

and chubby cheeks that are the rule in England. Nor would a girl as prim and as carefully trained as Mabel say "It's *lots jollier*."

The book ends rather weakly. Nina loses both health and fortune and thereby becomes a model woman; the possibilities for self-indulgence having been removed; but many a child might learn much by reading of Nina's adventures, and experience pleasure in the reading.

"Miss Nina Barrow"

By Frances Courtenay Baylor. The Century Co.

IF THIS BOOK should fall into the hands of a foreigner, he would have good reason to believe the tales that are told of the terrible American child—tales that excite the indignation of so many Americans, and that contain just the one grain of truth that can color so many bushels of exaggeration. There are, doubtless, children like Miss Nina Barrow still to be found in the United States, but happily they are only to be seen by people who lead a nomadic life in hotels, and we believe there are few New York hotels that would harbor a child who (to quote only one of her enormities) amused herself by turning the hose on the other guests, to say nothing of the parlor furniture. "Cousin Marian," who arrives to act as governess to Nina, learns of her charge's possibilities at their first interview; for after several minor impertinences, "Nina burst out into such a speech, so rude, so disrespectful, so full of anger and all impertinence that I should be quite ashamed," says Miss Baylor, "to write it down." Cousin Marian is a perfect character—good, sweet, unselfish, patient and thoughtful; but, unfortunately, like so many people who are too good for human nature's daily food, she contrives to throw our sympathy on Nina's side. What child of twelve years old could be expected to enjoy the following discourse?—"And, dear, you mean kindly, I am sure, but you should not comment upon anything that I have. As to dresses, I have all that I require or can afford, and I can provide myself with all that I need. Miss Miller is rich and I am poor. I cannot dress as she does if I would, and I would not if I could. Nor does a great variety of costly and beautiful clothing add to the happiness of any one, or the esteem in which one is held by people whose good opinion is worth having."

Nina, her Grandmother and Marian all go to England to visit their English cousins, and Nina's pranks on the ship afford some amusement. After spending some days in Liverpool they go to London, and we read that "they were surprised to find it still quite light when they rolled into Euston Station in London at ten o'clock that evening." Surely they might have got over their surprise at this phenomenon during their stay in Liverpool; or does the hour of sunset vary in the different English cities? Nina meets with some unusual and interesting adventures in London, thanks to her unruly and American spirit, but Cousin Marian's influence is working upon her; she is in danger of becoming uninterestingly good, and we read, with a sigh of relief, that "the original Nina cropped out again." The original Nina is very amusing when she imperiously sends for a famous physician to attend her pet pug who has fits, thereby almost transferring the fits from pug to physician.

The account of her visit to her English cousins is interesting and well told, and the contrast between the rich and showy American child, and the rich but plainly reared English children is drawn with much accuracy, though we must accuse the author of exaggeration. Doubtless there *are* English households exactly like the one she describes, but such rigid austerity as this does not obtain in all English families. "If on Wednesday there was a roast of mutton and potatoes and vegetable marrow and rice pudding, on Thursday there would be a rib of beef, nicely rolled and served with a plentiful supply of silver skewers, just potatoes enough to go around, and Brussels sprouts, and a plain pudding, or an apple-dumpling." From this, one might conclude that the diet of English children consisted largely of silver skewers and scant potatoes, which would hardly account for the rosy looks