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**THE SECOND FIDDLE**

In Which the Powerful Influence of Example Does Much to Develop Independence.

By **ELEANOR PORTER**  
Author of "Pollyanna," "Just David," Etc.

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At the first sound of the step on the stone walk below, Kate Denny sprang to her feet. A delicate flush came to her cheeks and a new light in her eyes. She listened, standing motionless, until the whir of the electric bell stirred her into life.

Hurriedly she crossed the room to her mirror, and patted with shaking fingers the already smooth waves of her pale yellow hair. From the lace at her throat she tore the blue bow hastily, substituting a pink one—only to replace it almost at once with the blue. Her gown at back and waist and sleeves she touched tentatively with her still shaking fingers; when plainly nothing else could be done to make perfection more perfect, she turned and waited, her expectant eyes on the closed door leading from her chamber to the hall.

Two, three, five minutes passed. The subdued confusion of an entrance and the sound of voices had floated up from the hall below, but all was silent now. Three more minutes Kate Denny waited. Surprise, doubt, and a frightened questioning came in turn to her eyes; then resolution, as she softly crossed the room and opened the door.

A light laugh floated up the stairway, and a deeper note answered. The girl drew back, half closing the door.

Then it was true. He had come, and she had not been summoned to go down. Edith was there, however—that light laugh had been hers. . . . So it was to be the old story over again. If Edith wanted it, she must have it, whether it were a jam tart or the exclusive attention of an evening caller.

Always it had been like that; and always she, Kate, had taken the subordinate place, together with the smaller tart.

Resolutely Kate Denny opened the door wider and took one step into the hall.

Well, why not? That was John Kennison down there. He had come to see her.

Irresolutely the girl still stood debating the matter, when the twang of a violin string came from the room below and seemed to end all hesitation. With swift steps and heightened color, Kate Denny tripped down the stairs and entered the brightly lighted living-room. John Kennison rose at once, an almost boyish eagerness in his glance. Edith Denny turned slowly. Her eyes carried a barely perceptible annoyance.

Oh, here's Kate," she said. "You're just in time, Kate, to turn the music."

John Kennison played first violin in a large city orchestra. He stood now close to the piano, his instrument in his hand, and his eyes longingly fixed on Kate Denny.

"It's a concerto. I was going to try it a bit," he began eagerly. "You know, I brought the piano score last week. You said you'd—"

"Yes, it's right here, Mr. Kennison," interrupted Edith, brightly. "And we'd love to play it with you. Come, Kate."

For one brief instant Kate almost rebelled. John Kennison had asked her to practice that score, and she had practiced it for hours at a time until it was at her finger tips; yet she was expected to stand patiently by and turn the leaves for Edith.

"But, Edith," hesitated Kate, "don't you think it would be better if I—"

"Nonsense! of course you can turn the music, Kate," laughed her sister, airily. "Don't be so timid! Come."

It was not a success—the playing of that concerto. From start to finish it was an agitated scramble on the part of each player to find and keep step with the other. At the conclusion Edith laughed hysterically, Kate bit her lips in open confusion, and John Kennison reached for his handkerchief to wipe the perspiration from his face.

A moment later Edith suggested that they try a popular love song to which she knew the accompaniment; and with a fervent "Yes, do, if you please," the man raised his violin to

as that window is, to assert my rights about."

"Tomorrow," however, proved that dignity had neither to do with daylight nor being dressed, and that whether it were an open window or a proffered invitation about which one wished to assert one's self, there was no variation in the difficulty of doing it.

She had arisen early and started breakfast (in spite of it being Edith's week to perform that duty). She had washed the dishes while Edith went to market, because Edith liked to go to market—when it was pleasant. When it rained, Kate herself went. As usual, she had tidied the kitchen and the bathroom, leaving the lighter dusting to Edith and her mother, who preferred that kind. As usual, too, at luncheon, she had given the golden-brown crusts of her rolls to Edith, not because she herself did not like golden-brown crusts, but because Edith always wanted them. To be sure, Kate had tried to keep them herself today; but Edith reached for them as a matter of course—and got them.

At two o'clock John Kennison came with the invitation to go sleighing. Kate was dressing, and Edith had gone to the door. Kate could hear now what her sister had called out merrily, audaciously:

"Oh, she's busy, Mr. Kennison; but I'll go. I'll be right out."

Kate had run then swiftly into the upper hall, and had uttered some sort of protest. But Edith had only laughed and answered scornfully:

"Why, Kate, you were busy—you know you were! You were dressing. Surely, you don't want me to change now, and—tell him you won't let me go, do you?"

