MUTATION.

BY MUSINDO.

In youth's glad day hope fills the heart,
While smiles are bright and sighs are few;
Our sorrows rarely leave a smart,
And pass away like morning dew.

Years speed along with rapid flight,
Our locks begin to turn gray;
But still the shades of coming night
Seem to the future—far away.

So pass we on: a level track
Leads us onward through the years;
And, for a time, we look not back,
But march erect, devoid of fears.

We're bad our joys and woes thus far,
And, on the whole, have not repined;
But now our lives begin to jar—
The hoped-for good we've failed to find.

But in its stead clouds gather fast—
We're stranded on an ice bound shore;
Our hopes are buried with the past—
We're sad and hopeless evermore.

ACTING WISELY.

When Mary Clairmont's engagement was proclaimed to the world there ensued a general expression of surprise.

Miss Clairmont was only one and twenty, a tall, imperial beauty, with dewy black eyes, a skin as fresh as damask rosen, and dark brown hair coiled in shining bands at the back of her head.

She had just graduated from Medfield medical university and had taken out her diploma as an M. D.

'And only think of it,' said Aunt Jo, bursting into tears of vexation and disappointment, 'that she must needs go and ruin all her prospects by getting engaged to Harry Marlow.'

'It does not seem strange, aunt Jo, when I think of it,' said Doctor Mary, laughing and blushing. 'Six months ago my profession was all the world to me. I neither cared nor wished for anything outside its limits.'

'Humph!' growled Aunt Jo. 'Any brainless idiot can get married and keep a man's house and mend his shirt for him, but you are made for something higher and more dignified, Mary.'

Mary's dew-bright eyes sparkled.

'Higher, Aunt Jo?' said she. 'More dignified? There you're mistaken. There's no higher or more dignified lot in life than that of the true wife of a noble husband.'

'Fiddlesticks!' said Aunt Jo. 'As if every poor fool who was dazzled by the glitter of a wedding ring didn't say the same thing. You've disappointed me, Mary Clairmont, and I'm ashamed of you, that is the long and short of it.'

Mary smiled.

'Dear Aunt Jo,' said she, 'I shall not let my sword and shield rust, believe me. Harry has only his own talents to advance him in the world, and it will be at least a year before we shall be ready to marry. In the meantime I shall accept the post of visiting physician to the Aldenbury almshouse, and practice my profession just the same as if there were no engagement.'

'I wish to goodness there wasn't,' said Aunt Jo. 'I tell you what, Mary, I don't fancy that smiling, smooth-tongued young man of yours, and I never shall.'

Still Mary Clairmont kept her temper.

'I'm sorry, Aunt Jo,' she said pleasantly, 'but I hope you will eventually change your mind.'

'I used to keep a thread and needle store when I was a young woman,' remarked Aunt Jo, dryly, 'and I always could tell the ring of a counterfeit coin when a customer laid it on the counter. I could then, and I can now; and I tell you what, Mary, there's base metal about Harry Marlow.'

Doctor Mary bit her lip.

'Perhaps,' We will not discuss the subject further, Aunt Jo,' she said, with quite dignity.

And the old lady said no more.

'Aunt Jo is wrong,' persisted the pretty young M. D. to herself.

'Mary is making a fool of herself,' thought aunt Jo.

Aldenbury was a pretty manufacturing village with a main street shaded by umbrageous maples; and a little way out of the village almshouse, built and endowed by a certain smuggling sea captain, whose conscience had pricked him during his latter days, raised its gray stone gables to the sky, and made a picturesque background to the landscape.

Doctor Mary Clairmont made something of a sensation at Aldenbury.

Up to this time all the resident M. D.'s had been snuffy old gentlemen with wigs, or pert young ones with eye-glasses.

A beautiful young lady, who wrote prescriptions and compounded pills and potions, was a novelty in the town, and by no means a disagreeable one.

People rather liked the idea, once they had convinced themselves that the lady doctor understood herself and her patients.

And the poor people at the alms-house grew to love Doctor Mary, and listened with eager ears for the sound of her carriage-wheels over the gravel drive which led to the portico.

It was a brilliant December day when the young physician stood in the neatly-carpeted reception-room, drawing on her fur gloves, previous to entering her neat phaeton once again, while she reiterated to the white-capped maid some directions concerning old Ann Madgel's rheumatism, when the matron hurried in.

