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BY HOYT

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Dora Rushton's Romance.

Bromley is a delightful little village, nestled down peacefully beside a broad river, full of neat cottages, tiny, well-kept gardens, and long avenues of elms.

No roar of machinery distracts the ear, no army of labor is daily marshaled by the clang of the factory bell. Invention has kept aloof from smiling field and shady street, reluctant to disturb the dreamy beauty that lingers in every nook and corner of the quaint old town.

It is hardly to be wondered at that Dora Rushton loved her home, and believed that no spot this side of the antipodes could compare with it for loveliness. Though it must be confessed that Dora's experience was somewhat limited, being confined, outside her native village, to the neighboring town of Westwood, whose Eden-like simplicity had vanished with the entrance of the serpent, steam. So, naturally, Bromley and Westwood each vaunted itself on what the other lacked—progress and quiet.

And if Dora was firm in the faith that Bromley was the prettiest place in America, all the youth of her acquaintance were equally convinced that Dora was the prettiest girl in Bromley. The merriest, best-tempered, busiest little thing in the world; not a bit vain, but simple and natural as the children who swarmed like bees about her, she was a general favorite and universal pet with young and old. Every body loved her—every body, that is, with one exception: her grandmother.

Now of course this looks as if Dora turned a sunny side to the world at large and kept a shadier one for home. But if you have painted on your mental canvas a poor, forlorn, loveless old creature, just strike your brush across it, and come and look at Grandma Gardner. Did you ever see anything more like the ill-natured old fairy of your nursery tales than those little black eyes snapping out from under a huge cap border, those yellow, wrinkled cheeks, and that hooked nose and chin that look as if they would grind whatever came between them? And, trust me, nearer acquaintance does not dispel the illusion.

Alas for age that is unlovely! when the crown of silver rests upon a brow that has not gained the peace it typifies, and no higher love and hope have replaced those passionate ones youth buried long ago!

But Grandma Gardner's trials had been many. She had outlived her children, the sole compensations of a most unhappy marriage. Her only son went down before her agonized eyes in that treacherous river now flowing so calmly past her door; while Lois, her daughter, the beauty of Bromley, who might have wedded where she chose, who plucked down hearts to pleasure her, as you might leaves from yonder bough, perversely fell in love with a young good-for-nothing from New York, with nothing under heaven to recommend him but his handsome face.

During the few troublous years of her married life, Lois obstinately refused to leave her husband. But when—as the Bromley gossips whispered—he came to his death in some disgraceful way, his widow returned to her native village the little shadow of the bright-cheeked girl who had left it.

And paler and frailer she grew with each succeeding year she lingered on in the pleasant Bromley air, while little Dora had passed from babyhood into maydenhood, and emerged into a blooming girl of fourteen, who did not "favor" her mother's family at all, but was "just Frank Rushton right over," when that poor patient mother died at last.

Dora never seemed one of her own kith and kin to Grandmother Gardner. Her children, like herself, had been dark and black haired; so this pretty, roguish little thing, with her deep blue eyes and golden-brown curls, served only as a painful reminder of the wild young fellow who had robbed her of her daughter.

What does Father Time mean by shaking his hour-glass so vigorously? He will be putting spectacles on the baby and furrowing little Willy's forehead ere we know it. Can that be Dora, that plump maiden of eighteen, sitting so cozily with some one on yonder door-step that overlooks the river?—that little "frolic sprite" rehearsing the old story. Father Time, your hour-glass is a cheat!

"Dora! Dora!" calls a peevish old voice; "I want you, child. And you and Mr. Lynde 'll ketch your death out there—" The sentence terminated in a wheezy cough.

At this summons Dora sprang up with alacrity. True, it had interrupted a charming conversation, but that could be resumed to-morrow evening, when the moon would doubtless shine as brightly as now upon the rippling water, the flower-laden air be just as sweet, and, in short, everything drape itself in that rose color life is wont to wear at eighteen—under certain circumstances. Is it well or ill that the young eyes, dazzled by that soft splendor, do not see that it is "such stuff as dreams are made of?"

So the girl ran into the house, humming a blithe air, and the young man looked regretfully after her a moment, then turned his gaze upon the river.

Meanwhile Dora pauses to peep from her grandmother's window at her late companion, with the moon lighting up the beauty of his unconscious face, making it look colorless and clear as a dusky lily leaf—if such a thing exists. That face seemed just a shade too dark for the fair curling hair, but when he lifts his eyes you see the explanation. At first they are a surprise, almost a shock, to you—those large eyes of concentrated shadow, into whose black depths the broadest daylight strives in vain to pierce, until you see that the hair, full of bright threads like southern sunbeams, the opaque warmth of the complexion, and the dusk of the tropic eyes unites to form a harmony as rare as beautiful.

