

## THE OLD DAYS AT SCHOOL.

BY CARRIE V. SHAW

We had just moved into town, and I had just moved into school, and they didn't take me to school. They didn't see my pleasing traits, and theirs I couldn't see. I was sadly self-conceited, and as stubborn as a mule. I didn't take to the scholars, and they didn't take to me.

"They didn't see my pleasing traits, and theirs I couldn't see."

I had been a weakly child, and lived my childhood all alone.

And then I wasn't born like them, and less like them, than I had grown.

All that I asked or wanted was my books, away

And all of contempt I ever felt I held for girls and boys.

So, when we came to the city and I was sent to school,

I think I at first was counted as slightly above a fool.

And I really believe when I say, I am a month or two about.

Took all the conceit I ever had most fairly and squarely on.

But when you look at my lonely hours I had improved, you see:

And it wasn't long before their scorn had turned to me.

And I was in new sorrow, for "death" discipline's rules.

I was much more gentle far than when at first I came to school.

I began to see that you cannot go on your way alone,

successfully, unless you have a small world of your own.

But so also you stay on this one, where so many others go.

You must cater to the general taste, in spite of all the say.

So I tried to win their favor, was sincere about it, too.

I worked their hard examples that they brought for me to do.

They were of the assistance that I gave; but, I believe they thought the harder of me because I had it to give.

Of course I would not compose a share.

As far as genius that way, they hadn't much.

But, try my best to please them, it all worked the reverse.

And, in this, I think me better, they seemed to hate me worse.

And I'll tell you, while we're talking, something that perhaps you know:

You must never scorn or hatred, if you have no other fate.

You can never conquer prejudice, if there is no real friend.

But when you sides against you, you had best throw up the game.

There is no propitiating. Well, it went on just the same.

But it must not last forever, and one day the crisis came.

I was accused of cheating; but just how I cannot say.

I didn't understand it then, and don't quite to this day.

But, and, now, they had it fastened solid down on me.

No good of any protest—I had better let it be.

And I was fairly doubting, but a weak friend at the best.

Heat for a moment, then went over with the stand by a noise resembling a scuffle in the path before me, accompanied by a shout.

From where I stopped I could not see the contending parties, though the sounds told me they were quite near.

There were evidently not more than two of them, and I thought it would be wise to move forward, especially as I was well armed. What could it be?

Perhaps some Thing had fallen upon a traveler like myself, and was now strangling him, according to the highest code of his religion. That and then I turned from her, and then, with eyes of mute despair, slowly recrossed each row of faces for a gleam of hope.

Not a ray of interest, but a covert smile or Met my gaze, with all their cruelty and machine clear.

And I stood there, shy and awkward in my shame, And, in spite of all my pride, the tears of helpless grief would fall:

"I will not forget," I cried, aloud; "neither will I."

"Of all things," she detected, she detected lies to be true.

"I was but a fool," she moralized, "to think I had been."

A cheater, I was suddenly adding silly falsehood to the same.

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