'Oh, I beg your pardon, Doctor Clairmont,' said she, 'but I clean forget the new old woman's name.'

'The new old woman,' repeated Doctor Mary, with a smile.

'That is,' explained Mrs. Cunningham, 'she only came last night—a quiet old soul, half blind, and quite bad with the asthma.' Perhaps you'd better just see her before you go.'

She looked timidly up as Doctor Mary came in, from under the borders of her cap.

'I'm a poor body, miss,' said she, 'and I'm sensible I'm making a deal of trouble in the world. But the Lord don't always take us, miss, when we'd like to go.'

'This is the doctor,' said Mrs. Cunningham.

The little woman would have risen up to make a feeble courtesy, but Doctor Mary motioned her to keep her seat.

'What is your name?' said she pleasantly.

'Louise Marlow,' miss.

'Marlow?' That is an unusual name, isn't it?' said Mary Clairmont, coloring in spite of herself.

'We're English, miss,' said the old woman, struggling bravely with her asthma, 'there ain't many of us in this country. I've a son, miss, in the law business, as any mother might well be proud of.'

'A son,' echoed Mrs. Cunningham, 'and you in the almshouse?'

'Not that it's his fault,' the old creature made haste to explain. 'My son is to be married to a fine, proud young lady, as is fit for any prince in all the land, and of course he can't be expected to burden himself with a helpless old woman like me. He says I'm to write and let him know how I get along, and if I'm sick, or anything, he'll try to see me. I sewed carpets until the asthma got hold of me, and supported myself comfortably. But of course I couldn't lay up anything for a rainy day—who could? And Harry couldn't help me, for he's getting ready to be married, poor lad. So I went to Doctor Merton, and asked him did he know of any decent place where an old woman like me could end her days in peace. And he gave me a card to come here, and some money to pay my traveling expenses—heaven bless him!—and here I am.'

Mary Clairmont had listened quietly to the garrulous tale, but the color had varied in her cheek more than once as he stood there.

'Is your son's name Harry Marlow?' she said, slowly and thoughtfully.

'Yes, miss, at your service,' said the old woman, with a duck of her white-capped head, which was meant to do duty in place of the impossible courtesy.

'Is he like this?' said Doctor Mary, taking a photograph from her pocket.

The old woman with trembling hands fitted on her iron-rimmed spectacles and looked at the picture, utterng a little cry of recognition.

'Sure, miss, it's his own self,' she cried. 'You're acquainted with him, then?'

'Somewhat,' said Doctor Mary, composedly, as she returned the photograph to its place.

'Perhaps you know the young lady my son is to marry?'

'Yes,' said Doctor Mary, writing something in her prescription-book 'I have seen her.'

'Perhaps, miss,' faltered the old woman, 'you would give her my humble duty, and tell her I would just like to see her once and see what she is like. There's no fear of my troubling her, miss, for I mean to end my days here. But I would like to see her just once, miss. Would you please write to my son and tell him where I am? for I am no scholar myself, and I'm his mother, after all. And if it wouldn't be asking too much—'

'I'll write to him,' said Doctor Mary' quietly, and so she went away.

'I never see a lady doctor afore,' said old Mrs. Marlow, with a long sigh, 'but she's a pretty creetur, and it seems good to have her around. I hope she'll come again soon.'

'You may be very sure of that,' said the matron, brusquely. 'Doctor Clairmont ain't one to neglect poor people because they are poor.'

That evening Aunt Jo, frying crullers over the kitchen fire, was surprised by a visit from her niece, who came in all wrapped in furs, with her cheeks crimsoned with the frosty wintry air.

'Bless me! this aint you?' said Aunt Jo, peering over the rims of her spectacles.

'I drove over to see you, Aunt Jo,' said Mary, 'to tell you that you were right. The metal was counterfeit.

'Eh?' said Aunt Jo, mechanically ladling out the brown curly crullers, although she did not look at what she was doing.

'I have written to Harry Marlow, cancelling our engagement,' said Doctor Mary, calmly, albeit her voice faltered a little. 'The man who will heartlessly let his poor old mother go into an almshouse, sooner than take the trouble to maintain her, can be no fit husband for any woman.'

