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Back to The Farm

Aunt Madge took the twins back to the farm a few days before their mother and daddy left for England. They all agreed that the children wouldn't feel the parting quite as keenly if they didn't actually see the train that would take their parents to Montreal where they would get on the big steamship to go across the ocean. So, instead, it was mother and daddy who watched the twins climb on the train which would take them back to the country.

They were filled with excitement because of a letter which Grandad had written to Jeannie a few days before and which warned them of a surprise he had in store for them.

"I have a present for you and Jock he said in the letter, "I hope you will Professional Graduate of Owen A. like it. I won't tell you anything about it except that it is yellow and it came on Hallowe'en."

> "It must be a pumpkin lantern," laughed Jeannie.

"I think it is a yellow box to keep my tools in," said Jock.

Aunt Madge did not say anything, but she smiled because she had had a

They had a big treat on the trip as Aunt Madge took them into the din-Richmond Hill - Ont. ing car for dinner-dinner at night with the lights shining on silver and We solicit orders for cut glass and a smiling black man to bring them their food. How they enjoyed the simple meal Aunt Madge casions which will be ordered for them and what a lot of questions they asked her about the man with the black face when they went to their places in the other car.

"We couldn't ask you when we were in the dining room, Auntie, 'cos he might hear and perhaps be . horough Eye Examinations sorry his face is black," Jeannie said, and Glasses That Fit Perfectly. and Aunt Madge explained about the Special Attention to Children's Eyes. black skinned people who live in Africa and that the negroes who live Phone Hudson 0461 for Appointment. in this country are their children and grandchildren.

> It was late when they reached the little station and Uncle John was there with the car to meet them. The twins were a little disappointed because he hadn't brought a horse and buggy instead but they enjoyed the fast drive through the frosty air. When they turned in at the big gate they saw something that made them laugh with delight. For on each gate post there was a big grinning Jack-o Lantern with a light inside.

"I'll bet Grandad made them for us didn't he Uncle John?" they asked.

"Yes he did," said Uncle John, "do you want me to lift them off the posts so you can take them to the house?"

This was just what they wanted so they rode up the lane each holding a lighted pumpkin.

Grandad heard them coming up the lane and came down the steps of the old house to meet them. Mrs. Murphy was there too with some hot cocoa ready for them and she said there were hot bottles in their beds to warm their feet.

Jeannie was whispering to grandad. 'Surely you may," he laughed, "you wait here and I'll bring the yellow present to show you."

He went out to the woodshed and came back in a minute with something pit patting behind him.

"A dog!" they whispered rapturously, "Oh, Grandad."

The big golden collie walked chimney. straight to the twins and gravely shook hands with them.

"Isn't he a darling," said Jeannie, "where did he come from?"

"There was a family who moved away from the village last week and | Ink spots on the fingers may be didn't want to take the dog. You can easily removed by rubbing with a litsee that he is used to children. I tle ammonia and then rinsing the forgot to ask them his name so I've hands thoroughly. just been calling him Boy."

"Could we name him then?" asked Jeannie eagerly, "I know, let's call him "Jack-o-Lantern" 'cos he came on Hallowe'en."

"We can't call him Jack," said Jock, "or he'll get mixed with me. We'll call him "Lanty" for short."

"Well, send Lanty to bed now ring." | chickens," said Aunt Madge, "and come to bed yourselves before your ly; but if you are really keen on seewater bottles get cold.

SUMMER MEMORIES

Of all the beautiful pictures That hang on memory's wall, Are those of a by-gone summer That seem the best of all. There are wheat fields, ripe and golden, Where brown-eyed Susans grow, And apple trees, gnarled and olden, With dandelions thick below.

Winter seems to be passing so quickly, the first part of February was so lovely that it seemed like a foretaste of spring and stirred up all kinds of memories of summer. After the worst of the winter is over it is always a long wait until the balmy days of spring really arrive and a few mild days make country people as restless as the wild ducks and geese which will soon be honking their way northward. We want the winter to go with a rush and let us get out on the land at our age-old task of seed / planting.

The cheering February sunshine revives a lot of memories which can turn the year back to summer again. Away in a dusty corner of my brain I have stored a collection of pleasant pictures which I proceed to shine up and enjoy for awhile.

Exhibit A .- A long flower border where the sun has just called the first snowdrops and scillas into bloom.

Exhibit B.—The children running across the lawn, their hands and skirts full of dandelions.

Exhibit C.—The cherry tree in bridal array with a Baltimore oriole singing madly among the branches, his orange and black flashing vividly against the white blossoms.

My own lazy self lying on the tender green grass under an apple tree (where at present there is a three foot drift of snow), while the children make dandelion chains and the birds and bees work busily in the b:ossoms above

A little lake that lies like a jewel in its setting of giant cedars; a crane stands on one leg in the warm shallows near the shore and king-fishers flash past to dive for their unwary prey.

The soft green of a field where the oats have sprung up overnight after a warm rain.

Bob-o-linl soaring and sprinkling their golden song above a field of daisies. A curly-headed two-year-old asleep under a blossom-

ing spirea bush, a great yellow cat asleep in his arms. A long sandy shore where six children sit in the hot

sunshine with their toes in the water. A crystal spring that rushes down between high banks then through a swamp where violets hide and ferns trail

their slender fingers in the foam. A field of golden wheat, billowing in the warm wind, and Brown eyed Susans straggling along the fence.

A single clump of white nicotiana sending incense to heaven in the moon light: Here one might kneel and worship as at a shrine.

Children splashing in a river that runs shallow over white sand while giant elms arch overhead.

An exquisite pale green Luna moth fluttering on a window screen, trying to get in to the light.

Cows, sleek and contented, wandering home from green pastures at sunset.

And so on, ad infinitum. Whenever I see anything worth remembering I tuck it away in a pigeon hole in my mind for future reference. At present I am collecting some nice cold snow scenes for use in July.

Imagination and dreams are not altogether a waste of time. If we can make ourselves forget the bad weather this way even for a little while it is surely a good thing to cultivate.

Household Hints

If you wish to remove the odor of onions from a pan in which they have been fried, pour a little vinegar into the pan and let it get hot.

When washing a sweater coat sew a strip of white cotton down each side of the front. This will keep the | See Us Before You Go To The Rink! two front edges from stretching.

A piece of blotting paper put on a wax stain and rubbed with a hot iron will soon remove the stain.

If a chimney catches fire throw hone 167 - Richmond Hill common salt on the fire, not down the

A few zinc clippings or a tablespoonful of saltpetre placed on the fire occasionally will keep the chimney free from soot.

Her Royal Highness "I have a new cook coming on Mon-

"Oh, my dear, how exciting! What are you going to wear?"

Anything To Oblige "Do let me see your engagement "Sorry. I've just returned it to Bil-

ing it I can easily get it back again."

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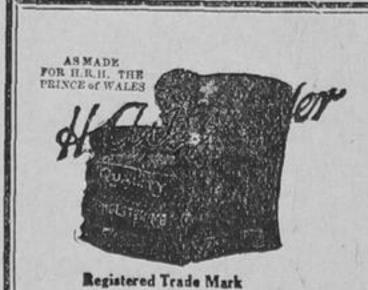
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