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Sunday Reading.

What of That?

Tired! Well, what of that? Did'st fancy life was spent on beds of

Fluttering the rose-leaves scattered by the breeze?

Come, rouse thee! Work while it is called to-day. Coward, arise! Go forth thy way!

Lonely! And what of that? Some must be lonely; 'tis not given to

To feel a heart responsive rise and fall, To blend another life into its own. Work may be done in loneliness. Work

Dark! Well, what of that? Did'st fancy life one summer holiday, With lessons none to learn, and nought but play?

Go thee to thy task, conquer or die! It must be learned. Learn it, then, patiently.

No help! Nay, 'tis not so! Though human help be far, thy God is Who feeds the ravens, hears His chil-

He's near thee wheresoe'er thy footsteps

And He will guide, light thee, help thee

Preferring One Another.

By W. Scott King.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," Tennyson tells us. And we may add to ourselves that in the summer or early autumn that same young man's fancy turns to thoughts of holidays. It is of a young man and his holiday that I am about to tell this story—a young man, by the way, whose birthplace was not in my own fancy, but in the far more substantial locality of a village in Surrey. But in order to explain his very unusual conduct it is necessary to go back twelve months before this question of his holiday arose. I have called him young; but perhaps the reader is in a newspaper office, or has the honor of being a deacon in some church, consequently will consider my hero middleaged when I announce his age to be thirty-five. Some few years before he had experienced 'ennyson's spring, and had brought home to the cottage where he and his mother lived a young wife. His mother was old, and entirely dependent upon her son. The position which her son occupied in the village, though one of average remunerativeness, was not such as admitted of any other than that of great economy if the two ends were to be made to meet. Fortunately for the young man's generous intentions concerning his mother, his young wife's heart was as self-denying as his own, and she bore the strain—for strain it was of keping three on a salary scarce large enough for two with ready cheerfulness. Now, whether it was through advancing age, which is apt to bring more blindness than one, or from any other cause, I cannot say; but the young man's mother hardly realized the burden even her small needs laid upon the shoulders of her son and daughter-inlaw. She was grateful indeed for all they did, but that they had to deny themselves to do it somehow or another did not occur to her. And yet, as this story will show, and indeed is written for the express purpose of showing, she was the least of selfish old women in the world. But now a crisis came along in the form of a fourth mouth to be daily filled, and the happy but sorely perplexed young father and mother took earnest counsel together as to what was now to be done. And, incredible as it may sound in dull, worldly ears, the pinch of the situation lay just here.

"We can't go on living like this any longer." said the young man. must get away to London."

"Yes, dear," agreed his wife. "Do you know why?" he asked, half-

smiling. "Of course I do. You mean Granny will find out now that we have to give things up for her sake, and of course she mustn't find out."

The young man kissed the shrewd little woman standing before him, and replied, "That's it exactly; we must go away where she can't see.

Accordingly to London they went, not only to try and get better wages if possible, but so that the shadow of the great city might obscure from those keen old eyes the domestic economies which providing for her entailed. And of the

thousand-and-one reasons and motives which every day take men and women to London, I have never heard of one more noble. Would that the shadows of the great city were never called upon to cover up conduct less heroic!

Knowing that the bloom goes off the fruit of sacrifice when that sacrifice is made known, other reasons were suggested to the old lady for their flight. In fact, so skilfully were they suggested that they almost overdid themselves, leaving granny with the amusingly inaccurate notion that great wealth was in store for them in mighty London.

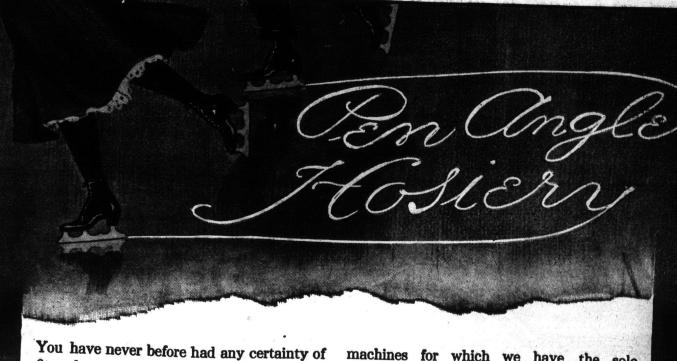
"Never mind," laughed the two, "if only she never guesses." And guess granny never did.

Before their arrival in London the Young man had secured a position a trifle better than the one he had occupied

wages when balanced by city prices for house-room and food they shrank to just a little less than the village income.

"But she'll never think it," they told each other, and so were happy. Every Saturday afternoon the young man procured a postal order at the neighboring office and sent it to that Surrey village, and every Monday brought a letter of gratitude in return.

One Monday, about six months later, a letter came which caused mingled consternation and merriment at the little breakfast table. She had missed them sorely, granny said, and had been very lonesome; so lonesome, indeed, that she had sought the society of another widow who lived but a few doors away, and who had no rich son in London to send her things. "And so, my dears, you will be pleased to know, I am sure, that in the village; but, as is the way of city, after I have cashed your postal order on



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