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THE OLD MAN AN' ME.

Jenny went an' married, Billy's moved away; Dick has been in Texas fer many weary day; An' nothin' of the old times about the place we see, They's only two—like shadders—the old man an' me.

He keeps the chimney corner, an' smokes his pipe an' sighs; An' frequent I can see him bresh the tear drops from his eyes; An' I say some word o' comfort, though I'm lonesome as can be, Fer 'they's little in the worl' now fer the old man an' me.

Can't keep the children with us—they've got to drift away; We've reaped a worl' o' roses—we've had our happy day; An' now we're only shadders, an' soon we'll cease to see The light that makes the shadders o' the old man an' me! —Atlanta Constitution.

Reginald's Bride.

MARION GREY was the child of wealthy parents, having been brought up in luxury and given a good education. Her mother died when she was 12 years of age, leaving her father to rear his motherless child as best he could. His business did not prosper after his wife's death, and through the dishonesty of his partner he became almost reduced to bankruptcy. He went to work with the men that he had formerly employed, working night and day, straining his eyes to their uttermost, and finally causing total blindness. At this he sold his property and Marion was obliged to go to work. She engaged a small tenement and searched daily for work, but to no avail. On returning home one day, tired and disheartened, her father said to her: "Marion, Mrs. Young called here to-day, and is going abroad with her husband, and would like to find a trustworthy person to take the care of her little boy, Harold. She heard of our circumstances, and thought that you might take this position as governess, and yet be near your old father. What do you think about it, my dear?" "Well, father," said Marion in a cheerful tone, for she never allowed her father to see her downhearted, "do you think that you could stand the annoyance of this child, for he is but 5 years of age and has been indulged greatly?" "My daughter," said her father, "it does seem as if this is a plan by which you can meet the expenses and yet be near me during the day."

Nothing more was said, and the following day Marion called on Mrs. Young and everything was settled satisfactorily. She brought Harold home with her, for he had been attracted to Marion at once, and Mr. and Mrs. Young were to sail the following day. The Youngs were people of wealth and attended the same church as Marion had done from childhood, and they felt well pleased at being able to find such a trustworthy person with whom to leave Harold. Marion was in the habit of taking Harold for a stroll during the latter part of the day, and it was during one of these strolls that Harold exclaimed: "Why, auntie, we meet that gentleman every day." The gentleman, hearing the remark, turned and said: "Good-afternoon." "Good-afternoon, sir," said Marion. "Pardon me, but the child called you 'auntie.' May I ask if he is your nephew?" said the gentleman. "O, no, sir! I am Miss Grey, and have charge of him for a few months while his parents are abroad," said Marion. "I am fond of children, and I should judge that this lad is about the same age as my young brother, whom I have not seen since a babe." After saying a few words to Harold, he wished them good-afternoon and passed on. Marion called Harold and walked leisurely home, little knowing what an impression she had made on this new acquaintance. Upon entering the house Harold exclaimed: "O, grandpa, we met a real nice gentleman, and he talked with auntie!" Mr. Grey made no reply, but during the evening asked Marion who the gentleman was. Marion replied that it was one that they had met frequently in their strolls, and Harold had opened the conversation by his childish remarks. "His name is Mr. Reginald Stacey, and he lives next door," she said. "Stacey?" repeated Mr. Grey. "That sounds familiar. I once had dealings with one by that name, but he has passed away." As time passed the meetings between Marion and her friend became more frequent, and what was at first a mere acquaintance soon ripened into a deep affection, until one day Reginald said: "Marion, I am going away to complete my education, but there is something that I wish to tell you before going." "Marion, I have loved you from first sight, my dear," said Reginald. "But, Reginald, what of my father? I love you, but I cannot leave him," said Marion. "You and your father shall never be separated," he answered. After spending some time in making promises and endearing words, he bade her a fond good-by. That evening Marion told her father the whole story. A little later on she received letters from Reginald, and often wondered why he did not speak about his people in them, but thinking that the year would soon pass, and having her time taken up with Harold and her father she decided that on his return she would ask him about them. As time

