

Little Blossom's Step-mother.

Little Blossom sat on the vine-wreathed piazza of her father's house, looking the very picture of childish despair.

In her chubby dimpled arms she clasped a Maltese kitten, to whom, child fashion, she confined her troubles. "Papa is going to bring me home a cross, hateful step-mother," she sobbed.

"Papa is going to bring me home a cross, hateful step-mother," she sobbed. "Like Tommy Dyke has. Tommy says his step-mother scolds him dreadful, and last week she made him give away his little dog 'cause it knocked down her poll parrot's cage! Oh, dear! Oh, dear! Now I suppose I'll have to give you away, you precious darling little kitten!"

"I know what I'll do," she said wisely. "I'll go down to Aunt Mary's and tell her all 'bout it. Praps she'll let me stay with her and be her little girl."

"She had often been to her aunt's with her father, and with no doubts about finding the place disturbing her little head she set out upon her journey, with her kitten in her arms.

But kitty did not like the idea of being taken away from his home, and began scratching and mewing at a great rate, and at last escaped from the arms of his little mistress, scampered away, and was seen out of sight.

Blossom stood looking after it with a very mournful air, feeling almost heart-broken.

"Lost your kitten, little girl?" questioned a deep voice. She turned round to see an old colored woman at her side, dressed in a yellow gown, a blue apron, and a red sash festooned at the neck with an immense brass breastpin.

"In spite of her dark skin she had rather a pleasant face, and her interest in Blossom's lost pet at once won the child's confidence.

"Yes, ma'am," she answered, "and it was such a pretty one, a real Maltese; papa gave it to me for a birthday present. I was taking it to Aunt Mary's 'cause my step-mother 'll make me give it away. I don't know 'actly where Aunt Mary lives, but I guess I can find it."

"I know your Aunt Mary, honey," said the woman, with a sweet smile. "Come with me, dearie, and I will take you to her."

"You know my Aunt Mary," said Blossom, eagerly. "Oh! I'm dreadfully glad!" and putting her little hand into the woman's rough, coarse palm, she walked along by her side as contentedly as if she had known her all her life.

After what seemed to her a very long journey they came to a little white-washed hut surrounded by sunflowers, the tallest of which reached above the roof.

"I lives here, lovey," said the woman, "come in and rest awhile and I will give you something nice to eat."

Blossom obediently trudged after her, for she began to feel quite hungry. But once inside the house the woman's manner changed.

"I want your necklace," she said gruffly. Blossom opened her blue eyes in amazement. "My necklace?" she echoed.

"Yes! give it to me quick! to pay for all my trouble in bringing you here."

Blossom was too frightened and astonished to comply, so the woman not very gently unclasped the ornament from the child's neck, tore her pretty trims from her fingers, disrobed her of her face dress, and even took the French kid shoes and stockings from her feet, while her husband stood by grinning and rolling his eyes until nothing but the whites of them were visible.

"You are a smart'un, Sally," he said approvingly. "We will keep her and send her out to beg for—"

His wife gave him a glance of withering scorn. "Spec you dunno when you are well off, James," she interrupted. "Her folks are rich, and will spend a heap of money to find her. These 'tectives are getting so foxy there's no escaping them. We have got her fixings, and now the best thing we can do is to get rid of her as soon as possible."

Taking down an old dress of hers she cut it off around the bottom, then put it on Blossom, laughing at the conical appearance she presented in it. "Now come," she said, seizing her roughly by the arm, "and we will go to Aunt Mary's."

Trembling Blossom followed her, too frightened to utter a word of complaint. After a long walk they reached the city. There the woman left her, telling her to go on a little further and she would come to her aunt's.

But none of the squalid tenements with groups of dirty children playing in front of them bore any resemblance to the grand brownstone mansion where her aunt lived; and tired and hungry Blossom sat down on a door-step and sobbed bitterly. There a policeman found her.

"What is the matter, little girl?" he asked kindly. Then Blossom told him the whole story.

