She returned to the kitchen and she returned to the kitchen and told Mary to leave the dishes and get ready for a journey to the city.

"Put on your blue dress an' wear that piece of lace round your neck that I got Christmas. We don't want to be taken for dowdies even if we don't travel much. I'll wear my gingham an' weddin' hat. An' say, Mary, you'd better take the ten my gingham an' weddin' hat. An' say, Mary, you'd better take the ten dollars along that you earned pickin' berries. 'Tain't likely we'll need it, but there's no knowin'. Folks say the city's a terrible place for money. Mebbe we'll stay a week or two, mebbe longer; but I hone the seventy dellars I've get the seventy I've

amazement. Go to the city, forty miles away! Why she had never been there in her life, nor had her yeast might bother you. An' that mother so far as she knew. What

jest a little business trip, Mary.

The unwiped plate fell with a crash to the floor. Just a little business trip, to the faraway city?

Knowing her father as she did, the under the state of the ludicrousness of such a journey. Usually he did not trust them even to go to the village store for groceries. And they had not a single friend in town. There was Aunt Mary, for whom she was named, and to whom she had an indefinite promise of a visit some time in the future—but Aunt Mary lived twenty miles this side of the city. She was roused by her mother calling anxiously:
"Come, come, child! We must

hurry. Run up an' get ready. There ain't much time, for we'll have to walk to the station."

So, still dazed and wondering, the girl went up to her room and arrayed herself in the blue dress which thus far had been held sacred to Sundays and rare holidays.

And down in the kitchen, Mrs. Johnson remained for another five minutes, gazing out across the broad, fertile fields of the farm Mary, it was no less so to her, whose twenty years of married life had reached no farther than the village store, two miles away. For a moment she was tempted to abandon the project and return to the unwiped dishes and uncooked dinner; but a thought of Mary and the child's longing for an education of the child of the chil dinner; but a thought of Mary and the child's longing for an education checked the impulse. Perhaps it was only a freak of a foolish woman, but there seemed no other way. And at any rate, it would teach her husband a few things about kitchen economy of which he was now ignorant.

The new horse proved more unmanageable than anticipated, o'clock before the men drew their seemed and the fraud place. One of the his lips moistening in anticipation. 'Come, come! We can't have everything at once," expostulated Johnson, impatiently. "Here, pitch in, all of you, an' help what you to dollars in it. But don't fret. I've got it back all safe."

He drew a quick, hard breath, and then read the short postscript. "I forgot to say the lawyer cost me ten dollars. Don't forget the things I wrote you about. We'll be home a week from Saturdey.

like she's a millionaire sure enough.

Gone to that sister Mary of hers, of course. Well, I'll send Jake for while the other two guessed they course with Jake, while the other two guessed they sent to labor on the English mission and spent the last twenty-four years of his life in Lancashire. Gone to that sister Mary of hers, of course. Well, I'll send Jake for her with the lumber wagon," grinning spitefully. "That'll jounce some sense into her."

Then he uncrumpled the note and read on:

read on:
"You might get Jake or Bob to I hope the seventy dollars I've got will take us through. If it don't, an' we have to use yours, I'll make it up to you 'fore school begins. Now hurry. Its two miles to the railroad, an' the train goes in about three hours'' But instead of obeying, Mary stood with an unwiped plate in her hand, speechless through sheer Mary was down with the measles, yeast might bother you. An' that reminds me, don't forget to clean it mean? out the stove twice a week, if you father is going?" she gasped don't it'll stuff up an' smoke. An'

"The unwiped plate fell with a duestion."

"Father is going?" she gasped at last, more as an assertion than a question.

"No, your father isn't goin'.

"What fool rigmorale's she's then there's—"

"What fool rigmorale's she's she's shorted wrathfully. "Don't she shorted wrathfully. "They were both capable and willing, but knew little won't send for her, neither—not by a long chalk. That's jest what she's fishin' for. Seems to think the world can't move 'cept she's turnin' the crank. Huh! they can stay till doomsday for all I care!"

