

ENDURANCE.

How much the heart may bear, and yet not
How much the flesh may suffer and not die
I question much if any pain or ache
Of soul or body brings our end more nigh.
Death chooses his own time, till that is worn.
All evils may be borne.

We shrink and shudder at the surgeon's knife
Each nerve recoiling from the cruel steel,
Whose edge seems searching for the quivering life;
Yet to our sense the bitter pangs reveal
That still, although the trembling flesh be torn,
This, also, can be borne.

We see a sorrow rising in our way,
And try to flee from the approaching ill,
We seek some small escape—we weep and pray.
But when the blow falls, then our hearts are still—
Not that the pain is of its sharpness shorn,
But think it can be borne.

We wind our life about another life,
We hold it closer, dearer than our own:
Anon it faints and falls in deadly strife;
Leaving us stunned, and stricken, and alone:
But ah! we do not die with those we mourn:
This, also, can be borne.

Behold, we live through all things, famine, thirst,
Bitterest pain, all grief and misery,
All woe and sorrow; life inflicts its worst
On soul and body, but we can not die;
Though we be sick, and tired, and faint, and worn:
Lo! all things can be borne.

FOUR LIVES BRIGHTENED

I was in love with Alice Tracy, and it was said that she had been engaged to Hugh Morton for months.

At this moment Hugh was bending over her, speaking in an earnest, impassioned manner that caused my heart to throb with jealous fury.

She averted her face from his gaze, and as she did so her eyes caught mine.

A vivid flush dyed her cheek.

"Did you ever see a lovelier view than yonder pasture?" said the soft voice of Nora Tracy, Agnes' younger sister at my side.

"It is indeed, lovely," I responded, "and one which would arouse the soul of an artist to enthusiasm."

A low laugh behind startled me, and the next moment the clear voice of Agnes spoke:

"How refreshingly artistic you are, Mr. Hunter."

I colored and bit my lips, and Hugh Morton, who had followed Agnes to where we stood, looking annoyed, also.

"There are moments in life," I replied, "when everything combines to stir in a man's soul a depth of feeling which he had never suspected that he possessed."

Agnes made no reply, and Hugh Morton led her to the other end of the boat.

Again Nora's little bird-like voice broke in on my disturbed thoughts.

"Agnes told me that she had never been so happy in her life as when out the other night in that awful storm with you. But then Agnes is so brave and loves things which frighten and appall me."

"My heart gave a great bound of joy. Did Agnes love me?"

The sun sank like a great ball of fire, below the western sky, and the bright stars peeped out, one by one, and were reflected in the shining water beneath, in throbbing, quivering brightness.

The rest of the party were on the other end of the boat, enjoying the full beauty of the moonlight, and I was standing, leaning over the railing, in the shadow of the pilot house, when a soft, hesitating step caused me to turn.

The dark eyes of Agnes Tracy met mine, and in the surprise and delight of the unexpected meeting I caught her and held her in close embrace.

"Miss Tracy! Agnes!" I began.

But her soft voice interrupted me:

"Nay, let me tell you first that you are unjust and unkind to accuse me of coquetry. I never knew until to-night that you loved me. How could I show or confess my love to you until you had offered yours to me? Now—" and her sweet voice faltered a little—"I am not ashamed to tell you that I have always loved you, and that Hugh Morton is nothing to me but a friend."

Was I dreaming? I took her in my arms and pressed a passionate kiss upon her lips.

"Agnes, my darling, I can scarcely believe my own happiness! And you really love me and will be my wife?"

The smiling "yes" had scarcely left her lips when Hugh Morton stood before us. "Allow me to present to you my affianced wife," I said as coolly as I could speak.

His face was ghastly in the moonlight, and a bitter smile curved his lips.

Then he turned and walked away.

This was two years ago. Agnes has been my wife for eighteen months, and little Nora is now Hugh Morton's promised bride. He seems very happy of her confiding love, and I am very sure that she knows nothing of the mistake which changed four lives so completely, and drowned me with a happiness that must last as long as life.

Resenting an Insult.
Robinson—Jackson, I hear that Brown called you a liar last night."

Jackson (bitterly)—Yes, he called me a liar.

Robinson—And didn't you resent it?
Jackson (warmly)—Resent it? You bet I did! I told him that was simply a matter of opinion and not of fact. No man can call me a liar and get away with it.

An Ingenious Torturer.
A teacher in Bristol who was recently forbidden by the school authorities to punish pupils by putting sticks an inch or two long between their jaws and tying their hands behind them, is said to have since then punished the unruly by sealing their mouths with court plaster, occasionally sea-soned with cayenne pepper.

