

ODDS AND ENDS.

SOMEWHERE.

Somewhere the wind is blowing,
I thought as I toiled along
In the burning heat of the month,
And the fancy made me strong—
Yes, somewhere the wind is blowing,
Though here where I gasp and sigh
Not a breath of air is stirring,
Not a cloud in the burning sky.

Somewhere the thing we long for
Exists on earth's wide bound,
Somewhere the sun is shining
When winter slips the ground,
Somewhere the flowers are springing,
Somewhere the corn is brown
And ready unto the harvest
To feed the hungry town.

Somewhere the twilight gathers,
And sways men lay by
The burden of the day
And, wrapped in slumber, lie;
Somewhere the day is breaking,
And bloom and darkness flee,
Though storms our bark are tossing,
There's somewhere a placid sea.

And then, I thought, 'tis always,
In this mysterious life,
There's a gladness somewhere
In spite of its trials and strife,
And somewhere the sin and sorrow
Of earth are known no more,
Somewhere our weary spirits
Shall find a peaceful shore.

Somewhere the things that try us
Shall all have passed away
And doubt and fear no longer
Impede the perfect day.
Oh, brother, through the darkness
Around thy soul be cast,
The earth is rolling onward,
And light shall come at last!
—Alfred Reed Shaw to Elmina Facts.

THE APPLE TREE.

One evening I noticed by Mousia's photograph, which always stood covered with a white crepe veil on a small table, three red checked apples. These plebeian fruits seemed out of place in the aristocratic Parisian drawing room, crowded with rare knickknacks and works of art. Mousia's mother, observing my questioning glance, said, pointing to a picture at the end of the room, "These fruits were picked on the apple tree which you see in this picture, the last one painted by Mousia." Then the sorrowing woman told me the story of the apple tree so intimately connected with that of the young artist, Marie Bushkirtzoff, who died when only 24 years old.

In the spring of 1888—Mousia was planning to paint a peasant woman in the open country for the salon of the following year. She spent days looking in the outskirts of Paris for a suitable landscape in which to place her model. One morning she found near Sevres a field inclosed by fence palings, beyond which a walk overgrown with grass lost itself under willows, through whose young shoots the sun shone brightly. Half way up the walk, on a background of grayish green bushes, with an outline almost as soft as that of smoke, stood a robust apple tree, broadly spreading its flowery branches. The whole scene was filled with tender, fresh, stirring harmony, with spring itself. Mousia was moved. She felt that this was the locked spot. Opening the gate, she walked toward the house, which was separated from the field by a garden filled with beehives. The proprietor happened to be one of those half bourgeois, half peasant horticulturists who provide the Parisian markets with flowers and fruits. The request made by the enthusiastic looking young girl with the expressive blue eyes flattered him. He loved his trees, and the admiration of a painter for them pleased him extremely. Mousia was readily given permission to work in the inclosure, and she began the very next day.

Early in the morning she arrived on the tramway, with her model, who carried their lunch in a basket. Mousia understood her art. She was no longer a beginner, for some of her pictures had already been much talked of at the salon. Though belonging to a rich family, which occupied a high position among the aristocracy of her country, she worked not as an amateur, but as an artist anxious to win fame. Her work showed the melancholy fire and poetry which belong to those born in Little Russia. The sketch of her painting absorbed her entirely. She was trying to put on the canvas some of the effervescent spring about her. She painted rapidly, as if afraid not to be able to finish the task she had undertaken. Every morning she came back, in spite of the April showers and the rawness of the air, which often made her cough. The owners of the place admired her pink and, as they saw her painting, bunched, standing in the dew, with a blouse over her gray dress, they believed her to belong to their station in life and thought she was working for her daily bread.

The housewife brought her warm milk, the children played near her while she rested, and the horticulturist, learning that some young trees interested with the perspective, had not hesitated to cut them down. It was touching to see this man, usually so careful of his possessions, willingly sacrifice them to gratify the wish of the young artist. By degrees a touching intimacy began between them. At noon Mousia was often invited to share the cabbage soup and bacon.

