

THE GAME AT LONG BRANCH.

The waitress was over at Leland's. And I stood by my chair...

For I own to you, Nell, I was choking. And it seemed like the moment of doom...

I cannot describe my emotions. But I saw my poor chest strings a tug...

MY COUSIN PATSEY. "One of you girls must go to her at once," said my mother.

"But, mamma," pleaded Oriana, "I can't go. I'm in the midst of my post-graduate course at college."

"Girls, don't talk such nonsense!" said my mother, briskly. "Here is your Cousin Patsey Pounsett sick out in Wisconsin and needing care and companionship."

"Let Flossy go," suggested Oriana. "Yes," chimed in Louise; "why not Flossy?"

"But Flossy is such a child," said my mother in a perturbed voice. "And—"

"I am nearly eighteen," said I. "And, oh, mamma, do let me go to poor rich old Cousin Patsey, and perhaps she will make me her heiress."

I'll lose all my custom with the peevy rheumatism. But it's all right, now you've come.

So this was my Cousin Patsey! This was the life of rich refinement to which I had fancied myself dedicated.

I was up betimes in the morning to cook Aunt Patsey's breakfast over the kitchen stove—I, the petted darling of the household, who had never been allowed to do a thing for myself.

Moreover, there was the old creature, sick, alone and in trouble, and I was to leave her to her own devices.

On the third day I chanced to meet my traveling companion—the tall, dark young man, with the bright eyes, who had been instrumental in finding my traveling-bag on my journey.

"Do you want any herbs?" said I, with a mischievous twinkle in my eyes. "Cattip, tarragon, feverfew! Only five a bunch! And quite fresh and genuine."

"I'll buy the whole basket!" said he. "No," I said, "that wouldn't be business. But if you choose to select half a dozen assorted bunches—"

"You are a heroine!" said he, earnestly. "A very involuntary one," I answered sighing and smiling.

When he had gone out of the store, I could not help asking the old woman behind the counter what she thought of it.

the wife burst into tears and throwing both arms around her husband's neck, cried: "My dear husband, you have not a fault in the world. If you have one, my eyes have been so blinded by my love for you that so long as we have been married I have never once observed it."

"But, my dear," said the husband, his face reddening and his voice growing husky with emotion, "I think, I have gone and found all manner of fault with you. Now do tell me some of my faults; I know I have many—ten times as many as you ever had or ever will have. Let me hear them; I should be glad to know."

"Indeed, husband, it is as I tell you; you have not a single fault that I can see. Whatever you do seems right in my eyes, and now that I know what a good-for-nothing little wretch I am, I shall at once begin my work of reformation and try to make myself worthy of you."

"God bless you, wife," cried the now subjugated husband; "from this moment you are not a fault in the world. I am joking; don't remember a word I said; and he kissed away the tears that still trembled in the little woman's eyes."

By some mental process that it beyond the comprehension of any one who is not a lunatic, the study hours of children in most public schools are longer than any mature mind could endure without harm.

Hand-shaking.—Hand-shaking is British. The longer in society, in his glass of fashion, enumerates its various styles as indicative of character.

Improvement in Rails.—Longer and heavier rails are to be used on railroads to keep pace with the increase in the size and weight of engines and cars.

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