

how he desired to purchase the painting in the exhibition, and praised it highly. The lady, however, after thanking him for his compliments and offer, remarked that she did not wish to sell it, as it was her favorite painting, but if he chose, she would show him some others. He saw them all, but they failed to impress him as "The Greatest Of All is Love." Seeing him dissatisfied, she curiously asked him why he liked the painting so much. With a smile that only served to give easier escape to a sigh, he said, "Well, madam, the picture is peculiarly applicable to my life; it reminds me of the days of my boyhood and I feel it would serve as a link to connect me with the past, and," he continued in an undertone, "with the days that are no more." "How strange!" exclaimed the lady, "but surely, from the high price you offer me, you never were like the ragged boy I have painted in the picture!" "Yes," replied Esmond, "I knew what poverty was in those days and I hope I shall never experience it again." "I see," said the lady, "you have risen from the ranks of hard toilers; but if you like, sir, I will make you another picture and leave the girl out of it altogether."

"No! no!" exclaimed Esmond, "the little girl reminds me of a dear friend of mine in years gone by, and I want the picture, because as far as I can recollect it is almost a perfect painting of her."

"And was she as fair as the one in the picture?" inquired the lady.

"Quite as fair in every detail, and very dear to me, for until we were nineteen nothing had come between us, but then circumstances compelled us to part. I was too poor then; and thinking it wrong of me to marry a girl into poverty, I considered it wise to break the engagement and we parted. I went West and she remained with her parents," said Esmond.

"How sad!" exclaimed the lady, "but did you write to her or think about her when you prospered, or did she marry another?"

"I did think of her, but, considering it wiser to remain where I was, and as I was, I allowed the years to run by until it seemed too late to write to her," said Esmond.

"But," further inquired the lady, "what became of her?"

"I don't know," said Esmond, and, as if startled from the conversation, turned to the lady and said, "pardon me, madam, for being so childish, but let me ask you again to sell me the picture."

Leading him to another picture and telling him to unveil it she said, "Perhaps you would like this one as well?"

Curiously he lifted the veil, and, gazing in utter bewilderment at a picture, entitled, "Parting Is Bitter," he loudly exclaimed, "Great heaven! that's Letitia and I," and, turning to the artist added, "tell me, madam, where did you get that scene?—and who are you?"

Looking at him with a gentle light in her eyes—a light that shone from the soul—she slowly said, "I'm Letitia Hammond, and like you, I am toiling alone; you sought wealth and estate and got it, I sought happiness in love, but was left to travel alone on a hard and perilous road, my dearest hopes broken and my dreams completely shattered. However—there was a pause, and she, unable any longer to stem the stream of resuscitated feeling and affection which was rapidly flooding her soul, sought calm in tears; whilst he, completely baffled by the unexpected, passionately clasped to his breast the girl of his heart; and there in front of "Parting Is Bitter" the lonely toilers decided to keep for ever "The Greatest Of All is Love," both believing there was something that money could not buy.

Apples and Nuts.

Hallowe'en Hints by a Scottish Contributor ("Bess").

Apples and nuts are, the world over, one of the principal features of a Hallowe'en festival. They are supposed to serve a double purpose: to eat and to foretell the future. In olden days, it was believed that all the elves and witches of fairyland were afoot that night and though now, in these enlightened days, we no longer believe in these supernatural happenings, still that is no reason why we should forego the fun and frolic the occasion gives; the "ducking" for apples, the burning of nuts, etcetera.

An Old Fashioned Hallowe'en.

Hallowe'en, or evening, is as "every schoolboy knows," the eve of Hallow mass, the feast of All Saints, and is held on the 31st of October. It is always the occasion for a merry making. Hallowe'en parties being everywhere the order of the day. These may vary considerably in style, menus, etc., but the general idea is to have decorations as "witchy" and "ghostly" as possible, and to have the old time games as amusements, hallowe'en being a link with the past. Rich people can spend a very great deal on decorations and the menu, but the fun can be just as hearty, the fare just as much enjoyed in simple cottage style.

Burns, Scotland's beloved poet, gives a great description of the festival as it was held in his day, one of the verses running:

"Some kindly, merry countra folks
Together did convene,
Tae burn their nits, and pu' their stocks
An' hand their Hallowe'en."

One feature of Hallowe'en gathering I must refer to, that is the

Mystic Cake.

This must be baked at home, and in it must be put a ring, a thimble, a button, and two pieces of silver. This must not be cut until near the close of supper, and then only into as many

pieces as there are guests. Whoever gets the ring is to be married within a year; the thimble and button foretell bachelorhood or spinsterdom; and those who get the money are to inherit fortunes. If possible, fortune telling must be indulged in at supper time—by "reading the tea cups." It is well to include anyone who practices this art in your invitation, as the character of the evening lends itself to features of this kind. A great feature at Scottish cottage Hallowe'en gatherings is the

Dish of Mashed Potatoes.

"Chappit tauties," as the elder Scotch like to call them. This is generally eaten in the kitchen before coming to supper in the dining room, the big saucepan of "tauties" being on the floor, and the guests squatted round it, each with a spoon in hand. In the mashed potatoes are hidden the same symbols as are embedded in the mystic cake, and the finder has the same fortune. To give all an equal chance of finding his fortune, all sup the potatoes from one dish, and much fun and merriment is occasioned, as each one tries to eat as many spoonfuls as he can to increase his chance of finding his fortune.

The Table Decorations

need not cost much. A Jack o' Lantern of wire and yellow tissue paper could be hung from the chandelier, tied with a bow of red ribbon. On it might be paper bats (cut out of black paper) and black cats. Strings of baby ribbon might depend from this to each corner of the table; or if this does not suit, the Jack o' Lantern could be placed on the table itself. On these streamers of baby ribbon might be little mice (paper), black cats and bats. Other smaller Jack o' Lanterns might be placed at each corner of the table. The nuts might be in skulls, the apples (bright red cheeked ones) in little wooden tubs, on which might be pasted wit-



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