

THE FIRST PROPOSAL

Dr. Ludington was a physician of considerable renown, having already accumulated a princely fortune, and the possessor of a beautiful mansion on Lexington avenue.

He engaged rooms and board in a farmhouse, near the picturesque little town of Ithaca. Kate's love of nature and freedom could here be enjoyed, without the tyrannical impositions of fashion to interfere, or poison by restriction.

She soon became the pet of the family, and her pleasant manners and friendly greetings won the friendship of all the neighborhood. There was scarcely a day that did not find Kate smiling from her waving meadows, or exploring the woody glen, which always brought increased pleasure, and a richer color to her cheeks.

Near the farm-house lived a country lady, Philander Skivins, who had fallen deeply in love with Kate at first sight. One day she asked him to show her the whereabouts of Sidney Falls. After this Kate was never in want of Philander's presence.

Every day he could be seen hanging around the farm-house, dressed in his Sunday-go-to-meetings, which consisted of a pair of homespun trousers, rather short at one end; blue swallow-tail coat with brass buttons, a present from his grandfather, who had granted many a general training with his presence and military genius.

Of course, the sleeves were six inches too long; then, they could be turned over, and being lined with red flannel, gave an additional elegance to his appearance. This constituted his dress. It is fair to presume, as he went bare-footed, that boots were not required by ye gods of fashion.

Philander was just merging into his nineteenth year, an age susceptible of much cerebral elasticity. By some reason, best known to herself, Kate, on many of her rambles, accepted the company of her devoted.

Charles's eye, which she knew looked mischief. Her attempts, however, to draw him out were fruitless. At the end of a week, Dr. Ludington joined his family and friends at the farm house, to spend a few days he had matched from his business.

The day after his arrival Charles wrote the following note: "MY DEAR PHILANDER, I have just called at the house of the late Mrs. Skivins. Your affectionate KATE."

He delivered this as he had the first, and impatiently applied the result. The next morning Philander spent more time than usual upon his toilet, used more hair oil from his mother's hair tub than had been his custom, but he thought the occasion warranted it.

"Mister Ludington," Charles, with suppressed mirth, introduced him. "Well, Mister Ludington, I suppose I might as well let it out from the hull of 'em. I come to make a hitch with your flannel. If you're willing, I'll fix you quick."

Kate fled through the door, and Charles retreated through the bay-window into the garden. Dr. Ludington in an instant saw the true position of affairs. He told Philander he could not spare Kate, and thought he could find one better fitted among his acquaintances to do honor to the name of Skivins.

The doctor's kind remarks somewhat shocked Philander's disposition, judging from his whistle as he left the house. After Philander's exit, Kate and Charles returned to the parlor, where the whole matter was discussed.

Six months from this time, Kate received the second proposition. Although containing less expressed stipulations than the former, she accepted, and became Mrs. Brosham; and about the same period there was a wedding at the Skivins mansion, though on a humbler style. My both couples enjoy a long and happy life.

A Fine Quality of Sugar. "That, sir, is a very fine quality of sugar," said the groceryman. "It is used mostly for making desserts."

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