"Poor child," he said, pityingly. Lifting her in his strong arms he took her to the station house and gave her in charge of the kind matron, who gave her a nice supper of bread and milk and put her to sleep in a little cot in her own room.

The next morning she was awakened by warm kisses falling on her face, and her father's voice saying fervently: "Thank God, I have found you, my darling!"

When the lady clasped her close and kissed her just as her own dear mother used to do, she thought that having a stepmother was not such a dreadful thing 'oo."

"But when he tells his farmer, he say, 'No; you dead moder promise I shall keep you till twenty-two year old. You cannot go.'"

"Kind say he very grief; but he will after all, and when the next day her precious darling kitten found its way back to the house, and came mewing and purring about her feet, she thought she was the happiest little girl in all the world.

AMERICAN SNOBBERY.

How It is Illustrated at the Great Watering Place. Letter to Springfield Republican.

Newport differs from most places of its kind in being a summer residence rather than a resort. Its transient visitors are not many and they are usually the guests, in a strict sense, of the cottagers. There is not, nor has there been for a long time, any inducement there for summerers to stay at hotels.

In order to have any position, or to be socially accepted, one must have a cottage which, in local significance, means a spacious, handsome, very costly villa with grounds, horses, plate, pictures and whatever modern sumptuousness demands. Newport makes a deal of assumption in respect of family, high-breeding and the like; but what it most requires is wealth.

Newport, in the social sense, without an ample fortune, and having that, unless there be very serious objections the way is easy. Newport is, judged by its pretense, a downright snam, and cannot be otherwise; for it pretends to be a community of the best kind of persons in the best kind of circumstances. The circumstances must be admitted; but the persons cannot be, without great discrimination and numberless exceptions.

Some very fine, highly cultured, most estimable men and women may be found here, of course; but many of their associates are of a very different order, having neither birth nor intellect nor training nor delicacy nor tact to recommend them. But they have abundance of money, and have acquired such knowledge of customs, forms and external manners as passes for breeding in what styles itself "good society."

Society, nowadays, is necessarily mixed all the world over, particularly so in a democracy like ours. It is, in any large sense, none the worse, but rather the better, for this mixture, since otherwise, it would be inane, monotonous, dull to stupidity. But this is not the idea, indeed it is the very reverse of the idea, of the summers here. They claim, at least inferentially, that they possess all the social virtues, and that anything and everything akin to meanness or vulgarity is foreign to their nature—a claim which obviously cannot be allowed. It would be easy to mention, if one were ill-natured, certain well-known men and women, prominent in social circles here, who are the antipodes of what they pretend to be. Their acquaintances—it would be untrue to say their friends—laugh at and criticize them privately; but they receive, and flatter them publicly, because they are rich, and because it would be both imprudent and inconvenient to offend them.

Thus Newport society is an epitome and a reflex of society abroad and at home. The season—meaning cottage or villa life—is as gay as money and elaborate preparation can make it. More villas are unoccupied this year than were last year, or the year previous, in consequence of their owners being abroad, and of other causes; but the absent ones are not missed in the endless round of formal festivity. Every day there are very expensive and very ambitious breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, dances, receptions, parties, indeed, of every variety; each person trying to outdo his neighbor, and, in his own opinion, succeeding. This is called gaiety, and is such, according to social definition though, to persons not professionally fashionable, it would be extremely tiresome, if not repulsive. It is tiresome, unquestionably, to those who participate in it; but they are glad to tire themselves in what they consider so good a cause, and are content to pass their years in this pompously empty manner.

The chronicles of the day read very much alike. Mrs. John Jacob Astor gave an elegant luncheon yesterday to a dozen of her most intimate friends. Mrs. Paron Stevens will give a german at her elegant villa to-morrow evening. August Belmont drove a party of his friends in his drag to his beautiful farm in the adjoining township last Tuesday. William R. Frazer has invited a party of his New York friends to dinner at the Casino next week. James R. Keene will give a magnificent fish breakfast next Wednesday to several English capitalists now in town. James Gordon Bennett will take a cruise in his yacht, which has just been refitted at enormous expense, toward the close of the present month. So it runs, day after day, week after week; the "season" closing as it begins, leaving everybody fatigued and nobody benefited.