And then she sat down by the fire and told Aunt Jo everything; for crabbed, crusty, old Aunt Jo had been like a mother to her and the girl's heart was full to overflowing.

When she had ceased speaking Aunt Jo nodded her head.

'You have done well and wisely,' said she.

Old Mrs. Marlow died that winter in Aldenbury almshouse, with her head on Doctor Mary Clairmont's arm, an I never knew that her garrulous confession had deprived her son of his promised wife.

And Mary says, quietly and resolutely, that her profession must be husband and home to her henceforward.

Lookout Mountain.

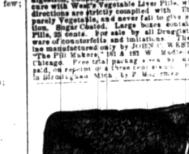
Gertrude Garrison.

To enjoy the expansive panorama which is spread before Lookout as it is possible to enjoy it—to become en rapport with the solemn spirit of the place, to feel the rugged grandeur of the mountains—one must look down from its heights in all phases of light and shade; at night, when the moon's cold light softens the sad splendor of the scene; in the glare of midday, when the roar of life comes up from the city, in the evening, when the bells of "time coming home" tinkle on the mountain side and in the valley, and in the morning while the mists overhang the river and the clouds are trailing their white vapor through the tops of the pine trees like the garments of a high and holy spirit. It is all so vast, so like some mighty monument built by the people of another world. It is something apart from the common earth, grand in its silent isolation, majestic in its impenetrable calm. It looks down upon the lowly vale and the swarm of life at its base with solemn and tender pity and before its eternal greatness the boundless egotism of the soul shrinks and withers into insignificance. Of the solitude of the mountain a poet who scorns rhyme says: "Uplifted amidst the uncompanionable concave, a crushing sense of loneliness, of orphanage, and want, possesses the soul, and makes it sigh for a lowlier station, hedged with the works of society, warm with the embrace of love, brightened by the smiles of friends."

RIBBON MANUFACTURE.—St. Etienne, near Lyons, France, is the largest ribbon-producing town in the world. In speaking of ribbons we mean all productions of the smallware looms, in which more than two pieces are woven at the same time, and which include ladies' scarfs, ties and similar goods. This industry is, with few exceptions, quite a domestic one. St. Etienne and the district employs about 17,000 looms, of which only about 1,500 are driven by mechanical means, say 1,000 by water, 500 by steam power. These 1,500 make partly plain silk ribbons, and partly velvet ribbons, the latter numbering about 600. Most of the weavers have not more than three looms, more frequently only one or two. Generally the master works one and the members of his family the others; sometimes he has also a journeyman. A loom costs from £22 to £100, according to its complexity, for some looms with Jacquard arrangements, and 7 to 12 shuttles for different wefts, are costly. When a journeyman has saved a few hundred francs he buys a loom, paying part of the price down, and the remainder in installments as he makes his profit on it. When he has paid for the first loom, and takes a second one to be worked by an assistant, he becomes a member of the masters' guild, who fix the prices to be paid by the manufacturers.

$500 Reward

We will pay the above reward for any case of Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, Jaundice, Costiveness, or Coat tongue, that we cannot cure with Wren's Vegetable Liver Pills, when the directions are strictly complied with. They are purely Vegetable, and never fail to give satisfaction. Sugar Coated. Large boxes containing 40 Pills, 25 cents. For sale by all Druggists. Beware of counterfeits and imitations. The genuine manufactured only by JOHN C. WREN & CO. The Pill Makers, 165 and 167 W. Madison St., Chicago. Free trial package sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of three 2-cent stamps. For sale in Pontiac by Jas. F. Mac[illegible]



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$72 A week made at home by the industrious. Best business now before the public. Capital not needed. We will start you. Men, women, boys and girls wanted everywhere to work for us. Now is the time. You can work in spare time, or give your whole time to the business. No other business will pay you nearly as well. No one who is willing to work does not succeed. Costly outfit and terms free. Money made fast, easily and honorably. Address TRUE & CO., Augusta, Maine. 1(3)

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Nov 16 1y

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1883. FRESH AND NEW. 1883.

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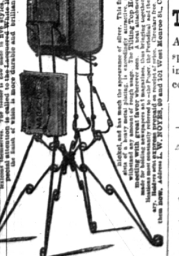

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