

Miss Letitia's Trousseau

By Olive Winston Gage.

LETITIA HOUGHTON was going to be married; consequently many of her dear feminine friends said it was a shame, a scandal, for Letitia to think of such folly at her time of life.

Letitia was on the sunny side of 45, but did not look as if she were 40, being handsome, with a pretty home, a tidy income, a kind heart and a sound head.

The beneficiaries of her bounty had become accustomed to consider her a spinster, too confirmed a devotee to single blessedness to change her state.

Remarks of this kind were freely indulged in when the invitations were received. Twenty-five or thirty women talking at once is rather confusing, and as the speakers became excited the comments became more personal and assumed an ill-natured turn.

An exceedingly pretty and richly dressed woman, a guest of the society, now took up the cudgels in defense of the absent.

"Ladies, ladies, is this a modern school for scandal, or a church society held in the basement of a sacred edifice? You all have cause to be grateful to Letitia; why should you speak of her so bitterly now, because she exercises the right we have all claimed?"

Mrs. Alya Alden was a leader of society, whose dictum made or unmade a newcomer entering the charmed circle. Mrs. Jennie, as Mrs. Alden was generally called, was a power, and with promptitude they proceeded to eat their words with marvelous celerity.

Mrs. Jennie smiled and bade them good morning. On the way to Miss Letitia's she made a gesture as if she had touched an ill-smelling weed.

"What a power of harm such women can do at times! I do not pose as a reformer, but I really would like to recall the ducking stool for their benefit. Poor Letitia! I hope she has not chosen unwisely."

Her musings ceased as the coachman drew rein before the pretty old-fashioned garden of the Houghtons. Mrs. Jennie was met in the yard by the bride-elect, whose fresh and fair complexion had defied the ravages of time.

"Come into the house, Jennie; it's lovely out here amongst the flowers, but I have some things I wish to show you; the dress has come; I am too old to be married in white satin, so I selected a pink brocade trimmed with lace. I have never had so many pretty clothes made at one time in my life, for I never needed to. I don't think I'm envious, but when I saw all my friends' handsome outfits it occurred to me that it would be an inducement to marry. Do you not like it?"

"But where did you meet the man you expect to marry, Letitia? I would not give my life into the keeping of an utter stranger."

"You needn't be uneasy about me; he's a very pleasant man, and I'm positive we will get on very well together; as for love, we are not young people, and have said nothing about that, but we will do well enough as friends. Did you notice that black and gold visiting silk, Jennie?"

Mrs. Jennie perceived that the bride-to-be preferred to talk about her clothes instead of the man she had promised to marry, and made no other effort to drag him into the conversation. Miss Letitia brought every article for Mrs. Jennie's inspection.

"Do stay to lunch; I've so much to tell you yet! I want it understood that I meant what I said when I wrote on the cards I didn't want presents; please make my friends understand that, will you? I know that they will want to give me presents; you can't know how glad I am that I am liked, Jennie."

Mrs. Alden would not shake Miss Letitia's faith in the professions of friendship she believed sincere, but when their spiteful comments were recalled it angered her afresh with them.

For that purpose Mrs. Jennie drove back by the church, where she found the society dispersing. She did not alight, but told them of Miss Letitia's wish. She of the sharp tongue gave a shrill little cackle and said:

"That means we must give them without fail; she's afraid we won't give anything, and takes that means to make sure."

"Was that the reason you had no flowers on the cards when your daughter graduated? Letitia's bouquet was weighted with a jeweled butterfly. So glad you enlightened me; I have wondered why that clause was inserted, but had no idea it meant exactly opposite what it said. It is never too late to learn—wisdom. Good morning. I must go home."

Mrs. Ponsoby gazed after the carriage and said to her dear familiar friend:

"Mrs. Alden does have the knack of taking one by surprise; she confuses a person so; of course, I didn't mean—that is, I didn't intend to own—"

"That you took that way of assuring Sophia a number of bouquets and presents? I thought you didn't mean to say that, dear, did you?" suggested the friend, sweetly.

