

carefully unbandaged and tenderly chafed the painful member with liniment.

"Does it do any good?" she asked wistfully.

"Your little soft hand always makes it easier, little Kit."

"Well, then, I'll come every day," she said pleasantly, "and Mr. Blair," she said shyly, "wouldn't you like to see the babies, because your lonesome, you know, and they're so nice."

Mr. Blair laughed, but there was something in the serious eyes that rebuked him.

"Well, yes, Kittie, I believe I really would like to see them," he said, smiling.

"Well, then, I'll coax Mrs. Lucas to bring them over; she's minding them now," and Kittie went home delighted.

One fine morning when the twins were a week old, Kitty presented herself, carrying Johnnie, as usual, and followed by all the others in clean frocks and pinafores, and Susy Lucas in stuff gown and a black ribbon round her cap, bringing up the rear with a baby on each arm.

"All the others wanted to come, Mr. Blair," whispered Kittie. "I thought you wouldn't mind; and now put your foot on this stool and look at the babies; aren't they nice? The wee boy's face is just like the pale sweet william in your garden."

"Well, what if we call him William, Kittie, and the girl Mary?" said Mr. Blair, thinking of another Mary who had been dear to him, and whose loss had left his life empty.

"Oh, such pretty names for them! I'm sure father will like them," and Kittie held Johnnie on her shoulder, and the others crowded round in high glee.

"They're fine childer intirely," said Susy, "but they're a heavy handful for a poor man, sir."

Mr. Blair's head was full of queer plans that day.

"Go, Kittie," he said, "and bring your father here."

In a few minutes Dinnie entered, smiling, ready for a siege of friendly banter, but Mr. Blair was serious.

"Didn't you tell me Dinnie, that Griffith wanted to buy your place?"

"I did indeed."

"Then let him have it, and you rent mine just as it stands; I won't be hard on you. You see I have property in the State of Ohio, and I have a sister there; and when a man is getting old, he likes to be near his own. But first, you must promise to give me my little nurse, Kittie, here, or it's no bargain; I want her for my own daughter; the fact is, I can't have her killed with these twins. You can make your home with Mrs. Shelly. Mrs. Lucas, I'll see that you are recompensed, and help her to rear them."

Susy, who was a "lone woman" earning a living by nursing the sick, gratefully answered, "hear that now," and Dinnie mopped his face with the blue handkerchief, and said solemnly, "long life to you, sir." Dinnie's boys would soon be able to help him, and Catherine being assured that Mrs. Lucas would devote all her time to the precious babies, agreed to accompany her adopted father to the States, where she was kindly received by his friends.

Mr. Blair gave her an excellent education, and felt well repaid by her devotion and love. William and Mary grew up like wayside blossoms—not in the little cabin by the roadside—but in Mr. Blair's comfortable farm house, and when Dinnie, now a prosperous farmer, would indulge in a romp with them, he would exclaim, in gleeful wonder: "And was it I that begrudged you the bite and the welcome, you darlings; sure if I only knew the blessing you'd bring, Allannas, I wouldn't have cared a taste, if instead of two you had been four."

BULLER.

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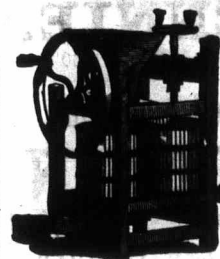
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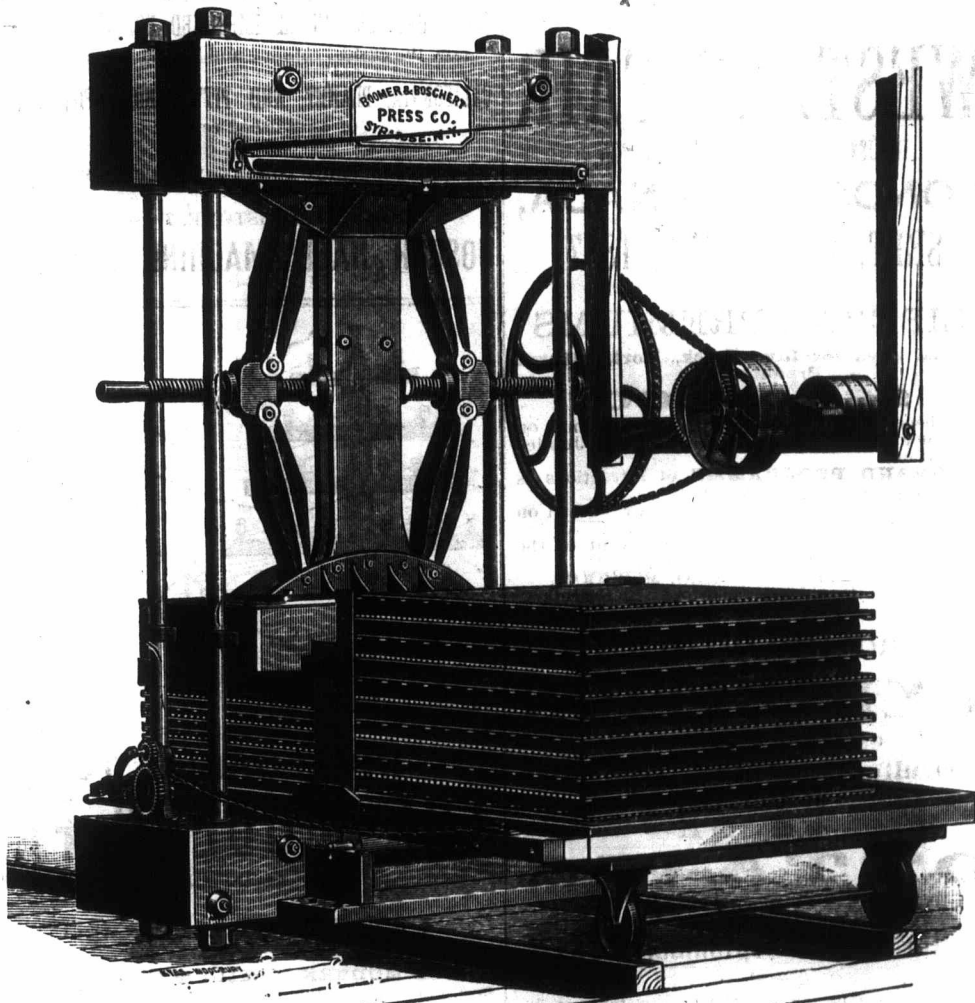
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