Oscar Wilde, the apostle of aestheticism is back again to New York. He comes to reap another harvest of glittering American dollars. His return was by no means a triumphal affair, for scarcely a dozen knew it or cared about it. The news of his utter social collapse there had preceded him to New York, and the probability now is, that so far from being lionized, feted, petted and caressed, so strong is the force of example in canons of taste, he will be left by people this side the Atlantic severely alone.

Lucy Hooper writes from Paris that there are reasons which will compel Madame Sarah Bernhardt Damala to leave the stage for a brief period.

Perry Davis' Pain Killer is an excellent regulator of the stomach and bowels, and should always be kept on hand, especially at this season of the year, when so many suffer from bowel complaints. There is nothing so quick to relieve in attacks of cholera.

The Minneapolis sinking fund board has \$35,000 to salt down in city bonds.

Wells' "Rough on Corns."—Lge. Ask for it complete, permanent cure. Corns, warts, bunions. The Nobles county fair will be held at Worthington Sept. 18, 19 and 20.

BUCKHAMTON, W. VA.—Drs. Newlon & Blair report that Brown's Iron Bitters are giving general satisfaction.

Look Out. See that every bottle of Allen's "Iron Tonic Bitters" bears the signature of J. P. Allen, St. Paul, Minn. All others are base frauds, gotten up to deceive the public, and defraud us. The very fact of their being imitated, is a compliment to them, for if they had not proved a grand success, there would have been no imitations. Apply the test of the signature all the same.

The building of a new school house in Monticello is progressing rapidly.

SKINNY MEN—Wells' Health Restorer restores health and vigor, cures dyspepsia, impotence, etc. \$1. The town well at Brown's Valley is 165 feet deep and flowing.

No matter what your ailment is, Brown's Iron Bitters will surely benefit you.

An Important Discovery. Other towns outside of Minnesota are fast finding out that Dr. Halliday's Blood Purifier is a sure cure for all poisonous diseases of the blood, skin eruptions, etc. That Noyes Bros. & Cutter and Merrell, Sahlgard & Twing, wholesale agents, St. Paul, Minn., are selling three times as much as they ever did before, is conclusive proof of its merits. Sold by all druggists.

The Travers County Agricultural society has been organized.

JAUNITICUS, inflammation, all Kidney and Urinary Complaints, cured by "Buchu-Palpa." \$1.

The Georgia house voted \$1,000,000 for a new capital.

WOODBERRY, MD.—Rev. W. J. Johnson says: "I have used Brown's Iron Bitters in my family and they have proven a splendid health invigorator."

We recommend Wise's Axle Grease. Instantly Relieved.

Mrs. Ann Labour of New Orleans, La., writes: "I have a son who has been sick for two years; he has been attended by our leading physicians but all to no purpose. This morning he had his usual spell of coughing, and was so greatly prostrated in consequence, that death seemed imminent. We had in the house a bottle of Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs purchased by my husband who noticed your advertisement yesterday. We administered it according to directions and he was instantly relieved."

The Minnesota wheelman's meet opens August 30, at Minneapolis.

Don't die in the house. "Rough on Rats." Clears out rats, mice, flies, roaches, bedbugs, etc. Baker's Pain Expeller cures pain in Man and Beast. For use externally and internally. The Frazer Axle Grease is the best and, intrinsically, the cheapest.

For nearly 34 years I have been a victim of Catarrh. I have tried many remedies, receiving little or no relief. I bought one bottle of Ely's Cream Balm and derived more real benefit from that than all the rest added together. You can recommend it as being a safe and valuable medicine.—A. L. Fuller, Dauby, N. Y.

Ladies' children's boots and shoes cannot run over if Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners are used.

Personal—Men Only. The Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Drey's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belts and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afflicted with nervous debility, low vitality and kindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address, N. B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty days' trial is allowed.

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Wise's Axle Grease never gums. Nast in Retirement.

