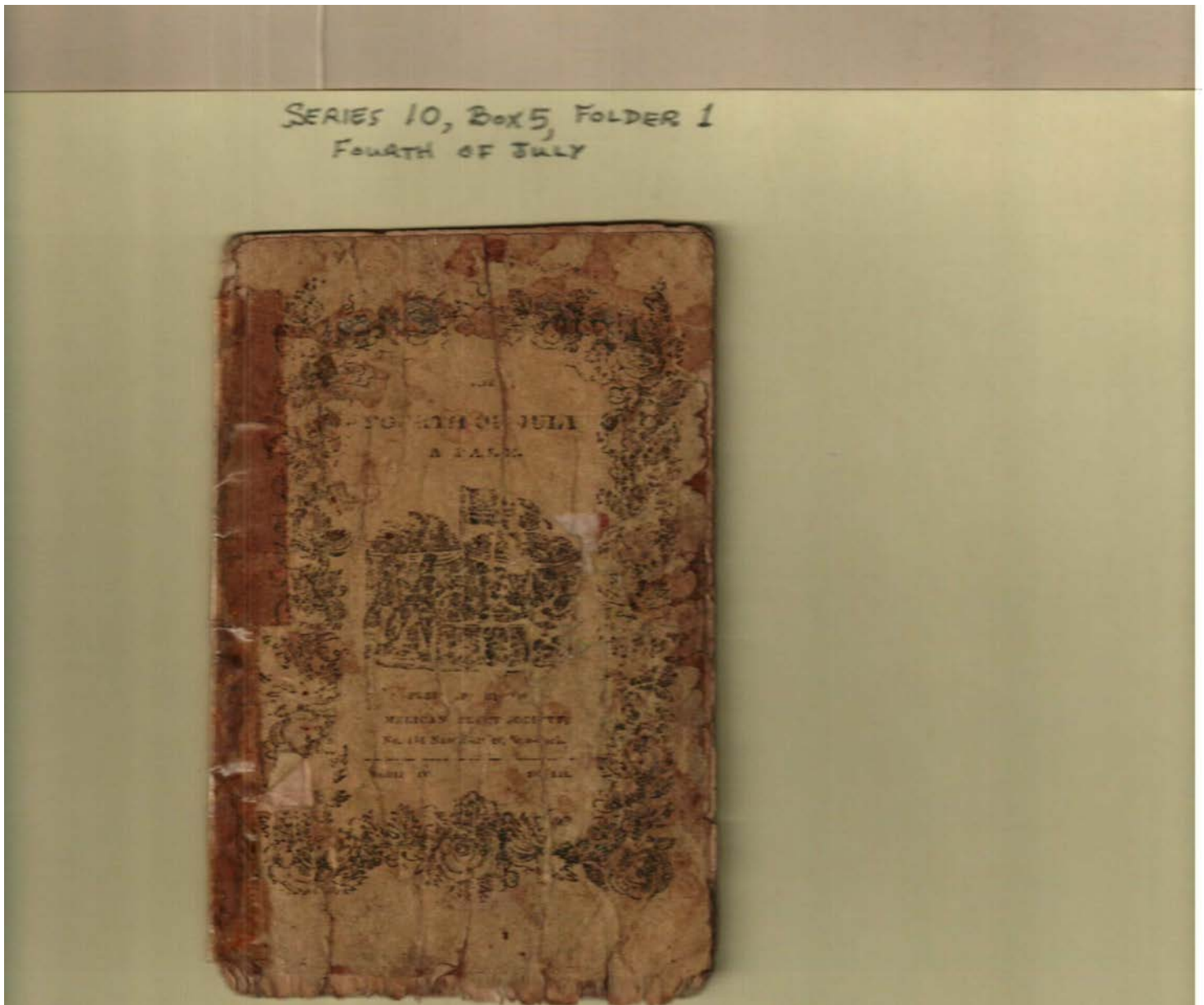


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The American Tract Society, "The Fourth of July"

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Names:

The Fourth of July

Places:

New York, NY

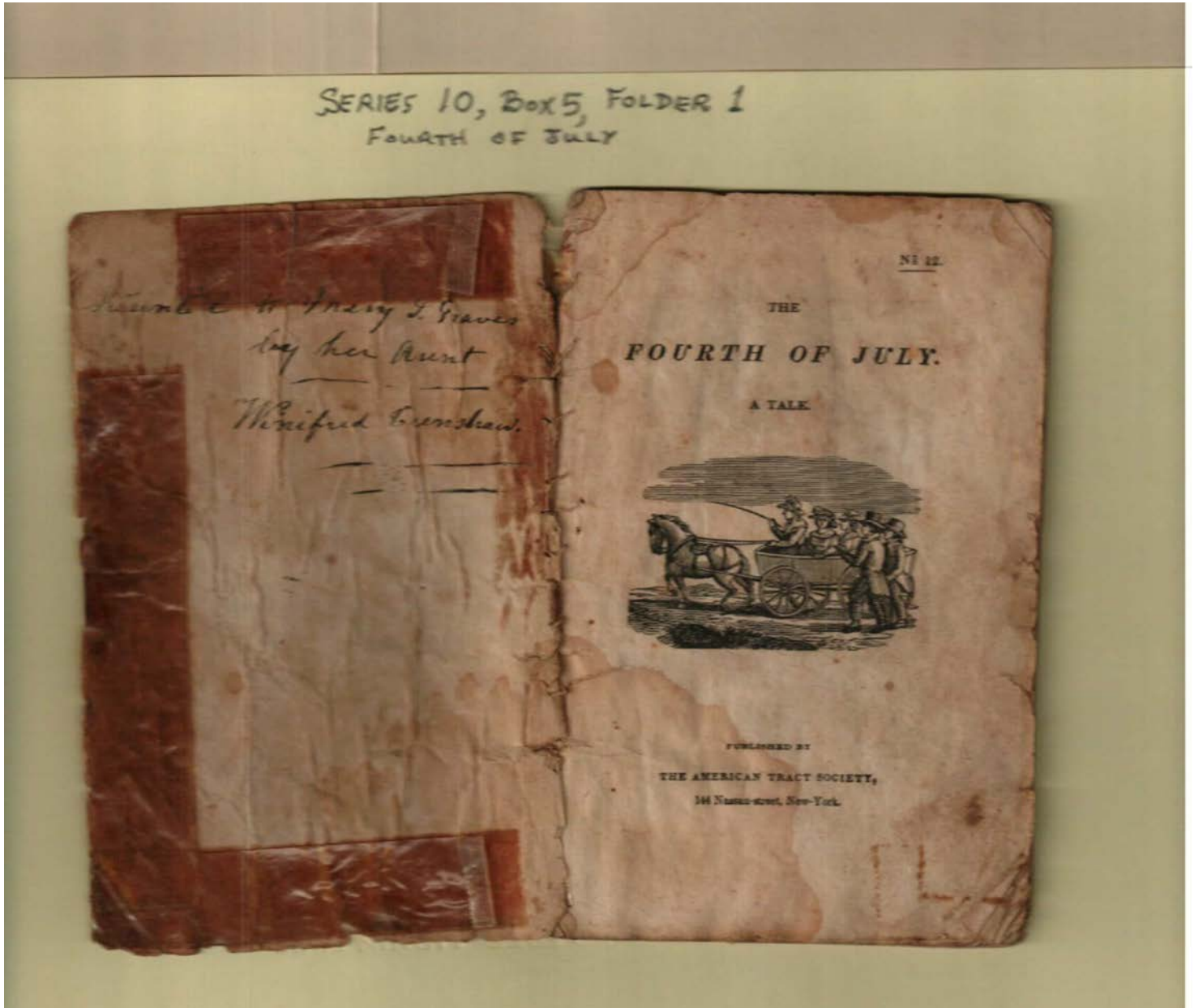
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book cover

