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## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

### A Snow Fairy Legend of the Alps and Long Ago.

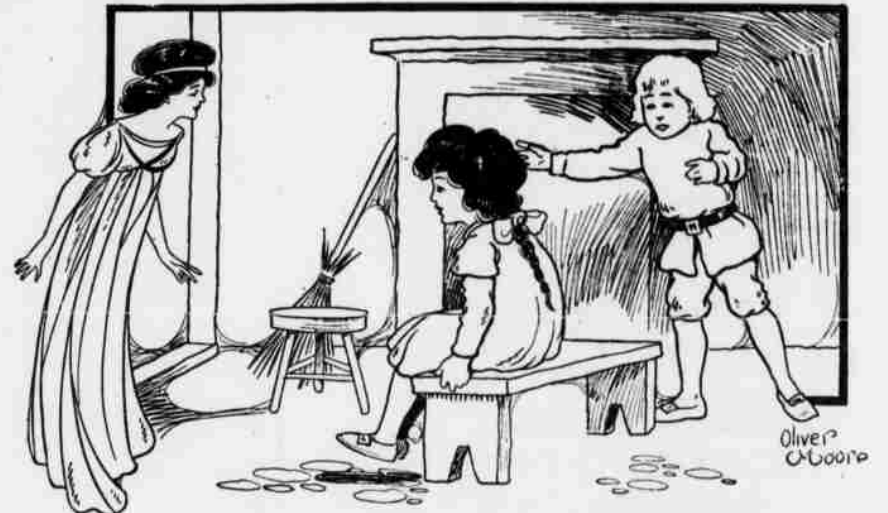
**M**ANY years ago there dwelt in the Alps a family consisting of the parents and two children, a little boy and a little girl. They were very happy together till one day the father, going out on the icy mountain side, slipped and fell into a deep gorge that was filled with snow. Of course, he was instantly killed, and the good wife, endeavoring to reach him, hoping that she might find him still alive, lost her footing in the snow and ice and was precipitated to the bottom.

Now, can anything be sadder than the fate of those dear little children, Dado, the boy, aged 9, and Pinto, the girl, aged 7? There they were, away up in the mountains, walled in by snow and ice, and surrounded by as wild a country as ever mortal man heard of. There they were, alone, both parents lying dead in the great canyon down the mountain side. And lurking about in the mountain forests were wild beasts whose roars, growls and howls made the night some-

meat when he met with the fatal accident.

He gave Pinto the bread, but her sorrow choked her till she could not swallow food, and she put the bread on the table, declaring her hunger had vanished. "It's mother and father I want—not food," she whispered heart-brokenly, burying her face in her apron.

At that moment the door opened ever so gently, then closed again. But during the moment's interval between opening and shutting a white-robed figure had entered the room. Dado, who was looking intently into the fire, wondering what he should do on the morrow for food and fuel for his sister and himself, did not hear the slight noise made by the opening and closing of the massive wooden door, nor the gentle footfall of the intruder. But Pinto, her little ears eagerly listening for anything that might happen—and hoping against hope that all this calamity which had befallen her home might prove to be a dream—caught the sounds, and she looked up from the folds of her apron. Then she quickly touched the hand of her brother and pointed toward the newcomer, directing



"SEE," SHE WHISPERED, "IT MUST BE A FAIRY."

thing to be feared by those little orphans. When father and mother were with them they feared nothing. But now that they were alone, and so helpless, their hearts were very, very heavy, and Fear stalked about with them at every step.

All day long little Pinto wept and called for the mother she knew could not come to her, and all day long little Dado sat with downcast eyes, his heart too sad to allow of speech. Then as the night came down the little ones crept close together in a corner by the great fireplace, where the huge logs placed there the day before by their father still burned brightly, and gave out light and warmth.

"I am so hungry," whispered Pinto, thinking of food for the first time that day. "I am so hungry that my head spins round and round."

"You must eat something Sister," said Dado, rising and going to the cupboard to find some food for his sister. But only a bit of dry bread was there, and Dado remembered that that day was to have been his mother's baking day, and that his father had gone out hunting for

Dado's eyes thither. "See," she whispered; "it must be a fairy."

"Yes, my little ones, I'm a fairy, and I came to earth to see what I might do for you. But how cold it has grown! Ugh, I cannot endure the snow, and it is falling very rapidly outside."

"Snowing?" asked Dado, rising and going close to the fairy.

"Yes, my little one, it is snowing heavily, and I, being a cloud fairy, and always keeping close to the warmer zones, cannot breast the storm. And here I am, as helpless as a human being. But while I cannot change myself nor my climatic temperament, I have the power to change others. I can wave my little wand and make or mar fortunes. And I came here to help you, my little ones. Now, while I warm me by your cheerful fire, tell me your dearest wish and I shall grant it."

The fairy sat down beside the fire and Dado and Pinto drew close beside her. They told of the sad death of their parents, the particulars of which the fairy did not know.

Then they discussed many things, one of them being the weather, and the