Kate had murmured a faint "No, of course not," and had crept back, ashamed, into her own room. And not until she had heard the sleigh-bells go jingling down the road did she remember that "sweet, gentle, yet firm dignity" that was to have been hers that day.

It was of this, all this, that Kate was thinking now, as she dressed for the concert that evening. The concert was to be a grand affair in town, given by John Kennison's orchestra. John Kennison was only one of the eight first violins in that orchestra, but to

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The hot plaster is being laid on Second street. The first six loads were spread Monday afternoon. It is brought hot from the mixer at Shedd and with each load the haul is shorter and the work consequently more rapid.

At the Linn county Jersey picnic next Saturday at the Warren Gray farm, near Jefferson, three of twelve boys' and girls' club judging teams that will compete for honors are from Ash Swale, Shedd and Lake Creek.

Dairy farm meetings at which Prof. Fitts of O. A. C. will talk will be held at F. M. Bear's at Plainview next Wednesday afternoon, and at O. C. Karstens' at Harmony in the forenoon and Ernest Pugh's in the afternoon next day.

The Oregon Drainage association, which made a trip from Salem to Eugene, through Halsey; Thursday, could not have had much time to view drainage work and places needing it, but saw enough at J. P. Stearns' farm at Tollman to pronounce his work the best demonstration of what tile drainage could do. White clay that had been worthless was bearing 25-bushel crops of wheat and good yields of oats and vetch, when tile drained.

Mr. Cornelius, Southern Pacific agent here for nearly a year, has gone to Marion, where he has an eight-hour shift as telegraph operator, with no other responsibilities. M. L. France of Reedsport took Mr. Cornelius' place Saturday but says it will be thirty days at least before permanent arrangements are made, and his family remains at Reedsport pending the outcome.

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For One Brief Instant Kate Almost Rebelled.

the Denny's the "Pallharmonic" was always "John Kennison's orchestra," and as such its concerts were enthusiastically welcomed. Tonight, however, there was no animation, no joy in Kate Denny's face as she dressed herself; nor did even the anticipatory rustle and hum of the concert room bring an answering flash or sparkle as she waited for the first number on the programme.

(To be continued.)

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**1 Jersey Cow (fresh)**  
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**Jots and Tittles**

(Continued on page 3)

Miss Wilmetta Forster went to Creswell Friday for an indefinite stay.

A. C. Armstrong has gone to Oakland, this state, to attend the shearing of his flock of over 100 sheep.

Mrs. Harry Commons has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Sprenger, at Shedd.

A half-mile track is being built for fourth-of-July races at Crawfordsville.

Mrs. L. H. Armstrong's sister, Miss Chenoweth of Oakland, Or., is visiting her.

George Maxwell and wife visited Mrs. Ida Maxwell Cummings at Albany Sunday.

Mrs. W. H. Hahn of Halsey underwent a serious surgical operation at Albany Monday.

Mrs. Frank Shelly and her son Billy of Yreka, Cal., are visiting Mrs. Shelley's sister-in-law, Mrs. A. C. Armstrong.

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**C. P. STAFFORD, Agent.**

day and the ladies called at the Wheeler home.

Miss Daisy Slate of Tangent and Daniel Ashton were married at Albany Sunday. With a clean slate they will start a home at Marshfield.

The Methodist Sunday school children will gather at the church tomorrow morning and go to Brownsville to a general Sunday school picnic. A banner is to be awarded as a prize to the school making the best attendance record.

The quotas of Oregon and Washington of 400 and 600 boys respectively for the summer training camp at Camp Lewis July 27 to Aug. 25 has not been filled, so the time for applying to "headquarters Ninety-sixth division, 325 New Postoffice building, Portland," has been extended through the early part of June. Uncle Sam pays transportation and all expenses free and imposes no obligation to join any part of the army.

The children's day program at the Christian church will probably be given in the evening of Sunday, June 18.

W. A. Ringo and wife spent Sunday at Harrisburg.

Mrs. M. M. Huston is visiting at the W. E. Thompson home in Brownsville.

George Drinkard and wife and daughter of Brownsville were in town in their car Sunday.

Mrs. J. S. McMahan, state head of the Rebekahs, left Monday for Fillamook on business of the order.

Rex W. Davis, assistant cashier of the First National bank of Albany, has been chosen as manager of the Linn county fair.

F. M. Bennett, who is in the meat trade at Tangent, has sold his twenty-eight acres and buildings, a mile and a half south of Halsey, to J. E. True for \$2800.

Jesse Himman's pioneer picnic special edition of the Brownsville Times will contain much local historical lore from his pen and that of Earle Stanard, who will