

# HIS HOUSEKEEPER.

"Miss Jenny?"  
 "Well, Mr. Tressaly?"  
 "I'm thinking of going to housekeeping."  
 "Are you, Mr. Tressaly?"  
 "Yes. The fact is, I'm tired of boarding, and I think it would be a nice change, and—and—I fancied you might recommend a housekeeper."  
 "A housekeeper? What sort of one, Mr. Tressaly?"  
 "Oh, some nice old woman or other—somebody who can make a snug little home!"  
 Jenny's eyes sparkled, and her pretty brows contracted with the momentary twitch.  
 "I think I can recommend the very person you want," said Miss Hope, curving her lip.  
 "Can you? Oh, Miss Jenny, I shall be a thousand times obliged to you. I'll engage her immediately, and I can look up the house afterward, you know. Who is she?"  
 "Well, it's my aunt, Miss Zerulah Plant. She's staying here now, and it has always been her ambition to assume the charge of a gentleman's household. I'll call her at once, and you can settle preliminaries as soon as you please."  
 Miss Jenny swept out of the room with the steps of a tragedy queen. Luke followed her with his eyes until the door was closed, and then leaned back in his chair with a deep sigh.  
 "If I only dared ask that girl to marry me!"  
 Miss Plant was feeding her gray parrot when Jenny came into her room. She was not young—moreover, she was not pretty—and she wore spectacles and a "false front," yet Miss Plant was still on the qui vive for a chance in the lottery matrimonial.  
 "Aunt, dear," said Jenny demurely, "I have just received a proposal for you."  
 "For me? Oh, go long!" tutored Miss Plant, dropping the limp of sugar she was about to regale Pretty Polly with.  
 "No, but Aunt Zerulah, I'm in earnest."  
 "Who is it?" said Aunt Zerulah, putting her hand on her heart and mechanically feeling to see if her glossy black curls were all straight.  
 "Mr. Tressaly. He wants to go to housekeeping and needs some lady of mature judgment to preside over his household—so go in and see him."  
 Miss Zerulah waited to hear no more, but made a drive for the door, leaving Jenny to finish the ministrations to the gray parrot at her leisure.  
 "You sent for me, sir?" said Miss Zerulah, tripping into the parlor and sinking with girlish confusion into an easy chair opposite Mr. Tressaly.  
 "Yes," said Luke unconsciously. "I wished for a capable housekeeper. Do you think you would be willing to take charge of my home?"  
 "Yes," giggled Miss Plant, hiding her blushes in a lilac edged handkerchief. "That is, if you don't think me unmanly in so soon giving my consent."  
 Luke stared; he thought Miss Plant a very old woman, but nevertheless he went on:  
 "I am very particular about my coffee. I suppose you understand all these little details?"  
 "Of course I do," said Aunt Zerulah. "I can cook first rate, though I say it who shouldn't say it. My coffee's as clear as wine."  
 "Well, I think we may consider this an engagement."  
 "I calculate so," said Miss Plant, again taking refuge in her lilac bordered kerchief.  
 "I should like you to come as soon as possible, as I wish to engage a house immediately," said Luke, rising.  
 "Oh, certainly," smiled Miss Zerulah. "When is it to be?"  
 "When is what to be?"  
 "Why, the wedding?"  
 "What wedding?"  
 "Why—ours, to be sure! Ain't we going to be married?"  
 "My good woman," said Tressaly, turning red to the roots of his hair, "here is some enormous mistake. I merely wished to engage a housekeeper; I never dreamed of proposing to you!"  
 "Well, I am sure!" shrieked Miss Zerulah, every false curl bristling with her agitation. "I'll have you to know that I don't need to go out to service, and I'm as good as you are any day of the week! And if you calculate to insult a poor, lone woman you'll find out you've waked up the wrong passenger! I'll prosecute you, I will, you good for nothing dandy!"  
 And Miss Plant rushed furiously from the room, leaving Luke in a state of astonished bewilderment difficult to describe.  
 "Upon my word, here's a pretty misunderstanding," quoth Luke aloud. "Fancy me married to that old maid. I'd rather be buried by all odds, for—Hush! What's that?"  
 It sounded like a suppressed giggle. Luke walked straight to the door whence the mysterious sound proceeded and caught Miss Jenny Hope's two little resisting hands ere she could escape from her ambush.  
 "Don't, Mr. Tressaly!" said Jenny between her bursts of laughter.  
 "I will!" said Luke undauntedly. "It serves you right for laughing at me!"  
 "And you don't want to marry Aunt Zerulah after all?" said Jenny, the brown eyes brimming with fun. "Why, I thought you wanted a housekeeper!"  
 "So I do," quoth the valiant Luke.  
 "Then why don't you marry Aunt Zerulah?"  
 "Because I had rather marry you."  
 "Nonsense," faltered Jenny, turning red and trying desperately to escape.  
 "No, it isn't nonsense, Jenny," said Luke, stooping down to get a better look into the blushing, averted face. "Seriously, Jenny, will you have me? No—you shan't go until I have had an answer, my heart's little queen. Yes or no—will you marry me?"  
 "I—suppose—so," said Jenny, with a mischievous sparkle through her downcast lashes—"that is, if you and Aunt Zerulah can't come to an understanding."  
 Luke Tressaly did set up housekeeping some three months subsequently. And he says he likes it better than boarding.—Buffalo News.

