

yard, and saw the sun shining so brightly, and heard the sound of merry voices at play, I hardened my heart against my mother's kind instructions, and pettishly replied,—

“I'd rather play with the children; it's too bad to be cooped up here when every one else is amusing themselves!”

“I had much rather mend the dress myself, in addition to the heavy burden I now have upon me, than see my little daughter indulge in such a spirit,” replied my mother.

Making no reply, I went to my room, and hastily catching the unfortunate dress from its nail, I lazily dragged it upon the floor to my mother's apartment, which I entered with not a very pleasing expression upon my countenance.

“There, my dear, sit down by me while I assist you to put in a piece; and tell me if you do not think in the end there will be some pleasure in knowing you have done your duty.”

I did not reply, but sat enjoying a fit of the sulks. Now I cast side glances into my mother's face, as if to discover whether her firmness were likely to endure until the end; then I eagerly watched the children at play. Finally, after turning and twisting for a long time in my chair, I contrived to upset my mother's work-basket upon the floor, spilling all its contents. As I