



The St. Andrews Standard.

PUBLISHED BY A. W. SMITH.

VARII SUMENDUM EST OPTIMUM.

\$2 50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE

No. 20

SAINT ANDREWS NEW BRUNSWICK, MAY 20, 1874.

Vol 41

A SOUTHERN SPRING SONG.

The blithe Spring is coming,
And the mellow sunlight falls
Where the golden bees are humming
In their busy little halls—
Where the cooing little song birds
Woo their mates amid the trees,
And the music of their love words
Pans like echoes on the breeze.

Young flowers with dew are laden—
Tall-tale relics of the night
Of some little fairy maiden
Who was courted beneath the skies,
When mortal folks were sleeping,
And, through leafy bowers and dell,
Sly, merry stars were peeping—
Watchers who will never tell.

Sky of Summer may be brighter,
Fairer flowers beneath them grow,
And its breezy touch be lighter
Than the Spring wind's vigorous blow;
But Spring time kills the cold days,
Decks the meadows with the flowers,
And, when dying, in its old days,
Leaves us Summer and its flowers.

SELECT TALE.

TOM'S FOOLISHNESS.

And the way he manifested it.

Another girl! and girls are of a earthly use in France without a dowry; and Monsieur Marquet stuck out of his house in a rage.

The little new comer, who was named Marie, was the fifth daughter come to vex the paternal committee of ways and means. As matrimony is the chief end of a French girl's existence, it was no wonder that poor Monsieur received the congratulations of his friends with his heart wrong side out.

But it is Marie's turn in spite of the frowns, and at sixteen had developed into a fine, handsome, and brave girl, so that her father was wont to stroke her long brown hair, and say, "True you are a girl, Marie, but you have all the qualities of a man. That is a great comfort."

At that time Marie had two lovers—one old rich, and whose suit her father favored; the other young, and not rich, whom Marie married without the blessing of her father. Her husband had just completed a medical education. He was tall and handsome, and his name Pierre Marquet.

A week after their marriage Pierre found himself nearly penniless, and the young husband and wife on bad good bye to France, to seek a home and fortune in America. They landed in New York beginning the work of home-making with empty hands, but strong hearts full of love. Pierre gradually won a place for himself and his profession, which added to Marie's excellent management furnished them with all the real comforts of home.

But every year or two brought a baby, until there were seven, all boys. Ah! if my father could only see my seven boys, he would be a foreman, and quite forgive me for being a girl myself. Marie would proudly say.

When the youngest was three years old, almost the entire family was stricken down with fever. From days and nights of watching, Pierre, who was less strong than Marie, became prostrate; and from fatigue, his physician said, but he would be quite well after a little rest. In two hours he was dead, and the eldest son lay dying.

From that day Marie was broken-hearted. She had loved her husband with the whole force and strength of her intense nature. From the day she married him until he lay dead at her side no other man had seemed to her so large souled, so noble-hearted, so devoted and true. She did not weep; her grief was too deep for that. Her heart, if she had one, was stone. Nothing moved her. All sorrows fell so far short of her own as to seem not worthy the name of sorrow. She was still so young, barely thirty-three, and she already had drunk to the very dregs the sweetest and saddest of life's wine. For her mother's heart there were six boys, and for her brains and her hands the care and support of them. She had her home, but no income now. What could she do? Teach French, and take a few boarders. So in a few weeks' time she saw the happy, bright-eyed, vivacious Marie changed into a pale, sad, black-robed woman, with her handsome boys gathered about her like a constellation, and half a dozen gentlemen to sit at her table and learn French. Most of them were professional men, while one or two were her own countrymen. The first to come was Tom Sigismond, partner in a downtown tea-house and the pet of a bachelor coterie, many of whom had been classmates in college, and led the usual life of a well-to-do fellow who have no "inconveniences."