For three weeks Raymond Lynde had been an inmate of Grandma Gardner's dwelling, and, of course, in village parlance, was already known as "Dora Rushton's beau." To the eager queries, "Who is he?" "Where did he come from?" and "What's he here for?" the knowing ones responded that they had it on his own authority that he was a teacher of drawing in several New York schools, and had been quite ill, and was here to recover his health. But no amount of coaxing could induce him to exhibit any specimens of his art. Probably the treadmill-round with vexatious pupils had made him weary of the very thought of pencil and paper.

However this might be, he mixed freely and socially with the Bromley people, joined in the games at the rustic parties, followed the red-cheeked maidens with great willingness, listened to the wisdom of the elders with a deference and attention seldom accorded them; in fine, won all hearts by his mingled gayety and good breeding—a combination somewhat rare in Bromley.

And every day the fetters strong as soft and sweet as flowery garlands, were being tightened around little unwarning Dora. She could not realize that a month ago this chapter in her life had not been opened, for it seemed to become that life itself, although she did not know its meaning the change. She was [illegible] who had given a glass of water a few brief weeks [illegible] breathed a spell upon her, [illegible] back to her that had [illegible] round her? And why [illegible] singular, her grandmother [illegible] to his enchantment. [illegible] who made no secret of [illegible] young men in general, [illegible] come in and rest, had [illegible] most affably in her shy way [illegible] tened with complacency [illegible] the pleasant prospect [illegible] ation, and finally, when [illegible] he said, with a little [illegible] already trespassed too [illegible] hospitality, but he could [illegible] so charming a place, and [illegible] often look back to it during [illegible] months, she piped of [illegible] stay with us this summer [illegible] to. Why, mercy sakes! [illegible] teacher nigh on to twenty [illegible] married Jooly Grigg, [illegible] the deacon's farm. [illegible] the gentleman the room."

Dora obeyed in much [illegible] ting north wind that [illegible] shiver and your teeth [illegible] suddenly change into zephyrs, [illegible] you could not be more [illegible] was Dora at this new [illegible] grandmother appeared [illegible] was, something about the young stranger had touched a chord, [illegible] long silent in her heart.

Of course he was [illegible] with the cozy white curtained [illegible] as with the pretty cicerone who had [illegible] it, and that very night saw [illegible] tably established in the apartments [illegible] concentrated to Mr. Nehemiah [illegible]. Evidently that glass of [illegible] enchanted, for it had furnished [illegible] with a home, softened a stony heart and opened a new universe [illegible] young girl's dreams?

Bromley boasted [illegible] society, consisting of about a [illegible] embers, under the direction of a [illegible] ank young man named Abel Vose [illegible] med by his town's-people a very [illegible] Mr. Vose had been endowed by [illegible] with a tolerable voice and ear [illegible] fatal vanity that scorns improvement [illegible] upled with the country method [illegible]-ing, had long since made his [illegible] a pain to cultivated taste, did [illegible] thing exist in Bromley.

Now it will not be [illegible] each of confidence if we reveal, [illegible] every one in Bromley knew, that [illegible] inent *maestro* was decidedly enamored [illegible] Dora Rushton, and viewed young [illegible] nde with an unfriendly eye. He looked forward with eagerness [illegible] opportunity of displaying his [illegible] superiority over this interloper [illegible] completely crushing "that pesky [illegible] wing master."

The occasion came [illegible] The B. M. S. held one of its [illegible] cal meetings for the practice of [illegible] d and secular music, and Mr. Lynde [illegible] present by invitation.

His rival's humiliation began, as fondly believed, by being [illegible] ced to decline taking part in the [illegible] nance, on the lame plea of preferring [illegible] listen to others. But the sight of his [illegible] bent over the same book with Dora [illegible] so discomfited Mr. Vose as to deprive [illegible] im of half his usual sonorousness.

After the spring [illegible] had been sufficiently [illegible] chants, the song [illegible] opened, the first selection being [illegible] a well-known opera, in which [illegible] bel's self-admiration was wont to [illegible] ecstatic pitch. To-day, however, [illegible] owing to the abrupt transition from [illegible] opposite class of music, or to the [illegible] of the fair curls and brown ringlets [illegible] actually brushing each other, [illegible] ose made sorry work of his master, and the rest of the flock, as in [illegible] ound, stumbled over the same [illegible] bars that had tripped up their [illegible].

Poor Abel's [illegible] redness were increased three-fold [illegible] an expression on Lynde's face, as [illegible] ispered something to Dora that made [illegible] bite her lips.

"Perhaps," said [illegible] with suppressed wrath, "Mr. Lynde [illegible] be good enough to take the lead now [illegible] how the song should be [illegible]?"

To which [illegible] sarcasm Lynde amazed his rival [illegible] sponding, quietly, "Certainly, I will, if you like. I am not entire[illegible] familiar with the air."

