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ARGUMENT OF MARTHA.

Lady Harriet, a lady of the Court of Queen Anne of England, in search of a new amusement, goes to a Servants' Fair at Richmond, with Nancy her maid, both disguised as servant girls in search of situations, and she herself taking the name of "Martha." There they attract the admiration of two foster-brothers—farmers—Lionel and Plunkett, who had gone to hire servants. Lionel has been adopted by Plunkett's parents after losing his own father, who in dying left him nothing but a ring, which he told him he should send to the Queen if he ever found himself in distress. The Lady and Nancy, fond of a joke, take the earnest-money the brothers offered, little dreaming they were bound thereby to serve one year, and are forced against their wish, feeling the joke had gone too far, to drive off with them. Arrived at the farm their uselessness as servants is apparent, and Lionel falls in love with the lady and Plunkett with the maid. Just as Lionel has asked the Lady Harriet to marry him, Tristan breaks in through the window and rescues them. Plunkett hearing the noise arises and discovering their loss rouses the neighborhood. Sometime after, the Queen and ladies of the court, including Lady Harriet and the maid, are hunting in a forest near Plunkett's farm and accidentally he and Lionel fall in with them and recognise their quondam servants in spite of the ladies' denial. The cortege arriving, they are arrested but eventually released at the intercession of Lady Harriet. Suddenly Lionel remembers the ring his father left him and sends it to the Queen—by this it is found that Lionel's father was the Earl of Derby, who had been unjustly disgraced, and the Queen restores the title and possessions to the son. Lady Harriet really loving Lionel succeeds in being the first to acquaint him of it, and offers him her hand, only to be cruelly repulsed. Plunkett, however, helps her by having a portion of the forest transformed into an exact representation of Richmond market place, at which the Lady Harriet and Nancy appear in their old guise as servants waiting to be hired. As soon as Lionel sees them all his old love returns, and the two lovers are united. So are Plunkett and Nancy, and all ends happily.