Miss Letitia's wedding night had arrived. She was looking extremely hand-

some and accepted the effusive compliments of her friends in apparently good faith; they declared she did not look a day over 40.

As yet the groom had not made his appearance; Miss Letitia had excused herself a moment or two, but as the minutes lengthened into an hour without her returning, significant glances were exchanged and the buzz of many voices was heard.

It is astonishing how much pleasure some people derive from the distress or mortification of their friends. J. S. Ponsoby and her coterie were insinuating that something was wrong; voicing pity which their eyes and countenance belied.

Thoroughly exasperated, Mrs. Jennie was about to give a crushing retort, when Miss Letitia reappeared.

She was slightly pale, her demeanor a mixture of regret and dignity, while a blending of defiance was depicted in her erect attitude.

"I've had a telegram from Mr. Langworthy; business of a family nature, which I shall not be at liberty to divulge indiscriminately, compels him to start for Europe as he sent the message off; consequently there will be no wedding to-night. That need not interfere with our enjoyment of the supper; the presents will be returned to their donors to-morrow. Mr. Alden, will you see me to the table? The minister will take you, Jennie."

Her astounding revelations called forth a chorus of ohs and ahs, and a dozen excited women began to ply her with questions, protesting against her returning the presents, but she waved them aside.

She gave her guests no time to discuss her affairs in groups, but marched them into the dining-room, some wearing an expression as if they were being led to instant execution.

Miss Letitia was the life of the party, and the theory that she had been flitted did not gain ground; her explanation was accepted as true—as far as it went. More than one face became blank when Miss Letitia said:

"Jennie, be sure to come around to-morrow and help me pack those presents; some are so valuable I will not be satisfied until they are returned; fortunately all are labeled."

"I will come, with pleasure, Letitia," replied Mrs. Alden, while Mrs. Ponsoby whispered dolefully: "If she would ask me."

Early next morning Mrs. Jennie accordingly put in her appearance, finding her friend in exceedingly good spirits.

While tying up a gaudy plated cake stand, a gift from Mrs. Ponsoby, Mrs. Alden said:

"Letitia, why return the presents? Were you in earnest when you said there was not much likelihood of there being a marriage?"

"I've learned much, Jennie," she said, as she folded a dozen fine thread-cambrie handkerchiefs and placed them with lingering regret in the costly box they came in; "how exquisite these are, and like the donor! Oh, yes, I was saying how much I had learned since I had sent out those tickets. I've always had a too-confiding disposition, and, while I'm not now a cynic, I've had eye-openers, plenty of them."

"Going about to different stores, riding windy days, veiled, on the cars, have given me an insight into people's character that has been both painful and profitable; I needn't tell you whom I mean, for I see you know. I'm not a sentimental fool; the only regret is self-contempt that I've been taken in them so long, but I've never outgrown a girl's pleasure in being liked."

"You had your husband and children, and I never begrudged wives and mothers their happiness, for my life had been a healthy, happy one, and so completely am I a spinster that I believe I have ever imagined I could fancy, but there was one thing I did want."

Mrs. Alden had listened sympathetically; as Miss Letitia paused for breath she ventured to speak. "What was that, Letitia?"

"You may laugh, Jennie, if you wish, but that was no more nor less than a trousseau!"

"What? Do you mean that—"

"I mean, and I know it will go no further, that I couldn't have a trousseau without a marriage, and that was why I sent out cards. Don't you understand, Jennie? The marriage could not take place—because there was no bridegroom at all; now it's out."

For once Mrs. Alden was surprised beyond the power of expression, but when she did recover her merry laughter was delightful to hear and was joined by Letitia.

"What a good joke!" gasped Mrs. Jennie. "Wouldn't it make the Richmond dames open their eyes? It shall go no further, though I would like Alya to know, if you have no objection. What would Mrs. Ponsoby say?"

"Embarrass it until we wouldn't know it; but there's one thing she won't enjoy any more; expectations of sharing my fortune. I shall leave my money as a fund for old maids' trousseaux."—Boston Globe.