By the time [illegible] song was finished, Abel Vose had [illegible] ten his intention of criticising. He [illegible] sessed sufficient musical knowledge [illegible] ow that the voice whose echoes [illegible] in the room was that rarest [illegible] gans, a perfect tenor, perfect[illegible] ained—sweet and rich as the murm[illegible] the south wind or the hum of bees [illegible] in-summer, flexible as a chain of [illegible] wrought gold, now rising clear, su[illegible]fresh, like a "disembodied joy," [illegible] ought with a pathos that brought [illegible] a before the eyes.

"Hooray!" [illegible] med an enthusiastic youth breaking [illegible] silence that followed for a few mo[illegible]. "That *is* singin'! Abe, s'pose you'[illegible] this afternoon, and let him lead [illegible]."

The proposal [illegible] seconded openly by several of the young men who had tolerated [illegible] patronage hitherto, (because of his [illegible] proposed) unparalleled genius, and [illegible] ly by half a dozen bright eyes, [illegible] on Lynde with evident admiration.

But they [illegible] oomed to disappointment.

"Mr. Nose [illegible] perfectly competent leader," answ[illegible] Lynde, "and you are more accust[illegible] to him. No one could fail to [illegible] by his teaching and his admirable ta[illegible]."

By which [illegible] very gravely spoken, Abel Vose [illegible] mensely flattered, for he now knew [illegible] much to estimate the young man's [illegible] gment; and at this high praise [illegible] ty clapped her ever-ready plaster [illegible] s ranking wound. He did not see [illegible] le look that Lynde had given Dora, [illegible] the gathering cloud was disperse[illegible].

Honest D[illegible] However, was somewhat troubled. [illegible] ould not understand saying one t[illegible] and meaning another. It seemed to [illegible] like "the false witness" she had [illegible] earned against in childhood. Her [illegible] head held many old-fashioned i[illegible] from one of which, perhaps, arose [illegible] failing reverence and patience wi[illegible] fretful old grandmother.

Some one [illegible] ering clematis down by the river b[illegible] eard at intervals a peal of merry g[illegible] laughter, a hum of voices, from t[illegible] se above, out of sight. Faint and [illegible] e noises came to him, mingled wi[illegible] plashes of the river on the wet sto[illegible] his feet. He smiled involuntarily [illegible] e caught the lowest of the three v[illegible] a tender half smile, and began to si[illegible] ittle love-song under his breath as [illegible] d the long trails of clematis.

In the d[illegible]y, beaming down benignantly thr[illegible] her spectacles upon Susie Bowen an[illegible] Rushton, who sat on the step b[illegible], loomed up the tall figure of Ar[illegible]ndy Driscoll, a spinster noted for [illegible] lubility.

"Now, I don't want to set yer agin him, [illegible] ng her head in an oracular manne[illegible] t them eyes! It is a bad sign where [illegible] eyes don't match hair. I never kne[illegible] ter fail. There was Jo [illegible] felt Dora [illegible] tran[illegible] d he [illegible] led it [illegible] mour [illegible] more [illegible] elded [illegible] other, [illegible] on to [illegible] him [illegible] h him [illegible] ad lis[illegible] ises of [illegible] situ[illegible] his hat, [illegible] he had [illegible] on her [illegible] o leave [illegible] should [illegible] ong hot [illegible] could [illegible] wanted [illegible] ded the [illegible] till he [illegible] t out to [illegible] the gen[illegible]

If a bi[illegible] ur flesh [illegible] should [illegible] zephyr, [illegible] ed than [illegible] hich her [illegible] he truth [illegible] young [illegible] chord, [illegible]

Sparks merried [illegible] that was. Yet [illegible] to remember [illegible] sum as any [illegible] jet-black, with [illegible] Mighty soft-s[illegible] riage, but the way [illegible] afterward there's [illegible] he used ter be [illegible] trary streak come [illegible] families that hes [illegible] like seler-atusy bi[illegible] dealin' ez so m[illegible] knows."

Both girls laug[illegible] sily, as the speak[illegible] ful theory to tak[illegible] unusual eloquence [illegible] fall.

"But Mr. Lyn[illegible] his eyes," said [illegible] blame him for [illegible] anything but sil[illegible]

"Don't tell m[illegible] having made fa[illegible] me. First time [illegible] ter myself, 'Fa[illegible] false, that's what *you* air.' [illegible] y Rushton ain't the gal ter lose [illegible] rt to a harnsum face, be yer, Do[illegible] e can't lose *you*, as we did yer mo[illegible] on yer."

Dora's c[illegible] ained rolder than the little scarl[illegible] ing with red to and fro in the knit[illegible] ergetic fingers, but she had no chang[illegible] answer.

"Ef his [illegible] was't Lynde—I used ter know Ly[illegible] at New Haven; Eben Lynde, I gu[illegible] e han't forgot 'Mandy Driscoll yet [illegible] sh'd think he was a furriner. Did [illegible] ever notice the funny way he talk[illegible] etimes? Half the words he passes o[illegible] runs together. I'll ask him ef he's [illegible] ben a-rost the Etlantic, just ter dra[illegible] m out, ter know."

