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THE F. D. STEPHENS CO., IRMAN VALLEY, N. J.

THE ELDER'S CHOICE.

BY SUSIE M. LORD.

Greenwood was in a flutter of excitement and any one at all acquainted with the quiet town would not have wondered at it.

The congregation had listened devoutly to the sermon, and as the people wended their way homeward, the theme of their conversation was the ladies' sewing circle, which, as the new minister had announced, would meet the following Tuesday with Miss Abby Brown.

Miss Abby Brown, or "Aunt Nahby," as she was familiarly known, lived in an old farmhouse not far from the center of the town; many a sewing circle, husking bee and quilting party had been held there, and it was with great delight that the people anticipated a renewal of these festivities.

The following day was a busy one for Greenwood. Huddled calls, savored with bits of gossip, were in order, and kitchens steamed with the fragrance of pies and cake.

"Mercy sakes, Sister Simpkins," returned Aunt Nahby, "the widow's old enough to be the elder's mother, allowing he is a widower; and then again, just as if he had any such thoughts, and his wife not dead a year!"

"Well, maybe I'm mistaken, but stranger things than that have happened. I, for one, am sorry the elder's wife couldn't have lived to come to Greenwood with him."

"Sakes alive!" repeated Aunt Nahby when his visitor had departed. "Just as if the new minister was thinking of Miss Deacon Hopkins when he preached that beautiful sermon! I do hope Sister Simpkins won't tell it anywhere else. She always was dreadful nosy."

"The eventual Tuesday dawned bright and clear, a typical New England autumn day. The early frost had tinted the leaves of the maple trees in front of the old farmhouse, and in a haze of yellow and gold they rustled merrily over the heads of merry maids and sedate matrons as they wended their way to Aunt Nahby's hospitable door.

Within the large and homelike rooms Aunt Nahby bustled about greeting her guests with a kindly smile and the injunction to "put your cake and pie right in on the pantry shelves," which they did, until the shelves fairly groaned with their weight.

"Oh, I have been making sick calls," returned the widow; and then she proceeded to relate her day's experience. "Poor thing! You must be all tired out," said Aunt Nahby, sympathetically, while a contemptuous sniff from Miss Simpkins was plainly audible.

her, for she has been kind to me. All day she has staid here, and this afternoon of the sewing circle, too, and I'm sure they are looking for her there this very minute."

"I have heard my sister say," said he, "that several years ago, when she was teaching school in some New England town, she fell ill at the house of a Mrs. Brown, with whom she was boarding, and to the untiring care of Mrs. Brown and her daughter Abby, to whom she became very much attached, she owed her recovery. The friendship was continued, I think, until the death of my sister in the West, two years ago. I have been thinking that the Miss Brown who lives here may be the same 'Abby' for whom my sister entertained such strong regard."

"Several of our village school teachers boarded with Mrs. Brown previous to her death," said Mrs. Hopkins, "and I have no doubt that 'Aunt Nahby' as we have all learned to call her, is the lady of whom you speak. Are you going to her house to tea?"

"Yes, such is my intention, for I am desirous of making her acquaintance."

"Then I'll introduce you this very evening," exclaimed Mrs. Hopkins. She is one of the dearest old maids you ever saw, Elder Pottle, and I know you'll like her."

It was late in the afternoon when Mrs. Hopkins started in the direction of Aunt Nahby's, accompanied by the minister, who remarked as he bade her adieu at the village post-office: "I will surely call this evening, Mrs. Hopkins. Do not forget your promise."

"Oh, never fear! I'll keep my word, Elder Pottle."

Hurrying on her way she met little Elsie Jones, who greeted her with, "Mamma is real sick and I've just been after the doctor, Mrs. Hopkins. Won't you come in and see her just a minute?"

"Tearing the child's hand the kindly widow went on her errand of mercy, little thinking that the words which passed between her and Elder Pottle had been overheard by one of the 'society,' and were now being carried without delay to the sewing circle."

"What do you think?" breathlessly exclaimed Mrs. Roberts, as she rushed into the presence of the 'sisters.' "As I was on my way here I overtook Mrs. Hopkins and our new minister, and when she left him at the post-office I heard him say he would call on her to-night, and that she must not forget her promise!"

"There! I told you so!" shrieked Miss Simpkins, while several women inquired, "What did she say, Mrs. Roberts?" "Why, that she would surely keep her word, and she has gone off up Oak street with little Elsie Jones, and I came right over here. I should have been earlier, but I have had company all the afternoon. But I'm hear about Widow Hopkins."

