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MISCELLANEOUS.

THINGS HARDLY TO BE BELIEVED.

BY MRS. JUDIA JANE PEARSON.

"Well, I declare, this is hardly to be believed," exclaimed Mrs. Grandy, as she threw down a letter that she had been perusing, and turned towards her daughter, who was reclining on a crimson-cushioned lounge, in the most approved style of dress, attitude, and expression.

"Pray, what have you found, dear mamma? I'm longing for something to chase away this horrible pain."

"It is hardly to be believed, Anna, your uncle Meek has written to me that he intends to send his daughter Lucy to spend the winter with us. I cannot refuse to receive her, for she is my sister's child—but, dear me! what shall we do with the rustic creature?"

"How came your sister to marry a farmer, mamma?"

"Why, Anna, when pa was a Senator, sister and I accompanied him to Washington, one winter, and there we met Mr. Meek, a young and talented member of Congress. Your aunt was captivated by his fine person, real eloquence, and manly, open character, and although she knew he was only a farmer at home, she persisted in becoming his wife. So he took her to his home, in the State of Ohio, and I have not seen her since; for she soon became a mother, and as she has several children she was confined at home, and I have been in so delicate health, that I never dared brave such a journey. But she used to write frequently, and although she professed herself perfectly happy, she gave such descriptions of her domestic affairs, that I am sure I should have been utterly miserable in her situation. And this daughter of hers, who milks the cows, makes butter and cheese, and spins yarn, mends clothes, and makes bread, and washes clothes and scrubs floors—why she must be a great stout-looking creature like a man, with a sun-burnt face, and coarse hands and feet, and a voice like a market woman. And then she'll be so awkward—oh, dear, what shall we do with her?"

"Why, my dear, you really frighten me; you must not be her cousin certainly. I never could introduce such a cousin to society, and certainly would not forgo all pleasure and remain at home with her."

"I cannot refuse to receive her, dear Anna, but she is so sophisticated that we can do as we please. If you can make nothing of her, why, we can keep her out of sight. But it would cost me so much to dress her. Of course she will have no clothes fit to be seen."

"Well, mamma, on second thought we will let her come. She will amuse some of my leisure moments. If I should become interested in her, I will find employment in teaching her politeness and propriety. If she does not interest me, she will be a fine subject for ridicule."

And so the matter stood. Mrs. Grandy was just on the eve of a great party, to which the "Aristocracy" of the city had been invited. She was occupied in finishing her arrangements and adding the crowning grace to the labors of servants and upholsterers, when she was stunned by the intelligence that Miss Lucy Meek, her niece, was in the parlor.

a foot peeping from beneath her travelling dress, as if defying competition, which it might have done with safety. She no sooner perceived her relatives than she sprang to meet them, in the most affectionate manner, and returned gracefully the embraces and kisses which they bestowed upon her with real pleasure.

"When Anna, after showing Lucy to her chamber, joined her mother in the saloon she exclaimed—

"Oh! mamma! I could hardly have believed that a young lady, educated in the country, could have been so perfectly genteel as cousin Lucy is. I love her dearly already."

"And then her wardrobe; why, ma, her dresses are really elegant. So simple and tasteful in style, just like her sweet self; she has never been injured to labor, I am certain."

"Certainly not," replied Mrs. Grandy; "I am glad now that she arrived before the party. She is just an elegant contrast to my Anna. You will be rose of the reputation, and she will represent the pure white lily."

When the family met at dinner, Mrs. Grandy was almost in despair. The cook she had hired expressly to prepare refreshments for the party, was taken suddenly and violently ill, and neither maid or mistress knew how to compound or fashion the quantities of beaten eggs, grated sugars, olive-oiled cream and butter-milk, pulverized spices and clarified butter, that formed with yeast and citron, and oranges, and raisins, and currants, and confectionary, a medley of confusion in pastry and in kitchen.

"Do you understand baking?" asked Lucy of Anna.

"Oh! indeed, no," replied the astonished belle.

"Nor your aunt," she enquired of Mrs. Grandy.

"My dear, I never learned," answered the lady.

"It is very strange," Lucy said, and then she went on: "Well, aunt, you will trust me, I will produce as fine cakes as any cook in the city."

"You are too young Lucy," said Mrs. Grandy; "even if you had studied cooking all your life; but you seem so confident, and as I do not know you, may try."

"Will you assist me, Anna? I will engage that so far from injuring your fair hands, the slight toil will increase their beauty."

"But what can I do?" asked Anna, laughing.

"O, I will direct you," replied Lucy, gaily, and the cousins retired to the kitchen, where the clatter of culinary operations was enlivened by merry bursts of laughter, and joyous gushes of sweet song.

Lucy made her debut at Mrs. Grandy's select party in a robe of pure white muslin, her rich brown curls unconfined, except by a fillet of silver gauze, tied just back of the left ear. She wore no other ornaments; yet amid fine forms, robed in velvet and satins, flashing with gems, and flowers and feathers, she seemed a spirit of a purer sphere, and was decidedly the belle of the gay saloons.

"Do you say, Miss Meek?" enquired the rich and fashionable Mr. Golly, as Miss Grandy arose from the piano.

have been educated at the South, or in Europe, for our schools do not give so perfect a finish."

