

HOW FIVE BACHELORS KEPT HOUSE.

BY MARY CLARKE.

It was a warm evening in early June, and in the parlor of a pleasant house in the handsome city of Philadelphia, a merry party of young folks were holding a warm laughing discussion.

Susy Arnold, the young hostess, who kept house for her two brothers, Harry and George, took one side of the question, while three other gentlemen, beside her tall brothers, opposed her. Charley Grey, a blue-eyed, curly-headed man, whose fair round face and boyish air formed an apparent contradiction to the assertion he made of having five years before attained his majority; Joe Morris, who from a Spanish mother inherited jetty hair and eyes, and a pale complexion, and from his father a tall, fine figure and a frank, ingenuous expression; and Milton Daeres, whose small figure and bashful ways accounted fully for his nickname, Minnie; these three, with the masters of the house, waged playful war upon the little brown-eyed maiden who sat so demurely upon the sofa.

"Say what you please," said Susy, "you will never convince me of the superiority of man in the capacity of housekeeper."

"But I maintain," cried Joe, "that men can keep house without women, but that women cannot do so, unless we will assist them."

"For instance," said Harry, "when your Biddy was sick last winter, Sue, how would such a mite as you are have brought up coal, kept up the furnace fire, and lifted about wood unless your two brothers had gallantly relieved you of the care?"

"Not to mention that the furnace fire went out three times."

"A truce!" said George, laughing. "That was my fault; but accidents will sometimes happen in the best regulated families, as—somebody, name forgotten, once wisely remarked."

"I only wish you could keep house; for I would accept Aunt Jane's invitation to travel with her this summer, were it not for leaving you."

"I have an idea," here cried Charley Grey—"an idea which, if you will agree to act upon it, shall fully clear the women of the insane notion of their indispensability—ahem! that word nearly choked me."

"The ungalant sentence should have quite strangled you," said Susy.

"Present company always excepted," was the reply.

"The idea! let's have the idea!"

"Suppose we keep house here, while Miss Susy travels."

"Here!" cried Susy, aghast.

"Yes, why not?"

"But," said Susy, "I'm sure Jenny would not stay."

"We don't want her; we want no women."

Visions of muddy boots on her parlor sofas, cigars in the flower-vases, pipes on the center-tables, spit-boys in the best bedroom, and frying-pans in the library, flitted through the young lady's mind; but before she could remonstrate, Harry said—

"So be it! Hurra for bachelor's hall. Pack up your trunk, Susy!"

"But Harry!"

"Glorious!" cried Charley, "not a petticoat within the doors for a month."

"But"—again said poor Susy.

"No fusses about tobacco smoke in the curtains," chimed in George.

"But, brother!"

"Won't it be gay?" said Minnie.

"Gay!" groaned the little house-keeper.

"Lay in a supply of cigars, George," suggested Joe. "When do you go, Miss Susy?"

"Monday, then! Aunt Jane's letter said Monday!" said Harry.

"Monday, then! We will come, bag and baggage, on Monday morning."

"On an express stipulation that not a woman performs a stroke of work for us for a month."

With many a flourish, amidst the gayest jests, George wrote a solemn contract by which they bound themselves to ask no service of any kind at woman's hand for one month from the date of the following Monday, June—, 1860, and all put their signatures to the important document.

Susy, seeing that her brothers really were in earnest, tried to think she was glad to go, and added her laughing directions to the many schemes proposed. At a later hour, the conclave broke up, and Susy, retired with a head full of sore misgivings.

Monday morning rose fair and clear. Six o'clock saw Susy drive away from the door in a carriage, the trunk strapped behind, the lady's pretty travelling-dress, and the shawl of her cousin and cavalier all bespeaking travel. Seven saw the servant depart, to spend a month with her mother in the country.

Nine o'clock witnessed the meeting of the merry young bachelors.

"Now then," said George, after the

first greetings were over, "I, as the eldest host, will take the charge to-day. As Susy says, 'when are you going down town?'"

"I have nothing to do to-day, so I'll stay to assist you," said Minnie.

"Thank you!"

"What's for dinner?" said Joe, trying to look like the head of a respectable family, and failing most deplorably in the attempt.

"You'll see at three o'clock."

"Yes!"

"Remember," said George, "I wait for no one. Punctuality is the soul of dinner, as somebody once said before I mentioned the fact."

Having sent the others off, George and Minnie went into the library for a smoke, to prepare them for the Herculean task before them.

"See," said George, producing a cook-book; "we are safe."

"Mrs. Hale! that's a woman!" cried Minnie.

"Whew! never once thought of that. We will stick to the contract. My dear madam, I am sorry to appear rude, but I must show you back to the book-case."

"What's for dinner?" said Minnie.

"Roast lamb, potatoes, green peas, asparagus, and strawberries."

"That'll do. Don't you have to shell peas or something?"

"Yes, that's easy enough."

"It's awfully hot," said Minnie, after a short silence.

"Horrid!"

"Suppose we shell the peas up here. It's cooler here than in the kitchen. I suppose there's a fire there?"

"Of course."

"I'll go and bring them up."

"They're in a basket on the table. Just leave the rest of the things down there."

