APRIL 15,

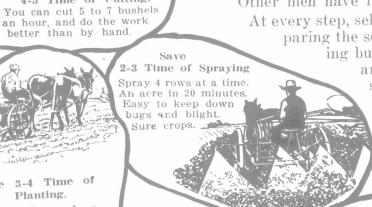
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Nightingale-We, the birds-

King (Interrupting)-ls there no gem? Is there no endowment, beauty, health?

Nightingale-O, dear King, listen-King - Yes, yes, we know what you would say. But sacrifice, pain, sorrow, go to the making of this Gold, One must rise above self, and live solely for others. A handful of this Gold will grow and multiply at every good deed done, sacrifice made, every pain endured for the help of another being; and if the possessor fail one jet or tittle, the gold will, like red-hot coals, burn and scorch, and sere the life with misery. Is there a mortal who can undergo such a test as this? And, heed you-once we bestow this Gold upon a mortal, the giving of it is ours no more.

(A pause. Gnomes more restlessly. King steps down from his throne, picks up the diamond dagger, looks into its light. Gnomes begin to whisper together. Nightingale watches King, then coming close to him, speaks softly),

Nightingale— Rosemary, we are sure

Will the Test endure. Grant that it be so.

Yet-for you must know-

'Tis but once we hold Right to give the Gold (Nightingale grows a little vexed, stamps foot lightly, and speaks with more vehemence).

Nightingale-

It is for her we ask,-No self-denial, no task We deem too great or high

Myself-nor yet would I,-But this-the Meadowgold, Old as the world is old; Wrought when the dawn-sun's beam Flashes into the stream; Perfect of purest Gold;

Love's power manifold Nightingale-

All this we know, yet dare To ask the treasure rare. King-

But heed you,-yes, 'tis so, A mortal must perfect grow Ere of the Gold he know.

(A pause. Nightingale hangs her head sadly. King half turns away, bowing head regretfully. Gnomes look from one to another wistfully, playing absently with implements). Nightingale (Turning half-way round to

Gnome and speaking pleadingly)-Rosemary, to us is dear,-'Tis that which brings me here.

(A second pause. King moves restlessly; catches sight of Gnomes, suddenly raises his head and cries in a clear voice)-

King-What say you, my Gnomes, what say you? Shall we grant our friends, the Birds, this boon?

Gnomes (Turning to him joyfully)-The Acorn's end She did forfend,

Remember, King: So let us bring Into the stream That Golden Gleam, A double measure

For double pleasure. (Clinking their implements they sing)-Click, clack, click, Knick, knack, knick.

A double measure For double pleasure We'll give Rosemary treasure.

(A pause. King strides over to the forges, gazing into their fires; then looks long upward into the depths of the over-hanging rocks; clasps his hand across his forehead and eyes in deep thought; then turns quickly and joyously, to the Nightingale)-

King-So be it then, sweet bird of night, Take once more your swiftest flight; Tell our friend we thus decree,-Upon this very morn may she Find the Gold. When first the beam Of the dawn-sun floods the stream Dip her two hands, like a cup, And what she finds there, gather up. Nay, thank us not,-for well we know Whereof you ask; what we bestow. We are content,—her deeds will show. (The Gnomes fall to work with great

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