A very nice way to make a corn-starch pudding is to put half a peach in the bottom of a cup and then pour corn-starch blanc mange over it. When ready to serve, turn from the cup into a saucer. Slices or quarters of oranges may be used in place of the peach. A thin mustard or sauce is recommended to go with the pudding.

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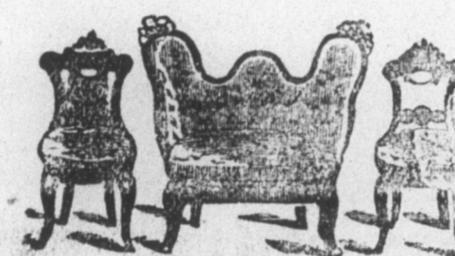
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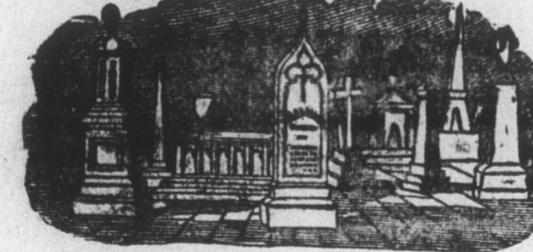
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CAUTION:—

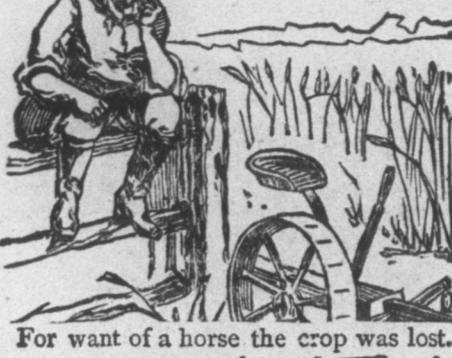
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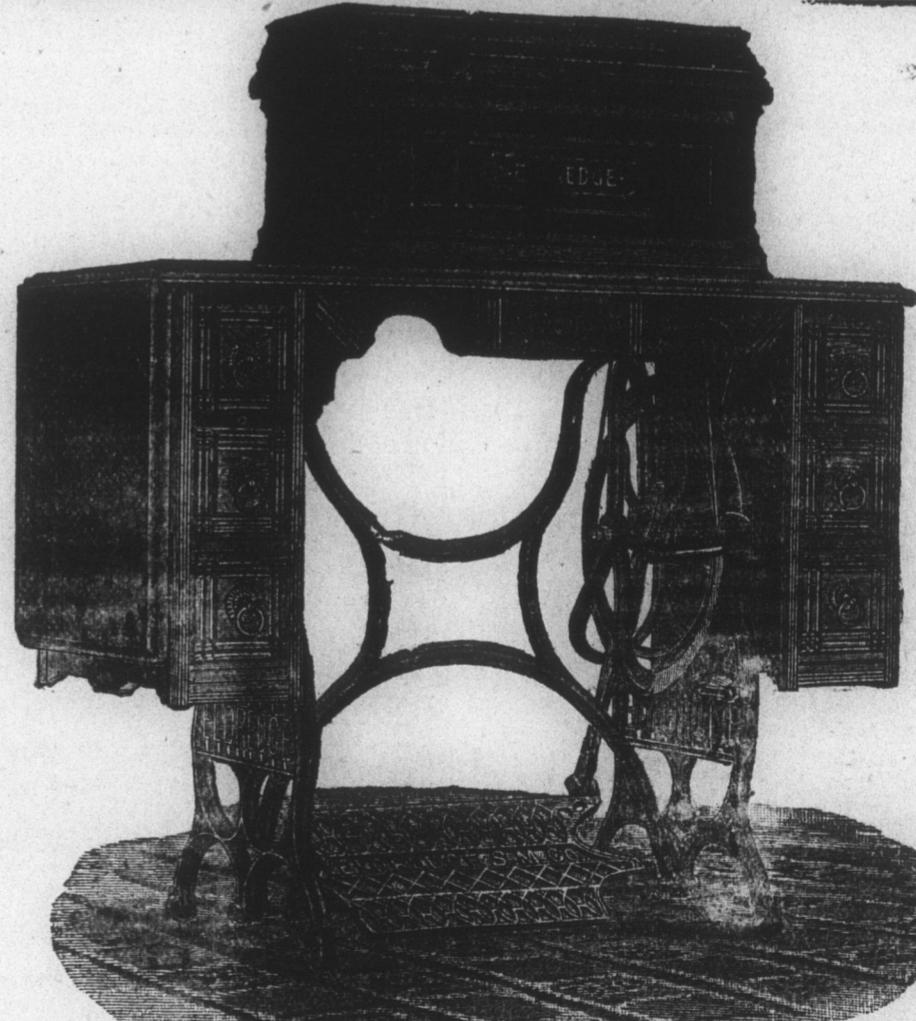
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