Shelling peas was rapid work even for unaccustomed fingers, but it is a matter of taste whether the thorough smoking they had from two actively-puffed cigars improved their flavor.

"Now, what do you do with them?" said Minnie.

"There ain't many," he added, as he looked at the little green balls rolling about at the bottom of the huge market basket, and then eyed the large pile of shells on the floor.

"You boil them, of course," was George's answer.

"Oh! Suppose we go down."

"Well, come along," said George, taking up the basket.

The fire burned brightly; Jennie had left all in good order, and the prospect was not bad for the amateur cooks.

"What do you boil them in George?"

"Oh, anything!"

"But where is it?"

"In some of the closets, I guess!"

Susy would certainly have fainted could she have seen the overhauling of her neatly arranged closets that followed.

"This?" Minnie dragged forth a pot large enough to boil about twenty pounds of meat in.

"Yes."

"In they went, unwashed."

"Hot water, or cold?"

"Either."

"All right; that's done."

"Now the asparagus. How do you fix it?"

"I wonder if you roast mutton in this thing?" said George, holding up a large pudding-dish.

"I guess so. Put it on in the oven, don't you?"

"Y-e-e-s." George determined to find a book on cookery, written by a man, the very next day.

"You boil asparagus, don't you George?"

"Yes; here's a tin thing that's long and shallow; I guess that's for such things." And a dripping-pan came forth from the closet.

The asparagus fitted in like a charm, as both men declared, and water was added and all set on the range.

The mutton next went, on the pudding-dish, into the oven.

"Come, let's go up stairs again; it's fearfully hot here," said George.

"But the dinner?"

"Oh, that's got nothing to do but cook till three o'clock."

"Oh George here's the potatoes!"

Another pot was produced, and the potatoes, with about two gallons of water to the half peck of Murphies, put on the fire.

Smoking, chatting, reading, and a little practice on the violin filled up the morning, though George declared it was "horrid slow," and Minnie wondered what on earth women did with themselves.

Half past two brought home three hungry men to dinner.

Leaving the cooks to "dish up," they all adjourned to the parlor to cool themselves. That it was rather dusty there was not noticed. Jennie had made the beds before she left, but dusting the parlors was Susy's work, and her early start prevented her from doing it.

"George"—Minnie's voice was rather doleful.

"What?"

"The fire's out!"

"Out!"

"I wonder if anything's cooked!"

Concluded on page 7.

TREASURER'S SALE OF LANDS

—IN THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA, For Arrears of Taxes, to be held in the COURT HOUSE LINDSAY, on Wednesday, 20th FEBRUARY, 1889, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Township of BEXLEY.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

VILLAGE OF COBOCONK, IN BEXLEY.

S of Water st. Sof Albert st.

VILLAGE OF VICTORIA ROAD, IN BEXLEY.

S of Base line E of Victoria Road N. of Base line.

Township of CARDEN.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

Township of DALTON.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

Township of DIGBY.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

Township of ELDON.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

VILLAGE OF KIRKFIELD, IN ELDON.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

Township of EMILY.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

Township of FENELON.

All that part of broken lot 32 con. 8, exclusive of the following lots, in the village of Rosedale, viz: Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 westerly from Bridge street, lots 1 and 2, east of Bridge street and south of Coldstream st; lots 1 and 2 east of Bridge street and north of Coldstream street and lot 8 south of Coldstream street.

Broken north part S of Louisa st. N of Bond W of Colborne st. W. Falls centre pt.

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Township of LAXTON.

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Village of OMEE.

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Township of OPS.

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Township of SOMERVILLE.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

VILLAGE OF COBOCONK, IN SOMERVILLE.

S of King st. west S of Sturgeon st.

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Township of VERULAM.

Table with columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of advertising and Commission, Total, Patented or Not Patented.

VILLAGE OF COBOCONK, IN SOMERVILLE.

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Table for Village of WOODVILLE. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Village of BRACEBRIDGE. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Township of DRAPER. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Township of MACAULAY. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Township of McLEAN. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Township of OAKLEY. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

Table for Township of RIDOUT. Columns: Part of Lot, or Street, Lot, Con., Acres, Arrears, Costs of Advertising and Commission, Total.

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JAM B. KNOWLSON, Town Treasurer.

Treasurer's Sale of Lands.

FOR TAXES IN THE TOWN OF LINDSAY.

TOWN OF LINDSAY. Whereas by virtue of a warrant issued by the Mayor of the said Town bearing date the 9th day of November, 1888, and to me directed commanding me to levy upon the following lots or parcels of land for the arrears of taxes due thereon and costs, I hereby give notice that unless the said taxes and costs are sooner paid, I shall on Wednesday the Twentieth day of February, 1889, at the hour of One o'clock in the afternoon at the Court House in the Town of Lindsay, proceed to sell by Public Auction the said lands or as much thereof as may be sufficient to pay such arrears of taxes and all lawful charges incurred.

All the undermentioned lots are Patented.

Table with columns: Street, Lot, Part, Acres, Arrears, Cost of Advertising and Commission, Total.

JAM B. KNOWLSON, Town Treasurer.