

## Drusilla and the Cow

(Continued from last week.)

Will this do for the first day? I've just put down what comes into my mind. Two hammocks, six rustic benches, flower-pots, garden tools, birds and cages, ice-cream freezer, one pound candy, books and magazines, black silk dress for Purpose, lustre one for me, two hats and two muslins for Drusilla, three pairs kid gloves, two pairs silk, croquet set and house games—"

"Good gracious!" ejaculated her sister.

The elder woman laid down her paper and steadily confronted her. "Purpose, we've got to bribe that girl to stay."

"But are you going to get all those things?"

"Yes, and I'm going to take her with me. Drusilla!" she called, going to the foot of the wide staircase.

The girl had not used these stairs since house-cleaning time. Her aunts always made her go up and down the back stairway. Now she came reluctantly, making, although she did not know it, a touching, girlish picture on the broad, old-fashioned steps.

She was pale and unhappy, and her eyes looked as if she had been crying again.

"I want you to go to town with me," said Aunt Melinda.

"I don't care to go," Drusilla said, in a low voice.

Aunt Melinda stared, and Aunt Purpose shook in her slippers. "I want you to go," Aunt Melinda repeated, doggedly, "to help me buy some things."

Drusilla changed the subject. "I am very sorry that you heard what I was saying out in the cow stall."

"I'm glad you have sense enough to confide in a cow instead of a gossip," said Aunt Melinda dryly, "but a relative is a step higher than a cow. In future, when you want anything, come to me. I didn't know you were lonely."

The girl's lip quivered. "Have you ever heard anything else I have said out there?"

"No," said her aunt, sharply; "we're not in the habit of eves-dropping! We were up in the mow looking for eggs. Purpose thought she heard a hen cackling."

"Aunt, I want my liberty," Drusilla said slowly, but with determination. "If Mrs. Leary doesn't take me, I will go somewhere else. I have quite made up my mind; but I will wait till you get a girl, if you like."

"And what are we going to do with all these things?" asked Aunt Melinda, handing her the shopping list.

Drusilla took it, turned it over and over, then went from red to white, and white to red.

"Don't cry," said Aunt Purpose, sympathetically.

Drusilla immediately burst into a flood of tears. "I—I don't want to make you miserable," she said, at last.

"What matter, if you have a good time?" observed her aunt, coolly.

Drusilla looked up through her tears.

"Can one have a good time alone?" she exclaimed, generously. Then from the depths of a loving nature rose an unerring impulse. She sprang from her seat and flung her arms, first round the neck of the older woman, who sat calmly polishing her glasses; then she embraced Miss Purpose, who had been softly patting her hand.

The girl did not know what she had done. There was an immense reserve force of affection in the stern New England nature of the aunt who was the leader in household affairs. The girl had appealed to it, and her appeal was not in vain; and when she hurriedly began to murmur apologies for her seeming ingratitude, Aunt Melinda forcibly checked her. "No more of that, Drusilla! Get your hat and come with me. I'm going to hire two girls, and a week from tonight we'll give you a party."

Drusilla half-closed her dazzled eyes, while Aunt Purpose ejaculated faintly. "A party! What will people say?"

"All sorts of things," replied her sister, composedly. "We'll tell them we've been waiting for Drusilla's majority."

They went to town and did their shopping, coming home with flush-

ed faces. They did more shopping on successive days, and soon the party was given. It was an exceedingly stiff party, for the Gray-bettors had grown out of the way of entertaining. The supper was good, however, and Aunt Melinda, far from being daunted, began a series of parties. What she went through, and what her shy sister and the still more shy niece went through, on making their plunge into Grovetown society, would fill a volume; but Drusilla soon had all the friends she wanted, and the unwonted stir about the mansion regained its former reputation of being the most popular place in town, and Miss Melinda's heart was secretly filled with pride.

"Your niece is a most charming talker," said a neighbor to her one day. "She is really brilliant. It is wonderful, considering the quiet way in which you brought her up."