Thomas Nast finds himself at forty-three years of age, living a happy life. When a correspondent visited him at Morristown, N. J., a few days ago, he saw the caricaturist galloping on a handsome gray horse toward the Nast mansion. The house is on the edge of the town and is surrounded by groves, lakes, lawns, and flower gardens. Birds swarmed and sang among the trees and shrubs; children with trained dogs for playmates gambled on the green. The interior is rich in furniture of costliest woods, inlaid in rare mosaics; china and glass from the master workmen of Japan, and Venice; bronzes, marble statues, armor, tapestries, rugs, relics from Pompeii, books printed before Columbus landed and parchments written in the days of the first crusade. In the midst of such surroundings Mr. Nast enjoys life and finds keen pleasure in his work.

Articles of incorporation of the Mankato Axe works have been filed with the secretary of state. The capital stock is \$25,000, and the incorporators are W. S. Mills, John P. Meagher, George E. Brett, J. L. Washburn, John A. Willard, C. D. Taylor and John Klein.

Rev. Dr. McCosh seems to have no difficulty in raising funds for Princeton. Of the \$200,000 needed to carry out the designs for promoting philosophy there, \$150,000 have already been promised.

The Multicharge Gun. New York Tribune's Reading Special.

What is intended to be one of the greatest improvements in modern warfare is the Lyford-Haskell multicharge gun, which was finished at the Scott foundry in New York recently. It has been undergoing construction for over two years, and has been shipped to Sandy Hook. There it will be tested in the presence of leading officers of the army and navy of the United States and foreign countries. The last congress made a special appropriation for this purpose. Since the invention of cannon, four hundred years ago, they have all been constructed on the same principle, that of containing all the powder in the breech, and the Lyford-Haskell has the first

deviation. The weapon underneath contains four pockets which each hold twenty-eight pounds of powder, while the breech itself only eighteen pounds. As the projectile starts from the breech the force of this entire one hundred pounds of powder is concentrated on it, one pocket after another rapidly discharging its contents. The gun is twenty-five feet long and weighs twenty-five tons. It is rendered doubly strong by a steel lining, and it is thought can send a projectile through a solid piece of iron twenty-four inches thick. It will shoot from twelve to fifteen miles, and is intended for both harbor and naval defense.

The present gun was manufactured at a cost of over fifty thousand dollars, and Mr. Haskins has personally supervised its construction. The projectiles with which it is loaded weigh from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds each. A company with a capital of ten million dollars has been organized for the manufacture of the gun. Ex-Gov. Cornell, ex-Senator Platt and ex-Insurance Commissioner John F. Smythe, of New York, are interested in the company.

The two ends of the Northern Pacific were united the 22nd at the mouth of Gold creek, fifty-five miles west of Helena, Mon. Ten miles of track were laid that day between 5 and 3 p. m., when the last spike was driven.

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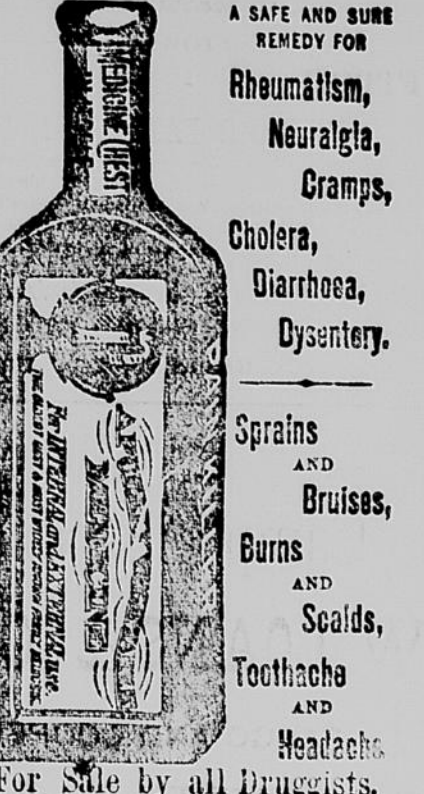
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