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## Her One Accomplishment.

Old Brown stood in his private office, with his back to the fire and his coat tails balanced in either hand. He was a bald-headed old gentleman, with a ruddy complexion, keen black eyes and leg-of-mutton whiskers, which were white as snow. And Miss Nelly Torrance sat looking at him timidly from the depths of the big armchair in which he had beckoned her to seat herself.

"So you are my Cousin Adrian's daughter?" said he, after a long pause.

"Yes," said Nelly, wondering what was in all those mysterious tin-boxes and whether the monster from safe was full of gold and silver pieces.

"And you want something to do?"

"Yes, please."

"Humph!" said Mr. Brown.

Nelly glanced shyly up into his face.

"But," she added with some spirit, "I am not asking for charity. I am willing to work."

"You mean you would like to dash canvas, or sew yellow sunflowers on green plush screens," satirically observed the old gentleman. "I don't call that work."

"Nor I, either," retorted Nelly.

"Then what do you mean?" said Mr. Brown.

"I mean that I shall be glad to do any sort of honest work by means of which I can earn my own living."

"Humph!" again interjected Mr. Brown.

"Can you cook?"

"Yes," Nelly answered.

"I don't believe it."

"But I can."

"Nery well," said Mr. Brown, re- fessing his coat tails and sitting down at his desk, as if the question was definitely disposed of. "My cook went away this morning. I haven't engaged any one in her place. You may come this afternoon and see what you can do for me."

Mr. Brown fully expected that his young cousin would recoil indignantly from his proposal, but she did nothing of the sort. She simply said, "Yes, Cousin John," and asked for his private address.

"Mind you're punctual," said he, as he handed her the pencilled card. "I am always punctual," calmly responded Nelly.

Mr. Brown watched her out of the office with a quizzical twinkle in the corner of his eye.

"She won't come," he said to himself. "I've seen the last of my fine relation."

Nelly Torrance went home to a little second-floor room, the cheapest which the widow and her daughters could find.

Mrs. Adrian Torrance was dressed in black. She was a fair, delicate piece of human china, who had been like the lilies of the field in that she toiled not neither did she spin. Lucetta, the oldest daughter, was trying, unsuccessfully enough, to trim a black crepe bonnet by the window.

They had come up from the country at Lucetta's suggestion, to appeal, in their poverty, to this rich cousin of the dead father and husband, but none of them anticipated any very satisfactory results from the experience.

"These rich people are always miserly," said Miss Lucetta.

"And I've understood," sighed the gentle little widow, "that he was not pleased when poor dear Adrian married me."

"Well?" cried Mrs. Torrance, eagerly, as Nelly entered.

"What does he say?" questioned Lucetta, dropping the folds of crepe which she was vainly endeavoring to fashion into what the fashion plate called an "oblong bow."

"I have seen him," said Nelly, untying her bonnet strings, "and I'm going to his house in Grandover Park this afternoon."

"You don't mean," cried Mrs. Torrance, with a spasmodic catching of her breath, "that he is going to adopt you?"

"Not in the least," said Nelly. "I am to be his cook."

"And you?" gasped Mrs. Torrance.

"I said yes, of course."

"Eleanor," cried Lucetta, "I am scandalized by your conduct! Yes, perfectly scandalized! You will do nothing of the sort."

"Certainly not," said Mrs. Torrance, developing hysterical symptoms. "If your cousin Brown intends to insult us!"

"But he doesn't," pleaded Nelly.

"He intended the offer in good faith, and I accepted it in the same spirit."

"You surely do not mean to de- grade yourself," cried Lucetta, "by turning cook—for any man living?"

"I don't see," argued Nelly, "that it is any more degrading to cook for Cousin John than it would be to em- broider slippers for him, or to read the newspapers aloud to him of an evening."

"Eleanor never had any proper pride," said Mrs. Torrance, wringing her hands.

"Never!" echoed Lucetta.

"And," added Nelly, "my cousin would have every reason to believe me an impostor if I told him I wanted work, and then refused the offer he made."

It was 6 o'clock exactly when Mr. Brown let himself into his house with the latchkey which always depended from his watch chain. The gas jet burned softly in the hall; the fire clicked merrily in the grate in the parlor.

"Humph!" he muttered; "she hasn't come. Thought so! There's no such thing as a practical woman nowadays."

At the same moment a light, white- aproned little figure came out of the dining-room beyond, and Nelly Torrance's voice uttered the words:

"Dinner is ready, Cousin John."

The old man smiled. He had a pleasant expression on his face when he smiled, and Nelly wondered that she had not noticed what a handsome man he was.

"Oh," said he, "you did come, then?"

"I always keep my engagements," said Nelly. "Punctuality is the soul of business, isn't it Cousin John? At least that's what I used to write in my copybooks."

Mr. Brown patted her hand as she helped him with his overcoat.

"You are a good girl," said he.

And in his secret mind he deter- mined to put up with any deficiencies in the cooking of the girl who had such excellent business principles. But to his infinite amazement, there were no deficiencies to overlook. He ate and relished and wondered by turns.

"My dear," said he at last, when the cloth was removed, "all is very nice. I'll concede you are a tip-top housekeeper. But of course you ordered all this from Monerato's restaurant?"

"But, of course, I didn't, Cousin Brown," said Nelly, decidedly. "I cooked it myself."

Mr. Brown closed his eyes and made a hasty calculation. His life had been "worried out of him," to use a com- mon expression, by capricious house- keepers, inefficient cooks and untrain- ed servants. At last there was a gateway out of all his tribulations.

