

Acton Free Press

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H. H. KITTREDGE, BANKER, ACTON, ONTARIO.

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The best description of Gloves and Mitts in every variety of material and style are manufactured by us.



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We have recently published a new edition of Dr. Culverwell's Celebrated Essay on the radical and permanent cure of Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, Venereal Disease, etc.

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FLOUR, OF ALL KINDS, INCLUDING—Family Flour, Buckwheat Flour, Graham Flour.

MEALS, Corn Meal, Oat Meal, Cracked Wheat, Bran, Corn Shorts, Fine Shorts, Chopped Peas, Chopped Oats, Mixed Chop, Oats & Peas.

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THE FREE PRESS, ACTON, THURSDAY, July 14, 1881.

POETRY, THE MOTHER'S BOTHER.

'Oh, dear, what a bother is baby!' The careworn mother sighed out, As she looked at the thing on the carpet...

'Such a baby for getting in mischief!' She said, as she sat down to see, 'I'm busy from morning to bedtime, Yet the room's never tidy, I know, I'm always behind with my sewing; There's never a moment to rest, And she dropped her tired head on the table, With life and its worries opprest.

There's a slow, muffled sound on the pavement, She looks through the mist-clouded pane, A leave going by in the rain, It holds a small, flower-strewn basket, And then by her tears it is hid, As she thinks of the heartbroken whose darling Lies under the coffin's small lid.

She sees the poor mother sit weeping Alone at the coming of night, Laying for patterning footstep, She hears the little one's father, 'Weep softly, as strong men will, Alas, for the arms that are empty, And the house so strangely still!

And drops down all in tears, And the prayer that is made and wordless, The loving Father hears, No longer the child seems a 'bother,' And of home, without the baby, The dearest blessing of all!

THE WEDDING PRESENT, 'So,' said Aunt Deborah, severely eyeing her nephew, 'you are going to marry a sewing girl!'

'I am going to marry a young lady, Aunt Debby,' said he, 'who has been sensible enough occasionally to eke out the insufficient means of her family by a little honest and honorable work.'

Aunt Deborah shrugged her shoulders. She was a tall, high featured old woman, with Scotch-red hair, prominent cheek bones, and eyes that glittered like coils of jetty light in their cavernous sockets.

'I have the least doubt,' said he, 'that you will look pretty in anything you choose to wear.'

'Don't be a goose,' said Amy. And she set down at once, with her scissors and workbasket, for Miss Falkland's froufrou was by no means so extensive but that she had time enough to attend to these little details herself.

'But Miss Hortensia Waldron, the bride elect of Mr. Halbert Rockingham, Felix's elder brother, viewed the wedding gift of her husband's aunt with considerably less favor.

'Good gracious me!' said Miss Waldron, eyeing the ancient seal-skin wrap through a gold eye-glass, 'what does the old eccentricity mean by sending me such a rag as that?'

'And the mamma, the sister, and the French maid didn't find themselves prepared with an answer.

'There,' said Miss Hortensia, 'take the old thing to Mrs. Levi's, on seventh Avenue. She will give you something for it, I dare say, and I can lay it out in six-button gloves.'

'But, my dear,' remonstrated Mrs. Waldron, 'what will Halbert's Aunt Deborah think?'

'What she pleases,' said Miss Hortensia, with a toss of the head. 'But you needn't look so frightened, mamma—she will never know. How could she?'

'I do hate such stinginess,' said the sister.

'So do I,' said Hortensia, with emphasis. And Ma'amelle Therese, whose mother had been Aunt Deborah's humble friend and seamstress, and who was in that lady's secret service, carried off the jacket, not to Mrs. Levi's, on seventh Avenue, but back to its original donor.

'She don't want it, eh?' said Aunt Deborah. Ma'amelle Therese shrugged her shoulders. 'Oh, well, said the old lady, indifferently, 'just as she pleases.'

Early the next morning, while Aunt Deborah was yet drinking her coffee, in the main hall of the house, there came a knock at the door. It was Amy Falkland, flushed and lovely.

'El' 'F said Aunt Deborah. 'What's wanting?'

