

The Free Press Short Story

THE BRIDE'S BOOK

ELLEN D. MASTERS

I UNDERSTOOD that the boy on the board sent here for a preacher was single. Old Mr. Kellam, treasurer of the church, passed by the porch of the Stedley farmhouse, to make this remark, which was like the most important bit of news which is kept for the postscript of a letter. He had obviously come over to bring the Stedley a complimentary mess of his extra early Irish potatoes; but the new preacher was more on his mind than the new potatoes.

Uncle Ambrose, "but some of us, I for one, couldn't account for a lady being here at the parsonage unless the preacher had stolen a march on us. Uncle Ambrose laughed and Nancy laughed with him. She laughed again when the caller informed her that the preacher must not marry until the church was finished. "Isn't that a splendid idea!" she exclaimed. "Eldred will work like anything to get it finished this summer. I'll go now to show him these beautiful potatoes and tell him to come, right down. Take this rocker, Mr. Mr. Kellam."

Somehow, with quick intuition Nancy sensed that this was a crucial hour—that much of Eldred's career at Briarfield depended upon Mr. Kellam's approval or disapproval. "I think he must be the oldest and most influential member of Briarfield Church," whispered Nancy to her brother. "Somehow I feel like all the people were standing by while he weighs us, you, in the balance."

How I dread to leave them all, Eldred, your people, I mean! said Nancy as time for the opening of school drew near. "Somehow when you feel like people need you and want you, it makes you love them and it makes you happy. I have been happy all summer, but I didn't expect to be. Isn't Amy coming soon? I wish she could come right away."

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2 CHOICE QUALITIES - Red Label & Orange Pekoe

THE MISUNDERSTOOD ORATOR The orator in the Park was holding forth with great fervor and constantly punctuating his discourse with references to Darwin's Origin of Species.

FOOD—THE MODERN HOME REMEDY By Barbara B. Brooks Years ago children frugged to school with a bag of asafetida tied around their necks to ward off illness.

What is an intelligent balance of food? Practically speaking, if the day's meals include cereals, two or more vegetables besides potatoes (one fresh, if possible), fruit, plenty of milk (sweet for children and pint for adults is ideal), and some form of protein (cheese, eggs, meat, nuts and fish), besides the usual bread, butter and dessert they will likely be balanced.

MEAL WITHOUT ROUGHAGE Cream of Tomato Soup Lamb Chops Mashed Potatoes White Bread Butter Custard

MEAL WITH ROUGHAGE Cream of Tomato Soup Lamb Chops Mashed Potatoes String Beans or Head Lettuce Bran Muffins Butter Stewed Prunes

TIME TO DUCK "Hain't that fellow written a book?" "Yes, and if you aren't careful he'll give you a copy."

Gas in the Stomach Is Dangerous Remember the girl named Mrs. Charlie Plumley. She isn't any older than a high school girl, and she has a little baby who is sick.

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