



THE HOME WORLD



Those who have most happiness think the least about it. But in thinking about and in doing their duty happiness comes, because the heart and mind are occupied with earnest thought that touches at a thousand points the beautiful and sublime of the universe.

—Thackeray.

Twilight on the Farm

The dews come down, and shadows gather in field and lane,
Low in the west a band of black gives promise unto rain,
It is the twilight hour—and given o'er to calm and rest,
It brings to home a benediction and is blest.

The boys come and bathe their faces at the cooling well,
Afair and faint, then near and sweet, tinkles the lead cow's bell,
It is the twilight hour—and stars are starting from the deep
High heaven's herald sent to watch that men may sleep.

The father comes, a man of many years of toil and care,
Who smiles to see the candle in the self-same window there;
It is the twilight hour—and with the farm work amply done
He feels a poor man's joy to think the food is won.

Then all sit down to eat the evening meal, and far away
A wagon rumbles out the neighbor's name who loves delay;
It is the twilight hour—and free from day's unending quest
It brings to home a benediction and is blest.

Pa and the Calf

"It seems to me, Maria," said a kind, hearted city man who lived in the suburbs, "that it is wicked to keep that calf shut up in a close pen this warm weather."

"That's right, John. I have told you several times that the calf should be exercised and have an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine and the fresh air. It is positively sinful to keep animals confined as this calf has been."

"It's a pretty hot day to exercise the calf."

"Don't put off this job on account of the hot weather. You always have some excuse," replied Maria.

At this prod of his wife John sallied off to give the calf an airing. John used to be spry and nimble, but after seventy years battling with life's care and rheumatism, he had lost much of his youthful alertness. He attached a long rope to the neck of the calf and led him confidently out into the wide expanse of lawn that bordered the house. The calf at first seemed to be dazed by the bright sunshine, but after a moment's hesitation galloped off with frantic speed, taking him unawares, almost throwing him instantly. John's legs were not extremely long, but the speed of the calf forced him into taking remarkably long strides, as he held onto the end of the rope.

When the calf arrived at the end of the enclosure he turned around and looked at John as though he desired further acquaintance. John approached the calf hauling in the rope hand over hand. When he reached the centre of the rope the calf started off again in the opposite direction, and John again began to measure nearly ten feet at every stride with his short legs. John was amazed at the wondrous strength of the calf. He knew that oxen, with the force of their necks, could draw heavy loads, but he was surprised to find that this calf, using the rope about its neck for a yoke, could haul him about so mercifully.

At this moment the rope came in contact with a tree, and John came to an abrupt standstill on one side of it and the calf at the other. Then the calf started in the opposite direction around the tree, and John was in great danger of being wound up and tangled in the rope. After succeeding in disentangling the rope he again attempted to approach the calf, having decided that he had had exercise enough for one day. But the calf

thought differently and started off on a gallop down the lane toward the highway, John being compelled to follow in the race at the end of the rope as before.

It happened that John had an aristocratic neighbor, and John was exceedingly anxious to be held in good esteem by this neighbor. On this hot day in August the neighbor had a gathering of friends upon the lawn. These neighbors were astonished to see a cloud of dust down the road from which in a few minutes emerged a calf followed by a man whose white hair was flowing wildly in the wind. The calf made directly for the gathering upon the lawn. The women ran screaming in every direction, chairs were upset, and there was a wild scrambling for the piazza.

As the calf disappeared around the corner of the house John made his appearance, holding firmly to the end of the rope, still taking long strides, his face bearing expression of much anxiety. He was utterly heedless of the aristocratic neighbor, who called upon him for an explanation. Around the lawn, among the bushes and flower



A Farm Girl, and She's Proud of It.

Photo by Sallows.