

# COMIN' THRO' THE RYE

BY HELEN R. MATHEWS.

"No, no, honey! Maybe he's busy or he's out of town," she says, looking at her watch. "I'll call him in a few minutes. He'll be here in a jiffy. He's a poor hand at courting. There was a young fellow once came courting my sister Susan; his letters were beautiful, a perfect show, and when he came to see her, he was a miserable little fellow of a creature that it'd make you smile to look at. So he wrote me a letter and said 'I'll be here in a few minutes.' Well, he never came. I think your lover, Miss Nell, is one of them last."

"Nurs, I say, watching her as she sits in the boys' seats, 'do you remember, you used to say, 'I'll be here in a few minutes.' Well, he never came. I think your lover, Miss Nell, is one of them last.'"

"I feel my hat and jacket and go into the garden, leafless, sodden, miserable, that looked so much cheerful when I was in the place where he stood that day. Dolly came upon us with his untimely message. Yes, it was just here, and I hold out my hand, and I feel the hand of my young friend and smile. He was here only a few days ago, but where is he now? How lovely it is!

"I'll try and not be foolish," I say, my spirits rising as they always do when I have some one to talk to. "This past week has been so wretched I think I had almost learned to do it. I have learned the length and breadth, and the depth and height of that ugly word 'condemned.'"

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woman, whose misery lasts through the night, and whose tears are as cold as ice. I glance through the window, and find it in my heart to smile at its fustian pathos. I wonder if it is true that most of the men who are in the streets are menials from the great thieves in London to the poorest of the poor.

"You will go?" I ask, taking his hand between both mine. "O, George, but he will be too late. Something tells me that he is all over now. If you do find him, and he asks you who did it all, tell him 'Silvia,' and he'll be glad to see you."

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