

ed about it too, in s
heart and blighted life.
discovered that the bridegroom
was a common-place farmer living near
the hotel.

"He's no beauty," T. B., informed us,
and Granny twits Aunt Lily with it.
But Aunt Lily says she'd marry him if
he was as ugly as a gorilla because it
is his soul she loves. I dunno nawthing
about his soul, but he's got the dough
and he's going to educate me. Aunt
Lily told him she wouldn't have him
if he didn't. I'm going to live with 'em,
too. Say, won't I be glad to get away
from Granny's tongue and Dorinda's
poetry? It makes me feel young again."

"How on earth will that woman ever
keep a house, ma'am?" said Salome. "I
pity that poor man."

"He is very well able to keep a ser-
vant," I said, "and I have always had a
suspicion that Aunt Lily is not by any
means as die-away as her looks, Salome.
The woman who arranged that supper
table must have something of what you
call 'gumption.' Anyhow, everybody
is so well satisfied that it seems a pity
to carp."

"Oh, I like the creature and I wish
her well, ma'am," Salome rejoined, with
a toss of her head. "And I'm glad poor
T. B. is to have his chance. But say
what you will, ma'am, George Black is
marrying into a queer lot, and that is
my final opinion, ma'am."

Aunt Lily meant to give up keeping
a diary, so she informed me.

"I shall not need it," she said. "I
can pour out my soul to my husband. I
have put the past and all its sadness
behind me. Will you help me select
my bridal suit, Mrs. Bruce? I did want
to be wedded in a sky-blue gown—the
tint of God's own heaven, Mrs. Bruce.
But George says he would like a plain
dark suit better and I believe that a
wife should reverence and obey her
husband. I am no new woman, Mrs.
Bruce, and I believe in the sacredness
of the conjugal tie. The secret of life
is devotion, Mrs. Bruce."

"I'm very glad you are taking T. B.
with you," I said.

"I could not dream of leaving him
behind, Mrs. Bruce. My heart is knit
to his. I trust that in my home his sur-
roundings will be more uplifting than
they have hitherto been. In an atmos-
phere of calm and joy I feel sure that
he will develop, Mrs. Bruce."

The next week Aunt Lily and T. B.
went to the new atmosphere of calm
and joy and we departed regretfully
from the Tansy Patch. As we drove
away in the still evening we heard
"Paw" fiddling gloriously on his stoop;
and as we turned the corner of the road
and passed the house Granny shook her
stick at us with a parting malediction.
"May yer potatoes always be rotten,"
she shrieked.

But—"Paw's" fiddle followed us fur-
ther than Granny's howls, and our
memories of our Tansy Patch neighbors
were not unpleasant ones.

"When all is said and done, ma'am,"
was Salome's summing up, "them
lunatics were interesting."

THE END.

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