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Her Vision

It was 7 o'clock in the morning, and the narrow street in front of the factory was full of hurrying workers—women mostly—from all stations and conditions of life. Some of them had lost hope and happiness, and were merely plodding toward an unseen goal.

Of these was Monnie Trevor. She was twenty-three years old—a slim little girl, with a pointed white face, half obscured by a great mass of dark hair. Her eyes were dark, too, with circles around them.

As Monnie neared the factory building she heard a step close behind her, and a woman caught up with her.

"D'ye know the new foreman's due to-day?" she asked.

"I don't care what he is, he can't be any marse'n Fowler, I hated that man like pizen."

The machines were on the second floor—two long rows of them. The building had not been intended for factory purposes, and so there was only one window to two or three machines. On sunless days in the summer and all through the winter the lights had to be turned on. The room always was too cold in winter and it was an oven in summer.

Monnie went quickly to her machine and sat down. A pile of work awaited her. She made coils at 2 cent a dozen. Sometimes she earned more than a dollar a day.

All over the great barnlike room belts began to purr and machines to run. Monnie turned on the power and began her day's work.

She sat facing the wall. The next girl had a window and Monnie got the light from it.

Monnie had worked in the shirt factory four years and the management of her machine and materials had become almost mechanical. She did not need to look fixedly at her work. Besides her work there was nothing to see save the wall before her, but she looked at that and her young imagination formed a picture upon its marred surface. The longest crack was a crack that pranked merrily along willows and across fragrant meadows. Alongside the creek was an old white farmhouse under budding apple trees, which presently would burst forth into lovely, pale bloom. In the door of the farmhouse stood a young woman with a child in her arms, watching a man who was plowing in a nearby field. At every turn of the furrow he swung his hat to the woman, and the woman and the child responded joyously.

Once Monnie had seen the reality of her vision. It was the day four years before when she came to this big town to begin work in the factory. The train had been among the hills for an hour when suddenly it swept out into a peaceful little valley. There was the creek, the blue sky, the brooding hills and the farmhouse under the apple trees. But no woman stood in the open door, no man plowed in the field. The place looked deserted. It seemed to be waiting—waiting for her.

Never had the vision been so clear as upon this morning. Never had it been so bright. The girl smiled and the other was broken by an excited whisper from the girl on her right. "Look, Monnie! There's the foreman, and—Oh, heavens, I've stitched my finger!"

Monnie shut off the power on her machine and turned to help bind up the bleeding finger.

"What's happened here?" The voice was deep, quiet and gentle, so unlike the harsh tones of the former foreman that both girls looked up with a start of surprise. Monnie saw a clean, pale, square face with steady eyes and a firm mouth. The eyes met hers fairly.

"Lizzie stitched her finger," she explained.

"What's that you're putting on it—something? It's something here that's better than camphor. Try it."

He gave Monnie a bottle. She thanked him and he went on.

A moment after her machine was whirling and she was trying to make up for the time she had lost. The picture was again on the wall, but between it and her was the clear, kind face of the new foreman. She never had seen a man's face so kind and so clear. She wished that her plowman had that face. In time she learned that the new foreman's name was Abel Otis. That was as much as she knew concerning him. He had few words for the work people, but it was said that he got more work and better work done than had ever been done in the factory.

The weather drifted into extreme heat and the girls at the machines worked with sweat on their pale foreheads. One day Lizzie fainted. The next day electric fans were installed, and everybody said she had the foreman to thank for it. One of the fans was fixed upon Monnie's expanse of wall. He stopped to see if it was running properly and spoke to her with a smile, saying: "You ought to have a window, but this is the best I can do for you."

She lifted her eyes, pushed back her burden of dark hair. "Thank you, you are very kind," she murmured.

"I'm not kind, I'm only doing my duty under difficulties. It shames me to see how hard you girls work here and the pay you get and the kind of hole—" he paused, his blue eyes like steel. "Well, never mind," he added, smiled again and passed on.

There began to be a rumor, Monnie heard it. The foreman was quitting Saturday.

"I guess he's had enough of it," Lizzie confided.

Monnie's small face was white under her masses of dark hair. Her heart felt lifeless and heavy. She sat at her machine and stitched uncomprehendingly. Over and over the machinery said one thing: "He's going away; he's going away!"

It was a terrific afternoon. The air was torrid, full of the presage of storm. The fans only stirred up the heat.