"Hull Run" Russell.

Sir William Howard Russell has become an octogenarian, the oldest of the British war correspondents, having been born on March 28, 1820. Half a century has passed since he first represented the London Times on the field of battle, his best work having been done in connection with the Crimean war, when his letters from the front created a sensation at home.

Teachers' Examination.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.—That the County Superintendent of Tillamook County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers, at the school building, in Tillamook City, as follows:

FOR STATE PAPERS. Commencing Wednesday, August 8, at nine o'clock a.m., and continuing until Saturday, August 11, at four o'clock p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—Penmanship, history, spelling, Algebra, read ng, school law. CERTIFICATES. THURSDAY.—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, book-keeping, physics, civil government.

FRIDAY.—Physiology, geography, mental arithmetic, composition, physical geography. SATURDAY.—Botany, plane geometry, general history, English literature, psychology.

FOR COUNTY PAPERS. Commencing Wednesday, August 8, at nine o'clock a.m., and continuing until Friday, August 10, at four o'clock p.m. FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GRADE. WEDNESDAY.—Penmanship, history, orthography, reading.

THURSDAY.—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching, grammar, school law. FRIDAY.—Geography, mental arithmetic, physiology, civil government. PRIMARY CERTIFICATES.

WEDNESDAY.—Penmanship, orthography, reading. THURSDAY.—Art of questioning, theory of teaching, methods. Dated at Tillamook, this 19th day of July, 1900.

G. B. LAMB, County School Superintendent.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS. B. L. EDDY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

W. H. COOPER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

T. H. GOYNE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Office: Opposite Court House, TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

CLAUDE THAYER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

JAMES MCCAIN, A. W. SEVERANCE, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, TILLAMOOK, OREGON.

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C. A. BAILEY, DEALER IN STUDEBAKER WAGONS OSBORNE MOWERS, Buggies, hay rakes, plows, and other farm machinery. You can save money by dealing with me, Special Prices on Buggies and Spring Wagons. C. A. BAILEY, Tillamook, Ore.

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Dr. J. W. Vogel, SPECIALIST FOR REFRACTION AND DEFECTS OF THE EYE. Will visit TILLAMOOK every three months. PORTLAND, OREGON. OFFICE: 132 FIRST STREET. RESIDENCE: 529 SHERMAN STREET.

Have you any Green Peas? Have you any Beans, Tomatoes or Corn? Well, maybe you have and maybe you haven't, but it will pay you to call at our place of business and get a line of Canned Goods, which is o.k. and not to be beat in quality or price. Respectfully, KING & KERREMANS, Have some More? What? Razor Clams, sir, for sale at King & Kerremans.

"HOME COMFORT" Family and Hotel Ranges Are unequalled because they are made of malleable iron and wrought steel. Will not break by overheating or rough usage. Waterbacks bear 200 pounds of pressure; no danger of explosion by freezing. Flues lined with asbestos. Bakes quickly; economical in fuel; abundance of hot water; burns hard or soft coal or wood; convenient and ornamental; will last a lifetime with ordinary care. Fully guaranteed. Over Half Million sold in Dec. 1, 1895. About style of range, No. 1900, is sold from company's wagons by their own salesmen, at a uniform price throughout the United States and Canada. TO THE PUBLIC. The Wrought Iron Range Co., of St. Louis, Mo., are canvassing this country with their "Home Comfort" steel ranges, which are sold only from their wagons by traveling salesmen throughout the United States and Canada at one uniform price. We invite everyone to examine our improved "Home Comfort" when we call, and be your own judge as to its merits.