"Well, [illegible] your opportunity," said Susie Bow[illegible] as she caught sight of Lynde co[illegible] up the [illegible]-path; then mischievo[illegible] adding, he approached.

"Mr. Lynde [illegible]'ve been hearing all sorts of news [illegible] you."

"Who? [illegible] at!" sai[illegible] ynde, as he dropped [illegible] bray of c[illegible] tis, and leaned against [illegible] great m[illegible] opposite them.

"Oh, th[illegible] you're a former, and can't talk Eng[illegible] and will at your wife when you [illegible] ave one, [illegible] use your eyes don't ma[illegible] our hair."

"Stop, [illegible] e, for pity's ake," whispered Dora, [illegible] oringly, w[illegible] Aunt 'Mandy sat rigid [illegible] indignat[illegible]

Lynde [illegible] ghed, as he[illegible] nt to pick up his clem[illegible]

"If [illegible] ese information, Miss Susie," he[illegible] coolly, "have appealed to the [illegible] person, w[illegible] would save a world [illegible] certainty in [illegible] st cases."

"Prov[illegible] they speak truth," said Susie, [illegible] ng daunted.

"Prey," replied young man. "To th[illegible] arge of be[illegible] foreigner, I hardly [illegible] w whether [illegible] ad guilty or not, fo[illegible] though I am [illegible] merican parentag[illegible] was born in [illegible]. My father was a [illegible]ist, who w[illegible] from place to place [illegible] an Arab [illegible] or my English, I [illegible] aware of n[illegible] ency in it; neithe[illegible] I think [illegible] ore blood-thirsty [illegible] n the gene[illegible] mankind. On a[illegible] se points, I [illegible] am ready to sub[illegible] to the decis[illegible] distinguished cr[illegible]" with a bo[illegible] cluded the wholer[illegible]ty, for the [illegible] an was secretly [illegible] xious to kn[illegible] e of this same[illegible]icism. He [illegible] ng to wait.

"S[illegible] Bowen," s[illegible] aster, tartly, [illegible]ooking the [illegible] th[illegible] one had [illegible] ween implic[illegible] "I [illegible] said that [illegible] nde could talk [illegible] ish. I [illegible] d thet he home [illegible] in ways [illegible] Mr. [illegible] his [illegible] onl[illegible] cum up of [illegible] *thet* didn't [illegible] ma[illegible] hed a dog, [illegible] , when [illegible] you ever I [illegible] say the [illegible] ch other, pre nothi[illegible] n, fur w[illegible] the blue. the[illegible]everet, [illegible] creetur[illegible] se'n' *his* [illegible] h, Dora? [illegible] match [illegible] ck."

[illegible] fuone wa[illegible] the [illegible] are, Mr. Y remember [illegible] don't y[illegible] wouldn't I! he's kenid [illegible] on his b[illegible] with a That is 'clev[illegible] han you [illegible] s if her [illegible] Ide," laughe[illegible] "Yo[illegible] as devoted as [illegible] I know [illegible] e glance at Do[illegible] who felt [illegible] mposed-[illegible] e would demo[illegible] iceberg [illegible] Lynde, howev[illegible] swered, [illegible] ever ei[illegible] ire such [illegible] service.

"Certainly, Miss[illegible]sie, whe[illegible] omer to [illegible] er Miss Dora or[illegible] urself re[illegible] over [illegible] comotion, it is [illegible] te at yo[illegible] ow, who is enough [illegible] an asta[illegible] l me what star [illegible] is direc[illegible] ever [illegible] ad? I have [illegible] gotten, [illegible] if I ever [illegible] ew."

