

To a Little Huswife.

O little Huswife clean and spruce
Thy use one heart-divine;
A rosy apple, full of face,

VAN DYCK'S MADONNA; OR THE SLEEP-WALKER.

In one of the splendidly decorated saloons of St. James was assembled a group of young and lovely girls,

Among the blooming group, the youngest was remarkable for the simplicity of dress and the quiet modesty of her whole appearance.

The habits and manners of Lucy contrasted strongly with those of her companions, who had been habituated to more independence and liberty.

now blushed with pleasure at the reply of Van Dyck. As her soft eyes rested approvingly on his face,

"Well, you shall see. Her Majesty wishes to renew the ornaments of her chapel, so you will be fully employed.

"This is all very well, you are proud and we are not; but nevertheless, those honors are conditional."

"No, madam; if the patronage of Her Majesty is offered me only on those conditions, I fear I shall not obtain it."

"And why not?" "Because I shall not gain the prize," replied he, with an expression of sadness, which was indignantly reflected on the face of Lucy.

"Why do you refuse this honor—do you fear to fail?"

"No, madam; but how shall I represent, as she should be represented, the mother of the Saviour? Where shall I find a model?"

"The Virgin herself, Madam!"

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"It would be difficult to say how this figure had left the palace and penetrated so far; but she must have been well acquainted with all the turnings.

"Oh, surprise! oh, joy! this being, so calm, so beautiful, is Lucy! The deplorable artist who had been unable to retrace her features on his canvas, now beheld a living model before his eyes."

What could have induced her to come? What idea could have given her the courage and resolution? He threw himself on his knees before her, but Lucy, motioning him to rise, pointed to his pencil.

life—in a few minutes he created the most beautiful and most pure of virgins.

When the young girl saw that after tracing her features he was occupied in imparting to his picture the soul which animated him, she rose silently, and with a calm and assured step left the monastery by the same road she had come.

Van Dyck, with wondering eyes and oppressed breathing, made in the slightest effort to detain her. In his eyes, she was no longer mortal, and in her departure he thought he saw the Madonna returning to her native skies.

It was a part of the duty of the Dowager Duchess to open the billets addressed to the young ladies confined to her charge.

Her prayers were of no avail; a single night of respite was alone accorded her, and she was commanded to sleep in the apartment of the Duchess to avoid further scandal.

At midnight, Lucy rose as before. The Duchess was roused from her unquiet sleep, and called all the ladies to witness the confirmation of her suspicions.

Thus unconsciously had she served as a model to an artist who fully repaid in love what she had given him in renown.

Not long after, there was celebrated at St. Paul's the union of Van Dyck and Lucy the daughter of the noble Count Ruthven de Gorry.

Our Fighting Editor.

A fighting editor being a necessary evil in every well conducted newspaper office, we entered into an agreement with a gentleman from Arkansas, some time since, who offered to conduct the sanguinary department of this paper at five dollars a difficulty, and now have the pleasure of announcing that he is ready for business.

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He was a child at the time and did not, therefore, take such an active part in his christening as he would have done had the ceremony been delayed a few years.

Clutching the white choker villain by the throat with one hand, he seized a hairpin from the maternal head with the other, and jabbed his reverence in the stomach.

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