

# RUTH

A DRAMA

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(Continued from last month)

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## ACT III. SCENE 1.

(Two maidens, Rebecca and Mary, gleaning with their mother  
Martha.)

Rebecca.

Boaz is stern; I would not be the wife  
Of Boaz for a chamber full of gold.

Mary.

Yet Boaz hath a good and kindly heart,  
As all men know.

Martha.

Why do ye chatter so,  
And waste the hours which should be given to labour?

Rebecca.

Why, mother, God had never given us tongues  
Except for usage.

Martha.

God hath given thee hands  
For usage, and I pray thee use them now.

Rebecca.

Except my tongue be moving with my hands,  
I cannot work, for I am full of mirth.  
I glean not one whit less than thou or Mary,  
Nay I am sure that with the coming night  
I shall have garnered more than thou or she,  
For he toils best who toils with cheerful heart;  
And see, the very day invites to gladness.  
The sun is turning all the fields to gold,