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Names:

Crenshaw, Winifred
Graves, Mary

The American Tract
Society

The Fourth of July

Places:

New York, NY

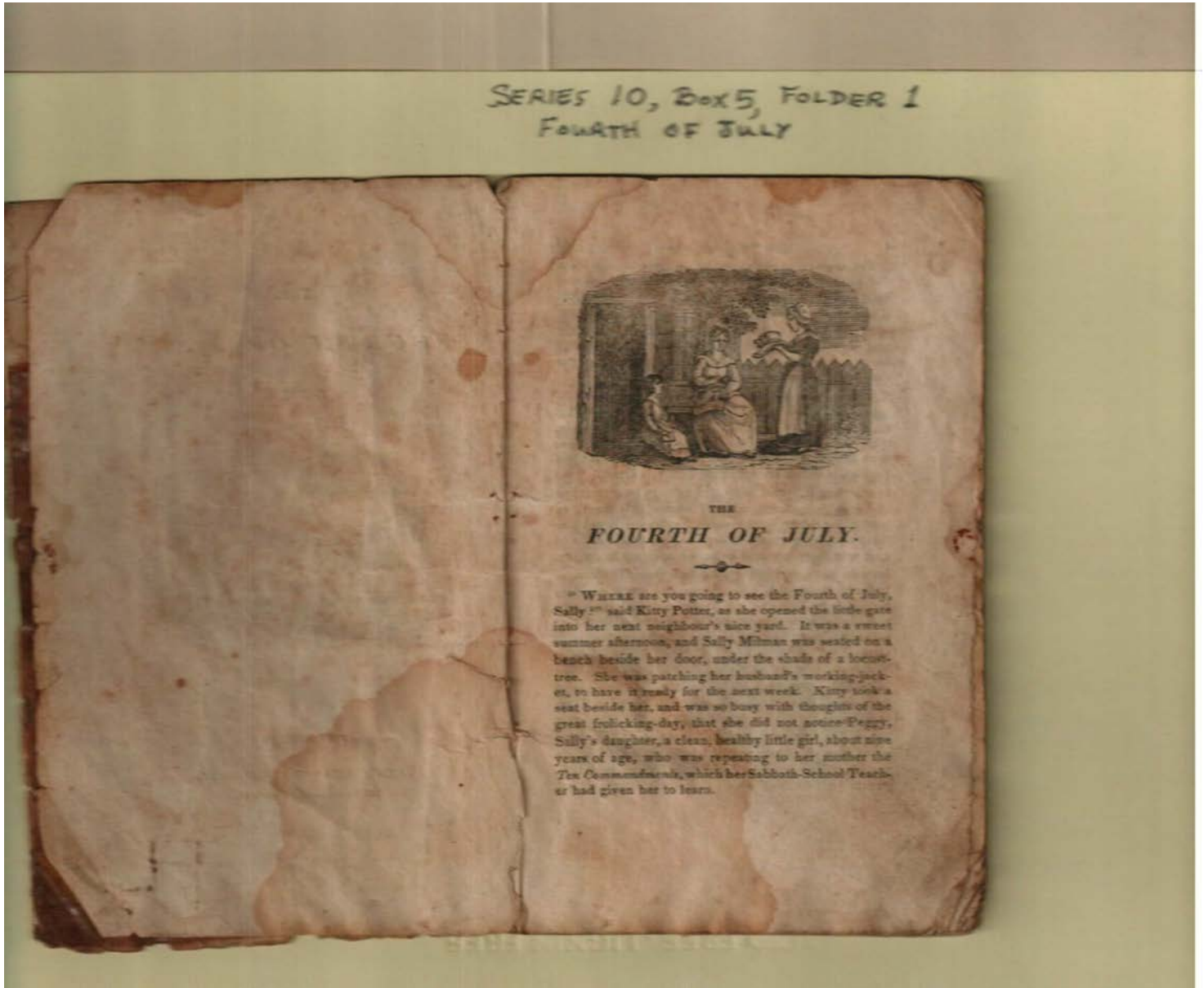
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Places:

New York, NY

Types:

book

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The child stopped, and Kitty repeated her question. "If I am spared until the Fourth of July," answered Sally, "I hope to see it at home." "At home!" said Kitty, "why what can you see at home? I mean to coax John to take me with him to town, to see the soldiers; and look, what a nice bonnet I am making for Ann; I shall have to take her with me, and she shall look like other people's children."

Saying this, she held up a pink silk bonnet, on which she was sewing a bow of riband. "Won't it be fine?" "I think pink a pretty colour," said Sally, "in its right place, but neither you nor I should put such finery on our children; we cannot afford it; and besides, it makes children proud of their dress." "As to affording it," said Kitty, "I have to bear so much ill usage from John, when I want a little money to put decent things on the child, that I've matched him this time: he gave me money to get some meal, and as it was Saturday, and he would be home to supper, he said he would have some ham from the store. I had a loaf of bread in the house, and so seldom does he put any money in my hands, that I determined I would use what he gave me to get Ann this bonnet; as to the ham, he may eat his supper well enough without it."

"Then shall not steal," repeated Peggy, who had waited for Kitty to stop, until she could go on with her lesson. Her mother felt that this spoke to Kitty, and she said, "Do you hear that, Kitty?" Kitty grew red in the face, and said, with temper, "You don't call using John's money for his own child stealing, do you?" "He earned it," said Sally, "and gave it to you to provide food with. It was his duty to do so,

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and you had a right to part of it; but you knew he would not have consented to your laying it out as you have done; you cheated him, and surely that was breaking this commandment. Now I am afraid, when he comes home to-night, and knows what you have done, he will go off to the tavern, and perhaps spend all the wages he has earned this week."

"O, as to that," said Kitty, "don't blame me for his going to the tavern; he does that every night." "But perhaps," said Sally, "if you had used the money he gave you as he intended you should, and provided a comfortable supper, he might have been so pleased as to stay at home to-night, and go to bed sober, and then possibly you could have persuaded him to go to meeting to-morrow." "You don't know John," replied Kitty, willing to put away the blame from herself, by leading Sally to think him too bad for her to try to turn from his evil habits. "Here comes Judy Witter up the road; I wonder what news she has now?" Saying this, Kitty turned away from Sal-



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ly, glad of an excuse to leave the subject of her ill treatment of her husband, which she now began to feel ashamed of. Judy stopped for a moment to be invited to come in; but Sally never encouraged her to come there, as she knew Judy went about to her neighbours, gathering news, and, like most of such busy-bodies, did not always tell the truth.