Some one in the firm was wanted who understood French, and why not learn it himself? A French

American friend gave him Madame Marquet's address. The artlessness of Madame's broken hearted face, made the formal business matter a foregone conclusion. And so it happened that being the first by a day on the carpet, Tom was given the late doctor's place at the table, "if he would be so good as to carve." Carving was as new and untried a business as speaking French. But he was a fellow to do anything for a woman except marry her. He would carve if he amputated his hands in the operation. And then those six sitting boys with their interminable French chatter, with their "mamma, mamma, mamma," kissing her, hugging her, rubbing their heads against her, overwhelming her with their devotion, and trying her patience to the utmost! How could he ever expect to learn all their pretty French names, much less abide in the midst of such a beaumont?

And so each and all of the gentlemen thought, but had their wonderings answered by the nameless graces of the widowed Madame. Day by day only enhanced their admiration, and astonished them with their capabilities. From morning until evening neither her hands nor her feet seemed to find rest. They were always the boys to be sent to school the market, her French pupils, her household to superintend; and yet she seemed always so incapable of fatigue, always so tidy, and always so courteous, and ready to talk, but always so very, very sad.

One day Gustave, the third boy, was brought in from the street with the blood streaming from a wound in his head. It had been nearly a year since Pierre had died, and until now Marie had thought she had no heart. But the sight of her bleeding child showed her that she had, and she gave way to a flood of tears. After that she was quite like the impulsive, vivacious, and warm-hearted Marie of old. She was a Frenchwoman in a thousand ingenious ways—so rich in fact, in expediency, in helplessness; but had it not been for all those boys, one might never have known what a character she had. One day it was teaching little Pierre never to lie; another, Louis the beauty of cleanliness; another, courteous manners to Colet, generosity to Claude, or patience to Paul. She was certainly the most wonderful mother these men ever had seen; and neither had they forgotten their own. The sight of her and her boys lay after day developed their own further instincts and longings for a home and fire-side and a Madame of their own. But where could another Marie be found? None of them asked himself that question often than did Marie.

Tom Sigismond. Women were so treasured, only deceitful! He could count up a score of "perfect beauties" he had flirted with, who smiled sweetly, sang and talked like seraphs, and was a swiftness of tongue; but he declared he knew them to be perfect Xantippe in temper. (That was before Xantippe's amiable had been exonerated.) If he married, and he certainly never should, but if he did, he wanted to know the woman. Calling now and then, seeing her in the parlor, going to the opera and concert, riding in Central Park and the like, furnished no real clue to her character. Moreover, there was no way to find out unless one interviewed her maid, or engaged in her employ under the guise of coachman. Even if they were angels, he was afraid of angels, unless it was this French one with her six cherubs.

Of course he learned French with a vengeance. It was a wonderfully courteous language, seeming fitted for only lords and ladies. He was astonished that he had not learned it before. It was "Voulez-vous que je vous dise, Madame?" in the morning and at night. He charged himself with commissions, and finally grew to taking the boys out by two for a walk or ride. At the end of two or three years he was the only original boarder left. He had conjugated the verb "aimer" through all its moods and tenses, and instead of looking further for a Marie, decided to use for this one, including the satellites, Louis, Colet, Gustave, etc.

One day he fell in with a pair of his bachelor friends.

Where do you keep yours, Tom? inquired one. I haven't seen you for six months. In love, eh, old fellow?

Yes, I believe I am, said Tom, seriously. One more unfortunate! doled out the other. Young, rich and pretty, is suppose?

Yes, young, rich and beautiful, answered Tom. No money, a widow and six boys.

Oh, that—excuse me—but that's too thin. But it's a fact, said Tom; and the friends sobered.

Hey! are you crazy, old boy?

Never less so, old fellow.

Six boys! the dickens! That's beginning life at the top end, I should say.

Very likely; but if there were twelve, it would be all the same. There isn't another woman in the world like her! She's French. I've been learning French.

Yes, I should say so—by heart. Did you propose on French, a la Française?

Yes, I came by that yet.

Ah! then you are not hopelessly lost.

Yes, I am. It's a gone case. If she says no, I'm her's all the same.

Of course they had abundant reason to think he was a fool. Anybody would, when he could marry any one or the twenty "splendid girls," but instead chose a widow dowered with half a dozen boys!

