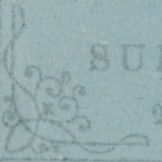


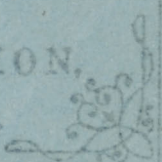


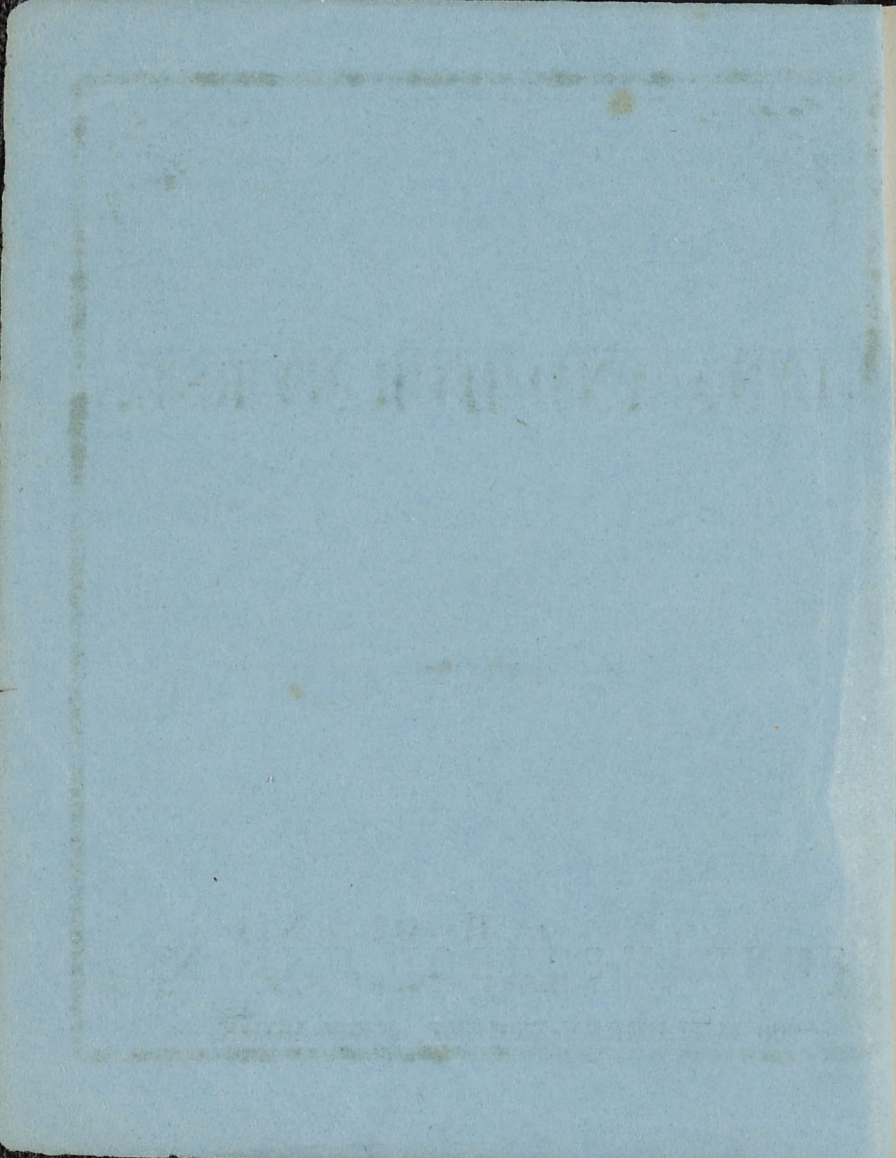
LINA AND HER NURSE.



SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

200 MULBERRY-STREET, N. Y.





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200 MULBERRY-STREET, NEW YORK.



LINA AND HER NURSE.

LINA lived away in that land of the East called India. Her parents had gone there from Europe, and had lived there many years, and Lina was their only child. When she was hardly a year old her mother died.

The little one too would soon

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have died if they had not taken pains to get her a good nurse. This nurse was a woman. At first she took great care of the child because she was well paid for it; but she soon learned to love it as if it were her own, and the child in turn loved her very much.

As is the custom in that land, little Lina had many servants around her to wait on her. But of all these she loved her nurse the best, and called her mamma.

Mr. Gray, her papa, saw very little of her, as he had much to take up his time. He came to see her each day before he went to his office, and at night when he came home; but all the day long and all the night she had no one with her but these native servants. These folks talked to her, and did many things to amuse her. They told her stories of fairies, gods, birds, and beasts, but not a word about God, for they knew nothing about him. They were pagans.

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But the good God, who took away the mother of that dear child, kept his eye upon her. In the midst of all that sin he kept her safe, and in the end he brought her out of it.

When Lina was seven years old, her papa made up his mind to go back to Europe and take his child with him.

At first, when he told her what he was going to do, she was very much pleased, and ran to tell her nurse. "And will nurse go with you?" was

the first thing that the woman asked. Poor Lina! she had not thought that she could go without her nurse, and she ran at once to ask her papa about it.

“Your nurse will go with you as far as the ship,” said her papa.

“And is that all?” said the child, with tears. “What will Lina do without her nurse? O dear papa! do take her. I cannot leave my nurse.”

As the day set for them to leave

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drew near, she had many an hour of tears because her nurse was not to go with her.

