

# BY THE SWEAT OF HER BROW

A Humorous Monolog

by  
Penelope Dickerson



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‘Lo, Jimmie. ‘Lo Mamma. Mamma! Look at this pretty box! It’s to put pennies in, Mamma, an’ we’ve got to get twenty-five of ‘em, an’ nobody can give them to us. We got to earn them by the sweat of our brow to put in the missionary box to give to the heathen. That’s what Teacher said.

Mamma, will you let me earn some pennies by the sweat of my brow asweepin’ the floor for Dinah?--Please, Mamma--Oh, goody! I’ll get the broom. (Gets broom) How much you gonna give me, Mamma?--Five pennies?--Goody! I’ll put Dinah’s bandanna on my head--What you say, Mamma?-- (Frowning a bit and teasing) But, Mamma, I want a bandanna on my head--Why, why ‘cause the maid that works for Mrs. Perkinses, she’s got a bandanna, an’ Billy Joneses’ mamma’s maid, she’s got a bandanna, an’ Clarabel Hopkinses’ mamma’s maid, she’s got a bandanna, an’--What you say, Mamma?--Goody! I knew you’d let me have a bandanna if I kept on askin’ ‘cause Teacher made us learn by heart, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” an’ I meant to keep right on tryin’ ‘til you said I could. May I have my pennies now, Mamma?--Goody! (Counts pennies).

--What you say, Jimmie?--(Makes face at Jimmie) Yes, I did. I learned that verse you told me to by heart, but I don’t see any sense to it. (To Mamma) Mamma! What’s Jimmie mean by callin’ me Tennyson’s brook? He gave me a penny, Mamma, to learn to say this:

“I chatter, chatter as I flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on forever!”

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---