

SPRING FLOWERS.

Oh! dainty baby flowerets,
That hide in silent nooks,
That linger by the window,
And peep into the brooks;
To me you are the starkest
Of the realm of John Jay.
At whose soft beck unnumbered forms
Like shadows come and go.

By mossy rocks and nodding ferns
You lift your little heads,
And by the wounded maple-trees
In smiling groups arise.
No more the shivering winter winds
Alight the naked woods,
But all the scattered petals
With Pleas's dappled hood.

Though years have sped since first for me
You made the meadows bright,
As when a sun-drenched dream
Has faded into night,
I still do hail with joyful love
The violet's sweet perfume,
Still joy to see the crocus burst
Like Leanne from the tomb.

I thrill to see the buds again
Upon the apple-trees,
Where every branch is eloquent
Of gloire yet to be;
I see the wings of Argemone,
From lands beyond the main,
Where still the shining winter winds
And build their homes again.

I trace the taste of dainties
Sweet, sweeter, in all your beauty;
You make me feel as if
Of man's exalted breath,
You whisper of a dawn
Reminiscent of the past,
When earth shall melt with poetry,
And man be full of love.

ROBERT'S WIFE.

"I am so sorry about Uncle James!"
There was a sigh in Robert
Franklin's voice and eyes as he spoke,
and the lady who listened drew her
merry, saucy face into dolorous pucker
to suit the occasion.

"Because, you know," continued Robert,
"he fancies because you have twenty
thousand dollars that you are a fine lady,
affected and useless, not the wife for a
poor farmer!"
"We must show him his mistake,"
was the reply. "But he will not see
you. He positively forbids your coming
over to the farm."

"Does he know we are married?"
"He never dared to tell him. Cowardly, is it not? But he is my only relative,
and I love him dearly. It is not
because he owns the farm and can leave
a little money, Daisy?"

"Hush, love, I know," Daisy answered, putting a soft, white hand over her husband's lips. "I have had no other father, or mother either, for that matter, in all my life," continued Robert, "and if the farm is daisy, it is home."
"And you do not like to be banished?"
Well, if you will keep your promise, and send Jane over to see me, you shall not be. Now, talk of something else. Oh, how can I let you go for two long months!"

But Robert Franklin had undertaken to get in person to see about some Western lands in which his uncle had invested, and which threatened to involve him in loss. Daisy could not will take the long journey, nor could she. He held her hand, and she resolved to remove the only shadow from his life—the resolute opposition of his uncle to a fine lady wife.

Robert Franklin had been gone from the farm three days when his uncle James yielded reluctantly to the pangs of his old enemy, chronic rheumatism, and told Jane, his only servant, that she must remain in the room. The old woman answered promptly:
"If you are going to be laid up, Mr. Franklin, I must have some help. I'm getting old, too, sir, and trotting up and down stairs isn't so easy as it was twenty years ago!"

"But who will come, Jane?" Girls are not plenty here, you know."
"I've a niece, sir, would come to me, though she's never lived out."
"Send for her then, and—oh!—rab my leg, will you?"
Late in the afternoon a little bustle behind stairs told the invalid of the arrival of the niece.

She came from a trunk, in a wagon, from the railway station, and, standing in the wide, dreary looking kitchen, looked a picture of health and beauty. Soft brown curls gathered in a rich knot left little crinkly ringlets on forehead and crown, her round white throat, large brown eyes lighted a sweet, fair face, and the neat dress of blue velvet covered a dainty figure.

the one Mr. Franklin's in, and Mr. Robert's, the little one next to it."
"Well, we'll see to-morrow. Can I have a man to send to town if I want anything?"
"There's a man enough. Will you sleep down here to-night, or in one of the rooms up-stairs?"
"Down here, in the room next yours."
"It's all ready. I'll go up now and make Mr. Franklin comfortable for the night."
"Comfortable!" Margaret said, shivering.

But the next morning, after putting a tempting breakfast before the invalid, Margaret selected the vacant bedroom and she meant to beautify for his use. It was large, with four windows, light and cheerful, and well suited to her purpose. In the intervals of directing Jane, sending the man to town with her orders, and giving her own dainty touch to everything, Margaret visited the invalid, reading to him, chatting with him, and making the long hours fly by. It was late in the afternoon when she came in to say:

"Mr. Franklin, the room across the hall has been prepared, and I think you will find it more comfortable than this one. Will you try to get there if Aunt Jane and I help you?"
"I'm very well here."
"But you will be better there. Please come."
So he yielded, but once fairly in the room, could not repress a cry of amazement. Softly-carpeted, white-walled, a bright fire crackling in the stove, a fragrant supper spread upon the table, the room was cosy and cheery enough to coax a smile from the grimmest lips.

Yes, when James Franklin sank into the bright chintz-covered easy-chair and the other old girl (who had been lured to California by the charming information that she was sure to marry there) laid siege to a wealthy widow, who at first showed signs of succumbing, but finally resisted the attack. As usual with women who are intensely disappointed, she "didn't care" for no one but herself, and she exclaimed, half sobbing, to a bosom friend:

"Why, I wouldn't be hired to marry him, hateful old thing! I wouldn't take him, not if he was perfect. It was money as his chief charm, we suppose she meant Croesus—Scribner for May.

Finger-Nails.
A writer says: "If finger-nails are a language of their own, so have the nails; and the manner of keeping them is as eloquent as all the rest. Some keep them long and pointed. They may mean, of a cheap, durable, and perfect sewing machine to the remotest haunts of civilization. Machines will relieve the railroad station in this country, free from transportation charges, if ordered through the company's branch house and exhibit the most beautiful and elegant catalogue and chromo circular free on application. This company want a few more good agents."

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HOW TO GET A HOME. See advertisement.

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