The nurse herself felt even worse about it than Lina, and when they came in sight of the ship that was to take away her child she burst into tears and cries, and begged to be taken along. But the thing could not be thought of, and Mr. Gray had to say "No" in a very stern tone before the poor nurse would believe that he meant it. Lina looked

after the little boat that took her nurse back to land till she could see her no longer, and then she took the hand of her papa, and went into the cabin to cry herself to sleep.

All that day Lina clung to her papa. She felt very sad indeed.

The next day, as she sat by her papa on the deck crying as if her little heart would break, a kind lady came up and sat down by her. She asked what was the matter with the child; and when her papa told her,

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she began to talk with her in the Hindoo tongue, and to say very kind words in her little ear. At first Lina would not listen; but by and by she looked up, and saw such a sweet face that she soon forgot her tears, and in an hour, much to her own surprise, she was talking with the strange lady.

Now this Mrs. Court, for that was the lady's name, was very kind, and Lina soon learned to like her very much. After a few days she would

stay by her side almost all the time, and the lady seemed quite pleased to have it so. Mrs. Court was a widow who had just lost her only child, and to her sad heart little Lina's voice came very sweetly; so they were soon fast friends, and loved each other dearly.

Mrs. Court was a pious lady, and she soon saw that Lina knew almost as little about God and the Bible as any little pagan, and she began to teach her about the good God, the

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fall of man, and the death of Christ, and tell her many stories from the Bible. She found the little girl's ears wide open, and she learned very fast about all these good things, and Mrs. Court soon had all she could do to tell Lina one half the things she wanted to know.

When they came to port in Europe, Mrs. Court asked Lina's papa what he was going to do with his little girl.

“I have no plan laid as yet,” he

said. "My mother is dead, and my sisters have all the little ones they can care for. I suppose I must find a school where I can put Lina."

"Well, then," said the good lady, "perhaps you would let her live with me for a while."

Mr. Gray was very glad, and so it was agreed, to the great joy of Lina, that she should live with Mrs. Court. She found a nice home, made great progress in all her studies, and soon became a real little Christian. But

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with all the new friends that she made, she did not forget those whom she had left in India. She often spoke of her poor old nurse; and after she learned of God and Christ, her first great wish was that her nurse might learn the same and go to heaven when she died.

“O my dear mamma,” said the little girl one day as she threw her arms about the neck of Mrs. Court, “I do wish I could see my poor nurse just for an hour.”

“Just for an hour, my child, and then leave her again? that would be worse than not seeing her at all.”

“O no! no!” said the child with warmth, “for I could tell her a great many things about Jesus Christ, and get her to love and serve him. I do think she would do it if I could see her and talk with her.”

“Well, my child,” said Mrs. Court, with the tears in her eyes, “as you cannot see her, the next best thing

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we can do is to find out some pious friend in that land who will seek out your nurse and teach her."

"O do! do! and I would be so happy," said the child with great joy, "and tell her that her poor little Lina wants her to be good and meet her in heaven. I used to think of her when I was on the ship and heard you talk so of heaven, and I wished to go there, and then I thought of my poor nurse and feared she would never get there."

So Mrs. Court wrote to a pious friend whom she knew in India, and asked her to seek out Lina's nurse and teach her the truth as it is in Jesus.

At last, after more than a year, a letter came in reply; but O the sad news! The lady had not been able to find the nurse, so after all nothing had been done.

By this time Lina's father began to think what he could do about it, and he wrote to one of his friends to

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seek her out if he could and give her some money, and get her taught the way to heaven. After a long time again an answer came to this letter. He had found where the nurse was, and sent her the money; but she was a long way off from him, and he could not go to see her, nor did he know of any one he could send. This was sad news, and Lina began to think that she could never get the light of truth to the poor dark soul of her dear nurse. But every day she

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would pray to God, for she knew that his eye is everywhere, and she hoped that at some day yet the good work would be done.

Not long after this Mrs. Court met with a good man who was going out to India to preach there, and to teach the poor pagans the way to God. This was the chance Lina had longed wished for, and they soon told the good man all about the nurse, and where she was and what they wanted. He gladly said he would

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try to do what he could for them, and he took the gifts that they made up for her and left, and their daily prayers went with him.

But they heard from him sooner than they had heard from the others, for they read in the papers that the ship in which he sailed was wrecked, and it was thought that all on board were lost.

Lina was now in her twelfth year, but her health was not good. It was feared she would not live many

years. This did not seem to make her feel bad. She talked about heaven, and the hope of seeing her mother there; and her papa, who was now also pious, often talked with her for hours at a time.

“You will no doubt meet your mother there, my child,” he said one day; “she was a true Christian I know, though I did not think so much of it while she was alive, and I hope you will meet the rest of us too.”

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“Yes, dear papa,” she said, “and my nurse too.”

“Your nurse?”

“Yes, papa, I am sure she will come. I don’t know why, only I feel as if God has heard my prayers.”

From that time she was quite at ease about her dear nurse.

Day by day her health failed, till at last she lay upon the bed of death. A sweet smile was on her face as she looked up and said: “Mamma, papa, my nurse, and my dear Mrs.

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Court, we shall all meet in heaven," and closed her eyes in that sleep from which none ever wake.

Three days after this they got a letter from the good man whom they thought lost. He had been saved, had gone to India, had found the nurse, and tried to teach her the way to God.

She was very glad to hear from her dear child, and she lent her ear to the words of the good man.

By and by a second letter came.

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The nurse had become pious, and had died happy. This the friends of Lina learned with joy, and long ere this she too has learned that her prayers and efforts for her poor nurse have not been in vain. We hope that Lina and her poor Hindoo nurse are both in heaven.

THE END.

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