

MOTHER'S OUTING.

"Oh, but it seems good to get home again, and see some of mother's cooking." Jeannette was home from the city on a vacation. "Sho! 'Taint better's city boarding-house cooking, is it, Het?" asked her father with a chuckle. "Well, I guess," said Jeannette. "I suppose that's the way young ladies talk where you came from" scornfully said Brother Fred, who was somewhat critical of the conduct and speech of girls. Jeannette was too busy with her dinner to reply. "What's something you feel, Nat?" said Mr. Goodwin, as he sprang up to the table and helped himself to a second dish of strawberries. "I know how 'twas when I went to Boston for three weeks last winter. Of course everything was real nice at your Uncle Will's, but I don't like Uncle Will's cooking. And the best of it came back mother took away all the Johnny cakes before I had near enough."

The next day they received a letter from the absent one, written on a crumpled sheet of paper, and containing a copy of her arrival—a dependent, homesick epistle. She had been reading the letter and while writing was suffering with sick headache. "I expect to be down sick when I get back," she wrote hopefully. "I expect she will," added father, gloomily. "But how have things been going along, Nat?" "That's what I'm afraid of," said Mr. Goodwin. Jeannette was divided between hope and fear. A week ago, she had invited her to spend a week at her father's cottage on the shore. She had no money to spend even for her own fare, but she had given it all to her mother. "Mrs. Goodwin looked surprised to see father, Jeannette and Fred all at the station waiting for her when she arrived. "You see, mother, we thought you must be sick because you stayed so long," said her husband, who was nearly near after you. But you don't look sick, and my! How tanned you are!" "Why, I haven't been sick," said mother. "Lottie and her mother wanted me to stay. But how have things been getting along at home?" "First-rate, mother," said Jeannette. "Oh, pretty good, I guess. But 'twas a useless expense. Not had better have lots of rest she's getting." She's this time she was when she first came home. "When Fred got his sister alone just the other day, he said: "You see, Nat, she hasn't enjoyed herself at all. I'm real sorry for your daughter, but you ought to be known better than to think she'd like to be here."

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