

SHEAF, BUTTER AND POETRY.

Some years ago the Committee on Bread and Butter, at the Dorchester (Mass.) Agricultural Fair, closed their report with the lines given below. There is a playfulness in them worthy of a moment's attention. We do not know whether the poet was more inspired than he ought to have been when he plucked the fair-day-maid "yellow deep" in "meat and cream," but this, probably, comes under the head of poetic license, with which we will not dare to meddle.

The girl engaged in moulding bread
Shall make some sweet-heart better
With love to get the dairy-maid
To make his bread and butter.

She may not put the game trout
Of French and German stuffer
If with the knife she cut from whey,
And makes sweet bread and butter.

But says if he will now and then
She'll make his bread and butter
The dairy-maid, the farmer's wife,
Shall be the best of us.

Alone, man leads a crusty life,
Without good bread and butter.

COOFISH AND POTATOES.

"Who can that be?" said Kate with a little start. "The landlord, I suppose."

"Not he," laughed Hope, "he knows better," and in a second more had removed her calico apron, and was face to face with her guest.

"I am very glad to see you, Mr. Earnest," said Kate, "but I am glad to see you," replied the gentleman with a friendly grasp of the hand. "Now where is the picture?"

"Nobody can tell how grateful Hope was that her visitor should plunge at once in *anecdotes* and *anecdotes* but just Hope herself how near she came to breaking down when, standing before the little landscape, she expressed her honest admiration of her laborer."

"You were very kind to think of me, Miss Hope," he said, "and I only regret that I did not get your communication before. I have been out of town, and two hours ago was not only entirely unaware of the contents of your letter, but also ignorant of your change of residence. Had I known that you had been visited by a trouble as heavily as this I should have called, I assure you, without having been sent for on business."

"I am sure that, Mr. Earnest," answered Hope, "I knew I should hear from you as soon as you received the letter."

"I should like to be misunderstood by a friend, and now as this is a matter of business, will you please tell me what price you have set upon your picture?"

"If John Earnest expected to find the least trace of false pride, or even delicate reserve, he was disappointed. True, the earnest on Hope's cheeks deepened a little, but she replied in a perfectly steady voice, looking her companion squarely in the face—"one hundred dollars."

"It is worth more than that, Miss Hope," said her visitor. "It is small to me, but really, it will be the gem of my library. I have paintings no larger, and to more perfect, I assure you, than this, for which I have paid five times that sum."

"Yes," answered Hope, a little doubtfully, "that is really understood, Mr. Earnest. When your picture comes to be demanded, then I shall make folks pay for them; but I shall a hundred dollars is quite enough for this one."

The gentleman understood too well the nature he was dealing with to urge this point, although he would have been glad to do so, he said.

"I hope you will have no objection to having this picture hung in the Academy for awhile."

"Not in the least," she replied. "I should be only too glad."

"With your own name?"

"With my own name."

A queer kind of a crept into the corner of Mr. Earnest's mouth, as he counted out the money, and handed over the crisp new bill to his companion; but Hope did not notice it. There was the rent, and the gas bill, and a ton of coal, and something nice for her mother to eat; and it was a very sweet, though very grave face that looked into his.

"Oughtn't I to have a bill for this?" he inquired. "Oughtn't I to have a bill for this?" he inquired.

"What? Miss Hope?" he asked in astonishment.

"Oughtn't I to give something to show that I have paid me in full for my picture?" continued Hope.

"Why yes," he answered, the queer smile deepening. "If you are determined to do business in a business like way."

"And why not?" she inquired innocently.

"Barly—why not?" he repeated, and Hope set down to her little writing-desk, and after a moment presented him with the necessary receipt.

"That is the way my father used to write them, I believe," said she, as her visitor carefully examined it.

"It is perfectly correct," he answered, and concluded, as he folded the little piece of paper and tucked it in his pocket. "If you will paint a companion piece to this picture, I shall be delighted to be your purchaser, and if you are willing, Miss Hope, I should like to do myself the favor of calling on you sometimes as I need to do."

"You will be welcome, I assure you," Hope answered, and John Earnest, with his bow purchase under his arm, walked out of that humble home a very thoughtful man. A moment after Hope and Kate were hugging each other, and tears of joy were rolling out of two pairs of as beautiful eyes as ever opened to the light of day.

Hope walked out, and ran for some berries—and anything else you think mother will like. Let's have it all ready for her when she comes out."

"Not a word," answered Hope, stern in a moment. "I shall give him his money just the very, very last thing. That man would have pushed us into the street if a stronger power had not intervened to prevent; and now I shall pay him when the time is up, or thereabouts."

"No Kate a few moments' after returned with the grocery boy, both laden down with good things, and in half an hour dinner was on the table, and Mrs. Merriam invited to rise and participate in the annual festivities.

"There is no use in getting up," said the lady sadly; still she arose and went out. "What is all this?" she inquired, as her eye fell upon the well-filled table.