'It's the seal-skin jacket, please, Miss Rockingham,' said Amy, breathlessly. 'I was ripping it up to put in a new lining, and there, quilted into a square panel at the very back of the old brown silk facing, I found—a thousand-dollar treasury bond!'

'Nonsense!' said Aunt Deborah. 'Such things only happen in old legends.'

'But indeed it has happened to me,' said Amy. 'And Felix and I agreed that the money didn't belong to us, and so I have brought it back. Look!'

'Kiss me, my dear,' said Aunt Deborah, setting down her coffee cup. 'You are wrong—the money does belong to you. I put it there myself with the express intention that you should find it. I put another one into the jacket that I gave the girl who is going to marry Halbert. But she'll never get it now.' And Aunt Deborah chuckled. 'Oh,' cried Amy, 'do you really mean to give us—Felix and me—all this money! A—thou—sand dollars! and she opened her eyes very wide.

So the bride elect presented herself to Aunt Deborah, blushing, pretty, and confused, that selfsame evening.

'So you're going to marry my nephew,' said Aunt Deborah, almost in the words wherewith she had catechized Felix in the morning.

'Yes,' confessed the pretty little culprit, scarcely daring to lift her eyes from the ground.

'And I suppose you expect to be very happy?'

'Yes!'

'What fools people are!' said Aunt Deborah, in a general way. 'Well, my dear, I've no pearls and diamonds to give away, and if I had you wouldn't know what to do with them. There's an old seal-skin jacket that I've worn a few times. Take that. You're handy with the needle, and you can easily fit it up to do a great many winters' service.'

'Thank you, Aunt Deborah,' said Amy, with a pretty little courtesy.

'You may kiss me, my dear,' said the old lady, releasing a little under the sunshine of the soft blue eyes and timid voice.

And Amy put up her cherry lips to the old spinster's thin and wrinkle-scamed face.

'I've given your brother Halbert's bride elect just such another sacque,' said Miss Deborah to her nephew. 'I dare say she expects a set of jewels, or a thousand-dollar necklace, or some such piece of frivolity and nonsense—but she'll find herself mistaken. I intend to show no partiality to my nephews.'

Amy Falkland took home the venerable old fur garment, which gave signs of long and hard service, and viewed it with a sad eye.

'It is old,' said she, 'but there is a deal of wear in it yet.'

'I should say,' he heard Felix, 'it was only fit for the rag bag.'

'But you are not a judge of fur,' said Amy. 'Now, when I have ripped it up, sewed it over again, and relined it, you will see what a pretty and substantial garment I shall have.'

Felix looked admiringly at her. 'I haven't the least doubt,' said he, 'that you will look pretty in anything you choose to wear.'

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'Oh,' cried Amy, 'do you really mean to give us—Felix and me—all this money! A—thou—sand dollars! and she opened her eyes very wide.

'I do really mean it,' said Aunt Deborah, smiling down upon the fresh, primrose like face.

Miss Hortensia Waldron was much chagrined when the rumor of the thousand-dollar treasury bonds that were hidden away in the two old seal-skin jackets reached her ears. She sat at once to Mrs. Levi, but the jacket, as might have been expected, was never recovered.

'And I do believe,' said Mrs. Halbert Rockingham, 'that that is the reason Aunt Deborah makes such an absurd deal of Felix's china doll of a wife. I wish I hadn't been in such a hurry about the seal-skin jacket.'

The Man Who Watched, A day or two ago, soon after the hour of noon, an individual who seemed to be laboring under considerable excitement entered a grocery store on Michigan avenue and asked for a private word with the proprietor.

When the request had been granted he explained:

'I believe myself to be an injured husband, and I want to verify my suspicions by watching a house on the other street. This I can best do from the rear of your store. Have you any objections to my taking a seat back there by the open window?'

The grocer granted the favor and the agitated stranger walked back and took a seat on a box of codfish and began his watch. His presence had almost been forgotten when he returned to the front of the store with hasty step and quivering voice and said:

'Great Shakespeare! but I'll kill her! Yes, I'll shoot her through the heart!'

'Your wife?'

'Yes, my idolized Mary! I can no longer doubt her guilt, I'll be a murderer in less than ten minutes!'

