

LITTLE "ME TOO"

KEYWORD: Initiative.

In a little white cottage by the sea lived a mother with her two little daughters, and they were indeed a happy family. There was no daddy, for God had taken him home to the Heaven World beyond the blue, blue sky.

These little girls were such pretty little treasures, and dear little helpers, too. The older girl was called Peggy and the younger Janet. But no one ever called Janet by her real name; she was nicknamed "Me Too." That is what every one called her. Why?

Well, whenever Mother or Peggy needed something, Janet would say "me, too"; or if Peggy was going somewhere, then Janet would say, "me too"; so that soon her family and friends used that for her name.

In this pretty white house were many things to do, and the sisters were busy and so happy in doing little tasks for Mother. In whatever Peggy did, dear little Me Too always helped. The mother of these little girls was a very wonderful mother, who told them about many interesting things, including the little Nature Spirits that live in the water and the air.

One day some cousins came down from the big city nearby for a visit with the family in the cottage by the sea. Many happy hours were spent in the little garden and on the sands. They had great fun in the sea, jumping the waves, and then they would lie in the bright sunshine on the sand and listen to the roaring of the waves.

The city cousins didn't know much about the ocean and the seaside, so Peggy told them all she knew about these things. They didn't know that three-quarters of the Earth's

surface is water and that the beautiful Pacific Ocean is half of that. They just thought that water was water, and did not know that there were islands, big and little, and even lost continents buried under the restless sea.

Peggy did most of the talking. She told her little cousins about the tides, and storms at sea, and she pointed out the lighthouse nearby whose bright light flashed out constantly to light the ships safely on their way. She told them about the sea gardens under the sea, and the coral reefs, and many other things, until the city cousins thought her a very, very wise little girl.

They knew all about the large city in which they lived, and about rivers, and the lake where they skated in winter, and lots of other things, but the ocean was all so new and interesting to them that they wanted to know more.

Finally Peggy said, "Well, I really don't know any more to tell you." Then they were all quite still for awhile, until greatly to their surprise little Me Too said: "Peggy, dear, you forgot to tell them how the storms at sea happen, which we learned about from Mother." That was a lot for Me Too to say, for she was such a shy little creature. Then the cousins cried, "Oh, Me Too, you tell us." So she did.

"Well, the sylphs who live up in the fluffy clouds take the watery spray which the undines splash up, and carry it right up into the clouds. There they hold it until the undines make them give it up. The storms are really battles between the sylphs and undines, fought on the sea and in the air. Finally the sylphs have to give up to the undines, who then seize the raindrops and throw them down to the Earth. Sometimes the salamanders join in the battle, too, and then we have lightning and claps of thunder. Some of the raindrops fall on the ground and give the grass and flowers a drink, and some fall in the rivers and lakes, and some go right back again into the deep blue sea."

How pleased they all were with little Me Too! She had made herself known that day, and she wasn't shy any more. Mother was also very pleased when she heard about it, and said that Janet had shown *initiative*. After that she would no longer be content just to follow along after others as she had before, and no one would call her Me Too.
