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Poetry.

A RURAL CARY VISIT.

Miscellaneous.

NANNIE GREGORIE.

A CONTINUATION STORY.

Thirty years ago today, I enjoyed my last long's rambles. I was then a raw young cousin of seventeen, albeit, as you will see, bold and fiery enough—and these were by no means unknown to me. I do not think I can describe my personal appearance to advantage, for I have a recollection of a marked predilection of feature or expression, and my garb being the ordinary smock frock and corduroys of country men folk, although I was the eldest son of the parish clerk.

I have to present to you a hard, blunt, honest, and fearless, but withal, a very kind-hearted and warm-hearted young fellow, that was wells of innocence and affection, a form full of unallected grace, and a heart overflowing with the love for all things good and worthy—the only exception being my mother's and you will, perhaps, gain a shadowy notion of my Helen of Troy, Simon Gregorie was named to Miss Holdipoel, at the great house, and was herself, in a real lady to look at, especially on Sundays, when she wore a shining alapaca dress, that looked quite like silk, with a real gold brooch fastening a pretty plaid shawl upon her breast. I am sure I don't know what she could have seen in me to like and to say love—when she might have married a gentleman with plenty of money, and been riding in her own carriage to this day; for I know of a gentleman who was very keen upon her all the while she stayed at Miss Holdipoel's.

All these and many others more or less emotional matters was in my mind as Nannie and I strolled, hand in hand, like boy and girl, down the narrow green lane, through the hay wood at the end of the narrow lane, resting at last at the style at the end of the hay wood. A gipsy-like lad arrived in my life; my father had arranged that I should be off to Botany Australia, in the service and under the care and tutelage of his brother, a successful sheep farmer, and I was to be an immediate adjunct to the village of my birth, and go on my way the very next morning. I had brought the news to Nannie some days before, but she was still very downcast, and neither of us uttered a word until we reached the stile, when I ventured to say:

"Nannie, I shan't be there for very long."

At which Nannie burst into tears, and I should go at all. And being rather sad and sentimental myself, I kept turning my kingcock pipe in all positions on my hand until she had done crying. When she began to dry up her tears, I told her that when I got over to Australia I would get rich as fast as possible, and make haste home on the very next ship, and by very next Sunday after I got back to Old England would have our banns read in the church. I said this, I hardly need say, in all simplicity, and, nevertheless, in all earnestness. People say I am rather simple minded yet, so I am in some things, for I never had much of a mother.

Then I gave my Nannie a keepsake a very old, old shilling, with a hole in it, and through which a piece of red ribbon was tied to go round her neck, which altogether made the most valuable property I had. She to bring gave me, I swore then well worn gold ring, which you may see on my little finger, and which I swore to wear, let the diamond studded one beside it. Then, with pledging ourselves to write to each other by every mail, and to be true to each other till death, we separated, shaking hands for very sore in heart, and I

completely betrayed by a very blithsome discovery, and I was sore with the rest, taking away with might and main, for the wealth that should now come to Nannie in quick time, and bless me all at once with the delightfully clean prospect of a wife, and perhaps one of the prettiest farms in England. At last, one happy but sorrowing day, when the sun seemed to be pelting like no my throbbing head and aching back, just when I was begin-ning to feel quite half-gold-mad-drunk, I grasped with trembling hand a glorious nugget, or, in Half worth a little fortune, and scrambled up the ladder on my trusted claim, because prominent of an among the up of gold as a moderate sum to be worth, could not be. I was now in sole myself with joy. Another should be the fortune's and I should be a fully so great as the HOFE-ed, and the in the end of a house and pretty lodge and we would take the fair Hall lot in a town pleasant and in a stylish place, with gay orchard and grounds, and honey suckle and grapes on the house climbing the sunny walls. In very thought of my Annie's happiness the heart's hope regained to for all my trouble, and resolution was all forgotten, for I had been not a month about to my rich myself.

That season almost ridiculously happy passage, that very golden one. As, swing over the side of the vessel I watched the retreating waves, my heart was sweet with space of palpitation of regret at the anticipation, and when at last I again trod English ground, I almost wept for joy. Like poor mad Dick! I rushed to the railway station, and went by the very next train to my home; and it is impossible for me to describe how overwhelmed and astonished my parents, and fellow-clerks, and, indeed, the whole village, if for a million fast in such placidly, were at the astounding change in my circumstances for I did not let them know beforehand, for the fun of the thing. But yesterday, here I found the earliest opportunity, after asking for Nannie, to see which the first, I enough, I house had gone down, I said, hastily:

"But where is Nannie all this time?"

And all at once the flush of joy was alarmingly serious.

"What's the matter?" I chorded in my agony of suspense, "is anything wrong with Nannie? Is she ill? Is she dead? Is she married? Is she gone away, not married, but married, married, married, married, married, though, the parish doctor says, it is some-thing, because of my bad strong and wore nothing."

"Bad strong and wore nothing? what do you mean? Is she married, or is she ill, or is Miss Holdipoel's?"

"Now bless you, my boy, no! Miss Holdipoel's is all right and well, and is. And the nice people didn't want Nannie, and she had to go. She, you know, had to leave to go to, well, could not get another place, so she's been in service in the village ever since, and doing nicely, well, work for the vicar's wife and one or two other folks; but was wore strong, and equinox is the very little, and wore on shaking fever and fever, until she got this fever; all through false hope, and broken heart. The doctor shake his head, and says—But don't take it when to hear, the sad, as sinking upon a chair, I bowed my head upon my knees, troubling with a tearless agony.

"Tell me where I shall find her!" I cried, starting up again, and seizing my hat. "Oh, of course, you said Henley Grove. I remember, perfectly well, as one of them offered to accompany me. I would rather go alone.

"So saying, I hastened to the cottage, and found Helen Gray in a state of great excitement and alarm.

"Oh, sir," she exclaimed, "has you a doctor? I do come in? I am afraid she's gone. I've just sent for the parish doctor—"

"I am not a doctor," interrupted I, but I am Tom Jenkins, Jenny's cousin, and the nearest relation in the world. Where is she? Is she in bed? Let me go up the stairs into the room, and where is Nannie Gregorie. And so we went, and leaning—the only grace of life, whose face was fair light, and on the pillow, and heavy and pale and grape-like, the heavy tresses clinging the sunny walls. In very thought of my Annie's happiness the heart's hope regained to for all my trouble, and resolution was all forgotten, for I had been not a month about to my rich myself.

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One Column,	6 00	8 00	10 00	15 00	25 00

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