For a few days Da[illegible] was a little shy [illegible] Lynde. A consci[illegible] ness had arisen [illegible] ween them that [illegible] uneasy [illegible] red her [illegible] his presence. [illegible] ing from some [illegible] age errand one [illegible] 'Man-[illegible] s words had run in [illegible] ing Aun[illegible] il her heart [illegible] anew, [illegible] he ea[illegible] hed most unc[illegible] cheeks [illegible] he [illegible] -. So she we[illegible] ould hot a[illegible] for [illegible] little [illegible] for rest an[illegible] ook and his daughter Belle? Then [illegible] d not [illegible] s first her da[illegible] ce had known the former as a frequen[illegible] ment [illegible] of occupant [illegible] tor in his earlier days. He was a dis[illegible] them, [illegible] l the out-doo[illegible] relative of Grandma Gardner's, an[illegible] d le[illegible] the [illegible] show that Lyn[illegible] been a lover of pretty Lois. Him[illegible] ting [illegible] ta his face [illegible] left a widower a year or two afte[illegible] rs. [illegible] Tking him as [illegible] riage, he had renewed his suit whe[illegible] book [illegible] as about to [illegible] early love was once more free to re[illegible] when [illegible] hised his he[illegible] e it. Of course it had been in vain [illegible] ard [illegible] His face frig[illegible] the Judge cherished pleasant mem[illegible] ed [illegible] of wonted swe[illegible] of Bromley notwithstanding, an[illegible] hile, [illegible] after a long absence, revisited it i[illegible] ith, [illegible] show a set, stern [illegible] any with his only daughter. [illegible] ard [illegible] hlines between [illegible] ra, if unlike her mother in appear[illegible] ay [illegible] thes narrowed i[illegible] had many ways suggestive of he[illegible] crty. [illegible] e who had known her in her brigh[illegible] thenotes intense [illegible] pod. So, what with the inherite[illegible] on his regard, and the influence o[illegible] aroot [illegible] saDora. "I am ob[illegible] wn attractons, Judge Holbrook it[illegible] nlsof [illegible] Then, with he[illegible] so strongly that she should mate [illegible] ome with them, or at least pay [illegible] helness, she add[illegible] a visit [illegible] indefinite length, that [illegible] thfor you?" [illegible] little Dra willingly consented, [illegible] ; you may pu[illegible] bre readil[illegible] that "Cousin Belle" and [illegible] fond [illegible] moment. [illegible] in Dora" [illegible] d taken a violent fancy [illegible] it!" [illegible] h other, [illegible] were already quite in[illegible] [illegible] was raising [illegible] ble. [illegible] hau[illegible] edience to [illegible] e Holbro[illegible], a few years Dora's [illegible] mer [illegible] ink, pitying [illegible] was a handsome, stylish girl, de[illegible] "[illegible] said, sud[illegible] o fashion and amusement, with no [illegible] doc[illegible] the. You love b[illegible] ng amount of brain and heart, but will [illegible] pend." [illegible] ed of an abundance of good nature [illegible] "[illegible] at is the ma[illegible] ndered h[illegible] a general favorite. [illegible] simp[illegible] "I am sur[illegible] who [illegible] ng somewhat exhausted herself [illegible] thin[illegible] e gayeties of the past season, trav[illegible] "[illegible] is somethi[illegible] n a quiet day, during the summer [illegible] eyes [illegible] at not look [illegible] , had be[illegible] recommended in lieu [illegible] this [illegible] day of fasti[illegible] ring-pla[illegible] issipation, which pre[illegible] "Is [illegible] one on wh[illegible] n had be[illegible] followed, not only by [illegible] frien[illegible] anniversary [illegible] ient, but [illegible] y the Judge himself, [illegible] death" [illegible] ed Dora, [illegible] r with [illegible] little party of their [illegible] hesitating [illegible] son [illegible] his, decked Judge Holbrook, [illegible] "[illegible] y own: on[illegible] of [illegible] cally, was [illegible] he very thing to re[illegible] yea[illegible] go, [illegible] ug my gr[illegible] a color to [illegible] pra's pale cheeks like[illegible] mys[illegible] ity own hand[illegible] which [illegible] ion he was supported [illegible] a mo[illegible] nt, [illegible] then went [illegible] artner, [illegible] Caldwell, a manly, [illegible] half-[illegible] ngy, as if some[illegible] king you[illegible] fellow, who seemed [illegible] ing fed words from [illegible] to [illegible] ora unde[illegible] his special care. [illegible] worst [illegible] tuf hell is to [illegible] I can tell [illegible] little puss," said [illegible] heav[illegible] and the birthr[illegible] "Ce[illegible]lle, "you [illegible] well feel flatter[illegible] ness [illegible] t caever—O G[illegible] ed, [illegible] seldom [illegible] ots a young lady, [illegible] ours[illegible] and chief enj[illegible] there are enough who notice him. [illegible] ange [illegible] ess, is to [illegible] I [illegible] not engaged myself, I never [illegible] agon[illegible] he [illegible] ed, with so[illegible] ign him to you but, as it is, I [illegible] old [illegible] ker[illegible] tensified to [illegible] at you will such other per-[illegible] Dra[illegible] sked and a[illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] ar[illegible] ot well, M[illegible] which it may [illegible] athered that, [illegible] wish[illegible] uld something [illegible] ir intimacy, [illegible] a's new-found [illegible] and tea[illegible] me into he[illegible] d not as yet [illegible] ness her entire [illegible] Hw[illegible] m and h[illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] heart [illegible] [illegible] g th[illegible] e had really lo[illegible] her, why had [illegible] m it[illegible] thing further [illegible] er the night [illegible] he, a[illegible] d revealed t[illegible] love? And [illegible] right[illegible] [illegible] ept whisper[illegible] in her ear a [illegible] long ago re[illegible] "What does [illegible] n death and [illegible] e choose out [illegible] the self-same place [illegible] hen hope check[illegible] ed the dismal refra[illegible] elling her it was [illegible] yet too soon afte[illegible] recent loss for [illegible] Lynde to speak on [illegible] subject. Either [illegible] she would hear [illegible] him or he would [illegible] come again next s[illegible] r. She must not [illegible] miss the chance [illegible] ing him. With [illegible] the earliest days of [illegible] she would return [illegible] to Bromley, and [illegible] leave it till the [illegible] first frost touched [illegible] aples.

