

Old Claverel's Daughter

(By Helen Francis Huntington.)

John Evard checked his horses' brisk gait a little just as a straight young calicoed figure stepped from the mill trail into the open road, leading an old gray mule with a bag of meal hanging over his back like paniers. Evard recognized the mule at first glimpse for he had often seen old Pete Claverel's slouching figure on its back.

"Yes, ma, it was. If I ever ketch up with whoever it was that told, I tell you there'll be somethin' doin'." I've a notion it was them mean-spirited Debbses 'that up an' told."

"How come you to set off?" the mother wanted to know, as the three ambled up the path toward the house. "Tate looked up at the girl in the doorway, whose dark, handsome face glowed with a strange light. "I reckon Lola can tell you more about that than I can," said the young man, with a certain embarrassed warmth. "Old man Evard said he let me off on her account."

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of any kind. She had heard that his school was the best. Would he make a place for her on trial? The president detected, under the girl's crude yet gentle demeanor, the fine instincts of some forgotten ancestor, and he believed that association with the young women of his institution, many of them daughters of the finest blood and breeding in Georgia, would do for Lola what many books could not effect, so he made up his mind to make room for her in some way.

"You will have to work very hard, both physically and mentally," he told her warningly. "I am willin' to do any honest kind of work," was Lola's grave answer.



COLLEGE BASEBALL TEAM, '05-'06

Table with 4 columns: DAY OF MONTH, DAY OF WEEK, COLOR OF VESTMENT, and the names of saints and feast days for August 1906. Includes entries for St. Peter's Chains, St. Stephen I, Pope, and various feast days like Ninth Sunday After Pentecost.

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rock. She'll stick to her word, come what will." In this surmise Pete was correct, for Lola not only rejected Halsey's suit, but declined to receive any further attentions from him. Astonished and bitterly hurt, the young man withdrew and threw himself into his father's ambitious plans with feverish zeal that delighted the old man. But Pete Claverel had no intention of losing his chance of an affluent old age without a struggle at least; he managed to obtain an interview with Halsey Evard in which he explained his daughter's conduct very painstakingly.

"Anyone that looks down on my folks ain't good enough for me," she answered proudly. "That's my answer, Mr. Evard. You can tell your son, so's to save him the trouble of comin' here for his answer."

Three days later old Pete Claverel lost his drunken balance, just as his mule stepped over the creek bank to ford the stream, and was drowned. His widow declared that she could not endure to live in the old house without him, so she sold the miserable place for the sorry sum of less than two hundred dollars, which she divided equally among her seven shiftless, good natured children, and went to live with a married daughter. Lola's portion of the legacy was exactly twenty dollars. She spent two dollars for a pair of shoes and a gingham bonnet, then she laundered her two calico dresses and what underwear she possessed, and set out upon what was to her a long journey, from Dahlonega to Gainesville, a beautiful little mountain resort in North Georgia, where she had heard, through John Evard, of a very fine seminary for young women.