The head he sent for one of the Gould girls to come and attend to the housework, and after two days sent her back and engaged one of the Cady girls. But she was no better. They were both capable and willing, but knew little won't send for her, neither—not by a long chalk. That's jest what she's fishin' for. Seems to think the world can't move 'cept she's turnin' with even less satisfaction than doomsday for all I care!" doomsday for all I care!

He shook the note in an imaginary face and laughed maliciously.

'That's jest the very thing.

Keep quiet, like I don't scasely know they've gone away, an' then 'bout tomorrow night they'll come sneakin' in like hungry chickens for

something to eat. She an' that sister Mary of hers can't get along together nohow.

Hey! nothin' to eat inside there yet?" and burly Jake, backed by the other five hands, lumbered wonderingly into the kitchen. "No fire in the stove? Where's the wimen folks? What's up?" Johnson started, then drew himself together hurriedly.

But I guess we can patch one up between us, eh, Jake?" he asked, trying to pass it off lightly. Get jest as good dinner's the wimmen folks, an' a mighty sight quicker."
"Course we can," cried Jake,

which her worn hands had helped to earn. If the journey to the city seemed a colossal undertaking to Mary, it was no less so to her, whose twenty years of married life want. We'll have onyuns an' coffee that's strong the strong that it is to be the strong that it is to be the strong that it is to be the strong that is the strong that

The new norse proved more unmanageable than anticipated, and when Johnson returned it was in no very pleasant frame of mind in no very pleasant frame of mind the spite and the super the super and the super cost and ance of assistance the dinner promote the din and when Johnson returned it was in no very pleasant frame of mind. As he left the country road and turned into his own lane, he passed a field where some of the men were at work. One of them called to him inquiringly:

Chairs up to the table, red-Iaced and fuming at the stupidity of each other. And in spite of the fact that it was of their own cooking, the dinner did not seem to please them. They tasted suspiciously of one dish and another, and in spite of the dinner did not seem to please them. They tasted suspiciously of one dish and another, and in spite of the dropped the letter and leaned his head upon his hands. Thinking was unusual to him, but this time it was to good purpose, for it ended in his writing, in a cramped, laborious him inquiringly:

"Dear Wife: I take my pen in "Ain't it 'bout time for the dinner bell to ring?"

"Ain't it 'bout time for the dinner bell to ring?"

"Dear Wife: I take my pen in tried again, grimacing and scowling, hand to answer your welcome letter.

Then the unnatural stillness made him pause and glance around. There was no fire in the stove, no signs of food being cooked, and in the sink were the unwiped dishes of the morning. He opened his mouth, and shut it again without making and shut it again without making a supper-getting. Shadows as to call for artificial light. He was tired and cross, and this did not facilitate dish-washing and supper-getting. When the men came in from their late chores he was bristling with angry impatience, and his face and cloth-

the morning. He opened his mouth, and shut it again without making a sound. What did it mean?

An unreasoning terror of the silence began to possess him. In his long remembrance of the room he had known nothing like this. It had always been a scene of busy cheerfulness during his married life, and during the days of his boyhood when his mother had presided over the kitchen. As he crossed to

life, and during the days of his boyhood when his mother had presided over the kitchen. As he crossed to the table he was oppressed by the stillness and by the disorder of the morning. It was almost as though he were in a strange house, and he would have been glad to have the quiet broken by even a rat crossing the room, or by a loose clapboard protesting against the wind.

Then he caught sight of a note addressed to himself, and he opened it eagerly, his apprehension giving way to angry comments as he read:

"I am goin' away for a week or so to give Mary a rest. The poor child is worn out, an a little trip will do her good."

"I he grunted, breaking off suddenly and crumpling the letter in his hand. "The woman's an idiot! Little trip, indeed! Seems were left upon the table, to await the time when it would be necessary to remove them.