The picture was growing. The peasant seated at the foot of the apple tree looked most lifelike. Only a few finishing touches were needed. Gathered around the easel, the family agreed that the apple tree was beautiful, for it seemed as if by stretching out one's hand the pretty, fresh, pink and white blossoms could be plucked. One evening Mousia carried her picture away to show it to some friends, promising to return with it in order to finish certain details in the landscape. They waited for her in vain. One by one the blossoms on the tree were carried away by the breeze. At the end of a fortnight a package arrived containing a dress pattern of handsome black silk. A letter accompanied the present. Mousia told her friends that a severe cold kept her indoors, and she begged the housewife to accept the dress in remembrance of the kind hospitality she had received.

This was indeed a disappointment for these good people. What they had done

for the artist had been done for friendship's sake. The gift of the silk, which must at least have cost 20 francs a yard, pained them. The present seemed entirely out of proportion with the service rendered. Their pride was hurt. They decided to return the silk. In a catalogue of the salon they found Mousia's address, and one day on their way to the Halles they stopped in the Avenue de Villiers, where the artist lived. When they arrived in front of the house, they thought they must have made a mistake in the number. Was it possible that their young friend lived in this beautiful mansion? Then she was not a poor artist.

They rang; a liveried servant opened the door. After taking their names he ushered them into a sumptuous drawing room. Mousia was lying on a couch wrapped in a loose white plush gown. She was much thinner, very pale. Her large eyes shone with a phosphorescent brilliancy. Recognizing her friends, she uttered a joyful exclamation, and raising herself with difficulty she gave them her encausted hand.

"I am so happy to see you," she said, coughing almost at every word. "You must not feel hurt because I did not come to thank you. I am not allowed to go out. It seems that I worked too hard on my last picture. I took cold standing in the grass. I am now here for some time."

The horticulturist and his wife looked at her in bewilderment. An expression of deep pity came over their faces. The gardener no longer knew what to do with the package containing the silk. He felt that he could not return it.

"We don't mind it if you were sick," answered the wife, "but still we were sorry that you sent us this silk. What we did for you we did willingly. We did not want a present for letting you work on our place. My husband and I decided to bring the dress back."

"Oh, you were the one who wished to bring it back," interrupted the husband. "You are both foolish about the matter," exclaimed Mousia, laughing as she used to. "You would pain me deeply by refusing my present. I wish you to wear this dress," she added, speaking to the gardener's wife, "in remembrance of me when I am no longer in this world."

Then they both assured her that as she was so young she would soon regain her strength and overcome the disease. "No," answered Mousia, "I cannot get well. The candle is burning at both ends. I shall not live long. You know that children who are too clever never live long." She tried to laugh, but a mist covered her blue eyes.

"And the apple tree?" she asked, abruptly changing the subject. "Is it always beautiful?"

"Oh, no, indeed," they answered, "the blossoms are all gone; but the fruit is beginning to show. Apples will be plentiful. You must come out and see some in September. The good air of Sevres will restore you to health, made-moiselle."

She shook her head and let it fall back on the cushions, tired and exhausted by having spoken so much.

When the horticulturist and his wife departed, Mousia closed her eyes and thought of the apple tree. It was in good health. The sap was running from its roots to its branches. It spread its foliage in the sun, laughing at rain and wind, at cold nights and hot noons, while she, imprisoned in a room, attended by the wisest Paris doctors, was slowly dying. Oh, misery of human life! She was young, beautiful, rich, beloved, unusually gifted. She had so much to tell the world, her head was so full of pictures.

Toward the end of October the gardener and his wife received a letter with a wide black border telling them of Mousia's death, and these good people wept for the lovely girl who during one month had been the life and brightness of their modest country dwelling.

In the mad whirl of large cities a human life ended makes little more impression than the falling of a dead leaf. After a few days of painful astonishment the gay Parisian world which had so admired and feted Mousia returned to its business and its pleasures. Alone three women in mourning continued to weep in the home of the Avenue de Villiers.

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A COMING OUT PARTY.

The Twin B's and Honey Bunch West, but they didn't dress up.

The very latest thing—maybe I ought to say things—out! "Miss Mildred Parsons and her brothers, Master Lawrence and the Baby," the invitations read, "invite you to a coming out party this afternoon. Come at 2 o'clock and don't dress up!"

Such a funny idea—a party and not dress up! But mamma persisted gently in putting on the twin B's—Betty's and Beth's, you know—plain brown dresses.