"The pert thing! and she nigh on to try if she is a day!" spitefully remarked Miss Simpkins.

An hour later Mrs. Hopkins, bright and rosy, appeared at Aunt Nahby's.

"There, I'm here at last!" she exclaimed, laughing. "Dear me! if only time would wait for our mortal to do all we would like to do!"

"Why, what has kept you so late, Sister Hopkins?" inquired Miss Simpkins, glancing significantly at the others.

"Oh, I have been making sick calls," returned the widow; and then she proceeded to relate her day's experience.

"Poor thing! You must be all tired out," said Aunt Nahby, sympathetically, while a contemptuous sniff from Miss Simpkins was plainly audible.

Advertisement for Siegel Cooper & Co. Groceries Dept. featuring Hazel Brand Pure Food. Includes text: 'THE BIG STORE PAYS THE FREIGHT ON ALL PURCHASES OF \$5.00 OR OVER. FULLY PAID FOR AT TIME OF PURCHASE. TO ANY RAILROAD STATION WITHIN 100 MILES OF NEW YORK. MEET ME AT THE FOUNTAIN. SHOPPING MADE A PLEASURE.'

Advertisement for Woodruff's Moving Vans. Includes text: 'IMPROVED MODE OF MOVING WOODRUFF'S MOVING VANS. FURNITURE. BOXED, SHIPPED, & RE-PAKED. "HELLO" 21 I. Storage Warehouse (Brick Building) for the storage of Furniture, Pianos and Baggage in separate compartments. R. WOODRUFF, Prop.'

WOODRUFF'S Storage Warehouse (Brick Building) for the storage of Furniture, Pianos and Baggage in separate compartments. R. WOODRUFF, Prop.

Advertisement for John Bacon's Oysters. Includes text: 'Oysters, Oysters, Oysters, AT JOHN BACON'S, ELM STREET. Fish, Poultry and general SEA FOOD.'

Advertisement for Welch Bros. Wall Papers. Includes text: 'Welch Bros. WALL PAPERS FROM 3c ROLL AND UP. Prices on all papers guaranteed to more than meet city figures.'

Advertisement for Any Grade of papers. Includes text: 'Any Grade of papers are furnished by us at prices to meet the closest competition. Anything in the PAINT LINE can be obtained at Welch Bros. at New York prices.'

Advertisement for New England Bread. Includes text: 'New England Bread. Westfield Bakery J. J. SCHMITT, MANAGER. Cakes, Pies and Pastry. ICE CREAM delivered in quantities to suit.'

CENTRAL R. R. of N. J.

Table listing train schedules and times for the Central R.R. of N.J. including destinations like Westfield, Elizabeth, and Easton.

Advertisement for Archbold & Scudder. Includes text: 'YOU NEED MEAT (unless you're a vegetarian, when you need it all the same but think you don't)—we need money. We have the meat, you have the money. Let's trade. If your money is as good as our meat, we'll all be happy. ARCHBOLD & SCUDDER, WESTFIELD. Watch FOR THE STANDARD'S Xmas Edition, DECEMBER 17th.'

the ghastly terror of consumption stares a man in the face who neglects a cold.

HALE'S HONEY OF HOREHOUND AND TAR

It's no wonder that a cough or throat trouble by Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Acts like magic. Sold by druggists.



A FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER.

Mrs. Cameron, Who was a Friend of Herchel and Tenyson.

In The Century V. C. Scott O'Connor has an article on "Mrs. Cameron, Her Friends and Her Photographs." Mr. O'Connor says:

A feature of her personality which lay at the root of her great success as a photographer was her love of all that was beautiful.

One of her models captured in this way was a young lady come as a summer visitor to Freshwater.

The lady proved a most kind and indefatigable model. The village postman had already been scoured for King Arthur, and Mrs. Cameron's picture of him in this character is one of the best things in the collection.

"Oh," she said, with an expressive gesture, "I am so tired."

Supposing her fatigue was the result of a long walk on a mid-summer day, my friend made some suitable reference to the matter, but the young lady answered with a smile.

"Oh, no. I have not been for a walk. I have been lying on the floor for the last two hours, clutching the postman's ankle."

Mrs. Cameron, ever kind and unselfish, possessed the faculty of bringing out such qualities in others. In 1879 she died a few months after her last return to Ceylon.

"As the day died," her sons wrote to Lord Tennyson, "as the day died on Sunday, January the 26th, the sweet, tender, gracious spirit of our beloved mother passed away in peace."

EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN WOMEN.