The grocer tried to detain him, but he broke away and rushed around the corner. Not hearing anything further of him for half an hour the grocer began to investigate, and he discovered that fourteen rolls of butter, a crock of lard, two hams, and other stuff had left the back of the store by way of the window at which the watchful husband was stationed.

They Were One, A Gratiot avenue doctor received a call the other evening from a couple who had not been in this country over a year, and who had decided to checkmate any danger from smallpox by vaccination.

The husband bared his left arm and the operation was soon completed. He then rolled up his other sleeve and held out his right arm.

'One arm is enough,' replied the doctor.

'But I guess I take two of 'em,' was the reply.

'What for?'

'Why, die one is for me, and do order one for my frow. It is better dot I catches all der smallpox myself. Go ahead mit your stabling.'

The doctor did not succeed in convincing them that one could not be vaccinated for both, and the man finally refused to let the doctor vaccinate his arm.

Mexican Women, The Mexican ladies are exemplary wives and fond and loving mothers. Their home to them is their entire world; while husbands the idols of their hearts; while their children are angels which make their homes their heaven. Yet, strange to say, there is no word in the Spanish language that can express the idea conveyed in our dear old hearty Anglo-Saxon word "home." The nearest approach to it is found in a home, which was translated "hospicio" in the Spanish language.

NOW.

The now the balmy sephyr blows, The petals from the crimson rose, And the glasses from the post's nose.

The now beside the railing see Fair maidens stroll right merrily Counting with the festive be.

The now, at eve, that Jack and Kate Till ten o'clock from half past eight Swung happily on the garden gate.

The now upon the mountain top Both George to Angeline pop— 'Tis now—'tis now just time to stop.

Measuring the Baby, Don't measure the baby! Do you see that name written in lead-pencil on the door-casing? Well, that's where we measured the baby.

Against the cottage wall, Against the door-casing, A little one had grown.

That was so like our baby that I cut that verse out, and pasted it on the blank leaf of the big Bible. Then Jenny said there were more verses that suited him, but after getting the full drift of the poetry, I most wished we hadn't seen it, but I took two more verses and let them go with the others; here they are:

His eyes were wide as blue bells, (That's little Jim exactly.) His mouth like a sandewer nabob, (That's him again.) Two little bare feet, like funny white mice, Peeped out from his snowy gown.

And we thought with a thrill of rapture That yet has a touch of pain, When I was round with her roses, We'll measure the baby again.

Now if it had stopped there, as I expected it would, I'd have nothing to say, and there'd be another mark on the door-casing "so much higher," but—well, what's the use of beating about the bush in this way. You see there's no mark there, and I want't any superlatives after all. I went to day-jump the room where he lay, all white and peaceful-like, and so still that it was a sin to cry and disturb his sleep, and I added the rest of the poetry, that Jenny had kept without knowing why, to the old Bible:

We measured the sleeping baby With ribbons white as snow, For the shining rosewood cradle That waited him below.

And out of the darkened chamber We went with a childless moon, To the height of the window angels, Our little one had grown.

That tells the story of little Jim better than I could tell it; that is why there's a hush all over the house, and the sun is too bright, and the birds have stopped singing, and we can never again measure the baby, for he has gone "so high" that we can only reach him by the golden ladder of death.

Paris, Whole humpson is better than ragged velvet.

'Ambition often plays the wrestler's trick of raising a man up, merely to fling him down.

When a man speaks the truth you may count pretty surely that he possesses most other virtues.

Some men are with their character much as they are with their money; the less they have the more careful they have to be.

In the man or woman whose childhood has known carouses there is always a fibre of memory that can be touched to gentle issues.

Any man may walk up to a cannon's mouth; but it is only one more and there that will walk out against men's opinions because he thinks it is right.

No man can stilt himself up, or seek applause on (fields in high places, or loud praise. If he belongs to the front he will get there in time, and will remain there when he does arrive.

Mexican Women, The Mexican ladies are exemplary wives and fond and loving mothers. Their home to them is their entire world; while husbands the idols of their hearts; while their children are angels which make their homes their heaven. Yet, strange to say, there is no word in the Spanish language that can express the idea conveyed in our dear old hearty Anglo-Saxon word "home." The nearest approach to it is found in a home, which was translated "hospicio" in the Spanish language.

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