

**HEART'S CONTENT,
AND THEY WHO
LIVED THERE**

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Heart's content, and they who lived there by Clara Doty Bates

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CLARA DOTY BATES

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AND THEY WHO LIVED THERE.

BY

CLARA DOTY BATES.

AUTHOR OF "CLASSICS OF BAYLAND," "CHILD LOVE," ETC.



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HEART'S CONTENT.

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST FIVE ASTONISHED.

"They grew together, side by side."

I DON'T know what I shall do with this baby," said Mr. Lawrence, "I have so many little ones, already."

Trudge was on his knee, with her small hands locked across her little fat lap, and a placid, far-away look in her eyes.

Don sat at the window, with a heavy scowl upon his forehead — not of discontent, but of deep reflection; Nanny hung upon the back of her father's chair; and Jane, in her low seat,

was rocking her cat to sleep; while Mars worked assiduously at a willow whistle with his jack-knife — first beating the bark with the handle, and then trying to blow a note upon it, until, with the combined efforts, the veins stood out in purple cords upon his forehead.

It was a June Saturday. The windows were open, and the long hedge of Scotch roses was pink with bloom. Bees hummed with a drowsy sound, and sweet smells filled the air.

This was the birthday of a little sister; and the announcement had just been made to the children after breakfast. It had been welcomed with varied degrees of curiosity, surprise and delight; and each one had had the space of half an hour in which to come to a conclusion as to whether the news was pleasant or otherwise.

Then Mr. Lawrence said, as if to test the general spirit:

“I don't know what I shall do with this baby, I have so many little ones, already.”

“Keep it!” said Trudge, with the gravest nonchalance.

Don's frown relaxed, and the rest laughed at