

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1919

THE HOME HEART

"Beyond my cottage door
The great wind runs,
And through it sighs and sighs,
Through months of wind and snow
And summer suns."

I hear these happy songs
Far down the night,
To me they are sad,
To me wonder far
Holds my sight.

But here I toll and pray,
Years round to year;
The cabin walls are gone,
Blown vapours in snows
Till all is clear.

I, too, would close my door
And journey far,
But the hills that set
Close bounds to all regret,
To dream a bair.

Yet when I close the door
I hear Love say,
"This heart will never remain"—
And oh, to vain
When Love says, "Stay!"

—Arthur Wallace Peach.

When Mother Graduated

By Mary E. Bamford

JUNE HAMILTON hurried down the steps and away to the office. How queer that mother's lips had quivered just a little during the story!

Mother had not used to say much about her girlhood. June knew that mother had been the daughter of a carpenter, and there had been a number of other difficulties. Mother had gone to public school, but there were not many academies for girls in that state in those early days, and such few academies as there were were not expensive. Mother had studied all she could. It was not until she was almost twenty that she could attend an academy.

"I studied through the course, and I graduated. Some girls who finished, but I cost someone to graduate, and I hadn't the money. So I never graduated anywhere," her mother had said.

June had always been a little quiver of the lips quickly suppressed. But June had felt a sudden, surprised pang. Did mother really care so much about her education?

June took her car. She sat thinking of that other girl—mother—who had studied so faithfully.

She wondered if she had cried by herself, because she hadn't graduated after all—thought the daughter. "I think that academy might have given her her diploma!"

"Mother used to help with my studies, too," added June. "Remember, she studied in the part of a debate once, in high school. It was about the execution of Charles I. She used to help me with my algebra, too. And she used to read father's medical library. I remember. She always read and studied."

There were only two of them, June and her mother. Her mother had been a physician, and after her mother's death, June had tried to earn as best she could. Yet some time now she had been secretary in an office.

"I wish I had more time in former times, and had the chance that girls have now," thought June.

The business of the day swept her mother from her mind. But that night, when June lay in bed, she looked at mother questioning. What was that she was reading? A book of biography.

"Mother knew more than the thousands of girls who graduate," she thought. "She isn't old! Folks her age do graduate. Some institutions now admit women. I wish there was something that she could graduate from! I do believe she cares—a little."

For weeks June evolved the idea in her mind of her mother being a graduate. There were enough courses, of course, but that was not like being given a place on a platform, and having a diploma handed to you, as was done.

June looked at prospectuses. She tried to think. Mother couldn't go away to college. At last, a plan began to form. Some fifty miles away at a seaside resort, there was a summer school was held yearly. There was a course of study covering two years. June wrote to the secretary. A reply came. "If you can pass the first year's written examination, she can begin the second year's study at once, in the winter by correspondence. If you pass, you can graduate next summer. Come down to us to graduate with the others, if you choose."

June was Mrs. Hamilton's amanuensis when she outlined her plan.

"Why, June, what an idea! A woman my age graduate?"

"You could! I know you could!" cried June. "Do try the first examination, mother."

A flush of excitement, a kindling interest was in the mother's face. Her daughter believed her!

The examination questions were sent for, which her mother answered in writing. After while word came that the examination had been successful.

"I know you could! I know you could!" cried June triumphantly. Now, you'll graduate next summer, mother! You and I'll get down there, and I shall see you graduate."

Her mother was almost as excited as June.

"I didn't know I could do it," said June.

It was the beginning of a happy winter. Mother read and studied, and she and June talked over the books of history and poetry and science. By springtime, June had learned her wages and bought a lovely new silk dress of pale gray for her mother.

"You'll have that to graduate in," said June. "Do you remember how we used to sit up late at night, and you made it up so nicely! And now I shall sit in the audience and see you graduate in all your glory."

But the early spring brought its trouble. June's employer failed. His money grew less.

"I say my mother said, 'I guess we can't go this summer. They'll send me my diploma by mail, instead.'

"You shall go and graduate," cried June. "We'll manage somehow!" But when the time came, June had been prevented, as her mother's girlhood one had been, by lack of money.

Anxiously June sought work, yet after a week's search found nothing. Within about six weeks before graduation time, she found a good position. "Now we'll manage it," June exulted. "I'll get my first job."

time before you have to go. We don't owe any bills. You have your graduation dress. Well manage it! You'll go and graduate in honor."

"Not unless you can go too," June protested her mother.

"I didn't want to ask for a vacation soon after getting this job," was the reply. "Besides, there won't be money enough for us both to go and board there two weeks. But you must go."

The weeks sped. Much joyful news!

Mother stood so high in the correspondence examination that she was soon asked to write essays and test for a vacation.

"I shall write my essay about my mother's trip around Cape Horn in a sailing vessel in the early 1900s," she told her mother. "I have her old journal. I can send my essay by mail, if we can't go. I don't know but I'd better tell them there's some doubt about our coming."

"You are going," said June confidently. "You will start that essay yourself to your admiring audience."

"I don't know if I have time to go," faltered her mother. "After my board there I shouldn't take a bit of comfort without you, June."

"Yes, you will, after your good-bye kiss, and the kiss of the mother at home. And after you come back, we'll frame your diploma! Now please, mother, do go! I shall be more disappointed than you if we don't have time to go."

It took a great deal of persuasion, but at last the suit case was packed, the silk all very carefully wrapped and stored, the gloves and the gloves were purchased. June kissed her mother good-bye at the breakfast table.

"Have a nice time," she said cheerfully. "I'll be home two weeks from the office to go to the station, but I'll keep thinking of you."

It was a long time two weeks for June to be away. She worked all day, getting her meals at restaurants, coming home to an empty house. Mother wrote, of course, but she was busy with her work, and June was alone with the same tasks the day on the evening of which were the graduation exercises. June went to her office as usual in the morning and tried not to think of her mother.

"I'm a useful daughter, how I wish you were here! There won't be a soul in the audience to care when I graduate with others. And I have no money, my girl, my girl has earned. I never thought of graduating without my girl there."

June plunged into the details of a busy day at the office. If she thought any more about the matter, she would cry. About ten o'clock a hand was laid on her shoulder.

"I'm a useful daughter at the office," said another girl. "I do this."

She slipped into the chair vacated by June, who panted and frightened, awaiting the results of the graduation.

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