

Knowersville Centrepiece.

VOL. I.

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NO. 19.

A FATHER'S THANKSGIVING.

Why, wife, what is it plagues you? What makes you so take on?
You smile just as if you were crying, or may be you've heard
of some one else.
Yet that is hardly likely, as he's been five years
away.
And I can scarcely hope you've heard from him to-
day.
We never have 'em heard from him, and yet they
say they may come.
When we can welcome home again our long ab-
sented son.
And though there be no fatted calf, we'd try to
make him feel
That here so long as he's to share, he'd never
want a feast.
Poor boy! how sad he looked that day when bid-
ding you good-bye.
And though he spoke quite cheerful, a tear stood
in each eye.
I think he would have talked to me, but I had
turned to go.
For I was angry with him, but why I hardly know.
You know that books were ever a great pleasure
to our boy.
I always seemed that nothing else could give him
so much joy.
Just let him get his hands on one, he'd go and hide
away.
And read along from morn till night, while other
boys would play.
And you, you know that my old dad had never
been so happy.
And many times I've heard him say it made a boy a
man.
This gives him book learnin', for they only come to
learn.
Nor did I guess mist be like him; for when I saw
one of 'em.
Sit perched on his books all day, instead of helping
out.
And don't work about the place, I thought of
a boy so good.
And so I did not see him, well, as I, his father,
should.
But what was worst of all, one day I took away a
book.
Which he had lately borrowed, and threw it in the
brook.
And had you seen, as I did, the look he gave me
then.
You would not wonder why I wish to see my boy
again.
Our John, poor boy, he thought at last 'twas best
for him to go.
And find a home away from here, and then he told
me.
And I was very willing; for I thought, when once
away.
He'd be able to get back again, and then contented
stay.
But years have passed away since then, and we
have never heard.
A word of good or ill report; and if my eyes are
blurred.
By tears at times, it is because I do not feel the
same.
As once I did toward our boy, for now I take the
blame.
For I had been but kind to him we still would have
known.
To cheer him to cheer us, now old age is drawing
near.
But now, p'haps, it is too late, and he may never
come.
To gladden us who long for him and wait for him
at home.
Ah, well! I have been punished, and sometimes I'm
nearly wild.
When thinking how I treated him—our boy, our
John, I know it.
I know it cannot last for long, for something tells
me.
Nor could I mind it long if I see our boy before I
go.
And you, his mother, have grown old and gray be-
hind your eyes.
And though you try to hide them, yet often I see
the tears.
Ah! nothing pleases you so as to see me once
used to do.
Oh, would that I had died myself ere trouble came
to you!
I saw our parson here to-day. I hope he forgives
me.
He came to make a call, you say? What news had
he to tell?
I know there must be something, for you look more
pleased to-day.
That I have seen in all these years that John has
been away.
He brought a letter, did you say, from him—what
from our John?
Which says that he will soon be home? No wonder
you take on!
Thank God, if he's heard my prayer and filled
my heart with joy.
And taken sorrow from my heart by sending back
our boy.
And now let us kneel down and ask that God His
grace may give.
And that our hearts may be glad as long as we
may live.
And when to-morrow's dawn has come, and John
is here.
Well, thank the Lord who gave us a true Thank-
sgiving Day.

THE LOST BILL.

A THANKSGIVING STORY.

Milly Barry and Josie King served at opposite counters of a great dry-goods and millinery emporium. That was how they made acquaintance in the first place—nodding and smiling at each other in the intervals of serving customers. When they came to speaking, and by easy stages to the innocent confidence of their age they found they were com-
pansions in so many ways—each being orphaned, poor, lonely and very sociable. It was natural that they should presently exchange vows of eternal friend-
ship.
They then hired a little room together, paid equal parts of the humble rent, and went partners in their frugal housekeep-
ing expenses; and when they drank their coffee and ate their Vienna roll opposite each other, across a dainty little table they felt, as if they had a home
once more.
Milly was a fair, pleasant-looking girl, with soft blue eyes, brown hair, and a fresh red and white complexion; Josie was tall, slight, dark and pale, with glossy black hair and large, dark-brown eyes—a very handsome girl, as was often remarked by ladies which she served them, with a rather queerly air.
The girls were a direct contrast in personal appearance—another reason for their attraction toward each other.
Milly and Josie had not large salaries from the firm which employed them; not remarkable for generosity; quick sales, small profits and very small salaries was the rule in the great emporium.
However, by dint of incessant economy, and by reason of sparing expenses, Milly and Josie contrived to put aside a small sum weekly toward a little fund for a great Thanksgiving celebration.
They were both New England girls, and in their childhoods the little they had ever been one of great rejoicing and much merrymaking in the homes that remained now only as a beautiful and hallowed memory.
But for once they determined to make it as much of a joyous reality as the flight of years and the loss of friends and relatives would allow. They laid out in imagination quite a sumptuous entertain-
ment; and on counting up their savings a few days before the festive occasion, and finding that they amounted to the magnificent sum of ten dollars, both girls felt justified in inviting a few friends to help them eat their turkey.
Mrs. Hobson, their landlady, prom-
ised to roast the noble bird, and asked permission to contribute a mince and a pumpkin pie; while the girls themselves undertook the cooking of the cranberry sauce and vegetables on their own tiny stove—for each felt that half the fun of the entertainment would be lost un-
less they personally superintended a por-
tion of the cooking.
The great day approached, and it was Thanksgiving Eve, and of course their
preparations had to be done after store hours, for neither had been able to get
leave of absence during the day—the
emporium being more than usually

through because of the coming holiday.
"Come, Josie!" called Milly, from the door of her room, as she drew on her
neat gloves, Josie having stepped across
the hall for a moment to ask their rheu-
matic neighbor, just opposite, whether
they could do her any service while they
were out shopping.
"Yes, dear," Josie answered. "Go on,
Milly—I will overtake you at the door."
Milly went on, as directed, very leis-
urely, and buttoning her gloves as she
descended the stairs.
When she reached the lower hall, she
waited for Josie before opening the
door.
"Minute after minute passed, and grow-
ing impatient, she amused herself by
drumming with the tips of her fingers
on the banisters.
Five minutes passed, and with a slight
excitement, she ran half way upstairs
again.
"Come, Josie—it is getting late!" she
called out, as she retraced her steps.
"We will find nothing worth buying."
"Oh, dear, dear!" responded Josie, in
a voice of mingled distress and per-
plexity.
Milly hurried up the remaining stair,
and hastened into their room.
Josie was wildly searching about the
apartment, moving table, chairs, bureau
and every inch of the carpet, every
drawer and cupboard, in a state of utter
despair and bewilderment.
Milly could not repress a slight
laugh, her friend looked so wildly an-
xious and distressed, for no apparent
cause.
"What in the world is the matter?
Have you lost anything?"
"Anything? Everything!" was the
tragic reply, with an appropriate tone
and gesture. "The money! Our ten
dollars is gone!"
"Oh, gracious!—but is it possible?"
Milly gasped for breath, and sank
into the nearest chair, with even greater
despair upon her countenance than had
just given rise to her merriment
when she saw that her friend's mis-
fortune was far too serious for her to
see any comic phase of it.
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