Judy, finding she should get no invitation, was so eager to tell what she had heard last, that she opened the gate and seated herself beside Kitty, and, wiping her face with her soiled apron. "Well, neighbours," said she, "have you heard of the hubbub at Squire Holford's?" Sally did not answer, but Kitty was always ready for news, and she said, "No; what was it about?" "Why, I'll tell you, but you must not tell it again for the world; my Sam, you know, works there sometimes. Their hired girl told him last night, that the squire had found out that Mr. William went to town and spent, Oh! I know not how much money, in gambling. When he came home, the squire threatened to turn him out of doors, and his mother cried, and I suppose there was a quarrel: the squire, no doubt, reviled against Mrs. Holford for taking Mr. William's part, and—"

"Then shall not hear false witness against thy neighbour," said Peggy, trying if she could repeat this commandment. Judy stopped, and, not having noticed the paper the child held in her hand, from which she was learning the commandments, thought this had been said directly to her. Sally had been much displeased with Judy for telling this tale of a family that she knew was very kind to her; and when she saw that she noticed what Peggy had read, she said, "Do

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you know who said this, Judy?" "Oh, yes, it is out of the Bible," Judy replied. Her conscience made her silent for a moment, and then she tried to escape what it would have taught her, had she listened to it, by saying, "You don't think, Sally, that I have borne false witness, do you? It's all true. Sam had it from the hired girl, and she was in the next room listening, when Mr. William was getting scolded."

"You seem to think," said Sally, "if the evil told is true, spreading it does not break this commandment. Now, I do not believe all you have told, for I am acquainted with the family, and your Sam, I am sorry to say, has the name of not telling the truth; but even if all is true, you have 'borne false witness.'" "How can that be?" said Judy. "You go," replied Sally, "so Squire Holford's one day every week to work, and you have told me how kind the family are to you, so that you did not know what you should do, if they were to move away. Now, for you to tell any thing against the family, no matter how true, is being deceitful; they trust you and Sam; you make them think well of you when you are there, and you both abuse their trust by telling what happens in their family. In thus deceiving them, you bear a 'false witness,' and do most certainly break God's commandment. And remember, all who do so must answer to him at the great day of account."

"Dear me, Mrs. Milman," said Judy, "how you take things; and preach about a little neighbourly chat, to make it out a sin!" "I wish I could make you think it so," said Sally; "and if you would go and hear our good minister preach about the commandments, you would think more of what they mean."

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and when you believe that God will punish all who break them, you will desire to know how you may escape this punishment; and then—"

Judy jumped up, and stopped Sally, with "Dear me, Mrs. Milman, how could I go to meeting with five children at home?" "You have no babe," replied Sally, "and you are often away at a neighbour's on week days longer than you would be kept at meeting." Judy did not wait to hear this reply, but hastily walked off, without saying, Good-bye. "You have affronted her," said Kitty. "I did not wish to do that," replied Sally; "but I felt it my duty to tell her what I hope she may some time think of for her good, though now it offends her."

By this time the sun was low, and the evening clouds began to show the different colours with which his beams often light them up on a summer evening. "Oh look, mother," said Peggy; "our Teacher told us last Sabbath, when we saw such pretty clouds we should think about our Heavenly Father, who makes the sun shine so upon them, and makes every thing that is pretty in the sky." "Yes, my child," said Sally, "and we should think, too, how good He is to us, to let us see these pretty sights, and to make them all, so that we may have good from them. This should make us love him, and wish to do all that he commands us."

The words "pretty sights," led Kitty's thoughts to the Fourth of July again, and she said to herself that she would rather see the soldiers, than all Sally called "pretty sights." Her work being finished, Sally now said it was time to put the tea-kettle on. Kitty could not help feeling a little melancholy at the thought of

supper-time; the words of the commandment which the child had at first repeated, sounded in her ears, and she was uneasy.

Now, when she felt so, if she had gone home and shut herself in her room, and on her knees humbly owned to God, who is every where present, that she had sinned against Him in what she had done, and asked him to forgive her, and help her to do her duty to Him and to her husband, her mind, no doubt, would have been prepared to tell John faithfully how she had spent the money, and that she was sorry for doing so; but instead of this, she tried to be ready to "brave it out," as she called answering John, when he was angry with her.

She hung on her tea-kettle, and set the table out with the cups on it; John had joined James Milman on their way home from work, and was in a good humour, with the expectation of a fresh loaf, and some broiled ham, for his supper.

Sally had her comfortable meal ready, and went to



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the door to look if James was coming. She felt sorry to think of John's disappointment, and its consequences, when she saw he was going home sober. She did not say anything about it to James, for she endeavoured to act as she advised others; and she remembered, that telling of Kitty's fault would be doing wrong.

John went in to his home, and Kitty, seeing he was sober, was encouraged to begin at once. She brought the bonnet to him, saying, "See here, John, what a fine bonnet this is!" "Whose is it?" said John. "Ann's," was the answer. "Who gave it to her?" asked John. "I made it," replied Kitty: "her old calico one looked so mean, I thought you would like to see her look like other people's children; so I got a bit of silk at the store——" "With the money I gave you!" said John, stopping her, in a loud tone; "and where is the bread and meat you were to get for supper?" "I had a loaf," replied Kitty, "and I thought you would not mind the ham, when you saw such a nice bonnet for Ann." "A loaf truly!" roared out John; "as hard as a stone, I suppose; because you are too lazy to take more than once a week. What business had you to take my money to get this flimsy finery, instead of meat and meat? It will be long before you again handle any money that I earn!"

He then started up and went out of the door, saying, "I'll go where I can get something comfortable after my day's work." Kitty followed him; she regretted her misconduct, and felt conscious she had done wrong; and in a voice of sorrow called after him, "O John, do come back." John felt the uncommon kindness of Kitty's tone of voice, and for a moment felt inclined to turn back; but so strong had he

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suffered evil habits to become, that the good intention was only for a moment, like a quick thought, that passed away.

Had he gone back, as he should have done, Kitty would perhaps have shown herself truly sorry for his disappointment; and, as he was sober, they might have enjoyed their stale loaf with the comfort of kind feelings toward each other; but, alas! John's love of drink led him on. He did say to himself, "Well, if she is sorry for what she has done, I won't mind it; I'll get a small glass, and then go back." But this resolve was forgotten when he went into the bar-room of the tavern, where he found two or three men, whose families were suffering at home, while they spent for liquor what would have made them decent and comfortable.

Such men do not remember that they are to appear, at the day of judgment, before their Creator, and give an account to Him of their deeds; nor do they think of the awful sentence to be received by those who thus abuse the mercies of God, and despise his commandments, "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." The tavern-keepers also, who encourage such men to lounge about their bar-rooms, and make themselves lower than the brutes, will have to account to the Great Judge of all, for thus indulging and increasing this great sin.