"For it wouldn't be polite now to dress up," she said, "after they've asked you not to."

Honey Bunch was invited, too, and mamma put on her little, bright, everyday plaid.

"Who's coming out, you s'pose, mamma?" asked Betty. "Mildred?"

"Why, no; I think that can't be," said mamma, with a smile. "She's only 7, and young ladies do not usually 'come out' before they are 18 at least."

"Then I don't see who 'tis," said Betty. "I don't either," mamma said. "But they soon found out. Mildred and Lawrence met them at the kitchen door! Think of going to a party and going in at the kitchen door!"

"The party's out in the wood shed," explained Lawrence eagerly. "You can come right out with your hats on."

Funnier and funnier still—the wood shed!

"Take this box out, Mildred," her mamma said, "for Honey Bunch to stand on. She's so short. And remember, dearies, that guests have the best places."

"Is it a show?" asked Beth in a flurry of curiosity.

"Yes, kind of—yes, 'tis a show," Mildred said.

At the woodhouse door Uncle Lem met them all and gravely shook heads. "Show's begun," he said briskly. "Who has reserved seats?"

"The twin B's and Honey Bunch!" shouted Mildred and Lawrence in a breath. "And mamma's going to sit with the baby."

And so the coming out party began. Can you guess who came out? Forty-one little wet yellow chickens. They didn't all "come out" at once—dear me, no. It took some of them a good while. They had to saw open their shells with the tiny hard points on their beaks, and then they had to rest, and then they had to wiggle and squirm out. When they were "out," how dragged and homely they were! But it didn't take them long to dry and scramble over to the little windows—the cunningest, yellowest little "come outs," as Lawrence called them.

No Gripe

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LITTLE LOVERS.

Two little lovers, aged six and ten, kissing the manner of women and men. He so ardent and she so shy. Only when somebody else is by. When they're alone, her shy face flies, and she looks at him through her eyes; When they're alone, this bright-haired miss Gives her love a soft, warm kiss.

Yet a sad little coquette is she; Every attention she welcomes with glee, Many a heart she has filled with pain, For many years have loved her in vain; Lovers will come to her foot to woo, What is the dear little damsel to do? Is it her fault that they love her so? Is it her fault that they won't take "No"?

Long be the lives of this little pair, Sweetheart and maiden so bonny and fair! Long may they live while their loves intertwine, Each with the other, like streams of the vine! Or will this lady love drop and die, For many years have loved her in vain? Then will they deem it but child's fun, Feeling no smart since no harm has been done.

HER EXPIATION.

We had been "inseparables" before his going, and we would be so never again I felt convinced. She had absorbed him. Mind, desire, future, were packed in the little palm of her hand. Yet I was not vulgarly jealous. I loved Aubrey Yeldham better than I could have loved a brother, but I had seen her and had caught the reflection of his sentiment, though in a tempered degree. I had met her but once, in a verdurous Devon lane, where she had lost her bearings and we had come to her assistance.

Her name was Ruth Lascelles, and she was a widow. That was the sum total of our knowledge. She might have been 20, but we estimated her age at 25, deducing our theory from a certain fatigued languor of voice and expression that accorded ill with the girlish satin of her skin. This was arrived at on the first day of our meeting—we had not discussed her since. But one morning when he had called at the little farm cottage where she lived and had found her flung without a word of regret his despair had been too much for him. The whole story rolled from his lips; his love for her, her seeming reciprocity, their wanderings in the woods, her reliant, trusting attitude—that had taught him to wish himself some knight of the Holy Grail and not a mere boy.

I was so out of it, as the phrase is, that I could volunteer such a ridiculous notion. That she was a coquette of the first order seemed the most feasible solution, and I offered it. He derided the notion—it was apparently so frivolous a venture that it failed to anger him. But one day, after we had returned to town and were working well in harness, he with his book, I with my illustrations for it, he burst out afresh:

"She unintentionally let out where she lived. It is a village on the coast of France. She must have returned."

"Well," I said, suspending my work and pretending to extract a hair from the point of my drawing pen. "Well," he burst out, "the world is our oyster. If we shut opening it, we can't hope to fish pearls."

"That means?" I inquired expectantly. "That means, in plain words, that I don't intend to give up the biggest pearl that God ever sent to make a man rich."

