

A FROLIC ON THE FLOOR.

BY WILLIAM HAUGHTON.

What's the matter with you, neighbor?
Is there any reason why?
That your cheek is growing sallow?
And there's jaundice in your eye?
Why, you look as if you fancied
All on earth you'd lose;
If you did not set me laughing.
You would put me in the blues.
Have you ever tried what solace
There is in the man's well?
No! Then you should begin it;
It may help you at your need.
But a better plan I'll mention,
Since I've thought the matter o'er—
Have you ever tried a frolic?
With the youngsters on the floor?

Tut, man! it is no wonder
That you're gloomy, grim, and gray;
That your spirit's like a ghost;
That all your heart is laid away;
That the merry god of laughter
In your bosom never rung.
For you've missed the only pastime
That can make an old heart young.
Oh, the prancing and the dancing!
Oh, the routing and the shouting
Of a happy-hearted child!
There's a magic music in it
Which you never heard before.
Try it, neighbor, for a minute—
Try a frolic on the floor.

Why, good man, the very baby
In the cradle there will crow
When he sees us, topsy-turvy,
Heller-skelter, to and fro,
And young Kitty the goes screaming
Till she rolls about with glee;
A poor, poor, little darling!
And his medicine man, for me.
Oh, the bumping and the jumping!
Oh, the laughter ringing wild!
Oh, the routing and the shouting
Of a merry-hearted child!
Now, good neighbor, don't deny it,
Will it not your lie restore?
Then go home, good man, and try it—
Try a frolic on the floor.

MATTIE VAN WYCK'S STORY.

BY HETTIE J. POTTER.

The fire burned low in the little home of the Van Wycks; nothing was heard but the ticking of the clock and the purring of the old gray cat. The night was frosty without, the tall pine trees cast their long shadows across the snow; everything seemed tranquil to Mattie Van Wyck as she looked out of the window, then going back to the stove, stirred the scanty fire.

The Van Wycks were very well-to-do a few years back, Mr. Van Wyck having had quite a property left him; but being an easy-going man and not having the ability to make money, his property gradually slipped through his hands; and after selling his farm and paying his debts, left him but little. He decided to go West, and finally drifted up into a Northern town, buying a little home which took nearly all he had. He worked hard in the pineries and kept his family supplied from day to day; but from severe exposure, contracted a hard cold and died, leaving his wife and four children to the mercies of a northern winter.

The oldest child, Mattie, was a bright, energetic little girl of 15. She was attending school, but would have to give it up for a while at least, and stay at home to help her mother, who by taking in sewing had kept the wolf from the door ever since her father's death. Mattie had sat up later than usual to do her sums, and now, with her chin resting on her hands, sat looking intently into the fire, wondering what she could do to help along. The problem was a hard one for a slender girl, and she gave it up for the night, and, locking up the house, took her light and trotted off to bed.

The next day was Sunday. After the frugal breakfast, the dishes were washed and the house put to rights. Mrs. Van Wyck got the children ready for Sunday-school, combed their hair, made them look as neatly as possible, all except Johnnie, who was a sturdy little fellow with black eyes and red cheeks. He had played hard and stubbed out his boots, so he would have to stay at home for a while till Providence or Santa Claus sent him some new ones. He made up quite a lip, and a big tear rolled down his cheek as he looked out of the window after his sisters; but "he must dry his eyes and be a good little boy," his mother said, "for some day he would be a man, and take care of them all."

Johnnie caught the idea at once, climbed down from the window and busied himself helping his mother by bringing in wood, and in various ways; and was very happy. The day passed quietly and pleasantly; the children came home each with a fresh new book.

In the evening, as they were seated around the table reading, Mattie broke the silence by saying:

"Mother, I wish I could write a story. When we were at the library to-day I heard Lusie Foster telling Gertie Manning that she had an aunt in Boston who wrote stories and made lots of money. Now if I could only do something like that how nice it would be."

"You might try, Mattie," her mother replied; "we never know what we can do till we've tried."

"If I only knew what to write about."

