

THE
FOUR SISTERS,
And their Aunt Mary.



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THE FOUR SISTERS, *AND THEIR AUNT MARY.*

I AM going to tell you about four little sisters, named Emma, Sarah, Ann, and Eliza. Their mother was dead, and their aunt lived at their father's house, to take care of them. She was very fond of her little nieces, and desired that

they might be good children, for she knew that unless they loved the Saviour and tried to do His will, they could not be happy.

Aunt Mary (for that was her name) took care not to spoil her nieces, because that was the way to make them unhappy and fretful, and then every thing would go wrong, and nobody would love them. She taught them many pretty hymns, and they could repeat a number of texts from the



Bible, and some whole chapters. They had frequently been told that Christ came from heaven and took upon Him our nature, that those who sought for pardon of their sins, through Him, might obtain forgiveness, and might have new hearts given to them, that they might love God and seek to please Him. And that even little children might pray to Him, and He had promised to hear him.

Among these texts there were several which taught them how to behave to each other. Perhaps you recollect some of them; they tell us, To do unto others as we wish others to do unto us. To be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, and not merely to talk about loving each other, but to do so in deed, (or reality,) and in truth.



After some time Aunt Mary had to leave her nieces, and go to a place at a great distance, and she had to stay there for several months. She kissed them before she went, and spoke to each of them by herself, and in particular to Emma, begging her to remember what her Bible told her. While away she often thought of her nieces, and remembered them when she was praying to God, and entreated

Him that they might be his children; and she was glad when the time came that she could return to them again.

As soon as she entered the house, they came running to meet her, and she kissed them all round. They were very glad to see her, and had a great deal to tell her when she was at leisure to hear them. Aunt Mary was however much grieved, to find that as soon as Ann began to tell her about something they had seen, Emma interrupted her sister in a very cross manner; and that when Eliza asked Sarah to reach something off a shelf for her, Sarah said she would not, and spoke very unkindly. The next day Aunt Mary found still more plainly that the little girls were now very unkind to each other, and in course very

unhappy; if one wished to go into the garden, the others refused; if Eliza wished to play with Pompey while he was drawing her doll in



a cart, Ann pushed her away; if one said she liked to play at any game, the others each chose to do something else; in short, instead of loving each other, and trying to do what was pleasing to their sisters, each chose to have her own way, so that there was nothing

but quarreling and disputing from morning to night.



Aunt Mary was very sorry when she found this was the case ; she went to her own room and thought a great deal about it, and after some time she went back to the room in which the children then were. She found them all very cross, and disputing with each other. They ran to her directly,

each began complaining of the others ; but all agreed in asking their Aunt if she could tell them how they might be happy as they used to be.

Aunt Mary said, “ I observe that you quarrel because neither of you will give up her own way to the others, so I think each of you had better keep by herself in one corner of the room, there she may do what she pleases, and each may have her own way without either of the others contradicting her, for there are four of you, and as there are four corners to the room, there is one a-piece.” Each of them thought she should like to have her own way very much, so each went to the corner Aunt Mary pointed out to her, and began to play by herself.

Emma took her doll and began

telling her all the pretty stories she could recollect, but her doll had none to tell her in return ; and as for her sisters they were all very busy by themselves ; so she soon began to look very dull, as you see in the picture.



Sarah had got her battledoor and shuttlecock, and kept up a hundred, but there was nobody to see how well she did it ; and she

found that playing at battledoor by herself was not half so pleasant as when two played together. I dare say these two little boys are of the same opinion.



Ann was very fond of keeping a shop, so she put all her toys in order, and offered to sell them; but, alas, there was nobody to buy any thing.

Eliza set her plates and dishes upon her little table and played at making a feast, but there was no-

body to go to market for her, and what was worse, there was nobody to come and enjoy her feast when it was ready; so that it was quite different from what it was when her sisters and cousins were feasting with her.



They were soon tired of these amusements, and tried others; but they found all were very dull when there was nobody to play with them. They began to look very

wishfully at each other, but were too proud to confess that they were wrong. After some time they all went to Aunt Mary, and asked her to teach them some better way to amuse themselves.

“ My dear children,” said she, “ there is but one other way, you used to know it very well, and if you wish I will remind you what it is.”

“ Oh, pray do, Aunt,” they all said ; and they looked at her very attentively, as if ready to seize her words as soon as she spoke them. Little Eliza was behind the others, and she stood quite on tiptoe that she might not lose a word.

Aunt Mary then asked for a Testament, and she told Emma to read Rom. xii. 10. “ Be kindly affectioned one to another with



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