But then he had got beyond public opinion. But what would Marie think? and what would Louis and Gustave and Colet and all those other graced thinkers think? It was no small thing to attack a heart surrounded by such a home-guard. But faint heart, etc., including six boys.

One day Marie seemed unusually sad and perplexed. "Some of those horrible bills to meet," Tom suggested, and he couldn't offer her a cent beyond his board, which he made as high as possible. Next day found her face no brighter, and after the boys were all in bed he knocked at Madame's little sitting room, saying he would like to come in for a while. Marie blushed, and putting her fingers to her lips, pointed to little Pierre asleep on a sofa. A low tone suited Tom had to say, and so he began, after drawing a chair vis-a-vis to her own.

Madame, you are the only woman in the world I know, and the only woman I love. I wish to marry you.

Marie drew up her hands in true French horror. Marry me! Pourquoi?

For yourself.

For my six boys! what can you think?

Your life they need a father. You are wearing your life out to care for them. Moreover, as they grow older they will need advice and guidance that you can't give.

That I want to marry you and the six boys is proof that I love you six times as much as is necessary to love a woman without children.

Oh, but you will think different to-morrow.

No! I made up my mind to this six months ago. I have only waited hoping that time and circumstances would make you need me as much as I need you. I hope I am not wholly indifferent to you.

You have been very, very good. But no one can be to me what my Pierre was. I cannot allow you to sacrifice yourself, and I cannot marry again. I must give myself to my children—les pauvres garçons! and the tears streamed down her cheeks.

But it is to care for them, you distress me, and have so right to help you, exclaimed Tom, seizing the fair white hand, that bore only a wedding ring, and kissing it in a desperate way.

Ah, then you must go away, sighed Marie.

And never see you again?

Only as a friend.

And you have no other answer?

None—no, Monsieur.

Promise me one thing. If you can at any future time give me a different answer, grant me the honor of telling you again how entirely my life is yours, and yours only.

She smiled sadly. There is always hope in such a promise, and I will not deceive you. You will thank me for this some day, if you do not now.

Of course Tom protested that he never would, and swore to his loyalty and devotion, and then, packing his traps, went to a hotel without a word to anybody.

When the fact of his departure became known in the house, the boys were furious, and overhauled Marie with questions—

Even one misadvised him in his own peculiar way, and I wish I do, that Monsieur Sigismond would come back! I greet Mr. Sigismond many times a day. And she, poor thing, missed him a thousand times more and more as the days went on, until it was no longer any use for her to deny to herself that she loved him almost as much as she had Pierre. And was she quite sure that she ought not to have said "Yes" for the boys' sake?

One day Colet came dancing in like a wild boy. "Oh, mamma, I met Monsieur Sigismond to-day, and he asked how the dear, beautiful mamma was and all about the boys; and I told him why he went away, and he said he didn't want to, and that he was just going to come back, but you wouldn't let him. Say, mamma, is that so? My father'll tell him he may come back?"

No, no, Colet; mother thinks he is very good, and hopes that some day he will come back without mother's saying so. But he did not come; and although Marie devoted herself to the boys, her heart ached all the day.

Her old friend, Dr. Lawson, who had known her and her husband for many years and who had always been very fond of Marie, came in nearly every evening, with the kind intention of cheering her. True, she would rather a hundred times have been alone, but she was too kind to appear otherwise than glad to see him. On one of these visits the doctor surprised her with an offer of his hand and heart—a very sensible, appropriate, and worthy husband, the world would have said. When he had finished, Marie pointed to the door.

Never come through that again with such a thought or wish in your heart, she said, at

most passionately. I do not love you; I can not love you; I never can love you. You are my friend; I will be frank with you; I love Mr. Sigismond.

The doctor bowed an adieu, and passed out. He was a generous soul, he knew Sigismond. He went straight to the hotel, and sent up his card to Tom.

Glad to see you doctor, greeted Tom, giving him a cordial clasp.

I've just been and offered myself to Madame Marquet. Blurted out the doctor, sinking into an easy chair.

Ah, and am I to offer congratulations? said Tom in a forced way.

Yes, I think you are, Mr. Sigismond. I certainly should if I stood in your shoes.