"Write about your home, brother and sisters," Mrs. Van Wyck suggested.

Mattie was quite imbued with the idea, and went and got paper and pencil. If she could only make some money, all herself, buy some new boots for Johnnie, some mittens for Amy; and Christmas would soon be here, and how nice it would be to surprise them all.

She sat down and began. It was not an easy task, but she kept diligently at it all the spare time she had, her mother being busy at the machine from early morning till late at night.

The close of the term was near at hand, and in three weeks—the holidays. Mattie looked pretty sober; she told her mother she had written about her home, but she thought the story needed a brighter side, and was afraid she would have to give it up. Her mother told her she had a good beginning, and not to worry any way, as she was a great help to her, and as soon as she

could, would send her to school again. Mattie took her books and trudged to school with a heavy heart. She had planned so many little surprises with the money she would get, that to fail with her story was a bitter disappointment; but she studied hard and had her lessons. One day she noticed an unusual excitement among some of her schoolmates, and overheard one little girl saying to another "that Gracie Thornton was going to give a birthday party the next evening." Mattie thought no more about it, till on her way home a bright thought struck her; she walked more briskly and rushed into the house, exclaiming, "Oh, mother! Gracie Thornton is going to give a party to-morrow evening, and if I could only go." Her mother looked at her, she tucked it in her pocket, and, stopping on her way, entered the *Pioneer* office. There were several gentlemen in, discussing the topics of the day. The editor came forward and asked her what she would like. She asked him if he wished to buy a story. He began to murmur something about an "oversupply," when her slender figure and gay face attracted his attention. He took the story, telling her he had not time to read it then, but if she would leave her name he would look it over. She gave her address and left, performed her errand and went home.

Mattie and her mother were very busy, even the younger ones assumed little responsibilities, and all were as busy as bees.

Day after day passed till there were only two before Christmas. Mattie had been to the office time and time again, but no word from her story. She had almost given it up, when, one evening about dusk, as she was taking some sewing home to a lady on Summit avenue, she thought she would try once more. There was no need to give her name, for as soon as her eager face appeared, a large envelope was handed her, and Mattie knew she had received her doom. The stores were beginning to be lighted and people were hurrying to and fro with suspicious-looking bundles; an air of mystery prevailed. No one was more mysterious than Mattie as she made her way through the jostling crowd. She went straight to her room, lighted her candle, and opened her letter; when, what should fall to her feet but two new crisp \$5 bills! Her happiness was unbounded; her plans could all be carried out.

And what a merry Christmas they had! Johnnie scrambled out of bed as soon as he heard the first rooster crow to see what Santa Claus had brought him; when the first thing that caught his eyes was a pair of red-topped boots; "Just like those he saw in the window," he said. And there was a book for Madge, mittens for Amy, a new dress for Mattie, and fancy bags of popcorn and candy for them all. There was no more sleep in the Van Wyck household that morning. Mrs. Van Wyck was putting on her last shoe, when she uttered a little scream and they all ran to see what was the matter. When she examined it she found something rolled up in tissue paper which she had supposed was a sly little mouse. Undoing the paper a \$5 bill rolled out; then they all clapped their hands and showed each other their presents.

When dinner time came, their mother said she had a surprise for them. They all sat down to the table. She went into the kitchen and brought in a fine roasted turkey; and they peeped under snowy napkin, and there was a large frosted cake, with frosted raisins on top. They were a happy family that day, and no one in the whole town was as radiant as Mattie Van Wyck; for she had found out that "Where there's a will there's a way." —*Chicago Ledger*.

WANTS HIS CHURCH SUBSCRIPTION BACK.