By November [illegible] Holbrook's famil[illegible] ly had been esta[illegible] l for some weeks [illegible] within their city [illegible] e, and Dora had [illegible] found the new li[illegible] y pleasant. Nat[illegible] urally buoyant, [illegible] ld not be expect[illegible] ed to mourn int[illegible] ly for one who [illegible] had not only no[illegible] ed her, but who [illegible] was more than [illegible] to bid adieu to a [illegible] life of suffering, [illegible] als.

The Judge [illegible] ry kind, and his [illegible] young partner [illegible] evoted. As Belle [illegible] had said, the [illegible] irl might well be [illegible] proud of suching [illegible] nirer. Singularly [illegible] sincrre and n[illegible] self, from the first [illegible] he had been d[illegible] Dora, and the feel[illegible] ing had stead[illegible] ed into something [illegible] deeper, whil[illegible] dge wished him [illegible] Godspeed, an[illegible] cently anticipated [illegible] a double wed[illegible] t year.

"Isn't it go[illegible]" said Belle one [illegible] day, with u[illegible] Excitement. "You [illegible] know how di[illegible] ed I have been that [illegible] that splendi[illegible] troupe should go [illegible] back to Eur[illegible] re Dora had heard [illegible] them. An[illegible] e will have an op[illegible] portunity [illegible] or Wednesday evening we are t[illegible] em here, 'positively [illegible] for the last [illegible]."

Dora w[illegible] rse to the prospect, although [illegible] ome one else in New York for [illegible] t glimpse of whom she would [illegible] iven all the opera troupes i[illegible] e; but alas! never [illegible] happy fate to meet [illegible] yet had it [illegible] him. Still, [illegible] he evening arrived, [illegible] she found h[illegible] waiting, with no small [illegible] interest, the[illegible] ance of the celebrated [illegible] singers. A[illegible] this a conviction of [illegible] Lynde's pre[illegible] nong the audience.—[illegible] With his [illegible] usic, he was sure to [illegible] haunt the [illegible] She was even conscious of a [illegible] magnetic feeling that [illegible] always aff[illegible] r when he was near [illegible] her.

The cur[illegible] upon a scene of lights [illegible] and brillian[illegible] es. A tall, beautiful [illegible] woman, wh[illegible] ed and full-throated, [illegible] first attracte[illegible] attention. "Zarelli," [illegible] whispered B[illegible] but her cousin's eyes [illegible] had wandere[illegible] slight graceful form a [illegible] little apart [illegible] the others; a young [illegible] man with a [illegible] ace, fair hair, and large [illegible] dark eyes.

Dora fell [illegible] n her seat, with a face [illegible] as colorless [illegible].

"It is he! [illegible] hy is he there with them?"

"Why sh[illegible]n't he be?" airily answered Belle, [illegible] o had caught the scarcely audible [illegible] nur. "That is the great tenor, Gabri[illegible] Isn't he magnificent? Pity Zarel[illegible] is his wife, instead of that odious En[illegible] lishman. But hush! they are beginn[illegible] g at exquisite duet."

Novel h[illegible] ons and delicate young ladies faint [illegible] Da was a hearty country girl, and c[illegible] f good old Revolutionary stock; so s[illegible] ravely "faced the music," as her ancest[illegible] had done at Bunker Hill.

Once on[illegible] r self-control deserted her. During a [illegible] perfect solo—a thing to hold you [illegible] breath and hear—something hag[illegible] on the dark eyes of the singer straight [illegible] tor own. She saw the sudden deadly p[illegible] and caught the momentary quaver [illegible] voice. Then the eyes were averted [illegible] t was all.

Over [illegible] t! Stunned and bewildered, alone i[illegible] room, Dora sat late into the night [illegible] the dying fire, with Belle's chatt[illegible] the sense of which she had hardly t[illegible] in the carriage—ringing in her [illegible]

[illegible]enzo Gabrielle—Naples—married [illegible]ty—Englishwoman—ten years [illegible] not handsome, but very wealthy. [illegible] said that was why he married [illegible] but Belle wouldn't believe he was [illegible] enary. Others declared it was be[illegible] e she was dying of love for him. [illegible] had no doubt it was out of pity. [illegible] they say Madame Gabrielle is ter[illegible] y jealous of Zarelli. For her part, [illegible] e thought it served her right." [illegible] hatter, chatter, chatter—still echo[illegible] g in Dora's ears.