John called for one small glass, another, and another, until he was so stupefied by this poison of body and soul, that he fell off his chair upon the floor, where he lay until the tavern-keeper raised him, to send him reeling home. His companions had quarreled, and staggered off, mingling oaths with their talk; thus

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adding sin to sin, in open disregard of God's command, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

When John got home, he threw himself upon his bed, without attempting to take off his clothes. Kitty had not been asleep, for she felt a restlessness that keeps sleep away. John had often been out as late, but she never before felt that it might be her fault. At length, wearied with tossing about, she quieted herself with the resolution, she would never again spend any money that John gave her, but as he told her to do. This was right; but she should have raised her heart in prayer to God for His aid to enable her to do her duty.

Next morning was a bright Sabbath one; Kitty slept late, and, when she awoke, John was still asleep, from the effects of his folly. Ann had crept out of bed, and was sitting at the back-door without her frock. She had not been at home the evening before, until after her father went away; for her careless mother let her run about as she pleased, through the neighbourhood.

In the same way, no doubt, Judy Witter's mother had indulged her, when she was a child; and thus she got the habit of gossiping.

Kitty opened her window, rubbing her eyes, and the first sight that met them was James and Sally Milman, seated on the bench at their door, clean drest, and with cheerful looks; Peggy was saying her Sabbath lesson to James; a younger child was looking at pictures in a little book; Sally had a Bible in her hand, which she read with a satisfaction that proved she felt

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its truths were precious ones; the fields were sparkling with dew-drops; the birds were singing; and all nature seemed to worship the glorious Creator.

Kitty turned from her window, and what a sad contrast the effects of sin showed her! Her wretched husband, in his dirty clothes, stretched upon the bed; her ignorant child, half naked, sitting upon the unswept floor, fretting with hunger. She put on Ann's frock, and sent her to bring chips to boil her kettle, and when she had ready the poor breakfast of the remains of the stale loaf, she tried to rouse John; but he only answered, "Let me alone!" and Ann and herself swallowed their crust and tea in silence.

Before she had put by the cups, she saw James and Sally, with their two girls, going to meeting. They were all drest in good plain clothes, which made them look respectable. The children had calico frocks, and bonnets of the same.

Ann looked after them and said, "Mother, why don't I go to meeting; and father, and you?" - Never

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mind," replied her mother crossly, "go along and wash your dirty face."

As she said this, one of the Sabbath School Teachers stopped at the door, on her way to meeting, to try if she could not persuade Kitty to send Ann to school.

Does it not seem strange, that any parents should need persuasion to have their children benefited, when all the trouble of doing so is willingly taken by others? Yet so it is. Some, and even those whom you might expect know better what their duty is, will only let their children go to a Sabbath School as a great favour, when a kind Teacher urges it.

"I can't let Ann go to-day," said Kitty; "I have nothing fit for her to put on." "If you have a clean frock," said the Teacher, "no matter how coarse it is, we shall be better pleased with her than if she came dressed fine. She would like to come; would you not, Ann?" "Yes, I would," said Ann; "but mother has not washed my frock. But I have a nice pink bonnet to come in, if she would let me."

"I fear, from what I see," said the Teacher, glancing her eye around the comfortless room into which Kitty had been ashamed to invite her, "that you do not regard the command, which directs us all to 'remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy:' I never see you, or your husband, at meeting." "John won't go," replied Kitty; "and he gives me no money to buy things decent to put on, or I might, sometimes." "You think too much about the dress," said the Teacher; "and if you had what you would think fit things to put on, perhaps you would be proud of them, and only go from a desire to show them. Do now take my advice, as a friend to your soul. Prepare the gown you have,

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by mending it and washing it; whole and clean, it is fit enough; bring Ann to meeting next Sabbath; do your duty; and if you do it for the sake of obeying the command of God, He will bless you. Your husband may be led by your example; and, when he sees you striving in this way, and humbly desiring to do your duty, he may consider his own ways, and turn from them to his duty." Kitty made no reply; and the Teacher, with the hope that she was affected by what she was advising, begged her to think that day, as she staid at home, what was to become of her soul, when she should be required to give an account for the Sabbaths she had mispent, and the instruction she had wilfully neglected.

She would have said more; but the people were passing to church, and she saw Kitty was impatient to get the door shut, that her untidy room might not be seen. If she had been in the habit of honouring the Sabbath, she would not have had cause for the shame she now felt. The Teacher sighed as she left her, to see how a woman who had a rational mind, could live without a desire to worship her Creator, or a serious thought as to what should become of her never-dying soul, when it should be called into eternity.

Kitty closed her front window-shutters and door, and seated herself in an old rocking-chair, which she moved as fast as she could, as if she expected thus to get rid of the uncomfortable feelings with which she was made restless. The words of the Teacher, about the importance of her soul, caused her uneasiness; and if she had taken her Bible from the shelf, (on which it lay, covered with dust,) and had read it with a mind humbled for her sins, and desirous to turn unto the

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service of God, she would have gained a knowledge of his willingness to receive penitent sinners, and his sure promise to grant grace to them that truly desire it. Had she thought of herself, as one who ought to use the language of the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" and, with this confession, felt a desire to learn "what she must do to be saved," the Bible would have shown her the way which infinite mercy has provided, and which is freely offered to all.

But, alas for Kitty! she tried to rid herself of uneasy thoughts in another way. She rocked for a while, and then went to her chest, and took out Ann's bonnet, to try it on.

Poor neglected child! she had fretted for a little time at the back-door, because she could not go with her new bonnet to meeting, and then slipped away into



the fields to gather blackberries. How much had these parents to answer for, that she was thus employed, instead of keeping the Sabbath, by learning her duty

her Creator and her parents, either at home, in public worship, or in a Sabbath School.

When John roused up, he was miserable, weak, and cross; his head ached, and there was not one comfort around him to cheer him: he swallowed a cup of cold tea, and the rest of the day was spent in scolding Ann and finding fault with his wife. She did not reply, as usual; for she wished to get him into good humour, and keep him so until he agreed to take her to "see the Fourth of July in town." Her silence now had no effect; John scolded to relieve his own feelings, and cared not for Kitty's.

In the evening, Sally Milman stopped at the door, to know if any thing was the matter, seeing it shut all day. She took no notice of the state of this wretched family, only to ask if they were all well. Kitty answered, "Yes;" but did not ask her in. Sally, feeling pity for the miserable state in which they seemed, thought perhaps she could do some good by talking with them; she therefore went in and said, "Well, Kitty, I can tell you now how I expect 'to see the Fourth of July:' our Minister told us to-day, that the meeting-house would be open, a paper read to let every one know how that day came to be observed, and then he will say something to lead people to think how much cause they have to make it a day of thanksgiving to our heavenly Father; and he hoped all would join in desiring to keep the day with cheerful gratitude, instead of spending it in rioting and sin."

Sally said this with a satisfaction that showed she loved her fellow-beings, and felt joy at the thought of their honouring their Creator. Kitty felt vexed that she should bear this, lest he should take a notice she

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had best stay at home and go to meeting with Sally. She went out of the door, and Sally followed her, wishing not to vex, but persuade her. "Do, Kitty," said she, "try this once, how pleasant it is to spend a day as the Minister said was our duty to spend the Fourth of July. If you will do so, perhaps we can persuade John to stay too; and I am sure James will like to have you all come and eat dinner with us; and, when night comes, I can promise you, you will be better satisfied than if you had seen all the shows and soldiers in town. Do stay."