"My dear," he said, "I should like to have you come and live here."

"As a cook, Cousin Brown?"

"Not as my adopted daughter and housekeeper. I need some one to take the helm of my affairs."

"But my mother," hesitated Elea- nor, "and my sister Lucetta."

"Let them come too; there's plenty of room in the house. Can they cook, too?"

"No, Cousin Brown," confessed Nelly.

"Well, perhaps it's just as well," said Mr. Brown. "There can't be more than one head to the house- hold."

So the Torrance family found a comfortable refuge for the soles of their feet, and Nelly's despised ac- complishments proved the sword wherewith she opened the world's oyster. Lucetta sighed and wonder- ed why she, too, had not taken cook- ing lessons.

"Nelly is the old man's favorite," said she. "He'll leave her his money when he dies. And all because she accepted the ridiculous offer of turn- ing cook for a living!"

Mr. Brown, however, looked at the matter in a different light. He said:

"Nelly is not like the typical young lady, too lazy to work and too proud to beg. She does with her might whatever her hands find to do."

Woman's Journal.

work diagonally across the ship in order to get at the strong room where the chests of gold are expected to be found. Shells, pieces of tim- ber, lead, silver, pistols and bones are being brought up, and the latest relic of interest is a blunderbuss about a yard long. It was encrust- ed with lime.

It is stated in the "Statistical Ac- count of Scotland" that "in the six- teenth century, during the northern retreat of some of the Spanish Ar- mada, the Florida was blown up and destroyed off the harbor of Tober- more, a plot for the purpose having been planned and executed under the direction of Maclean of Dowart, for which he obtained a remission under the Privy Seal, as the records them- selves, dated March 20, 1589, bear witness. The timbers of the Florida are still occasionally brought up.

Part of the wood of the vessel was presented by Sir Walter Scott to His Majesty George IV. on his visit to Edinburgh.

"Several attempts were made to recover the lost treasure, one in 1688 by Sacheveral, Governor of Man, who fitted up diving bells, and tried them with success at the depth of ten fa- thoms. The report of the country goes that he got up and recovered much treasure. Another attempt was made in 1740 by Sir Archibald Grant and Captain Rose to weigh her by means of divers and machin- ery. This attempt was unsuccessful, but some guns were got up."

The incidents of the plot are more fully related in the records of the Clan Maclean. According to these, the chief of the house of Duart, was Sir Lauchlan Maclean, who had at the time of the Florida's appearance seriously embroiled himself with his neighbors of the Clan Ronald and the Clan Ian. To answer for his mis- deeds he was summoned before King James, but, failing to make appear- ance, he was denounced as a rebel.

In return for provisions, Maclean got a hundred men from the Florida, and with their help made war on his enemies. While he was investing Maclean's castle of Mingary, a per- emptory message came from the cap- tain of the Florida to send back the Spaniards to the ship. Maclean re- tained three of the officers as hos- tages, pending the payment of a debt for provisions. At the same time he sent a Maclean of Morvern on board the Florida to adjust matters. The Spaniards, wroth at Sir Lauch- lan's action, disarmed Donald Glas Maclean, and cautioned him at the peril of his life to hold no commu- nication with his friends.

The magazine of the ship was in close proximity to young Maclean's cabin, and the same night he found an opportunity to force his way into it, and lay a train in a concealed po- sition. He fired the train on the following day, and of the three or four hundred Spaniards on board only three escaped destruction. It is related that a dog survived the wreck, and its plaintive moanings from the shore over its lost masters made a deep impression upon the superstitious islanders.

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## CUPID IN BOOTS.

(From the French of H. Marchal.)

Dinner was over and M. de Preval and his guests had adjourned to the library. There Regis cried sudden- ly: "So this is your first stag dinner since you were married four months ago! Confess, now, that it has been pretty jolly!"

"It certainly has been," replied the master of the house amiably, "and the fact that you fellows are here is the only consolation I feel for my wife's absence."

"Oh, come, that sounds extremely well for a man who vowed he would never get married. Fess up, now, and tell us how you came to do it."

"Willingly. I was married because of my boots."

"H'm! You needn't make such a poor excuse as that," cried one of his friends, comfortably installed on the sofa. "We won't ask why you gave up the army when you have done nothing but swear that the mi- litary service was the fittest of all and that you'd be shot before you left it."

"Why did I leave the army?" De Preval repeated, with the same en-igmatical smile. "I left it because of my boots."

"Isn't polite to make fun of your guests," cried another man, carefully aiming a sofa pillow at his host.

"Thank you," said De Preval, promptly sitting on the cushion, "but I'm not making fun, I assure you, not in the least. It is the gospel truth."

"I left the army and I was mar- ried because of my boots. If my wife were here she would tell you it is the truth. But so long as you have asked me, I'll tell you the story. It will just about last out your cigars."

"About ten months ago I was sent to the garrison at Vezin. It was a deadly place in my estimation, and my superior officer kept going off on one leave after another, leaving the men in my command."

"I promptly hastened to turn them over to my Second Lieutenant, and spent most of my time running about the country and visiting the neigh- boring city."

"In a garrison as small as ours there was very little rivalry, and all the men were on terms of good friendship. We were very strict about all matters of dress, but I noticed, soon after I arrived there, that all the men wore enormous, square- toed boots."

"I was destined later on to learn the reason for this strange fashion. Personally, I was rather proud of my own feet and always wore pointed boots, the best