Yes? Well, and when is the happy event to come off?

Any time you say, I reckon; and the doctor ran his fingers through his sparse locks.

I say—that's clever. You speak in riddles. I hope the event has not affected—

loaded—loaded—your—your—

Yes, I think it has. Madame showed me the door. She loves another man, Sir—another man.

Her poor Pierre, suggested Tom.

No, it's a live man, and his name is Tom—Tom Sigismond.

What! shouted Tom, springing up.

Eh? he responded the doctor slowly. It's best not to be excited over it. You can't see her to-night; but if you go around to-morrow I think you can fix the matter up; and I advise you to rush matters. I know Marie. She loves you, my boy—she loves you; but she is a proud piece, and if you give her a chance, she will keep postponing the matter to the hurt of you all. Good-bye, you!

And you too, my dear man! added Tom, fairly taking the good-bye in his arms.

Tom went around to-morrow. The boys were at home from school, and Marie stood in their midst, adjusting some difficulty.

I saw Dr. Lawson last night, Madame Marquet, began Tom, putting his arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?

Oh, jolly splendid! they all shouted; and seeing the doubtful look on Marie's face, which by intuition they interpreted, began to plead. Yes, mamma; do please! while Louis drawing back and falling his arms, said with grave dignity:

I tell you what Mr. Sigismond, we think you're a first-rate fellow, but you'll have to be awful good to mother. I'm nearly as tall as you now, and I'm well up in gymnastics.

Hush, hush, Louis! laughed Marie, waving the entire corps from the room. What happened afterward has happened a great many times and the oftener it happens the more it is talked of.

That night Marie, putting her arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?

Oh, jolly splendid! they all shouted; and seeing the doubtful look on Marie's face, which by intuition they interpreted, began to plead. Yes, mamma; do please! while Louis drawing back and falling his arms, said with grave dignity:

I tell you what Mr. Sigismond, we think you're a first-rate fellow, but you'll have to be awful good to mother. I'm nearly as tall as you now, and I'm well up in gymnastics.

Hush, hush, Louis! laughed Marie, waving the entire corps from the room. What happened afterward has happened a great many times and the oftener it happens the more it is talked of.

That night Marie, putting her arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?

Oh, jolly splendid! they all shouted; and seeing the doubtful look on Marie's face, which by intuition they interpreted, began to plead. Yes, mamma; do please! while Louis drawing back and falling his arms, said with grave dignity:

I tell you what Mr. Sigismond, we think you're a first-rate fellow, but you'll have to be awful good to mother. I'm nearly as tall as you now, and I'm well up in gymnastics.

Hush, hush, Louis! laughed Marie, waving the entire corps from the room. What happened afterward has happened a great many times and the oftener it happens the more it is talked of.

That night Marie, putting her arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?

Oh, jolly splendid! they all shouted; and seeing the doubtful look on Marie's face, which by intuition they interpreted, began to plead. Yes, mamma; do please! while Louis drawing back and falling his arms, said with grave dignity:

I tell you what Mr. Sigismond, we think you're a first-rate fellow, but you'll have to be awful good to mother. I'm nearly as tall as you now, and I'm well up in gymnastics.

Hush, hush, Louis! laughed Marie, waving the entire corps from the room. What happened afterward has happened a great many times and the oftener it happens the more it is talked of.

That night Marie, putting her arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?

Oh, jolly splendid! they all shouted; and seeing the doubtful look on Marie's face, which by intuition they interpreted, began to plead. Yes, mamma; do please! while Louis drawing back and falling his arms, said with grave dignity:

I tell you what Mr. Sigismond, we think you're a first-rate fellow, but you'll have to be awful good to mother. I'm nearly as tall as you now, and I'm well up in gymnastics.

Hush, hush, Louis! laughed Marie, waving the entire corps from the room. What happened afterward has happened a great many times and the oftener it happens the more it is talked of.

That night Marie, putting her arm about her, while the boys looked on in silent wonder. We will be married to-morrow. He spoke as if an appeal was an utter impossibility. Boys what do you say about having me for a father?