## The Limits of Human Hearing.

We can do a great deal to cultivate the ear, but we can do nothing to extend the range of sounds which the tympanum can receive. The ear may have great keenness of perception, may hear sounds extremely small, distant and faint, and yet be always deaf to any noise, however loud, if it is lower or higher in pitch than the tympanum is made for. Various experiments show that about the lowest, or what in a musical instrument would be called the deepest bass sound, consists of 13½ undulations in the second, and the highest of rather more than 8,000. Human ears have not all the same compass. A party of young people, all with excellent hearing, may go into the meadows, and some will hear the shrill note of the common grasshopper, and some will not hear it even faintly, but simply hear nothing at all.

Dr. Wollaston believed that "human hearing never extends more than a note or two above the cry of the common Gryllus campestris." He gives a scale of sound which he found to be inaudible to some ears. He found that some people could not hear the cry of the bat, nor the chirping of sparrows, which is four octaves above F in the middle of the piano-forte. Not to be able to hear this last note he considers to be very rare. He believes the whole range of human hearing to be compressed between the deepest notes of the organ and the highest cries of the insects, including fully nine octaves, the whole of which are distinctly audible to most ears.—New York Home Journal.

## Cultivating Color In Cats.

Never have cats held so important a position in the animal world as they do at the present time. In days gone by pussy's chief value consisted in her capabilities as a mouser, and so long as she accomplished her work satisfactorily that was all that was required of her. Nobody troubled as to the shortness of her face, the size of her ears, or the length of her tail. Every one was perfectly satisfied with her sober gray coat and four white feet. Her green eyes, too, we all took quite as a matter of course. But now a very different state of affairs exists. In many instances her propensity for mousing only composes one of her numberless characteristics, if indeed the most aristocratic specimens deign to catch a mouse at all.

The markings which are now produced in our cats are certainly wonderful. We have striped tabbies and spotted tabbies, the stripes and spots so clearly and regularly defined in the best cats that it seems difficult to believe that it is all nature. The colors, too, are most beautiful—the rich orange, delicate chinchilla, dusty looking smoke, vivid red and last but not least blue—blue, or what the uninitiated would undoubtedly term slate, being one of the most fashionable shades among the pussies of the present day.—London Lady.

## The Habit of Keeping a Diary.

Upon the whole, the habit of diary keeping does not deserve to be decried. If the diary be a veracious record of public events, it may at any rate serve as an exercise in prose writing and precise to the writer, and, on the other hand, if the diary be merely parochial, domestic or even personal in tone, the same may be said of it, with this added qualification—that at least in the last case it may act in preserving a human individuality.

Among my papers and books I found the other day an old yellow brown diary of my great-grandmother. Until that moment I had no more idea of the old lady than of Julius Caesar's nurse. But when I read of her journeys to and from Bath, which she much affected, and where she "was a great deal of Company"; of her loss on Thursday, April the second, 1767, of one pound four shillings at cards; her payment on April the second of one shilling and tenpence for "face wines"—whatever they may have been; of eleven shillings on April the thirteenth for "Chairs (sedan, no doubt) and Gloves"; and how, on leaving Bath on the eighteenth of April, she gave the maids ten shillings and sixpence, and the bath "servant"—she was evidently a poor hand at spelling, dear old soul—another half guinea. Then I seem to see her dim shape assume material tone.

For your posterity's sake, therefore, if you think well of your own individuality and also that you may get a sort of outside view of yourself, you may be counseled to keep a diary; but, for goodness' sake, do not get hysterical in your confidences with it!—All the Year Round.

## The Explosive Ammonite.

The new explosive called ammonite is probably the most useful and reliable yet made. It has great power, is free from danger in manufacturing and in use, and recent tests made with it in England have resulted in the railroads taking it for transportation without the usual restrictions pertaining to explosives. It is not injured by exposure to the air and will not decompose. Its ingredients are a mixture of 81 per cent. of ammonium nitrate and 18 per cent. of mono-nitro naphthalene.

## A Good Appetite

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## DECIDEDLY SHAKY.

A trembling hand, an uncertain step, fidgetiness, indicated by restless shifting from one place or posture to another, usually mental annoyance at unexpected noises, are among the indications of extreme nervousness. These seem trifling, but the health of men and women in this condition is "decidedly shaky," liable to be overthrown disastrously by causes which the vigorous might defy. To fortify the nervous system general vigor must, through the medium of reformed digestion and a renewal of an impaired power of sleeping at night, be raised to a healthy standard. A guarantee of this is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which re-establishes digestion, bile secretion and the habit of body on a permanently regular basis, thus renewing that bodily equilibrium which is followed by a gain of strength and nerve tranquility. For kidney complaint, rheumatism, neuralgia, and a preventive of the first attack or subsequent return of malarial diseases, this medicine is without a peer. Thrice daily take a wineglassful.

Wicks—I always buy the Clarion. It gives you the news in a nutshell. Wicks—Yes, I know; a nutshell would hold all the news it contains.

## THE GENUINE AND THE SHAM.

Every good thing has its host of imitations; every genuine article its counterfeit. The imitators always choose the most valuable and popular article to counterfeit, so that when they claim their sham to be equal, or as good, or the same as "So-and-so's," the public may depend upon it that "So-and-so's" article is the best of the kind. The sham proves the genuine merit of the thing it copies, and never has this been better illustrated than by the imitations of ALCOCK'S PLOTTING PLASTERS.

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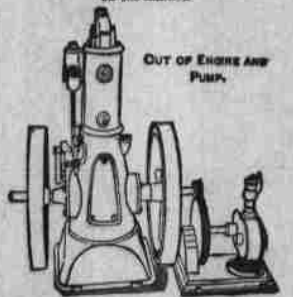
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