

cats, to speak out plain in meetin', as is our habit; they are a wretched, demoralized-looking crew, to put the same mildly. When, behold! as we got to the head of our place the other day and struck the trail, and all cats big and little some thousands of miles remote from smallest thought, there was our kismet; small and weak, and tired-looking—"Annexation" (I call it "Necks," of course, for short), crossing the lot, as fast as her ricketty legs would let her, to my very feet. "Can that kitten be walking with its eyes shut, so diminutive it is?" said I. But on taking it up found its face very pinched and its blue eyes very big from the fact that ever since it was nine days old, not to think of eighteen or twenty-one, it has found itself very "free," and on the road by night and by day, and having to look out and look up not only for dog and boy, but any crumb of food or comfort to sustain the inner kitten. We are in hopes that with a kitchen-roof over it and high feed for a couple of weeks its body will get a trifle bigger and its eyes a trifle smaller. After two nights' sleep we gave it a treat it had never known, and putting it in the sun left it to its correct reflections. It is under strong conviction now that its mistress owns a fine Jersey, and is the keeper of a seaside bath-house. And she purrs and dozes off.

Kittens and Kommoners! How we hit the mark. "Necks" is now a pretty member of our royal household and we await the "nex." "We shall meet the people (and the kitten) who are coming to meet us from many strange places and by many strange roads and what it is set for them to do to us, and what it is set for us to do to them, will all be done"—G. P. K. J. you were thinking of—"There's a divinity"—and "Let Hercules himself do what he may the cat will mew and dog will have its day." There's another very good one that begins:—"Serene, I fold my hands and wait." You all know the old homely saying: "Any woman ought to be able to make a good pudding who has given in her hands eggs, cream, fruit, mace, blanched almonds, sifted flour, the choicest of loaf sugar by the cargo, wine at her elbow, etc. But how about the woman (not of servants, or carriage, or dainty cuisine who makes puddings only as one more spoil-time) who goes at it for her family's actual need to eke out the scanty meat, perchance, and has no plans nor nuts, neither rich spice tossed into her mixing bowl! but must e'en try her skill of plain batter and "undorned" sauce? Yes, my dear friends, there is quite a difference betwixt tweedledum and tweedledee to those who can see.

Moral:—The real skill lies in the absence of rich material. This is kite time, and opposite the precincts there is a really magnificent, Chinese kite—a bird—flying far beyond the clouds in the "empyrean sphere" this glorious day. We have never seen a kite so high before; and we would not object being just the tail, only to a kite like that!

We have spent a share of our precious morning hours looking at it. We do like to watch a successful kite!

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