Kitty was a little disposed to yield to this kind persuasion, but she had somewhat indulged an idle love of sights, that the very name of them, and soldiers, filled her foolish mind with desires to see them. When Sally saw she could not get her consent to give up her plan of going with John, she left her, not in anger, but in sorrow for her obstinacy, which she knew would be the cause of suffering. This serene Sabbath evening, at the hour when

"The evening star, with silver ray,
Sheds its mild lustre on the sacred day,"

James Milman was sitting at his door with his two little girls; his two sons, who were living with respectable farmers, and had liberty to come home every Sabbath and attend worship with their parents, had gone back, after Sabbath School, at an early hour.

When Sally returned, James asked if any thing was the matter at John's. "Nothing more than common," said she; but her heart was so full at the contrast between her own comfortable home and that which she had left, that she added, "O James, how thankful we

should be for our services, and humble too; for it is God only who has made us, so differ from them." James felt what she meant, and they sat a few minutes in silent thankfulness, and spent the remainder of the evening in that sweet intercourse with which God indulges those who love him, on their way to a better state above.

On Sabbath evenings they often talked of what the Minister had said in his sermon; this led them to attend more to it, that they might help each other to remember. One of these conversations, some time before, had been especially blessed to James Milman. "I have been thinking, Sally," said he, "a long time, of what the Minister said about trying ourselves by the commandments. I did not get his meaning exactly; did you?" "I will tell you," said Sally, "what I know about it, so far as I am able, from my own experience. When I first felt that I had a soul which must live for ever, and be happy or miserable after it left my body, my good mother taught me to turn to the 20th chapter of Exodus, and read the commandments; and to stop at each one and try to think, 'Do I keep this command in thought, word, and deed?' She told me that 'Thou shalt not covet' was like a key to open the rest, and show us their true meaning." "Why they are all plain enough," said James. "Yes," replied Sally, "but I found I had not understood them until I used this key. I thought of the sin of coveting being one which no one but God could know we committed; it is one of the heart, having no outward marks by which the commission of it is discovered. Now God forbidding this, shows that He requires the heart to be free from sin, and not merely the conduct. Taking this

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thought when we ask ourselves, Do we keep God's commandments? we shall be led to see our own guilt, and, with a desire to escape its punishment, shall say, 'What must we do to be saved?' This was my case," continued Sally; "and O James, how comforting were the words, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.'"

"Now," said James, "I see what the Minister meant by the law being a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ."

"Yes," replied Sally, "it was so to me. When I read the first command of the law, I said, Surely I have no God but one; and was going on to the next, when my conscience asked, Do I never give my heart to worship some worldly object, when it should be engaged in worshipping God? Do I love him more than any thing which his mercy gives me? The answer which I had to give was, that 'ahes, even when I was in the church, seeming to worship my Creator, my thoughts were entirely engaged, either upon my dress or that of others, or in some plan for amusement in the next week; and surely this was robbing God of the devotion he requires in this command.'"

"Well," said James, "I never before thought enough about this. You were keeping the command outwardly, when your body only was in the church, standing or kneeling in worship; but breaking it with your mind, which was not engaged in the duty."

"So I found it with all the other commandments," said Sally, "when I came to try how my heart kept them." James remained a short time in thought, and then said, "Now I do understand how this law of the commandments brings us to Christ, where alone we can obtain forgiveness for breaking them." Sally's

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heart beat with joy to hear James say this, for it showed he was beginning to feel that more was required by God of him than good outward conduct.

They spent the close of this precious Sabbath in reading over the Bible lesson and hymn which Peggy was to learn for the Sabbath School; and when Sally knelt down with her children, as she always did before they got into bed, James knelt beside her; her heart was so full, that she could scarcely utter the prayer which her soul desired to offer to their heavenly



Father. But He heard and accepted it, and returned a blessing upon her husband; so that, from this time, they always prayed together; and he was brought to feel himself a sinner, and to seek for pardon where it is never denied, when asked with repentance and faith.

Reader, turn from the scene of true enjoyment in Sally's cottage, to that of sin and wretchedness in King's. If you know any thing about the effects of drunkenness and thoughtless business, you can tell what was the difference: one family lay down in peace, to rise in comfort upon a new day; the other stretched themselves on their dirty bed, with limbs

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wearied by a long, long Sabbath sleep, and minds cross and comfortless, to rise upon a new day for the commission of more sin.

On Monday morning, when John was dragging on his clothes, feeling weak and lery, Kitty began to tell him how much she wanted to go to town to see the Fourth of July, which would be the next day; Judy Witter, she said, told her there would be great doings, and she expected to get a horse and wagon to go; and if she did, would let her and Ann ride in it. John did not give her any satisfaction; but as he did not say she should not go, she began, when he went out, to collect her things to wash and get ready, and then to put some dirty gauseinery she had upon her bonnet.

As John went to the farmer's where he had promised to work that day, he met Sam Witter, who told him he had been to Squire Holden's to ask for the horse and wagon next day, for his mother to go to see his old grandmother. "You know," said he, "grandmother lives between here and town; so it will be no lie, as mother will stay and see her. She is baking cakes, and has made a keg of beer to take on the commons; and we shall have a merry time. Are not you and Kitty going?" John said he did not know, and they parted.

In the evening, John took up all the money the farmer owed him, and, as he went home, he recollected what Sally Milman had said about the way they should spend the Fourth of July. "If we would do so," thought he, "I should save this money, add, with a little more, get me some decent clothes to wear, and look like James Milman on Sunday and holidays. As

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to Kitty, she had best stay at home: there's no use in women going after shows."

John thought he had made up his mind to save his money by not going to town next day, when he saw Sam again, who told him that his mother had met with a fall which lamed her foot, so that she would not be able to go; and that she wanted Kitty to take her daughter Nancy, and sell the cakes and beer for her. "She wanted me to do it," said he; "but I know better than that. I'm not going to stand all day in one place, not I, for any body."

So fields were all John's good resolutions, and he gave them up for the most trifling reason. "Kitty must go," thought he, "if Judy wants her to sell her cakes and beer, or she will be angry with her; and if she and Ann go, I must too."

Sam went in with him to tell Kitty, who received the message with a joyful countenance, while she said, "O poor Judy! Yes, I'll go. How sorry I am she hurt her foot! I'll be ready by day-break."

As for Sally Milman, she was busy all day, washing and ironing, and cleaning up her house. In the evening, she went to the door to see if Kitty was at home; but Kitty kept away from it; she did not want to see Sally, fearing she would say more to her about not going to town, and she felt some shame about it. Sally did not go over, for she knew it would be vain to try any more to persuade Kitty.

The Fourth of July found John and Kitty ready, as the day broke the shades of night, for their friends, Nancy Witter, Kitty, and Ann, rode in the wagon, and John and Sam walked almost as fast; so that all were on the commons just as the sun rose, and had time to

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fix their cakes and beer before the people began to collect.

