

THE FARMER'S WIFE.
The farmer came in from the field one day; His langust step and his weary way, His bended brow, his sinewy hand, All showed him to be the good of the land: For he sows well.

And he loves, And he loves, All for the good of the land, By the kitchen fire, stood the patient wife, Light of his home and joy of his life, With face all aglow, her bosom, Preparing him a meal for his husband's hand, For she must cook, And she must toil, All for the good of the land.

The bright sun shines when the farmer goes out; The birds sing sweet songs, lambs frisk about; The brook bubbles softly in the glen. While he waits for the good of men;

For he loves,

And he loves,

All for the good of the land.

How briskly the wife steps about within, The dishes to wash, the milk to save; For the last time, how her heart is kept stout: There are ples to make,

For the last time, to take,

All for the sake of home.

When the day is over, and the evening is come, The creatures are fed, the milking is done, He takes his rest with the old shade tree, From the last time, how his thoughts are free;

Though he loves,

And he loves,

All for the good of the land.

But the faithful wife, from sun to sun, Takes her burden up that never done;

There is rest, there is no play;

For the good of men, hard work away;

To mend the flock,

And to knit the socks,

And the cross-stitch.

He rests from the work of the land,

But the willing wife, till life's closing day, Is the children's guide, the husband's stay;

From day to day has she done her best;

For the good of men, to give her rest;

For the good of men, Comes the rest,

With the best,

In the Father's heavenly home.

THE STORY OF A RING.

It seemed to me the most unfortunate thing in the world.

I had arrived, about ten minutes before, at the house of an aunt whom I had never seen, and whom I had never heard of before. Her companion, Her son, had shown me into this wretched trap, as I now called it in anguish of spirit, though it was really a pretty cheerful little room, opened by a curtailed arch from the parlor, informing me that the housekeeper would be there immediately to conduct me to my aunt.

And here was I, an utter stranger, assisting at a lover's quarrel.

The scene had opened in the room an instant after I seated myself. It was twilight, and the lamps were not yet lighted. I was wholly invisible, and they evidently imagined themselves to possess the solitude befitting their conversation.

"This farce may as well end here," had said a woman's voice at the moment of her crossing the threshold. "I no longer want to play. I am in love with you, and you with me. I will tell you all my affection is meant to flatter your vanity, which is as limitless as your impetuosity in persisting in attentions that you see I detect."

It was the most intolerably proud voice that could be imagined.

"I still love you, and you know it. And I have far too much faith in your former professions to credit the words put into your mouth by the anger of an aunt. You are utterly mistaken in your supposition. My love for you is always . . ."

"Your love for me! Your love!" with an accent of angry scorn that defies description. "Never dare to mention to me again a word that you cannot comprehend. It is an insult to me to hear it—an insult that I will not endure. And I will tell you all my reason for my repugnance, let me tell you that I do not know the meaning of this word that you utter so glibly—I love some one else."

She stepped swiftly to the window and threw it open. There was an instant's silence. There was the audible rustle of her sleeve as she tossed something from her force.

"Do you have your ring away," she exclaimed, "and I have not seen it since. An ordinary contrast with her former elegance, "I threw it toward the eistem. Possibly it has slipped through some crevice or other, and gone down into the water. I hope so. In that case it is impossible that the sight of it can ever again insult me with the remembrance that I have worn it. Permit me to wish you an exceedingly good evening."

It was easy to imagine the mocking sneer of the courtesy she now swept him; then she was gone. Immediately after, and silently, he also left the apartment.

They did not go so soon, however. A cold perspiration dampened my forehead; I really trembled. The vehemence of the feeling engaged the certainty instantly by the actors of their complete isolation, and my own innocent guilt in overhearing, all quite overcame me.

"All, miss, I have kept you waiting quite a time, to be sure!" But my aunt took a sudden notion to put me tardy dragoons on her ankles, though Dr. Richardson had just gone, and he never thought of ordering them!—and have 'em sure as mustard. And I supposed you'd be comfortable here."

"Quite comfortable, thank you. The servant said you would come presently."

"Well, you'd best have some tea before the parlor door again opened, and a prim little woman entered, with a lamp in her hand. She looked in at the corners, as one might search for a pocket-handkerchief, and at last perceived the need."

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