

THE FEEBLE-MINDED TENDERFOOT.

MONTHE FIRST.
I am a rushing Tenderfoot,
I'm running for a home,
Can any of you masters put
A fellow on the same ?
I ain't a hog, I don't want much—
A thousand is the ton, or such.

MONTHE SECOND.
I am a peaceful Tenderfoot,
I'm looking for a chance
To join some fortunate galoot
That's in a snug circumstance,
I ain't a hog, I don't want much—
A hundred is the ton, or such.

MONTHE THIRD.
I am a sanguine Tenderfoot,
I'm hunting for a home,
That's got the downright moral root
To give me great pleasure
I ain't a hog, I don't want much—
A burro, can be, or such.

MONTHE FOURTH.
I am a wretched Tenderfoot,
I'm seeking a home,
Within a home, has no place to put
And sweetly murmur—“home,”
I ain't a hog, I don't want much—
An empty though bright car, or such.

—Gummin (Col.) News.

ROMANCE OF A GLOVE.

“Does it please you, Katy?”
“Oh, it is splendid! I could not have imagined myself half so well, had I been left alone.”

“But you have not seen the wine yet. It is a treasure of its kind. Let's go down again.”

They went down the stairs together, he talking gayly, she with a troubled look on her face. After duly admiring the place she put a timid hand on his arm and said: “But, Arthur, dear, let's have wine in it.”

“Why?” he asked, in surprise.

“Because I have resolved if I am ever the mistress of a house there shall be no liquors kept in it—no ‘social glasses’ for friends.”

“Why, Katy, you are unreasonable. I did not know you carried your temperance opinions so far as that. Of course I shall keep wine in my house, and entertain my friends with it, too.”

Arthur’s brow grew cloudy.

“But you can not fear for me?” he said, with half-offended pride.

“I must fear for you, Arthur, if you begin as he did. And I fear for others besides—for the sons and husbands and fathers who may learn at our cheerful board to love the poison that shall slay them.”

They went up the steps again and sat on a sofa in the dining-room for a few moments, while Katy put on her hat and drew on her gloves.

The argument was kept up. It is unnecessary that we should repeat all that was said on both sides. It ended at last in similar discussions having ended before. Neither was willing to yield. Katy, however, she felt that her whole life’s happiness might be involved in it; Arthur, because he thought it would be giving away to a woman’s whims, and would sacrifice too much of his popularity with his friends.

He had bought this house, paid for it, and furnished it handsomely, and in a few weeks was to bring Katy as his mistress. All the afternoon they had been looking over it together, happy as two children in a toy-shop.

But when Arthur closed the door and put the key in his pocket, in the chill evening light of the December afternoon, and gave Katy his arm to see her home, it was all “broken up” between them, and a notice, “To Let,” was put over the door of the pretty house the very next morning.

It was a most foolish thing to do; but that lovers can always find some time to quarrel about.

They parted with a cool, “Good-byeing,” at the door of Katy’s lodging-house. She went up to her room to cry; he went home hurt and angry, but secretly resolving to see her again, and give her a chance to say that she was in the wrong. He would wait a few days, however, it would be better to see that she was in a hurry to “make up” to him.

He did wait, nearly a week, and when he called at the modest lodging-house where he had been wont to visit so often, he was told that Miss Gardner had been gone three days.

“Gone where?” he asked, slow to believe.

“She did not tell me, sir. She said she was going back. Her aunt lived at Bristol.”

He then took the next train to Bristol and investigated; but neither there nor in any other place, though he searched for months afterward, did he find sign or trace of Katy Gardner.

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All this happened more than a year before I saw Katy; but we three “factory girls” still lodged at Mrs. Howell’s in a part of town almost as she was then. She came to the factory and applied for work. The superintendent thought her too delicate for such labor, but she persisted; and, in fact, she improved in health, spirits and looks after she became used to the work and simple fare of the factory girls.

She was a stranger to us all, and seemed likely that she would not stay so long.

But one day Mr. Bascom’s daughter caught in a part of the machinery, and before any one else could think what to do, Katy had sprang to her side and pulled her away by main strength from the terrible danger that then stoned her.

After that Mary and Lizzie, friends, were Katy’s sworn allies, and she and I, who were her dearest friends, were

soon gathered together then in the big “Factory lodging-house.” But

Katy took it into her head that we should have so much nicer times in a private lodging to ourselves; and when she took anything into her head she generally carried it through. In less than a week she had found the very place she wanted, arranged matters with the superintendent, and had us sheltered under Mrs. Howell’s roof.

“By the way, Miss Maggie, do you know whose glove this is? It was Miss Gardner’s glove.

“Miss Gardner!”

The name made his heart beat again. “Is she one of the factory hands?”

“Yes; but she lodges with Mrs. Howell, quite out of town; almost; she has come to see me.”

“Oh, I see!” said he, not the most reverently. “And can you tell me how to find Mrs. Howell’s house? I suppose I could go by and restore this glove to its owner.”

* * * * *

Mary and Lizzie went to church that Sunday morning. Katy declared she couldn’t go, having but one glove. I stayed home with her, and offered to keep Mrs. Howell’s children for her, and persuaded that worthy woman to attend worship with the girls.

And this is how it came about, that while we were having a frolic on the carpet with the children in Mrs. Howell’s room, heard a ring at the door; and Bridget, having taken herself off somewhere, there was no help for it but for one of us to answer the summons.

“You go, Katy,” whispered I, in dismay. “I can not appear.”

Katy gazed serenely at her own pretty head in the looking-glass, and pulled at her overskirt and a touch to her collar and opened the door.

Immediately afterward I was shocked by hearing her utter a genuine feminine scream on seeing her dress torn and the dress and the apparel a tangled mass.

She improved her cunning little things out of trifles that are usually thrown away as useless, and the flowers growing in broken pots in our window were a glory to behold. She always had a fresh book or periodical on our table; and better than this, she brought to us the larger cultivation, and the purest taste, while taught us how to use opportunities within our reach.

“What do you take to our style of life,” Katy asked Lizzie, one evening, all sat in the east window watching the out-comeing of the stars and telling girlish dreams.

“Destiny, my child,” answered Katy, stooping to replace the little book she had thrown off to rest her foot.

“Put you might have been an author, or a painter, or a—bookkeeper, or—”

Lizzie’s knowledge of this world was rather limited; Katy stood upon her feet, “I will do, I will not be born a genius, but I have asthmatics.”

“But you did not always have to work for a living, Katy,” said May. “You are a lady, I know.”

Katy laughed a queer, short laugh. “Yes,” she said, “and that’s why I don’t know how to get my living in any way but this. So behold me a healthy and honest factory girl.”

She rose made a little bow, and a flourish with her small hands, and we all laughed, although she had said nothing funny.

“Milly,” said she, “please light the lamp and get the magazine, while I hunt up my thimble and thread. Ladies, I

find myself under the necessity of mending my gloves this evening. Oh, poverty! where is thy sting? In a shabby glove I do believe, for nothing hurts me like that unless it be a decaying boot.”

Katy’s gloves were a marvel to us. She never wore any but of good quality, and always the same color—a brownish neutral tint, that goes with almost any dress—but just now a new pair would seem to be one thing needed, from the appearance of the ones she brought out.

She sat and patiently mended the little rents, while I read aloud; and when she had finished the gloves looked almost new.

The next day was Saturday, and we had a half-holiday. Katy and I went to make some trifling purchases, and on our way home stopped at the big boarding-house to see one of the girls who brought out.

BONAPARTE, Wellington, N.Y., Soul and Lances were all born the same year, viz., 1812.

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