The day was very warm. About ten o'clock, the sound of the fife and drum was heard in every direction from companies of soldiers; men, boys, women with babies in their arms, flocked after them; and then began a scene of folly and vice. By twelve o'clock, Kitty had sold the cake and beer, and felt glad to be able to change her place. She told Nancy they would go about a little and see more than they had seen; but when she put up her basket and leg in the wagon, a company of soldiers came close up to the horse, and the sound of the drum frightened him so much, that, after struggling a little time to get loose, he broke the bridle, and set off towards home. No one could stop him; and two women, with children in their arms, were thrown down by the rushing of the people to get out of the way. It was vain for Kitty to follow the horse with any expectation of stopping him; but she did, until she was wearied, and he almost beyond her sight. Ann had run screaming after her mother

for a little time, but was soon surrounded by the crowd. Nancy Winter stood trembling where Kitty had left her, wishing that she had staid at home. The men and boys swore, the women and children screamed, and no wonder Nancy was frightened. Kitty at length stopped to take breath, and, seeing it useless to follow the horse, turned to find her way back to Nancy: but it was some time before she could do so, the danger had set the people in such a bustle. When she found Nancy, she asked for Ann. "She followed you," said Nancy, "and I have not seen her since."

Careless mother as Kitty was, she had the natural feelings of a mother, and began to cry with distress and weariness. She knew not which way to look for Ann, as all around her was noise, drunkenness, and confusion. John and Sam had left them soon after ten o'clock, and had not returned: where to seek them she could not think. No one noticed her distress but one woman, who asked what was the matter; and, when she told her of her child being lost, replied, "You should have left her at home; you'll never find her here, I promise you."

What was now all the fine show of the soldiers to Kitty? The sight of Ann, or of John to help her look for Ann, would have been more pleasant than all the fine parade. In vain she went in every direction, till she was at last compelled to give up the expectation of finding Ann. She went back to Nancy, who did not venture to move from the spot in which she had been left, and felt so faintly among the strange people around her, that she was quite sick. Evening was coming on, and the crowd began to separate. Kitty again hoped, that, when there were fewer people, she

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might find Ann, and that John and Sam would come back.

But the sun went down upon this rioting scene, and, as night came on, only a few women were left on this part of the commons, putting up the remains of their cakes and liquors, and some boys quarrelling and blaspheming their Creator's name. The language of the women was such as Kitty had never been accustomed to hear; and, thoughtless as she was, she now felt as if she was surrounded by evil spirits. What to do she did not know.

"Are you going to stay here all night?" said a woman to her. "No," replied Kitty, "I am waiting for my husband." "Was that he, who came in the wagon that ran off?" said a boy. "Yes," answered Kitty. "O then," continued the boy, "you need not wait for him; for the wagon ran over his leg and broke it, and some men carried him to the hospital."



Now indeed was poor Kitty heart-sick. She had nothing to comfort her. She could not ask direction of her heavenly Father in this hour of distress, be-

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cause she never thought of him; and she felt the bitterness of having neglected Sally's advice. "Where is the hospital?" at last she asked; and the boy, seeing her trouble, said he would show her. Nancy walked silently after her.

When they came to the hospital gate, Kitty asked the keeper if a man with a broken leg had been brought there. He said, "Yes; and a younger one came with him, who looked as if he had been fighting, for he had a bruised eye; but he went away." Kitty asked if she could go in to see her husband. "Not to-night," said the man; "but to-morrow morning, if you come, you can go in." They turned away, and Kitty told Nancy they must go to some tavern and stay all night.

They went down the street until they saw a tavern sign, and Kitty went through the bar-room to find the woman of the house. She told her she wanted a bed for Nancy and herself. "And where is the money to pay for it?" said the woman. Kitty opened the bag she held in her hand, to get out the money she had received for the beer and cakes—she had tied it up in a bag—but no money was there. She turned the bag inside out in dismay, and said to Nancy, "Somebody one of the boys, who stood by when I laid down my bag to run after the wagon, has taken my money." "Indeed!" said the woman; "this is your tale, is it? Away with yourselves, both of you! I've no lodgings for such stragglers."

Turned thus out into the street, and knowing she had no money to get a night's lodging with, Kitty, in dread of being all night out, spoke to the first person they met, and begged him, sobbing, to tell them where they should go to be out of the street. He was sur-

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prised by such a question, and asked how she came to be in that situation. She told him, as well as her distress would let her, that she had come from the country to see the Fourth of July, and all that had happened to her in this eventful day.

When the stranger had heard all her tale, he told her he hoped she was not deceiving him. She began to protest that it was the truth; but he stopped her, saying, "I shall not credit thy account the more for thy using such language. I will believe thee, and show thee and this young woman a place to lodge in. In the morning thou mayest see thy husband and seek for thy child. The distress thy folly has brought on thee, may possibly serve to show thee the wisdom of choosing a better part in future." By this time they had turned into another street. Their benevolent friend knocked at the door of a neat small house, which was opened by an elderly female. "Martha," said the friend, "here are two distressed females; I wish thee to give them a bed for one night; they will depart in the morning."

Martha did not reply, but turned from the door, and they followed her into a back room, where she told them to sit down. The friend then related what Kitty had told him. He saw, by Martha's countenance, that she was doubtful of its truth, and perhaps about to object to their remaining, and he continued—"Be it as it may, the precept thou knowest is, 'Be ye merciful, even as your Father which is in heaven is merciful; for he maketh his sun to rise upon the evil and the good.'" This had its influence upon a mind such as Martha's, which was governed by the precepts of the Gospel, in all their simplicity and force. She set

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food before them, but they had no desire to eat; and when they were taken into a comfortable chamber, Nancy, joyful to feel herself once more out of the actual of rioting, hastily put off her clothes and soon fell asleep. Kitty lay down, but the remembrance of her, and the thought of John's suffering, and disabled her work; the loss of Judy's money, and her own wounded feelings from fright and weariness, made her weep with real anguish.

"O," said she, "I do wish I had staid at home to see the Fourth of July, as Sally Milman wanted me to. Then we might have lain down in our own bed to-night in peace, instead of this misery I am in." She turned and tossed, in wakeful wretchedness, until almost day-break, and then fell into a broken sleep. Thus ended the Fourth of July, as gaily entered upon by the thoughtless Kitty Potter.

How different was the day, as spent by Sally and James Milman! A neighbour had brought word, the evening before, that Sally's mother and sister expected to come to see them that day. James said to Sally, "I have had good wages these many weeks, and your mother can come so seldom, I think we will have something nice for dinner to-morrow. I will go and engage a piece of fresh meat." "Do," replied Sally, "and have it cut so that I can fry it; for you know we expect to go to meeting, and I can cook it in that way after we come home."

The next morning, Sally rose early, got breakfast, and heated her oven. She baked some nice pies and bread. James, who was seldom at home for a day except the Sabbath, took this time to mend the fence

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around their little garden, and do several jobs that would add to Sally's comfort. He cut up a large parcel of wood, and piled it up snugly. By the time he had done this, his two sons came: one had a basket of early pears, given him by the farmer's wife; and the other had a bunch of garden flowers, which he had asked leave to pick for his sisters, who both ran out to the gate when they saw them coming, and met them, full of glee.

