

The New Northwest

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1912

The Sun and the Rose

By Alice Cary

Lost

Baby was lost!

Up and down, high and low, every where about the house and barn and woodshed, in the garden and down the road by the bridge, the search was carried on with anxious hearts and eager steps. Every nook and corner where even a mouse could hide was examined over and over again; but no Baby!

Baby's mother, bareheaded, with pale face and trembling limbs, distractedly hurried from place to place, carrying in her hand the little white sunbonnet she had picked up near the doorpost, the only thing that could be found belonging to the missing.

Not half an hour before, Baby had been playing in the yard, cooing and talking to herself, as she nursed her rag doll, and watched the pigeons on the roof of the barn. There were no signs of her tiny shoes in the moist soil by the gate, the marks of dirty little fingers upon the white palings—and that was all.

The hot August sun was almost at its setting, and the shadows of the maples were fast lengthening. What if night should come, and Baby not found? What if she were wandering further and further away, while they were seeking her? What if she had been stolen, and was even then calling upon her mother to save her?

"Baby?" No answer; and the mother's face grew whiter and her limbs weaker.

"I shall never see her again!" she cried, sinking down upon the steps of the porch. "Never, never, never! And I scolded her this morning. O, my little, little lamb!"

"We shall find her yet," said old Mrs. Bailey, soothingly. "She's got tired and cuddled down to sleep somewhere. Or perhaps she's off with some of the neighbors' children."

Baby's mother shook her head. She knew that was only said to comfort her. All the children in the neighborhood had been for the last hour engaged in the search. She could see their scurrying field beyond the house, looking behind the stone-heaps and among the blackberry bushes that skirted the fence.

Baby could not have been stolen. No suspicious character had been lurking about, and nobody could have got away with her without being seen. There had been no one near the house all the morning, except old Deacon Pettengill, who left his wagon opposite the gate long enough to look at a yoke of fat steers in the barn-yard.

The sun went down at last, and one by one the neighbors slowly came in from the search and gathered around the stricken mother, in the yard. All had words of comfort; but they sounded false and hollow.

"I could give her up," she moaned. "She must be somewhere near. Help me look a little longer—just a little longer!"

"I don't believe she's been outside the gate," said one. "We can't find any trace of her anywhere. Search for me she would have dropped her doll or something, if she'd gone far."

"We've looked everywhere, said one of the boys. "We've poked open every bush and turned over every stone on the road, and she couldn't have got any further than that. If she was in the mooin' lot, we should see her certainly, or in the back pasture, because there ain't any bushes or woods."

"Have you looked in the well?" asked old Mrs. Tompkins. "Now it's just as like as not she's fell in there. The curbin' ain't none too safe."

The Woman who Dared

By Alice Cary

By Alice Cary

By Alice Cary

By Alice Cary

By Alice Cary

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Husbands of the Strong-Minded

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THE FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE

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THE FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE

PORTLAND ADVERTISEMENTS

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FOR SALE

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