"Indeed, Mr. Le Grand, you pay my niece high compliments. But she is a farmer's daughter, and has never been from home until she came here a few days ago. She has acquired her accomplishments in the school of nature. But she has acquired accomplishments which put me sadly to the blush—Why, they belong to my party, Madame Eslette, employed to make my cakes was taken sick just as she got her ingredients strewn around after confusion. I was in despair, but Lucy said if Anna would assist her she would make all right. And she did mix and bake all my cakes, which were so much admired."

"Well, now," exclaimed Mr. Le Grand, "I can hardly believe these things possible. And Miss Meek is so young, and has such perfect little hands."

"Yes," replied the aunt, and you should see her nice flannel skirts, so fine and soft, and she spun the yarn and wove the cloth herself."

"I am astonished," said Mr. Le Grand, "why, she is an anomaly."

"She says not," replied Mrs. Grandy; "she boasts that all the girls in her neighborhood are equally accomplished, and some her superiors. And I am beginning to be of her opinion, that in this country, where they are rich to-day and poor to-morrow, and vice versa, young ladies should be educated in such manner as to grace a palace or make a lonely cabin comfortable. Anna is a loving friend her opportunity, and kind learning of Lucy to cook every kind of flesh and fish, and to make cakes and pastry. Lucy assures her that she will be both healthier and happier in consequence."

"Well, I declare," cried Mr. Le Grand, "such things are hardly to be believed."

"And so Miss Meek has refused Mr. Golly, and gone home to her father's?" remarked a young lady to her beau, as they walked beneath the soft sunlight of early spring.

"It is very strange," was the reply, "and poor Golly is nearly distracted. I never supposed he had so much heart. He sets out in a few days for Europe. The young lady must have been pie-engaged, for independent of his wealth, he is a fine young man."

"He is so," sighed the lady; and Miss Meek only a farmer's daughter! I declare it is hardly to be believed that she has rejected him."

"We will pass over three years and listen to the conversation of the same lady and gentleman, how man and wife."

"Well, dear, I have been informed that Lucy Meek has been married to a young farmer of her own neighborhood, whose father used to follow the lumbering business on the Ohio. They say, however, that he is really an active and intelligent young buckeye; but it is singular that she should make such a choice after having rejected Golly."

the Union—and his country house is a palace surrounded by a beautiful Eden of his own planning and planting; where she is now able to enjoy health, ease, honor and happiness, surrounded by his lovely family.

Mr. Grandy, who, after his failure, accepted a clerk's office and sadly; now performs the duties of the place, behind the accountant's desk in the store of his son-in-law. Miss Anna was married to this gentleman when he was clerk in a dry goods store in New York; but by industry, economy and strict honesty, in all which he has been aided and sustained by his wife—he is now a flourishing merchant in Pittsburg, Pa. Mrs. Grandy resides with her daughter, and she insists that the reverse of fortune which made them so much wiser and better, and happier was certainly no misfortune.

Mrs. Legrand, who was Mrs. Grandy's most intimate friend, but who could not recognize her after her father's failure, died in a garret two years ago. Mr. Le Grand lost his property in the great fire in New York, became disheartened, and gave himself up to idleness. One of his sons is an apprentice, and one a loafer; of his two daughters, one is a governess in a rich vulgar family—the other is married to a common sailor, a fine intelligent fellow, who may yet become an admiral or king.

So little reason has any one in this republic-country to be lifted up by the mere accident of wealth or station. The poorest man's child may arrive at the highest honors of the State. He who is President to-day, is a private citizen to-morrow—little to lose every dollar he possesses, and be overwhelmed with debt and misery. His child, though born while his father presides over the destinies of this wild land, may eventually earn his bread as a daily laborer, while the son of a mad servant who cleaned the kitchen of the President's house, may be carried there in triumph as its chosen occupants. How ridiculous then in this land, its haughty pride of wealth or station. How contemptible appears the title "aristocracy," applied to any clique or party. Or can there be any thing more ridiculous or absurd, than exalting all the fine qualities of mind or person to any particular class or locality. And yet these things are all practiced, while thinking minds observe the continual mutations of the wheel of fortune, and value every person according to the intrinsic worth of character—while things hardly to be believed, pass continually before them.

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

NEW ENGLAND LABOR REFORM LEAGUE.

This Association met in convention at Chapman Hall, Boston, Jan. 17th, and was called to order by the President, David Bryant.

The minutes of the last convention were listened to from the Seely, Miss H. J. Stone, of Lowell; after which the general objects of the League were briefly and comprehensively laid before the meeting by Mr. Campbell, of Boston. Remarks were also made by Messrs. Hovey, Young and others. On motion, W. F. Young, J. Campbell, Miss M. Eastman, J. Putnam and N. W. Brown, were chosen a committee to report Resolutions and business for the convention. Voted, that Messrs. J. Campbell, N. W. Brown and J. Seeritt, constitute a committee of Finance during the sitting of the convention. The following Resolution was presented by E. W. Packman of Boston, and sustained by some forcible remarks.

Resolved, That Protractive Unions should at once be formed in every City, Town and Village through this country, and the world; the concentration of the wealth of the producers in purchasing the articles they consume carries with it a power which above all others will prove a death to tyrants.

Voted, to accept for discussion. Voted, that the opening of the evening session be allotted for bearing reports from any Female Associations re-constituted. Adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M. A PLEASANT SESSION. The committee on Resolutions reported the following for the consideration of the convention. Resolved, That the object of the present Reform movement among the Working Class