"You intend to follow her?" I questioned—needlessly indeed, for his kindling eye contained a fire of decision and energy that for 14 days, since the sorry one of her disappearance, had smoldered.

He had been absent but a week when I received the telegram announcing his intended return. I stood—with my back against the mantel and hands warming themselves behind my sheltering coat—endeavoring to recognize his rampant mount of the stairs, to feel the clasp of his hand or the thump on the shoulder blade and hear his cheery "Congratulations, old fellow!" that I knew must come. A cab stopped outside and a key turned in the lock. Then a slow, heavy tread ascended. We met in the passage. There was no need for more than a glance at him to abridge the exuberance of welcome that had bubbled in my lips.

The silence was so long—so pregnant with unsyllabled anguish—that at last I closed a warm hand over his fingers as they clasped the arm end of his chair. "Well," he said huskily, starting a little from his coma and poking a coal with the toe of his boot, "it's over."

"So I supposed, and the pearl was not!"

"Not for my handling," he interrupted. "I knew you'd think something hard of her, but you won't, you won't when I tell you!"

He stretched his hand to his glass and emptied it before continuing. "It came about sooner than I intended—the horizon was so serene I wanted to lay to for a bit—but it was no use. We were talking of something—I forgot what—and I made a quotation. You know the chap who said, 'Show me a woman's clothes at different periods of her life and I will tell you her history?'"

ing the gate of a citadel, though her lips said in a tone richer than wine, sweeter than music, 'Kiss me first.'"

"There was a long pause—Yeldham sat blankly staring at the coals, and I gazed intently into the mists of nicotine that curled upward to the ceiling.

"There are some kisses," he said presently, "that are worth the whole sum of human pleasure. Pleasure! Fugh! A rotten word—belonging to those who only half live."

He handled a cigarette mechanically and lit it.

"We had gone through most of the dresses when we came to some fine azure drapery incrustated with Japanese gold.

"It was mine," she said, "and was worn by a woman I hated. She borrowed it one night after coming over in the ship."

"Yet you hated her?" I asked, taking my cue from the curl of her lip.

"Not then. In those days I thought men were true—George trust of all—and women good."

"I looked down at the gold storks on the heavy eastern silk, and said, 'And when did you change your opinion?'"

"When I hung away this gown, and determined it should never touch me."

"I rose to put my arm around her, to break the skin of unpleasant associations, but she moved away, and said in a hard, almost defiant voice: 'There is one more, tell me its tale if you can, and if not—'"

"She paused while I took the fine lace and lawn into my fingers. It seemed a summer dress, scarcely crushed. In front, however, and on the sleeve was a splash of dull red brown."

"Paint?" I suggested, "or blood. An accident perhaps?" and in questioning I met her eyes.

"Don't, don't!" I cried, "don't speak! I flung myself back in the chair and covered my face to avoid the sight of hers—the expression of horror that was staring from it."

"I will, I must speak. Yes, blood; his blood. Oh!" she exclaimed, standing in front of me in that Cassandra-like attitude I had noticed before. "I can see it now. George had gone to the country—so he had said—and I, to pass the time, dined with an uncle at Big-nard's. You know the room—the thousand lights and loaded tables, the chink of glass and clink of silver—the gay and brilliant company that is always there? We dined, and were leaving afterward for the opera. My uncle passed out first and I was about to follow him, when, at a little table, I saw George and her; George looking down, down into her eyes with a hot red flush in his cheeks and a lifted wiggle in his hand. I don't know what happened; I burst between them, flung the glass from my fingers, and then—"

"I thought she must scream, but only a gasp escaped her. She looked at something on the ground and added in an awed, strangely intense voice, 'He was dead.'"

"The tone compelled me to her side; a torrent of agony seemed frozen at her lips.

"Listen!" she cried, still standing rigid, though the thrilling tone of her voice confessed her emotion. "The verdict of acquittal was merely a doom to perpetual remorse. A life for a life, and again was redemanded by the uproarious audience."

Pioneer's Danger.

THE FEARFUL STRUGGLE OF AN EARLY SETTLER.

How One of the Early Farmers in Michigan Overcame a Serious Difficulty—His Life of Hardships.

From the Observer, Flushing, Mich.