Soon after, the wagon of their grandmother drove up; and Sally had the satisfaction of receiving her good mother into a comfortable home, with a kind welcome from her husband. Her sister, about nineteen years old, was with her; and Sally was pleased to see her neat dress, not one piece of foolish finery being upon her. She had been taught, that neatness and plainness in dress always make persons in her situation more respectable and better beloved, than such dress as every one knew they ought not to spend their little stock of money for: and especially so, when

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sickness came, or a time they could not get work; when they should be in suffering, or obliged to ask assistance.

When James had got the horse away, it was time to get ready for meeting; and they all set off, a cheerful company. They did not hear, it is true, the sound of



the life and drum to raise their spirits, but they heard the merry birds, and their hearts were light with a consciousness of doing what would be an expression of real thankfulness to the great God of nations. Almost all the congregation attended, except those who chose Kitty Potter's plan of seeing the Fourth of July in the city. After a prayer, the Declaration of Independence was read by a gentleman, who accompanied it with remarks, showing how the hand of Divine Providence had led the Americans to the liberty and ha-

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tional blessings which they now enjoy. The Minister then rose, and told them he feared more sin was committed on that day, in each year, than on any other, under the name of national thankfulness; but they who there attended, showed a desire to offer to God real gratitude, by celebrating the day with a public acknowledgment of His mercies in worship. He spoke of the many causes, as a nation, the Americans have for a grateful sense of the goodness of the God of the universe; and led the minds of the hearers to join him in prayer and praise.

When the exercises were ended, much friendly and neighbourly conversation was held under the shade of the noble trees that surrounded the church; and when they separated, I think all who were there would have said, this was *seeing the Fourth of July* in a much more satisfactory manner, than if they had been engaged in seeing town sights, or frolicking.

The Milmans returned to their home, and Sally soon prepared a comfortable dinner, which all ate with good appetites and cheerful countenances. After they had talked over what had happened since they last met, James took Sally's sister and the children to a pleasant wood near, to look for wild raspberries. Sally and her mother walked as far as a spring, where a bench had been made of a board laid upon two stumps of trees. There they sat down, and let the rest go on.

Sally wanted to tell her mother of the joy she felt in having James go hand in hand with her, in all their duties. This was indeed a pleasant hearing to the good parent, who doubted not that the blessing of God would rest upon a family thus united in faith and practice. She told Sally she felt herself failing very much



in strength, and as she was aged, could not expect to be a pilgrim on earth much longer. She had, by care and industry, saved enough to provide for her old age, and her youngest daughter was engaged to be married to a sober, pious young man, whom he had made his way enough, from his work as a shoemaker, to take a small place to live on. They had consented to wait, as they were both young, according to the advice of her mother. She had no fears, she said, for them, because they were industrious, and she believed, heartily desirous of walking in the narrow path of duty, which leads in comfort through this world, and evinces joy in that which is to come. As to her own share of life, she was willing to live as long as her Creator had appointed her time to be; and ready to enter into rest, by faith in the promise of her Saviour, that where He is, she should find a mansion prepared for her. As she said this, a tear of grateful hope fell from her eye, and she added, "O my dear child, I trust that I shall meet thee

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the children whom God has given me." Sally's heart said Amen, but she could not speak.
The raspberry hunters now made their appearance, full of cheerfulness, though they had not found much fruit. They all returned to the house; and, after an early supper, the grandmother and her daughter were fixed again in their covered wagon, and, with many good bys, set off for their home.



James then said he would read a chapter in the Bible, and explain the meaning of it to the boys, and hear them repeat the commandments, which, he endeavoured to make them understand, must be kept by their hearts, in the sight of God, who is always present. He told them, that, when they felt sorry that they did not obey them as God required, they should then feel how merciful God had been in providing a way for them to be pardoned; and that this way was in Jesus Christ, through whom all who seek mercy shall find it.

They now all knelt down, a peaceful family, and James returned thanks to their heavenly Father for his



services now almost sunset, and the boys of themselves proposed to go back to their places, so that services might be desired at evening. James and Sally, with the two girls, walked part of the way with them, and they separated in cheerfulness, with the expectation of meeting again the next Sabbath, and concluded with the innocent enjoyment of the Fourth of July.

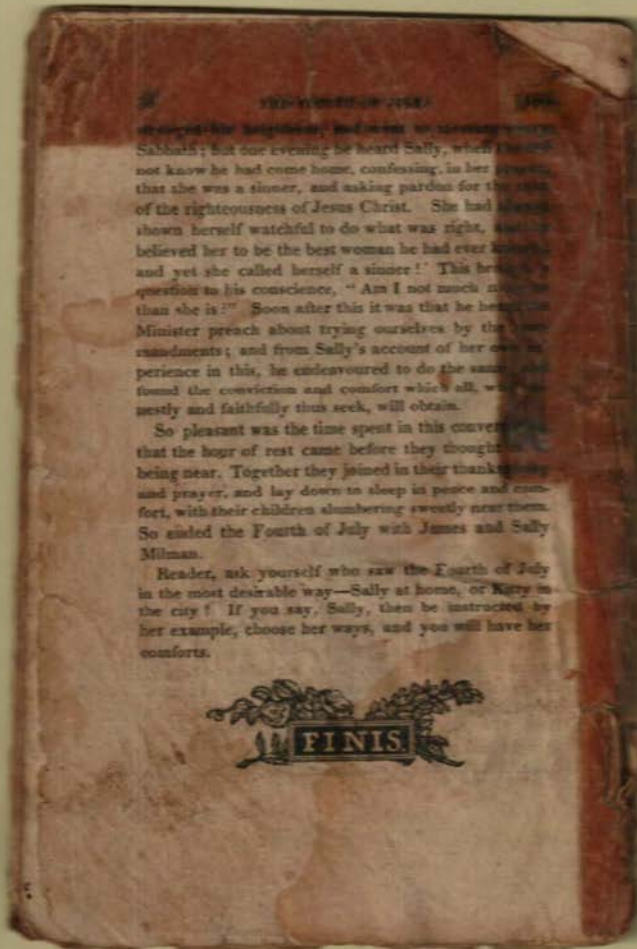
When the girls were in bed, James and Sally sat upon the bench at their door, watching the full moon as it slowly lighted up the fields, and looked upon the stream which was in view. They felt calm and happy. James told Sally she ought to know, for her consolation, that it was her good example here that she should think about the salvation of her soul. Once he had thought he deserved God would smile his blessing upon death, because he never told her, nor got drunk, nor

