

THE CLIFFS.
These iron cliffs that over the deep,
Wave worn and thunder scored, enormous
looms,
Stand like the work of some tremendous power
From Denmark, that would keep
Fire and sword from the battered coast
Of these crowded islands, or majestic
Vastly beneath, as though they would devour
The rocky rocks before them, reel and leap
The bounding waves of sea and stormy blast,
Crashed in the assault of some strong giant,
Indomitable, his shattered ranks
Close to the breach again, and yet again,
So from the boiling billows bursts the swell
Of a new awful combat than of yore.
—Ashley de Vere.

DECIDED BY CHANCE.

The sun, a great glowing ball of fire,
had just descended behind the fringe
of elm trees on Meadow Hill, and the
parked summer world was free to
breathe at last. Wayne Hilliard, finish-
ing his sketch of the fern shaded pool in
the glen, dropped his pencil and inflated
his lungs with the fragrant oxygen.
Mrs. Mix, cleaning trout for the mor-
row's breakfast, in the kitchen, sighed
a sigh of infinite relief. "One more day's
golf," said she, and Kitty and Tilly, skim-
ming cream in the cool cellar, mused
happily with their work so to finish
without the light of a candle, and as they
worked they talked and laughed
lightly, as girls will do.

Who were Kitty and Tilly? Why,
they were Mrs. Mix's "hired help"—the
royal daughters of impetuous neigh-
bors, who were more than glad to take
out their slender allowance of pocket
money by assisting the harassed land-
lady in "busy times." Kitty was radi-
ant blonde, with hair just warmed
with red, eyes of mischievous gray, and
a complexion that would have been pre-
ferred were it not for the sprinkling of
freckles across the bridge of the sunny
nose. Tilly, on the contrary, was pale
and dark, with big, solemn eyes full of
jetty lights, and a small head set with
imperial grace on her slim shoulders,
and their voices sounded like the indis-
tinct twitter of orioles as they talked
and skimmed great leathery sheets of
cream and strained the "night's milk"
into bread, shining pans.
"I think he's splendid!" said Kitty.
"So do I!" said Tilly, enthusiastically.
"I like that!" said Tilly, said Kitty,
waving her skimmer above a fresh pan.
"I like that!" said Tilly, said Kitty,
"I've always pinned to be an artist's
bride," said Kitty.
"Yes, I've pinned it," said Tilly, "and I
have made up my mind to do it. This
country vegetation don't suit me! I
must marry a city man!"
Kitty covered up the stone cream jar
with a little clink.
"Well, how are we going to settle this
matter?" said she with a laugh. "We
both want Wayne Hilliard! We're both
determined to have him."
"Draw lots," suggested Tilly. "Noth-
ing like chance for determining a ques-
tion like this. Oh! I say, Kitty, this
pan leaks. Give me one of the new ones.
I do like a new milk pan—it makes one
think of sheets of silver."
"No, we won't do that—it's too hack-
neyed," said Kitty. "I'll tell you what
we'll do, Tilly. Mr. Hilliard never
comes into the house without going
straight into the milk room for a drink
of new milk. Mrs. Mix always leaves a
little brown pitcher there for him. Well,
we'll leave two pitchers, one white for
you, the other blue for me. The one
that he selects shall decide the question.
If it's blue—then he's mine! If it's white
—I cheerfully give him up to you!"
"Girls, I should think you'd be
ashamed of yourselves!"
Tilly gave a great start; Kitty colored
until the freckles looked like a fleet of
tiny brown boats on a sea of scarlet.
Mrs. Mix was at the head of the stairs,
glaring down at them like an indignant
baby cat.
"We—we didn't mean anything,"
feebly uttered Kitty.
"We were only making fun," murred
Tilly.
"It ain't the sort of fun they used to
make when I was a girl," said Mrs. Mix.
"We were talking about the milk,"
apologized Kitty, with excusable equivoca-
tion.
"Tain't worth while to fib," said Mrs.
Mix. "I was staiden' just by the way-
der, and I heard every word you said.
Here's the platter of fish. Put it in a
cool place, not too near the milk."
Kitty Farrar and Tilly Grey looked
guiltily at each other, and indulged in a
surprised titter when the door closed
sharply.
"Do you suppose she did hear it all?"
said Tilly breathlessly.
"It ain't a hanging matter if she did,"
declared Kitty. "Quick—go to the pitch-
er! Take them in the back way. I
hear him coming now."
"Oh, if it's come to your knowing his
very step!"
"Do hold your tongue, Tilly!"
On the whitely scoured milk room
shelf stood the two little pitchers, one of
old "flowing blue," the other a squatty
white ware specimen, with a crystal
clear tumbler beside them. In Kitty's
haste she had forgotten to fill but one,
and as the two dimpled faces peeped
from the twilight darkness at the head
of the cellar stairs they could see Wayne
Hilliard come direct to the little milk
room and take up the white pitcher.
"There!" whispered Tilly, spasmodic-
ally squeezing Kitty's round little arm.
But the white pitcher was empty. He
set it down with a smothered exclamation
of impatience, and seizing the flow-
ing blue poured out a glass of cool, foam-
ing milk and drank it. Then he walked
out again.
"There!" retorted Kitty. "He took
my pitcher after all."
"But he took mine first."
"Don't be shabby, Tilly. If ever any-
thing was rejected your pitcher was
his mine."
"Nonsense, Kit! By all the rules of
love and war he belongs to me."
"I'll mean to have him, anyhow."
"I'll see about that," said Tilly reo-
lently.
"Hush!" cried Kitty. "What's that?
Some one giggling. It's Tom."
"No, it isn't. Tom has been sent up
to Spotswood farm for half a dozen ducks
for Sunday's dinner. It's your guilty
conscience, Kit, that's all."
"I'll tell you, mister," said Tom, "if
you'll promise never to let on who I
was, and if you'll gimme that 'ere f'nted
fishin' pole o' yours as you don't use no
more."
"I don't think I care much about your
news, Tom," said Mr. Hilliard, who was
just settling himself for a morning's
sketching by the river heights.
"Oh, but you will when you hear it,"
said Tom. "Mother says, says she,
'Girls, you'd order'd be ashamed of your-
selves.' And Kit Farrar she said she
knewed your step, and Tilly Grey she
said she 'lowed to marry a city feller
like you, and then they agreed to chance
it. And there was something about two
colored pitchers—I don't rightly under-
stand that, but I ruther think you fell
to Kitty's lot, and she was awful tickled
and—"
"Look here, Tom," said Mr. Hilliard,
leisurely turning over his tubes of color,
"don't it strike you that this is very like
telling tales out of school? It is likely
if the young ladies meant you to repeat
these little jokes!"
"But they was dead in earnest,"
whispered Tom.
"Much you know about it," said Hill-
iard. "No—you can't have the rod.

