

Mr. Clutterbuck's Confession.

Some people may think that it is not a nice thing for a young lady to make a story out of an incident which happened at a friend's table...

It was a Christmas dinner at Judge Robinson's, who is one of the leading men of our town...

He is the hero of this story, and I am the heroine. So I must tell you a little about myself...

Mr. Clutterbuck had offered her some dish and she said: "Thank you Mr. Clutterbuck, I had to laugh out loud...

When we had all returned to the parlor, while the girls were chatting in groups...

"I confess, young ladies," he said, "that I have been long carrying a cat concealed in a bag..."

"You must know that the use of family names is of comparatively modern introduction..."

"Whether our family names are merely the product of social intercourse and of the growth of language, or not, it is certain that no inventive faculty was exercised in the making..."

"I had a name, and an ancient Celtic one, indeed, that you are not, I replied Mr. Clutterbuck, and let you should grow into that which I will no longer dilate on names, but will tell you of my own case..."

"I was born about twenty five years ago and received from my parents the name of John, besides inheriting the family name, which was the source of so much annoyance to me in after life..."

"I first realized my misfortune when I went to school, for my name was so common that several unfortunate companions also bore it..."

"After I left school and mingled with the world, my lot became worse. Not only were my letters unacknowledged, but only were my good deeds ascribed to others and their evil ones to me, but I was constantly made a victim of small wit, insipid pleasantry, and historic jokes..."

"At length I summoned resolution to resist my fate and to rise above misfortune, I would no longer bear that odious, hateful, common name that confounded me with the vulgar herd..."

"I determined therefore, to take another name, and spent several days in a great library, poring over directories and dictionaries, and, after the research, I chose my present epithet and remarkable name, I hoped, young ladies, that you will agree with me that I made a happy selection..."

"But, Mr. Clutterbuck," said Mary Robinson, "you have not told us what was that odious, common name which you so much detested..."

"Yes, that's true; I forgot," and he looked quizzically at me, the name was "Smith..."

How the girls did laugh and make fun of me! I had to laugh also. But Mr. Clutterbuck said very quietly: "I would advise Miss Smith to follow my example, and change her name to Clutterbuck..."

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