

One Touch of Nature

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David and Martha understood each other so well that the question of adoption was never mentioned between them.

The touch of the Barton baby, however, had recalled the first thrill of feeling that had been aroused by the sight of Jack in David's arms, and Martha's heart was very softened as she took the key from under the door mat and let herself into the sunny, well-kept kitchen.

As she prepared David's lunch, she kept unconsciously humming to herself the song she had heard Joe Barton sing: "Rock-a-bye, baby, upon the tree top."

Her thoughts were so far away that she was quite startled when David entered a little later, saying, as he laid a parcel on the table: "There, Martha, I stopped at the Jenkin's sale and brought you home a picture."

Martha undid the wrappings, and revealed the picture of a little child fresh from his bath, the tint of health in his cheeks, the damp hair in curly disorder over his head; his body round and dimpled. But it was the expression of the eyes which arrested her attention. They held a trusting demand for love rather than an uncertain plea for it.

"Why, Davy, he looks like Jack. We'll hang him in our bedroom," she said.

David sighed contentedly. Somehow he felt that he did not wish others to look or comment upon the picture and he was well-pleased to know that Martha shared this feeling.

As the days slipped by, Martha found herself gazing at the picture frequently. The little child seemed to have become a real presence in the home. She found herself longing to cuddle the little fellow, to dress him and to sit him on a rug in the kitchen to play in the sunshine.

Always, when she looked at the picture, she thought of Jack, and she wondered how he was thriving in the rather dark rooms in his city home. "Children," she commented to herself, "are like geraniums."

A few days later, she announced to David that she had some shopping to do

in the city, and would take Jack's monthly allowance in with her. The truth was, she wished to see the little fellow, who seemed to have become specially her own in the last two weeks.

She found Jack getting his breakfast and soon established herself in his favor. He seemed to feel by a child's true intuition, that the childless heart yearned for him. He basked in the baptism of love that the long-starved heart showered upon him.

The day had been a lonely one to David. He and Martha had become very dependent on one another. He glanced up at the clock many times before tired Nature had her way and he sank into sleep. When he awoke, it was to find a child in his arms and a sleepy head on his shoulder, while Martha whispered the only explanation he ever received: "I've brought our baby home."

Swan Lake H.E.S.

The February meeting of the H.E.S. was held on Saturday, 27th ult. Mrs. Gardner again kindly acted as secretary during the absence of Mrs. Hartwell. The president opened the meeting by showing the members the Certificate of Registration which had been received from the Agricultural College, and which it was decided to have framed.

The subject of the programme was "Delegates Report" of the H.E.S. Convention in Winnipeg. Mrs. Gordon gave her impressions first, and spoke of the reception given to the delegates at the Agricultural College, touched on the friction which has existed for some time between those who are in authority and those who think they ought to be and which was much less noticeable this year, and of the nomination of an Advisory Board containing three presidents of societies:—Mrs. Speechly of Pilot Mound, Mrs. Cooper of Minnedosa and Mrs. Hunt of Benito, through whom local branches can send protests and suggestions and of which Professor Black still remains head.

Mrs. Moore gave a very interesting

paper which cleverly skimmed the cream from the most important speeches given and which was brightened by amusing personal notes and comments. It is impossible, in the small space at our command, to give more than a resume of the most important points made. The convention passed the following resolutions to be presented to the School Trustees' Convention: That, whereas the physical welfare of the children in the schools has an important relation to their mental development, this society is desirous of putting itself on record as urging the extension of medical inspection in schools throughout the province.

Also resolved that this society places itself on record as being in favor of increased attention being given to the teaching of agriculture and domestic science in the schools.

Miss Yeman of the Souris school spoke of the good influence the country H.E.S. Societies can have on the schools, and of the many ways the two bodies could work together for the good of the children, the parents, the teachers, and the community at large. As matters are at present, the teachers have too much responsibility in the small towns; they are made responsible for the mental, moral and spiritual welfare of their pupils, whereas the parents should certainly be responsible in the last two instances. A mother's influence should be much stronger than it is, and a great deal of good would be done if parents would take more interest in the schools where their children attend and in the teachers who have the guidance of the growing child just at that period of its life when it is most readily influenced for good or evil.

Mrs. Broadhurst of Winnipeg insisted on the importance of a well balanced meal and proved that the food for the body should be as carefully and scientifically prepared as that for the brain.

Mr. Newton also spoke emphatically on the value of good meals, and said that he hoped before long to see every school in the province equipped with a rural

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