One day longer the "men folks" cooking was persisted in, but by that time the pleasant kitchen had been transformed from a place of orderliness to a den of chaotic neglect. No dishes had been washsd, and many conflicting foods had been cooked in the same utensils without the separating use of soap and water. Jake was fond of "onyuns an' taters," but decided he did not care to have them flavored with chocolate; while the lovers of "blied" cabbage and tripe and blied" cabbage and tripe and blied in the files of the whole county had come to feast with the mine definition to withdraw himself from the world in a fil

while the other two guessed they were in no way "pertic'ler," and could pick up a few days' living in the apple orchard and off huckleberry and raspberry bushes. But they were agreed with the rest in having no more to do with men folks' cooking.

So the next morning, Jake was sent unceremoniously to Mary Brown's, with orders to bring the women folks home, whether or no

"Jest tell'em we're too busy with hoein' now to bother with cookin'," Johnson snarled. "If 'twas any other time, we wouldn't care a continental whether they come or stayed. It's jest their aggrevatin' way to pick out a time like this."

But when Jake returned with

But when Jake returned with the information that Mary Brown had neither seen nor heard of them, his anger gave place to wonder, and then to dismay. What was he to do? Manifestly he was not equal to doing the work himself, much as he disliked to acknowledge

In the end he sent for one of the

with even less satisfaction than before. He had not dreamed house-work was so endless and exasperating, and before the week was out was so far humbled as to acknowledge to Jake in private that he would rather hoe corn sixteen hours a day than to prepare a single meal of victuals.

"Then why don't ye get the wimmen folks back?" Jake asked bluntly. "We can't stand this much longer. Bob says he's goin' to look for work where he can get vittles fit to eat, an' all the rest of us is 'bout ready to follow him.

If ye don't do something pretty quick, this farm's bound to go to everlastin' ruin. That's my say."

Another two days brought John-

"Jest run up to Mary Brown's for a day or two," he answered gruffly. "The visit was—er—pretty sudden, an' they had no time to send me word, nor to get dinner.

Another two days brought Johnson to the limit of his endurance, and then came some relief in the shape of a letter from the city. It read:

"Det Husband: — We've been

havin' a pretty good time, but things here do cost awful. I wanted to buy new dresses and books for Mary but can't, for we'll have only jest enough to pay our fare home after stayin' another week."
"Another week," groaned John-

son. "How'll we through it?" Then he continued We tried to find that machine place, but couldn't. It's a fraud, jest as I thought. I hired a lawyer, an' he hunted round some an' went to the post-office an' got hold of a lot of letters they'd refused to deliver to the fraud place. One of the

dinner bell to ring?"

"Why, yes, of course. Ain't it rung yet?" He looked at his watch. "Then minutes of one," he called to the men. "Drop your tools an' come on to the house."

Then to himself, "I'll soon have an understandin' 'bout this thing. Farm hands can't let their work wait on wimmen's laziness. Get on the did not go on to the harn with the last one disappeared. He had work of importance to look after, so the dishes and food were left on the table, and the cooking utensils on the stove and floor, wherever they had been dropped in the hurry. It would be time enough to attend the last one disappeared. He had work of importance to look after, so the dishes and food were left on the table, and the cooking utensils want you to come back jest as soon's won't never say nothin' more 'bout its bein' easy. I'm sorry 'bout Mary's dresses. You can have a hundred out of that fifteen hundred an' buy whatever you want. And I'm free to say I think it a good there, Dan."

He did not go on to the barn with the horse, but stopped at the kitchen door and strode in furiously.

"Whet's all this man and buy whatever you want. And idee to have a hired girl. One of the Gould or Cady girls might do fallen behind the apple orchard. re, Dan."
le did not go on to the barn with horse, but stopped at the kitchen rand strode in furiously. "What's all this mean?" he was treed and cross, and light. He was tired and cross, and light. He was tired and cross, and light."

It would be the way indeed to have a light do with some one to go ahead. But you pick out jest whoever you like. I don't want anything more to do with the kitchen. Only come home John."

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