ROLL OF HONOR. THREE GOLD AND ONE SILVER MEDAL. World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, 1894-5. HIGHEST AWARDS. Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, 1897. DIPLOMA. Alabama Agricultural Society, Montgomery. AWARDS. Chattahoochee Valley Exposition, Columbia, Ga., 1888. HIGHEST AWARDS. St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association, 1869. SIX HIGHEST AWARDS. World's Columbia Exposition, Chicago, 1893. HIGHEST AWARDS. Western Fair Association, London, Canada, 1865. SIX GOLD MEDALS. Mid-Winter Fair, San Francisco, Cal., 1894. SILVER MEDAL. Toronto Exposition, Toronto, Can., 1885. Fourteen years ago I bought a range from the company's wagon and have used same constantly since without one cent for repairs. I was told at the time that I was swindled, but to the contrary it has proven the best investment I ever made. My range has paid for itself in saving fuel, and is as good as the day I bought it. My neighbors have all bought the improved Home Comfort from Co.'s wagon recently and are highly pleased. To the public I would say that from my experience the Home Comfort is the cheapest range ever put upon the market. H. G. MORROW. Cowlitz, Wash., May 2, 1900. Greenville, Or., June 5, 1900. Our Home Comfort Range, bought from the company's wagon, has been in continual use for over twelve years, and does as perfect work as when purchased. It has not shown the least sign of wear. The material in it is of malleable iron and wrought steel. As a baker and cooker it cannot be excelled, the reservoir in itself being a treasure. We would advise intending purchasers to examine the Home Comfort and they will conclude that it is the best and cheapest on the market. MARTIN REILING. Greenville, Or., June 5, 1900. After having tested the merits of a Home Comfort range for over twelve years we take pleasure in stating that we find it perfection in every respect. It has not cost us a cent for repairs during that time, and does as good work as when purchased. If we ever needed another range we would have no hesitation in purchasing a Home Comfort. They are the best, and the cheapest in the end. W. R. BARRETT, Mrs. E. J. BARNETT, Mrs. E. DOOLEY.

Above Honors Were Received by Wrought Iron and Range Company, 19TH AND 20TH STREETS, ST. LOUIS, MO. Founded in 1864. Limited Liability. Our notes are always payable at your door and not at the banks. After using the Home Comfort steel range five years we are thoroughly convinced of its merits and superiority over the cheaper kinds which we had tried before using the Home Comfort. And after testing same thoroughly for five years we feel no hesitancy in recommending the Home Comfort for neighbors and friends as the best and cheapest range in the long run on the market. A. LETCHER, Tillamook, Ore, July 25, 1900. This certifies that we have used a Home Comfort range for the past six years and are highly pleased with it, as it takes little fuel, heats quickly, bakes to perfection and the reservoir always has plenty of hot water. It has never cost us a cent for repairs and will last a lifetime. To our friends we would say, purchase a Home Comfort and be happy. JOHN SVENSON, G. O. WICKLUND, Tillamook, Or., July 25th, 1900.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Land Office at Oregon City, Ore. July 14th, 1900. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the County Clerk of Tillamook Co., at Tillamook, Oregon, on September 3rd, 1900, viz: JOHN S. SLOAN, H. E. No. 12130, for the S 1/2 of Sec. 14, Sec. 34 of Sec. 4, E. 3 and Sec. 24 of Sec. 34, Sec. 17, Tp. 6 N., R. 10 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Albert Plank, Mrs. Ella Plank, of Tillamook, Oregon; Nicolas Affolter, Wilhelm Grasshoff, of Emma, Oregon. CHAS. B. MOORES, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Land Office at Oregon City, Ore. July 28, 1900. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of her intention to make final proof in support of her claim, and that said proof will be made before the County Clerk of Tillamook Co., at Tillamook, Oregon, on September 12, 1900, viz: LUCIA J. HUNT, H. E. No. 11595, for the E 1/2 of Nw 1/4 and E 1/2 of Sw 1/4, sec. 29, Tp. 2 N., R. 7 W. She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Walter J. Smith, Robert J. Severance, of Wilson, Oregon; Morrison Milk, of Tillamook, Oregon; Kittle Mills, of Wilson, Oregon. CHAS. B. MOORES, Register.

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CHAS. PETERSON, Barber SHAVING, HAIR CUTTING, SHAMPOOING, Hot and Cold Baths EVERYTHING STRICTLY FIRST CLASS

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