passed returned from abroad and Harold home, paying Marion well. On her next visit to Marion and her father Mrs. Young stated that she wished her to come with her a few days to help prepare for her older son's home-coming, and that she was to bring her father also. Marion was downhearted, for she had not heard from Reginald for some time. In his last letter he had said that he had graduated and his parents had returned home, and that he would soon join her. Marion took up her new work, trying to be satisfied, and on the day of the arrival of the expected one, this being Mrs. Young's older son, Marion was in the sewing-room, and suddenly the door opened and in came Harold, saying: "My big brother has come," and Marion, looking up, exclaimed: "O, Reginald!" and he clasped her to him in a fond embrace. At this moment Marion's father and Mr. and Mrs. Young entered the room, and Marion demanded an explanation from them, which Mrs. Young laughingly gave. "I was once Mrs. Stacey, and my son and I were separated soon after his father's death. I then married Mr. Young, whose son you have had the care of during the last year and one-half. Reginald had not seen Harold since a baby, and, as I had not told him the name of the person with whom I had left Harold, he did not know he was the child in your care, although he felt strongly attracted to him. After he came abroad to us and told us of you, we decided to keep things hidden from you until his return, wishing to surprise you and your father. We will be happy to see you and Reginald and your father settled in a home of your own." After a few words with Reginald and his mother, Mr. Grey found out why the name Stacey had sounded so familiar to him, for Reginald's father had been the one with whom Mr. Grey had had dealings in the past.—Boston Post.

SAVED FROM DEATH BY VAPOR.

His Perspiration Protected a Puddler from Injury by Molten Iron. By the timely prevention of a strange law of nature little known save to scientific men, one of the workmen at Baldwin's Locomotive works escaped from what, under ordinary circumstances, would have been absolutely certain death. The puddling-room of this factory contains a large number of immense ladlons, in which the iron is melted and purified. The laborer wheels his barrow containing the ore up an inclined plane to their open mouth a height of three feet from the floor, and then empties the barrow into the ladlon. Joseph Connor, one of the puddlers, was totally unclad from his waist upward. He had been at work scarcely five minutes yesterday when one of his fellow workmen gave a cry which directed the attention of the entire fore-et work to the awful situation into which Connor had got himself. Bending over the molten liquid, his head and chest completely immersed in its depths, he was holding by his hands to the edge and trying, apparently, to draw back from the terrible position into which he had fallen. It was at once evident that Connor had somehow missed his footing and fallen partially into the boiling metal. Fellow workmen at once rushed to the spot and he was hastily dragged out. Everyone expected to find his face and chest a hideously charred mass and some of the men had already turned away their eyes rather than gaze on the terrible sight they expected would be presented. But to the amazement of his rescuers, save for the loss of his hair, Connor was absolutely unharmed. Not a disfigurement, not a burn, not even a blister was to be seen. The workmen were badly scared by the seeming marvel. Later the puddling manager explained the matter to the men. A combustible body may be preserved from light on when in contact with a source of heat by being surrounded by an atmosphere of vapor. In the case of Connor the man had begun to perspire and on contact with the molten metal this perspiration formed a gaseous covering that protected his skin. His hair, of course, was not so shielded and suffered in consequence, but with this exception he was unharmed.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

His Chief Conc.

A party of excursionists visiting a large city on one of the Great Lakes during the summer went out one fine morning for a sail. There were several enthusiastic amateur photographers on board, and in their zeal for taking "snap-shots" of the shore scenery as they sailed along they did not notice that the wind was freshening and the lake becoming rough. At last, however, an unusually high wave rocked the boat, and one of the young men standing near the gunwale lost his balance and pitched headlong into the water. He was a good swimmer, but it was several minutes before the boat could be rounded to, and when he was finally reached with the aid of a line and dragged on board he was almost exhausted. "That was a narrow escape, Charley," said one of his friends, after the young man had partially recovered his breath, and was able to speak. "Yes!" he gasped. "Another lurch like that, and my camera would have gone overboard!"

Different Ideas as to Clothes.

If the native women of Samatra have their knees properly covered the rest does not matter. The natives of some islands off the coast of Guinea wear clothes only when they are going on a journey. Some Indians of Venezuela are ashamed to wear clothes before strangers, as it seems indecent to them to appear unclad.

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