

would have upon Ernest; "and now, Connie dear, would you mind going to fetch Fred down to see me, he hasn't been down at all to-day."

Constance went off directly, and Ernest exclaimed wonderingly,—

"Reggie, what brought that fellow here?"

"I sent for him."

"O Reggie, when he got the prize from me?"

Reginald took Ernest's hand.

"Is that any sufficient reason, Ernest, why I should dislike an orphan boy who leads a very sad life and has but little to cheer him?"

Ernest did not answer.

"Ernest, will you mind if I speak very plainly to you? This is Christmas time, and we keep this season in remembrance of Him who reconciled the world unto God by taking upon Him a human form; it is a time of reconciliation, dear Ernest, of 'good-will toward men.'"