



Granny's Experiences

No. 1

"Why, bless my heart, Susie!"

"It's a treat to see your dear face again—and this is your husband—glad to see you, Jack."

"Now Susie, take off your hat and coat, and come out to the kitchen with me—Jack can go out into the garden and smoke for awhile."

"I'm just going to bake a few of those biscuits that you like, and while I work you can tell me all the news."

"What did you say? Bake some of those brown biscuits? Why, do you remember those yet? I used to bake them for you when you were knee high to a sparrow."

"Surely, dearie—and I'll make a pie or two to-morrow—Oh, it's no trouble, I've always used HUNT'S DIAMOND FLOUR for baking—you are always sure of it—there is no chance at all of spoiling your baking with HUNT'S."

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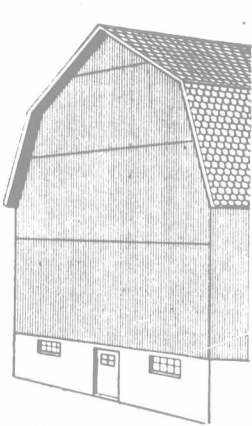
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ble. Cruel Aunt Fay! Somehow, she must have known that the face of her alter ego had been painted and exhibited by Starr, and she was enjoying his misery, as bad boys enjoy the wriggings of butterflies on pins.

In pity I stepped in to the rescue, and began again, before a question about the portrait could fall from the lips of Miss Rivers, on which I saw it trembling.

"It's the Rhine for no particular reason," I said. "It's quite arbitrary. Farther on it's the Oude Rhine, farther still the Krommer, or Crooked Rhine. But if you think little of it here, you'll despise it at Katwyk, where it's and is so ignominious that it has to be pumped into the sea."

"I don't think that ignominious," said the Chaperon. "I suppose it doesn't choose to go into the sea. It would rather rest after its labors and lie down in a pleasant pool, to dream about where it rose on the Splügen, or about the way it poured out of Lake Constance, and went roaring over the rocks at Schaffhausen to wind on among hilly vineyards and ruined castles, past the Drachenfels and Cologne. If they choose to pump it against its will, that's their affair; at least that's how I should feel if I were the Rhine."

"How Scotch of you, Aunt Fay!" exclaimed Starr, fervently; but he looked worried; and I wondered if he had told the girls that Lady MacNairne had never been much abroad. Evidently her double has traveled, and remembered much what she saw. I am not curious concerning other people's affairs, but I confess I should like to know something of Aunt Fay's past, for she seems so ignorant of some things, so well-informed upon others.

Suddenly Miss Van Buren looked up from a red book which had engaged her attention ever since, at Alphen, we turned out of the narrow water-street of the canal into the broader thoroughfare of the river.

"This book explains everything except what you want to know!" she complained. "Why can't it tell what Saint Joris is in England? He must be some saint there, and I saw his name over that nice little inn with the garden at Alphen."

"St. George," I said; though she had not asked me.

"I might have known," she sighed, "and no doubt the Dutch have put the dragon into their language too, stuck full of those 'i's' and 'j's,' that make me feel whenever I see them in print as if my hair was done up too tight, or my teeth were sizes too large for my mouth. 'Rijn wijn,' for instance. Who would think that meant something sleek and pleasant, like Rhine wine?"

"Why not?" I asked. "We pronounce it almost the same."

"That's because you haven't got the courage of your convictions. You fling the 'i's' and 'j's' about, and then pretend they're not there."

"Why, don't you see that they're only 'y's'?" I protested, and really it does appear strange that to foreign eyes they can look, when side by side, like separate letters.

But the Chaperon stopped us. She said that we could find enough to do minding our p's and q's in life, without quarrelling over "i's" and "j's"; so the argument ended, and the girls turned their attention to making tea.

They did it charmingly, juggling with the contents of a tea-basket which Starr brought on deck and placed on a little folding-table. Whether Miss Van Buren forgot me or not, in dealing out cups when tea was made, at all events she pretended to, and reminded by her step-sister, gave me tea without sugar. Then, begged for one lump, she absently dropped in three, while talking with Starr. Robert would certainly have been tempted to shake her if he had been present at that tea-party.

(To be continued.)

A vaudeville artist, who used to tour the theaters with a flock of performing ducks, found managers no longer willing to book his sedate show. After he had been resting some time he received a telegram asking him to open on the following Monday at a vaudeville theater in a distant town. In reply he wired:

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