Miss Melinda hesitated an instant. The lady's tone was engaging, yet curious. How much she would like to know about good old Daffy out in the cow barn, and of poor, lonely Drusilla's conversations with her on every imaginable subject, from making pies to Emerson's philosophy!

But she would never know. The neighbors had never found out the reason for the sudden change in the Graybetter style of living, and Aunt Melinda did not intend that they should.

"She has always been a great reader, she said, calmly waving her black lace fan to and fro. "We have an attic half-full of books, in addition to my father's library."

Then she gazed across the lawn at Drusilla, who was surrounded by a flock of girl friends. The Misses Graybetter were giving a garden-party.

"Will you excuse me for a minute?" said Aunt Melinda. "I have an important order to give about a sick animal. Or will you come with me?"

"I should like to go with you," said the neighbor, agreeably. "I have not seen your new horse yet."

"Uriah," said Aunt Melinda at the barn door, "where are you?"

A man came out from the cow stable.

"You sent word that Daffy is sick."

"Yes, ma'am, old age. Shall I shoot her?"

"No; send at once for the best veterinary you can find. Doctor her and put her out to pasture. Don't kill her unless she suffers."

"One gets attached to a family cow," said the neighbor, sympathetically.

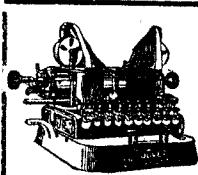
"I like this cow," replied Aunt Melinda, reflectively, "about as well as any cow we ever had, and Drusilla would be upset if anything happened to her."—Marshall Saunders in *The Youth's Companion*.

### HOW TO HAVE A STRONG CATHOLIC PAPER.

"The way to have a strong Catholic paper," declares the Pittsburg Observer, "is for every family to take a copy of it and to pay for it and for every parish, society and merchant to advertise in it. There is no danger that it will have too much support. The more money it receives the more money it can spend to buy articles and to get news. The way to have a weak Catholic press is for the people not to subscribe for it or after taking it not to pay what they owe for it, so as to exhaust its capital, and for every one who has any organization to maintain or any business to carry on or any project to boom to ask for free advertising in it and get mad if this is not granted. The Catholic papers are not endowed or subsidized by the church. They must get along or sink into failure on the support accorded them. The more support they obtain the better they will be. The less their support the weaker their force and the sooner their end."—Catholic Register.

### SAVING MONEY.

A Chicago trust company recently offered a series of money prizes for the best thoughts on the subject, "Why you ought to save money, and how you can do it." There were 541 competitors, of whom 190 were women. The first prize was awarded to Louis A. Bowman, of that city, and his thoughts on the theme are un-



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### PREVENTION OF PRAIRIE AND FOREST FIRES

throughout Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and within the Railway Belt in the Province of British Columbia, and any persons violating in any way the said provisions will render themselves liable to the utmost penalty provided in that behalf.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS CALLED to the necessity for the greatest caution being observed in the use of fire by settlers, campers, and others during the dry summer months, and to the penalties imposed for violation of the provisions of the law in this regard.

The penalties vary from \$5.00 to \$200.00, besides any that may be imposed by civil action for damages caused by such fires.

The following rules should be observed:—

- (1) In building a camp fire choose a place that is sheltered from the wind, and clear away any moss or inflammable material surrounding it.
- (2) Be sure thoroughly to extinguish your camp fire before leaving it.
- (3) Be careful not to throw away a cigar stub or match on the prairie, or in the woods, before it is extinguished.
- (4) Settlers desiring to burn brush and log heaps in clearing their land must do so at proper seasons of the year, and not allow the fire to escape from their premises.
- (5) All employers of labor should see that their employees whose work is in the open air are furnished with copies of the Act respecting prairie and forest fires or other instructions in regard thereto, as such employers are responsible for any violation of the law caused by their servants.

As every person in the community is liable during the dry seasons, to suffer more or less by prairie or forest fires, and as it is an undoubted fact that in most cases these are started through carelessness, it is hoped that these suggestions will be observed.

SETTLERS ARE THEREFORE EARNESTLY REQUESTED to co-operate in every way possible with the officers of the Government with a view to the prevention of fires and the strict enforcement of the law in that behalf.

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