"It means," replied Hope, "that when the time comes, money comes; and it means also that God always helps those who help themselves; it means, moreover, that if we are faithful over a few things, God will take care of the rest. I don't know, but I feel as if I ought to be able to do it."

"Yes," answered Hope, "that he will surely see to it that we are provided with whatever we may need for our advancement. There is nothing in this world that is right for us to have that can be kept away from us when we are ready for it, and I for one don't want the very first thing that is not mine by actual possession; mine by the right God has given me of earning it. Mr. Earnest paid me a hundred dollars for my picture, another dear, and that's what it costs again. Now sit right down and have a piece of delicious cake."

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the young lady as she has been," said the lady sadly; still she arose and went out. "What is all this?" she inquired, as her eye fell upon the well-filled table.

"It means," replied Hope, "that when the time comes, money comes; and it means also that God always helps those who help themselves; it means, moreover, that if we are faithful over a few things, God will take care of the rest. I don't know, but I feel as if I ought to be able to do it."

"Yes," answered Hope, "that he will surely see to it that we are provided with whatever we may need for our advancement. There is nothing in this world that is right for us to have that can be kept away from us when we are ready for it, and I for one don't want the very first thing that is not mine by actual possession; mine by the right God has given me of earning it. Mr. Earnest paid me a hundred dollars for my picture, another dear, and that's what it costs again. Now sit right down and have a piece of delicious cake."

"A hundred dollars?" interrupted Mrs. Merriam. "Only a hundred dollars? Why, Hope, I don't think that picture was worth more than that."

Hope stifled a sigh. This was the hardest thing she had to bear yet. For a single moment she stood directly in the road; the path was no longer distinct. Right in front, blocking her way, was a spirit of discontent and fault-finding. What progress could she expect to make with this phantom constantly before her? What comfort would there be in this world for her mother if she did not commence at once to exercise these twin demons—these ruthless destroyers of happiness? For an instant everything was clouded by the thought of the picture. Hope tried not to hear, and afraid at last that her slender stock of patience might not be able to hold out, slipped quietly into the sitting-room, and shortly after returned, her face as bright as ever, and all ready to do the honors of the table.

"What's that you were saying, Hope?" inquired Mrs. Merriam, surveying her well-filled plate.

"I believe I was talking to myself, mother," replied Hope. "This is what I was thinking; if one can't clear their path of obstacles, there is no necessity of standing still and looking at them. One can go round them."

"But that will take longer," interrupted Kate, understanding the smile at once.

"But how foolish we both are, sister," said Hope. "What are we doing? We must walk in it. If the one we thought ours is blocked up, then the way round is ours. All there is about it, we must travel a little faster—make a little quicker time."

"It is astonishing how fast one can cut down a hill," said Mrs. Merriam, cutting her beefsteak energetically. She understood, in a distant sort of a way, what her daughters were illustrating, and although in her heart of hearts there was no sentiment save that of honest and unselfish love for her children, yet their plain, philosophical way of looking at things, and it was with difficulty that she restrained herself from giving utterance to all she felt.

"Isn't your steak tender, mother?" inquired Kate, the plain-spoken.

"Yes, it is very nice," she replied with a smile. "Well, then, what is the matter with you?" she didn't put it into words. Hope gave her a warning look, and Kate's mouth closed with a jerk. Mrs. Merriam, however, felt the spirit of her youngest daughter's question, and said:

"You seem to look at me as if I should immediately throw off all care, and fold my hands continually. Mrs. Merriam helped herself to another cup of tea and some more gravy. "But what's a hundred dollars to you?" she asked. "It is a far will go to and what's a good dinner?"

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THE GREAT LONE LAND.

Ever since the Hudson Bay territory became part of Canada we have been greatly calling attention to the responsibility thereby assumed by the Government of this country with regard to the Indians of that vast region. We have noted that throughout the great West the British flag was hoisted, while the aborigines, simply because the Hudson's Bay Company had, doubtless from interested motives, managed to retain the confidence of the Indians, while by and by the natives had fallen and created incurable hostility and war of extermination. That the loyalty of the Indians is very easily retained, we think, the result of all experience. That to resent any Nationalist's dealing and cruelty is the Indian's nature, and that they are faithful, is also a fact, and one which is familiar to the Christian, and the serious question, then, before us is how we can maintain that feeling of respect and loyalty to our Queen which is the basis of all good government. The encroachments of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the approach of settlements on both sides of the line must have a tendency to precipitate this question before long, and it is one of the most difficult problems before our Government to make wise provision for it. How to defend many thousands of miles against the invasion of fire water, and suppress the same, and to maintain our own borders, would test the statesmanship and philanthropy of the ablest Government that could rule in Canada. We copy to day from a publication entitled "Western Missionary," a letter from the Rev. George McDougall, Western missionary in the Saskatchewan District, portraying in a very vivid manner the condition of things which exist in that country to-day. These territories are not now uncivilized regions belonging to barbarians, but they