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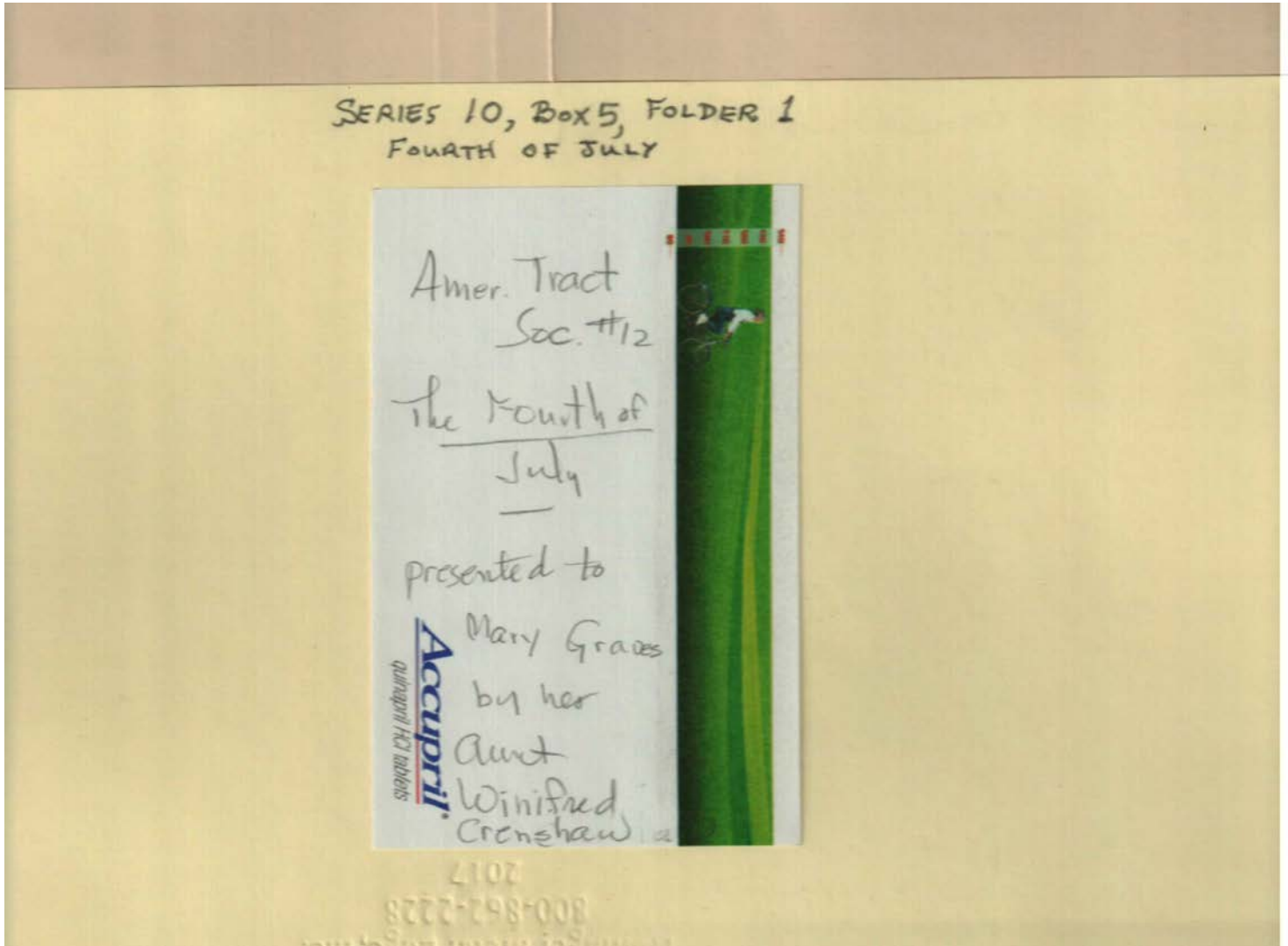
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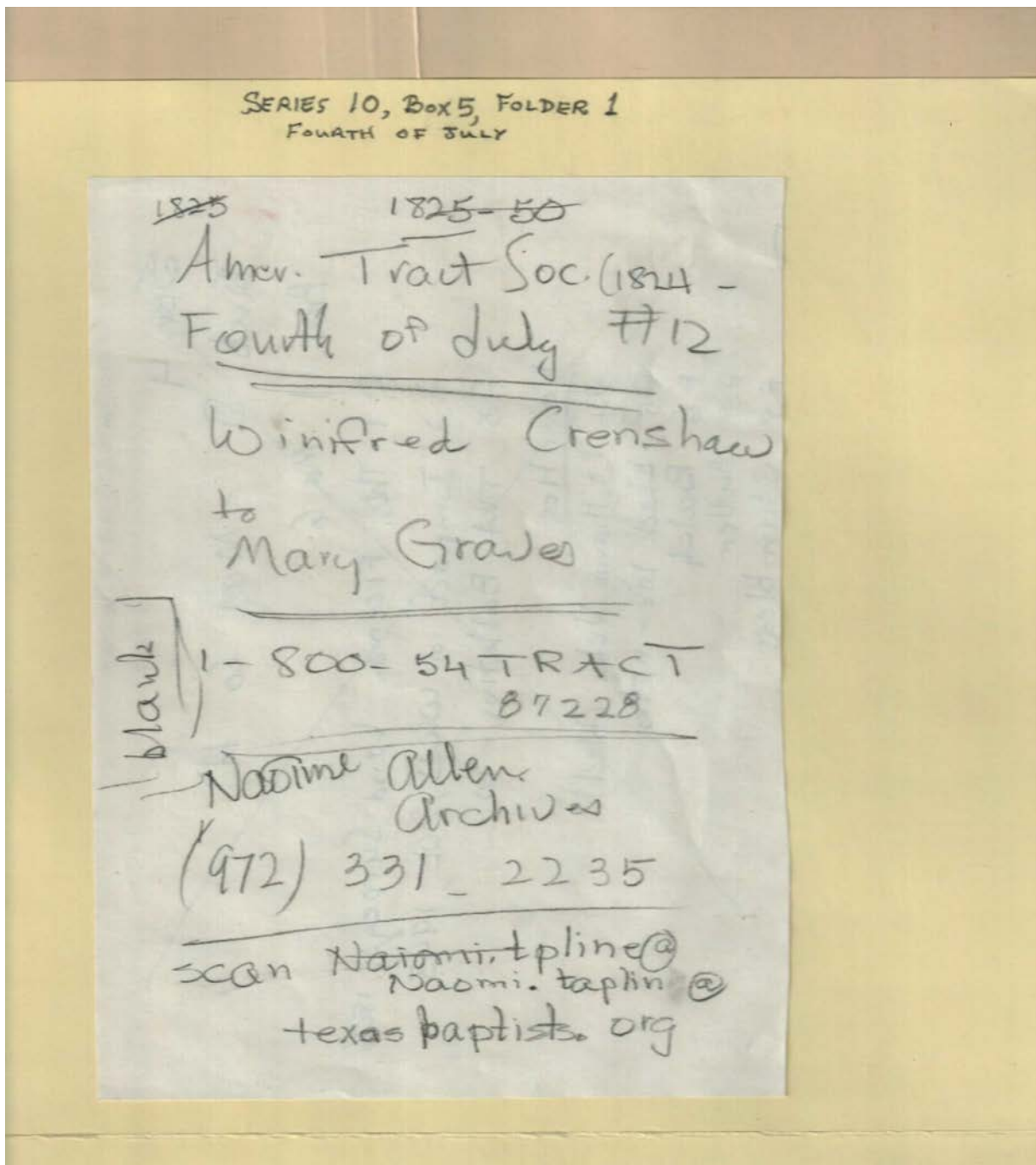
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Society #12

Crenshaw
Graves, Mary

The Fourth of July

Types:

note



Names:

Allen, Nadine

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Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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