[illegible] n the grate lay a spray of clematis [illegible] l one or two worthless scraps of pa[illegible] r with writing on them. Yesterday, [illegible] treasures—to-night, smouldering in [illegible] e flames.

A long future stretches before eighteen. [illegible] any hopes may yet arise for Dora. A [illegible] rong, faithful love is waiting her ac[illegible] eptance. Ten years hence may behold [illegible] er a happy wife and mother, or the [illegible] white snow may be drifting down above [illegible] er quiet grave in Bromley church-yard. Before us, of course, her fate lies like [illegible] n open scroll; but we leave it unrevealed, and drop the curtain on Dora [illegible] as, alone with her first great sorrow, she gazes at the ashes of her dead Romance.

A Reminiscence.—In the year 1826, after all save one of the band of patriots whose signatures are borne on the Declaration of Independence had descended to the tomb, and the venerable Carrollalone remained among the living, the government of the city of New York deputed a committee to wait on the illustrious survivor and obtain from him, for deposit in the public hall of the city, a copy of the Declaration of 1776, graced and authenticated anew with his sign manual. The aged patriot yielded to the request, and affixed with his own hand to the copy of that instrument the grateful, solemn and pious supplemental declaration which follows:

"Grateful to Almighty God for the blessings which, through Jesus Christ our Lord, He has conferred on my beloved country in her emancipation, and on myself in permitting me, under circumstances of mercy, to live to the age of eighty-nine years, and to survive the fiftieth year of American independence, and certify by my present signature my approbation of the Declaration of Independence adopted by Congress on the 4th of July, 1776, which I originally subscribed on the 2d day of August of the same year, and of which I am now the last surviving signer, I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them, and pray that the civil and religious liberties they have secured to my country may be perpetuated to remotest posterity, and extended to the whole family of man.

"Charles Carroll, of Carrollton,

"August 2, 1826."

— Snifkins staked his all on the result of a game of euchre the other night and lost. Throwing down the cards very peevishly he broke forth in the following pathetic strain: "T'was ever thus from childhood's hour, I've seen my fondest hopes take flight, and every time I played the left bower some one took it with the right."

— Mr. Theodophilus Popp, of Poppville, in Popp county, fancying himself to be very popular with his lady-love, popped the question to her under the poplar tree, when she referred him to her poppy, who, when asked for his consent, laboring under the influence of ginger-pop, popped him out of the door to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel."

Is This a Nation or a Constitutional Union of States.

The action of the Alabama Convention setting the Union above the Constitution has rejoiced the hearts of the consolidationists. The Philadelphia *North American*, the leading consolidationist organ of Pennsylvania, is greatly elated at the recantation of the Alabamians, which it regards as putting an end to the doctrines of State rights for all time, and therefore to be regarded as the grand climax of Radical revolutionary achievement. The editor says:

Against all of the detraction that is or may be published; against all of the misrepresentations, and in partial apology for real shortcomings, and positive as well as negative errors, the Republican party may file the clause incorporated in the Constitution of Alabama by the Convention that recently adjourned: "The people of this State accept as final the fact that from the Federal Union there can be no secession of any State." Republican achievement has been unparalleled in variety and importance, and comparatively brief as the sway of the party has been, after surpassing all former deeds of all preceding parties in war, in the promotion of industry, in commanding foreign consideration, in elevating a race to freedom, in perfecting and nationalizing a financial system, it crowns these by that expedient conduct under which a question that has perplexed all former administrations and disturbed the progress and development of the nation, is forever laid away by those who held it. The baneful doctrine of the right of secession is destroyed in the constitutional acknowledgment of Alabama, "There can be no secession of any State." The country is one and is a nation.

The doctrine of State rights and its corrolary, the right of secession, was first taught by the politicians of Massachusetts and, under different circumstances, that State might have been the first to test the practicability of enforcing the doctrine. Had the constitutional rights and equality in the Union of her people been denied as were those of the people of the South, Massachusetts might have been the first to demonstrate to the world that there is really no practical difference between the right of secession and the right of revolution. If the war of coercion proved anything, it proved that in our boasted Republic constitutions, compacts and solemn pledges afford no protection of the weaker against the stronger party, and that whatever be the guarantees of the constitution, whatever the rights of the individual States under that instrument, there is no such remedy for their violation as peaceable secession from the Union. The editor of the *American* indirectly admits the injustice which impelled the South to seek a severance from the Union. "There is," says he "no manner of doubt that some share of what the South claimed as State rights, under the original reservation and concession, is claimed justly. The extreme doctrine of consolidation was defeated when asserted by the Federalists. The question is rather of degree than of kind. But there is as little doubt that the definition of these rights should be judicial; and that their denial, should they at any time be improperly withheld, is to be cured by the usual legislative method rather than by civil war. This was the fundamental error of Calhoun and all who accepted his doctrine—not that there are real State rights beyond these rights granted to the nation, but that their infringment or denial is sufficient warrant for civil war."