At a recent meeting of the Universal parish in Augusta, Me., a big gun of the church made so singular a request that the newspapers shrink from printing his name. He stated that he had become poor, and he asked the society to refund to him the sum of \$2,000, which he subscribed toward the erection and maintenance of the church building some twenty years ago. He has not yet got the money, and it will be strange if he does. Though the petitioner's name is not given, he is so particularly described that anybody who has a file of blue books can hunt him down. He is said to have held lucrative Federal offices almost continuously for twenty years or more. For year he was Minister to one of the European courts at a salary of \$7,500 a year. Then he was Minister to a South American republic at a salary of \$10,000 a year. If this is not a warning against office-holding, what is it? Not a warning against charitable living, surely, for if the \$1,000 had not been given, it would undoubtedly have been squandered as the donor's other income was.

EXCHANGE.

A MIXED COMPLIMENT.

John Littlefield, who is one of the handsomest men in Galveston, engaged himself to a young lady who was very far from being handsome. Her nose was very large, her eyes very small—in fact, she was positively homely. The young husband met Bill Nicholson on the street, and asked him: "How do you like her looks?"

"I think you have done very well. She has one great advantage over you."

"WHAT IS THAT?"

"She displayed much better taste in selecting a partner than you did."

Littlefield has been thinking it over, and is almost satisfied in his own mind that there is something he doesn't like in the compliment to his future wife.—*Texas Siftings*.

It is better to need relief than to want heart to give it.

SPRING VOTING.

Michigan State Election—Municipal Contests Throughout the West.

Michigan State Election.

Michigan held an election on Monday, the 6th of April, for a Justice of the Supreme Court and Regents of the University. Returns indicate that the ticket nominated and supported by the Democrats and Greenbackers is elected by a majority variously estimated, at this writing, at from 30,000 to 40,000. In the city of Detroit, Judge Morse, the Democrat-Greenback candidate for Justice, received a majority of nearly 6,000 votes over Judge Cooley, who had received the nomination of both the Republicans and Prohibitionists. Whitman and Field, fusion nominees for Regents, are elected by probably 30,000 majority.

Michigan Municipal Elections.

Simultaneously with the voting for State officials, the cities and towns of Michigan chose local officers. The Democrats, aided in most cases by the Greenbackers, elected their candidates in the following municipalities: Jackson, Marquette, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Bay City, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Niles, Grand Haven, Holland, Battle Creek, Charlotte, Port Huron, and Adrian. The Republicans carried the city elections at Coldwater, Hudson, St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Muskegon, Big Rapids, Mason, East Tawas.

Other Municipal Elections.

ILLINOIS.

The city election in Chicago was most hotly contested, and resulted in the success of the Democratic ticket, headed by Carter H. Harrison, who is elected Mayor for the fourth term, though by a greatly reduced majority. Hempstead Washburne, the Republican candidate for City Attorney, is chosen over his Democratic opponent. Ex-Congressman John F. Finerty, a recent convert from the Democracy, who was nominated by the Republicans for City Treasurer, runs far behind his ticket, and is the worst beaten man in the field. The Democrats were also successful in the charter elections at Joliet, Freeport, Quincy, and Carlinville, while the Republicans carried the day at Springfield, Jacksonville, Elgin, Rock Island, and Shellyville. What are known as "Citizens'" tickets were chosen at Galesburg and Moline. At Mount Carroll, Canton, and Wheaton the issue in the local election was license or anti-license, and the cold-water advocates carried the day at each place.

OHIO.

In regard to the municipal elections in Ohio, a correspondent of the *Chicago Times* telegraphs that journal from Columbus as follows:

With the exception of Dayton, where only Cincinnatians were elected, all Ohio cities made Republican gains over the unusual vote of last fall. In nearly all these places the anti-slavery Republicans are attributed to the unsavory record of the present Democratic Legislature. The Republicans elect the Mayor of Cincinnati by 4,000, of Cleveland by 3,000, and Columbus by 1,000, to succeed Democrats. The unexpected success of the Republicans in all other cities of the State is attributed to the slowness of Cleveland in making appointments for City offices. In nearly all these places the anti-slavery Republicans, Postmaster, Collector, and other city Republicans are attributed to the unsavory record of the present Democratic Legislature. The Republicans elect the Mayor of Cincinnati by 4,000, of Cleveland by 3,000, and Columbus by 1,000, to succeed Democrats. 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