Frank Long who lives near Lennon, Mich., is one of the pioneer farmers of Venice township, Shiawassee county, and by his industry and thrift in which many hardships were endured, he now has one of the best farms in that section.

He tells an interesting story of when his life was in danger during his pioneer days.

He says: "About November 1, 1834, on starting to get up from the dinner table, I was taken with a pain in my back, and found myself unable to move. The pain increased and spread over my entire body. I was obliged to take to my bed. The physician who was immediately summoned pronounced my case muscular rheumatism accompanied by lumbago. He gave me remedies and injected morphia into my arm to ease the pain."

"My disease, however, gradually became worse until I thought that death would be a welcome release from my sufferings. I could not sleep but would lie awake all night and rub my leg.

"This continued for about four months. Besides my regular physician I also consulted another doctor but he gave me no encouragement and said his medicine could do me no good."

"I was finally induced through reading some accounts in the newspapers regarding the wonderful cures wrought by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, to try them which I did as a last resort."

"I will gladly answer any question concerning my sickness and wonderful cure, provided those who write enclose stamp for reply."

"Sworn to before me at Venice, Mich., this 15th day of April, 1888."
G. B. GOLDSMITH, Justice of the Peace.

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"I was well made up."

James Whitcomb Riley tells a quaint story of his former lecturing partner, Bill Nye. It was the opening of their joint season. They had both been resting during the vacation and were brown as berries. Nye looked much like an Othello in his sunburned make up, and Riley suggested to him the application of some "liquid white," a cosmetic much affected by the gentler sex of the profession.

Nye sent for the preparation, and never having used anything of the kind before he filled the palm of his hand with it and carefully smeared it over his countenance. There was no mirror in his primitive dressing room, and Riley was beautifying himself on the other side of the stage.

"The 'liquid white' dries out somewhat like whitewash, and when Nye appeared before the audience he was a sight to behold. His head looked like a frosted top piece on a wedding cake. His face, white as the driven snow, was expressionless and blank. The audience shrieked, and when he came off from his first selection they demanded his reappearance. He obliged them to howls of laughter. Again he made his exit, and again was redemanded by the uproarious audience."

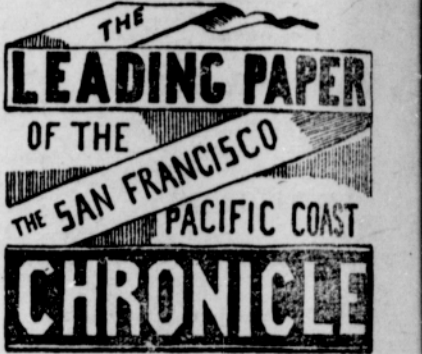
Believing he had made a hit, he was about to return to the stage when he was caught by the arm by Mrs. Nye, who cried, "William Edgar Nye, what have you got on your face?"

"Nothing but its usual expression, my dear."

"Expression! Fiddlesticks! You're a fright," cried his wife, and leading him to where there was a piece of broken looking glass showed him how he looked.

Nye was mortified, and catching sight of Riley, just about going on the stage, he would have undoubtedly followed him on and been revenged but for the intervention of Mrs. Nye.

His head was scraped, combed and washed, and his next selection was read without "a hand" from the audience. Moreover, the story is a fact and not a press agent's concoction.—Detroit Free Press.



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A Perplexity.

"Mike," said Plodding Pete, "I guess dey've got us."

"What did de folks in de house say?"

"Ef we don't chop wood, we can't sleep in de barn. Dey'll lock it."

"Well, we kin go farder down de road."

"No, we can't. It's got in ter rain in about five or ten minutes, an rain hard. De horrible alternative is jes' dis, which'll we do, go ter work or take a bath?"—Washington Star.

Honoring the Profession.

An editor in the south was traveling on a steamer, and having been shaved naturally offered to pay.

"We never charge editors notin, sah," said the barber grandiloquently.

"But how can you carry on your business?"

"Dat's all right, boss," was the indulgent reply. "We makes it up off 'a gentlemen."—Youth's Companion.

The Count's Mistake.

"So Gwendolyn is not to marry the count after all?"

"No, poor man. He tried to tell her that her singing was something that made one glad to live, and his pronunciation was so broken that she thought he said it made one glad to leave, and then she requested him to leave."—Indianapolis Journal.