The Editor confuses the "right of secession" claimed by the South with civil war. There is no affinity between peaceable secession and civil war. On the contrary they are utterly inconsistent with each other. The right of secession implies peaceable secession, for if it is a "right" it must be peaceable, and therefore precludes the idea of civil war, while civil war equally precludes the *right* of secession. Mr. Calhoun and those who accepted his doctrine did not maintain that the infringement or denial of the constitutional rights of a State was "sufficient warrant for civil war." They maintained that the Union was a voluntary compact between free, equal and independent States, formed to "promote the general welfare and secure the blessing of liberty" to the people and their posterity, and that whenever the compact was violated, and the stipulations upon which it was based were disregarded so that it ceased to subserve the ends for which it was made, then, as a last resort, the States whose rights were violated, being the judges of their own grievance, had the right *peaceably* to withdraw from the Union. In the concession and maintainance of this right, they recognized not only the difference between a Republican government of consent and a despotic government of force, but the strongest incentive to mutual good faith and fidelity to the constitution. There was no civil war in such a political faith, a faith which—had it been held in common by all parties to the compact, would have preserved the Union and the constitution inviolate and perpetual for all time, and thus "promoted the general welfare and secured the blessing of liberty" more effectually than all the blood that has been shed and all the treasure that has been expended in the Radical war of coercion.

But the editor of the *American* flatters himself that the revolution of the government is complete in the acknowledgment of Alabama that "from the Federal Union there can be no secession of any State." We attach no such grave importance to the clause in the new constitution of Alabama. It is not a question for the Alabama Convention to settle; nor is the constitution of that State the place to look for the true and authoritative interpretation of the constitution of the Federal Union. It is not to be presumed that the authors of this clause of the new constitution intended it as the recognition of a principle of sovereignty inherent in and co-existing with the constitution of the United States, making secession treason. Such an act on their part would be the grossest stultification, and would stigmatise the memory of thousands of Alabama's sons who fell in the Confederate cause. The clause alluded to has no such significance. It is only an admission—albeit out of place in the organic law of the State—of the impracticability of peaceable secession of any State from the Union, while the despotic doctrine of coercion by the Federal Government is held to be paramount to the Constitution itself. It is, so to speak, a constitutional acquiescence of the people of Alabama, in "the legitimate results," so-called, of the war of coercion. But it neither changes the Constitution nor the relations of the States of the Union to the Federal Government. It creates no new Empire, no "Nation;" and even if every State in the Union were to follow the example of Alabama, and declare that peaceable secession is an impracticable remedy, it would not change the principles upon which the Federal compact was founded, nor establish "the Nation" upon the ruins of the constitutional Union of States.—*Savannah News.*

— The soul th[illegible] the soul that [illegible]

Going to Housekeeping.

It is considered a very nice thing to have money enough to buy or rent a comfortable house, furnish it amply and settle down to cosy housekeeping. Until this can be done a great many couples think they must board. To begin as their fathers and mothers did is not to be thought of. How can they be happy in just two or three rooms without any parlor or any fine furniture? Household happiness, then, is a matter of tapestries and guildings, and carvings and draperies. Yes, in some cases, that is all there is of it, and those whose aspirations stop with the possession of these externals must fain content themselves with these. But there are those who look deeper and higher for domestic felicity than in the mere fireside surroundings of even the most luxurious home. For such is this little essay designed.

It seems fitting "that when the solitary are set in families," they should set up immediately their own household god, and make sure to themselves such seclusion as will enable them to lay without any disturbing influences from without the foundations of their domestic structure. Each family is a unit with properties peculiar to itself, a solution with laws of crystalization, all its own, and it is impossible for any father or mother or friend to interfere wisely and attempt to regulate the action of these laws and say thus or thus they must operate. Suggestions delicately given or barely admissible, but the inner sanctuary of the home belongs solely to the dual unit; any other person entering there is guilty of sacrilege.

No boarding house, no private family, no hotel can afford a married pair the seclusion, the independence, the freedom they can have in even two or three rooms of which they are sole proprietors and where they keep house. Curious eyes are prying into their affairs, busy tongues meddle with their actions, officious friends try to help them, and they miss the supreme joy of seeing the delicious growths of gracious household ways that can spring only from the garden enclosed of a sacred home, if they have not this seclusion.

If young married people instead of thinking what Mrs. Grundy will say 'bout their style, their resources and their expenditures would put this mischief-making dame entirely outside their thoughts, and taking into sole consideration their own requirements, likings and abilities, act according to the dictates of sound judgment in the direction and management of their affairs, what infinite happiness they may enjoy, what untold annoyances escape! Two that love each other can be happy with A xminister of matting, with China or stoneware, with stuffed demask or cane seats; these no more create the happiness of a home than draperies create the beauty of a perfect human form. Though very well in their way, they are the merest accidents, and have no vital connection with the home. Nay, unless there is