she came back nice and clean she might come in then, but she would have to be very quick indeed, because no one could be admitted after the children had sung their grace.

She set off running as fast as ever she could. We did not feel a bit sorry for her, because it was all her own fault. Little girls who are unfortunate enough to have untidy mammas may be obliged sometimes to wear dirty frocks, but they are never obliged to wear dirty faces—they can always keep those clean, if they will only take the trouble.