They Have Gained a Self-Reliance Never Dreamed of Before the War.

In 1860 there were on a single day a million females in the United States engaged in useful pursuits, almost all of whom were women and girls.

PAPER MATCHES.

A New Process that Makes Them Cheaper and Lighter for Exportation.

It is predicted that paper is the coming material for matches. The prospect of the wooden match industry being appreciably affected by a new process for manufacturing matches of paper is held to be extremely probable.

SHOES FOR HUNTING DOGS.

This Practical Method Prevents Their Having Sore Feet.

They do many strange things in Nebraska, but the latest and strangest is putting shoes on bird-dogs.

A little consideration will make clear the practical advantages of having a hunter that must travel dozens of miles over staidle or virgin prairie in a day's pursuit of game.

The way Col. Coffin overcame this difficulty was to fit his dogs with canvas shoes that covered the feet closely and were tied snugly at the ankles.

Not So Innocent as He Seemed.

Two venerable clergymen who were traveling in an elevated train in this city the other day noticed a beautiful little boy with the typical angelic face, seated opposite them with his mother.

President Kruger's Widow.

President Kruger's now famous decision in the case of a dispute between two sons as to the division of their father's property.

The Unlucky Men.

"Married life isn't what it is cracked up to be," remarked Mrs. Grimsoleigh.

DISTINGUISHED LAUNDRESS.

Mrs. Hayes Equal to the Joker Perpetrated on the Raw Recruit.

When the regiment of Col. Rutherford B. Hayes, late President of the United States, was encamped at Charleston, W. Va., Mrs. Hayes, with her mother and little children, joined her husband, the colonel, and occupied a cottage close to regimental headquarters.

The man was a private, new and green, having arrived the day before with a squad of recruits, and the temptation to make him a victim of his own innocence was too strong to be overcome.

KANSAS PEDAGOGICS.

A List of Unusual Questions Prepared for Teacher's Examination.

It is understood that Superintendent Stryker, in order to grade up the teachers, has prepared an entirely new set of questions for examination.

How the Foot Should Be.

It is quite easy to tell if your feet are the proper size. Every person unless deformed, has a bone of the exact normal length of the foot.

EXPENSIVE PIECES OF CARIBBEAN.

A pack of cards was recently sold in a London stationer's for \$500. It was one of the handsomest Italian copper-plate card games called "Tarocchi di Montagna," made during the fifteenth century.

Real Estate.

Real Estate Agent (out West)—Good morning, Sir. What can I do for you? William, bring the gentleman a cigar.

Safety in Numbers.

"No, sah, you don't catch dis yer larky liben in a town whar dar's no other colored folks."

In the Museum.

Johnny (gazing at an Egyptian Princess)—Pa, why don't they make mummies any more?

One Exception.

"The good die young," said the casual caller, apropos of any old thing.

A FIELD OBSERVATORY.

One in Use in the German Army Better Than Capt's Balloons.

The military authorities of Germany are concealing their operations with the greatest care, and without the indiscretion of one or the other of the intimate friends of some of the officers, nothing would ever be heard of what is going on in the inner circles.

MENNONITE COURTSHIP.

The Minister is the Negotiator for the Engagement of the Sutor.

"Did you ever hear how the youthful brethren and sisters of the Mennonite faith carry on their courtships?" asked an old resident of Germantown, whose ancestors worshipped in the Mennonite Church on Main street, above Herman, built in 1770.

COMPLETE DINING SET.

Little Girl—Mrs. Brown, ma wants to know if she could borrow a dozen of eggs. She wants to put 'em under a hen.

CURRENT HUMOR.

Neighbor—So you've got a hen setting, have you? I didn't know you kept hens?

McMANUS BROS.' New Store is located

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This store has caught the spirit of holiday time. There is no store in all New Jersey that displays fuller or more comprehensive assortment.

- Diamonds and Diamond Jewelry, Link Buttons, Scarf Pins, Brooches, Watches and Chains, Fobs, Studs, Rings, Sterling Silver Novelties and Toilet Articles, Manicure Sets, Tableware, Desk Needs.

Everything in best Quadruple Plated Ware.

- Rich Cut Glass, Opera Glasses, Novelties in China, Choice Table Cutlery, Fine Carving Sets, Chafing Dishes, Five O'clock Teas, Shears and Scissors, Pocket Knives, Good Razors.

Nothing lacking to make each stock a complete store. And what you buy will be set aside until wanted, if you say so.

Our Eye Specialist, L. B. HILBORN (R. O.) will examine your eyes and fit them perfectly with glasses if needed.

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