

Literature.

A DARLING LITTLE DUCK.

The Runaway Courtship.

Concluded.

I have no place to ask you, unless you sit on the fence, she replied, gaily, as the men help do, I believe, on Sunday nights, when they go a-court—

She stopped with a blush. Her light spirits had carried her further than she intended.

I have ceased to be on the fence, said Charley, pointedly. It was impossible to mistake his meaning. But she was not to be discomfited easily.

That's what I like her the better for her sauciness.

He did not want confidence in himself, you see, though his confidence was a good deal shaken, when calling at the farmhouse day after day, he always was told 'not at home.'

At last after several attempts, Charley found Miss Derwent in the porch sketching.

'You don't seem to care to see me,' she said, chagrined 'as she looked up, nodding carelessly. 'I have been here daily for three days. I would not have found you at home now, I'm afraid, if it hadn't been raining.'

'I always go out when I can,' she replied putting in a bit of color on one of her cheeks. Then, raising her eyes to his, she said, bluntly, 'Besides I don't like trunks; and you are a truant, sir.'

'A truant!' 'Yes! Mr. Charles Stafford, as I suspected when I first heard his name, of whom I know just the least little bit. He is at this moment a runaway, a truant. You can't deny it. (Guilt is your face.)

'A runaway, a truant?' he stammered, more confused than ever.

'Yes! It means sir, shaking her head reprovingly, 'you are engaged to a head-fore-and-afar cousin, and just when you were expected to fill your engagement, you can't do it. Such is the gossip, at least, that comes to me from New York. Very wicked of you! Going about under false pretences, I should say. How lucky my correspondent happened to tell me. Some poor, easily deluded girl, at your hotel, might otherwise have fallen in love with you, for they say you are a dreadful flirt. I shall post you all over the White Mountains, at least, I suppose I ought to! She laughed again her merry laugh.

Charley, driven to desperation, told her the story. He was anything but the self-possessed Charley of their first interview. He pulled at his whiskers, stammered for words, and could hardly meet Miss Derwent's eyes.

'I have not seen her since she was a child,' he concluded. 'We've no tastes in common.'

'How do you know if you haven't seen her?' maliciously interposed his tormenter.

He took a turn, half-angry, up to the end of the porch, and came back.

'The match was made up for me,' he went on ignoring the interruption. 'There can be no love in such a union.'

'Love! I have anything to do with marriage, nowadays?' 'Don't poke fun at a fellow,' he pleaded piteously. 'I hate Miss Thornydyke. Yes, I hate her.'

'Strong language, sir.' And Miss Derwent put in some more color in some more trees. 'Is that the way you speak of all your acquaintances?' 'I didn't speak in that way of you, at any rate,' retorted Charley, brought to bay.—'I—'

Miss Derwent interrupted him hastily. 'As we cannot even be acquainted acquaintances, she said, with dignity, 'perhaps you'd better not speak of me at all. Come, Mr. Stafford, be a good boy; go home to your mother, marry Miss Goodly Two Shoes, or whatever her name is; and live happily, as the story book says, forever after.'

'She had begun with great gravity, but now her eyes were dancing with glee again.

'Do you wish to drive me mad?' cried Charley, coming directly to a full stop in front of her, and with a certain masterfulness in his air and attitude that made his hearer give an involuntary start. 'I love you—' 'Ourselves I wouldn't have made this confession about my cousin. I should have had no right to do it if I hadn't loved you. I don't know who your correspondent is, but she hasn't told the whole truth. Upon my word, Miss Derwent, I never loved Miss Thornydyke, I never made her my promise, I have never loved any one but you, and, looking her resolutely in the face, 'I never shall.'

Miss Derwent began to be a little frightened. This man was not a man to be trifled with. She changed color rapidly.

'I cannot profess to misunderstand you,' she answered. 'And—and,' returning his look at last with an effort, 'I believe you.' Charley tried to catch her hand, but she withdrew it behind her.

'No, that is going quite too fast,' with a little nervous laugh. 'I hardly know you, remember. I have just told you we are scarcely acquaintances.'

'Acquaintances! When I have loved you ever since I first saw you.'

'She looked up archly. She could not help it.

'Then I was the 'darling duck,' after all, she said, 'though you denied it so glibly.

'Forgive me.' His voice was as eloquent as his eyes. 'You must have thought me insufferably impudent. But put me on probation. Give me at least a little hope.'

'Come Mr. Stafford,' said his hearer, gravely, 'let us make a compact. You have been frank with me, and I believe all you say about Miss Thornydyke. I do not think you could get otherwise than a man of honor. I will consent to answer for you, and give you a candid answer after while. A girl can't be married off, hand, with a touch of her old archness 'as you said yourself just now. But you must call me a flirt, remember, if my decision should be against you. Otherwise, we had better say good-by, now and forever.'

So the compact was made. Charley went home full of hope. 'She must like

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THE subscriber keeps on hand a large assortment of every description, and made to order.

It is the subscriber's privilege to have the work done in the most perfect manner, and at the lowest price.

On consultation between the subscriber and the customer, the subscriber will be pleased to give the best advice, and to make the work in the most perfect manner, and at the lowest price.

I also take a prescription from a celebrated medical physician, who has been practicing for many years, and who has been successful in curing many cases of Rheumatism, Gout, and other diseases.

I have used a great deal of medicine, but I have never found any that will cure me, until I found your medicine. I have used it for several months, and I feel perfectly cured.

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CELEBRATED FIRST-PRIZE IRON FRAME MOWERS.

For 1870!

Our Mowers received special Awards of Merit at Nova Scotia Exhibition, 1876.

Our ITHACA RAKE has the BEST HORSE-DUMPING ATTACHMENT, entailing less labor and greater durability.

We manufacture also two patterns of STEEL PLOUGHS.

Known as "Canada Pattern Scotch Plough," and the "Barker Plough."

TESTIMONIALS.

Mr. McPherson, Thompson & Anderson.

After having used one of your Mowing Machines in this place, we would say that last year when we were out of our mowers, we were in a great deal of trouble.

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