The storm broke at 4 o'clock. The room grew so dark that the lights had to be switched on. Lightning played terribly. The nervier girls kept at work. To Monnie storm or calm was one, since he was going away. She was bending over her work turning an unruly corner—and then she was lying on somebody's



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cough and a woman and a doctor she had never seen before were with her.

"I feel all right now," she said, hastily. She thought she had fainted just as Lizzie had.

The doctor looked pleased. Close call, he said to the woman. "He patting Monnie's shoulder. 'You're a live girl all right now,' he laughed, 'but you came near being a dead one.'"

"You were struck by lightning," explained the woman. She shuddered.

"Oh!" said Monnie. She shuddered.

She nodded. Somehow it did not seem strange that he should call her dear. "And the others—Lizzie?" she asked.

"You were the only one. I brought you here."

They were alone in the room. Suddenly he whipped a little colored photograph from his pocket and put it in her hands. "That's home and I'm going back there Saturday," he said. "Do you suppose you could stand it to live on a farm, Monnie?"

"I could stand it to live anywhere—with you," Monnie answered.

She looked down at the picture. Then she forgot that she had just been struck by lightning; that she was prickly all over and that her head ached. She forgot even that Abel Otis was watching her. For the place in the picture was the place she had seen in her vision.

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FOUGHT WITH BARE FISTS

Strange Weapons That Warriors Have Used in Battles of Long Ago.

In all ages the use of primitive means of defence and offence has been a mark of warfare. When Wat Tyler's men of Kent marched over London Bridge and scared the city and court almost to death, their arms were sickles and bill-hooks and scythes, and a few blacksmith's tools. The same remark applies to the arming of the men of Devon and Somerset at the battle of Sedgemoor, the last real battle fought on English ground. But even in these days of arms of precision there have been many cases where these scientific tools have been discarded in favor of something much more primitive.

For instance, at the battle of Inkerman, which was a soldier's battle fought in a mist almost without leadership, many of the English soldiers, finding their fire useless and their bayonets untrustworthy and bent, went in with their fists in true British style. Bluejackets have more than once followed this example when a punitive force has been landed to punish the natives. The tars have gone for them with fists and belaying pins, possibly feeling that anything more deadly would be more than the occasion required.

The hand has on many occasions joined in the fray. It is reported to have occurred in the late war in the Balkans, during the later fighting which took place between the late allies, Bulgarians and Serbians. The former, were greatly outnumbered, and seeing them getting the worst of it, the band went into the melee with their instruments, and many a Serbian was laid low by a blow from the butt-end of a scimitar, spearhead, and trombone, not to mention the formidable bassoon.

There is a story about a peasant who defended his hearth against a horde of the enemy with a three-legged stool, and another of a woman who routed the enemy on the double by overturning a stand of bee hives in her garden, but certainly one of the most remarkable weapons on record was the big saucepan which it is credibly said a rusty Turk brandished with great effect at the battle of Widdin. Since Samson's use of the jawbone of an ass there has never been surely a stranger weapon.

In one of the fierce actions in the Peninsular war ammunition ran short, and many shifts were resorted to in order to make up for the lack of bullets. The chief means were buttons. There were not many left on the soldier's uniforms when the fight was over. To-day, of course, a soldier could not do this, for all the rifles are breech-loaders. But in this very same battle it is reported that a soldier took a razor from his haversack, rammed it down and fired it after the flying French cavalry. Evidently that cavalry had a close shave.

Emperor And Chef.

Mescoffier, the famous chef, cooked for the German emperor when he stayed aboard the mammoth liner, the Imperator, last year. After dinner he called for the great gastro-nomic artist and complimented him with his excellent cuisine. Mescoffier thinking it a wonderful opportunity for doing his country, France a turn replied: "Sire, I hope your health will permit you to reign long enough to bring about the greatest service to humanity in the world, the rapprochement of Germany and France."

It is a cynical commentary on the honesty of the emperor's intentions to note that his reply was to assure M. Mescoffier that this was his greatest desire, and one for which he had worked the hardest, but that unfortunately it was very difficult and very hard to see his good intentions misinterpreted.

M. Mescoffier responded with the remark that though the times might not always be favorable to good ideas he trusted that for the happiness of civilization such a rapprochement would be realized and that it would crown the emperor's reign. The Kaiser listened seemingly most sympathetic to the great chef and shook him warmly by the hand—and the next day no doubt he consulted his war chiefs about making war against France still more certain!

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