

was drowned,
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-Sister.—Sent

Notes.

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Better Box.

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10, Jr. III.)

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SICKLES.
10, Jr. II.)
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E M. ILER.

May I become
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b. and a Jer-
eather." We
I go every
name is Miss
getting long I

L. Agø 11).
Ont.

APRIL 15, 1915

Progressive Jones says:

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The Meadowgold.

By Ada Boyde Glassie.

(Continued from our issue of April 8, page 596.)

4th Gnome (With ring set with great ruby, sings)—

I have smote the breast that falters,
Branding hot this crimson hue,
Deeper burned the red, and deeper,
Till the faint heart glowed anew.
As a token of my power.

I have wrought this ring for you.

(Lays his gift beside others, retires. King nods, smiling).

5th Gnome (With great pearl necklace, sings)—

I have gone from hut to palace,
Wide the world I wandered through:
Widowed wife, rejected maiden—
All who grieve have paid their due.
Here, my king, receive the necklace
That so long was sought by you.

(Lays down his gift and retires. King delighted).

6th Gnome (With emerald wrought drinking horn, sings)—

I am come with this as token,—
Herb, and grass, and vine, and tree.
All that grow in earth have answered
To your message borne by me—
All are glad, have promised plenty,
All will yield abundantly.

(Lays down his gift and retires. King nods and smiles, delighted).

Chorus of Gnomes—

To our good king
Our labors bring.

That he may love and know us,
And when we need

A boon indeed,

A boon will he bestow us.

King (Rising)—Well done, my children. Right royal are these gifts. And right royally shall they be remembered. Now would I see your deftness in feats of arms—for little do we know when the Trolls may forget the horror of a truce; and mortals let slip gratitude from their minds. And he who would carry the olive must know as deftly how to wield the sword.

(Then follows a sword drill of the Gnomes, twice measured to the strains of martial music. As the drill is ending, enter Nightingale).

King—Who comes? Ha, the Nightingale, he who fills the sombre hours with melody, stirring the souls of mortals to tender dreams; and making the Gnomes work the faster for Love's own sake. Welcome, gentle visitor.

Nightingale—I thank you, kind sovereign, it gladdens me to be so graciously received, and emboldens me to ask a boon—but not for myself.

King—for whomsoever you will. Speak; if it lies in our power to grant it, 'tis yours before you ask.

Nightingale—Thank you, again. This boon is for a human—think you to grant it still?

King—Even still; for we reckon that you would ask in no unworthy cause. Who is the mortal, and what the boon?

Nightingale—The mortal is Rosemary.

King (Questioningly)—Rosemary?

Nightingale—A gentle maiden who seeks the good of every bird and flower, and does not forget her fellow-humans.

King (Remembering)—Ah-h. I know. We have heard well of her—the Gnomes hear most things happening upon the earth. One of our people went above, in the semblance of an acorn, to obtain a message from a mighty Oak that received it from a stork flying from the Daystar, with the word we sought. Ill had befallen our messenger, for a mortal-child picked him up in idle play, and would have worked him harm, had not this maiden, this Rosemary, taken the acorn gently from the boy, and put it back into the earth—"to become another mighty oak"—as she deemed. 'Tis the little deeds that weigh in the balance, after all—so, fair messenger, what would you for Rosemary?

Nightingale—Ah—this brings me courage. Could you—would you give Rosemary the Meadowgold?

(King starts back in amaze. Gnomes stop and turn in consternation).

All (Exclaim)—The Meadowgold!

King—Can you ask for nothing else?

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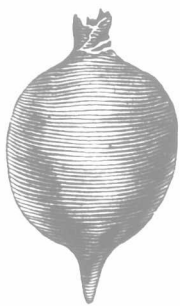
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