the next day he would go to Charing
Cross. The types had it "chasing
crows."
During the eastern commissions, ten
or twelve years ago, a certain Mahmood
Jain figured rather prominently. One
night a compositor got a take of tele-
graph of which that name was the first
word. He glanced at it, and with an im-
pression on the "fool operator who did
not know what month it is," he pro-
ceeded to erect it thus: "Mahmood, Dec.
5,"—making a date line of it.
"One of the finest breaks I ever saw
was made by a proofreader. He came across
the line:
A's, spruces to catch woodcock.
"He was not up on "Hamlet," and
never having seen the word "spruces"
of course knew there was no such. So
he changed the p to a y, making it
"springs." The man who set the take
was an amateur actor and perfectly fa-
miliar with the line, but the most he
could effect with the proofreader was a
compromise. The p was left stand, but
the h had to come out, and so it went
"springs." I will close this, not for want of material
so much as for fear of encroaching
too long on your space, by recounting
the feat of a printer who, in an article
describing a mendicant, said he wore a
"threadbone coat" and had on his face a
"necktie flush."—Artist Printer.

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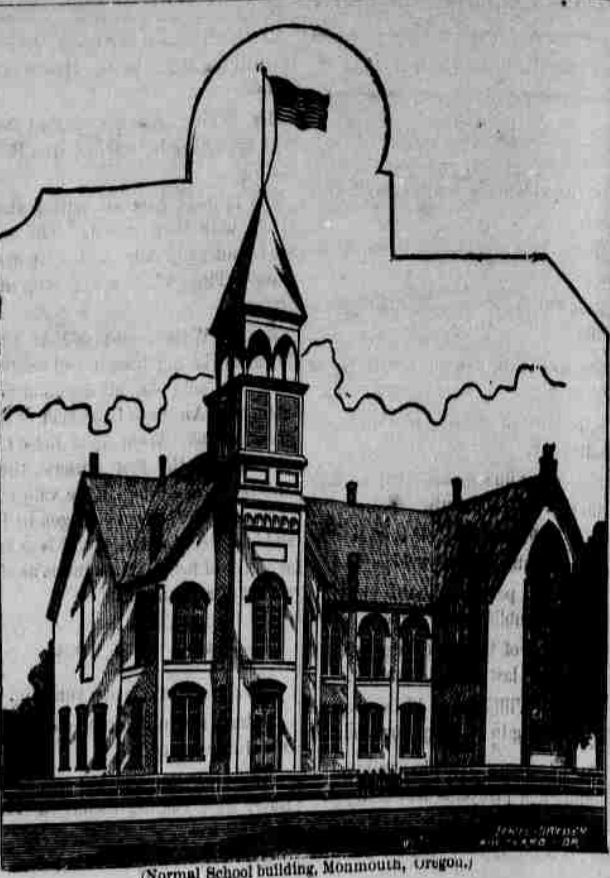
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