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THE LAST DONATION PARTY.

BY MRS. E. T. CORRETT.

So many confused and contradictory

rumors have been circulated about the

last donation party at Willowbrook, that

I (who have heard the whole story from

my friend and neighbor Miss Mix) would

like to give the world a plain, unvarnished

account of the whole festivity.

Let me, then, introduce my informant,

Miss Melissa Mix, spinster, owning to

be, moderately well endowed with this

world's goods, housekeeper and care-

taker for her only brother Ralph, some

years her senior, both of them prominent

members of the Willowbrook church, and

this heralded she shall tell you the story

she told me.

Of course we can't give our minister

much of a salary, you know Miss Har-

wood; but we've always calculated to get

a man whose heart wasn't set on fifty

cents, as the "Pledge" says.

I must own you haven't had much suc-

cess, for would you believe it? out of

five candidates that preached here the

year we built the church, not one was

willin' to stay and do the Lord's work.

Why, there's only about sixty families

in our church, and it was settled that six

dollars a family would be a fair tax, mak-

in' nigh about four hundred a year; you

see; yet, it's wonderful what trouble

we've had to get a pastor.

Brother Ralph thought that maybe if

we had a paragon it would help us; so

he and other trustees bought that nice

little cottage where Miss Gray used to

live, with a whole lot of land belongin'

to it; but twain of no use; none of 'em

staid the year out; and I was clean dis-

couraged.

When Mr. Ormsby came, nigh on three

years ago, he seemed more reasonable

than the rest, though he asked if we

couldn't furnish part of the parsonage for

him, as they were only new beginners,

and hadn't much housekeepin' stuff.

Well, the ladies were so pleased with

him that they took right hold of the work

(he was to come back within a fortnight)

and got lots of things together.

There was a handsome pincushion

made for each of the bedrooms—there's

three on 'em in the house—and half a

dozen dolls for the parlor, and a case for

his shaving paper, and all sent in the

first week. You've heard him preach, Miss

Harwood, and you know how interestin'

he was, and what a beautiful reader and

sermon teller. Why, I declare I look real

comfort g'oin' to church and stidin' under

such preachin'; and so we all did, I'm

sure.

But I was tellin' you about what we

gave him. Well, Deacon Stiles' daugh-

ter Sally made a drawin' of the church

and framed it in pine cones, to hang in

Mr. Ormsby's study, and the deacon, he

sent us a corkin' stove out of his own

kitchen. He'd just bought a new one

and put it up himself, which I thought was

uncommon kind.

Then we took up a contribution to buy

some furniture, but ready money was

scarce just then, so we only raised enough

to buy a pair of china vases and an ink-

stand.

But Silas Hart, that sold 'em to us,

was one of our members, and so he threw

in a china dog for the baby and a match

box for the parson's wife.

Miss Jones and Uncle Midian sent in a

new painted bedstead and a kitchen table

and so I told Ralph I'd give 'em a couple

of kitchen chairs and our cradle, the

one we were both rockin' in. So I did,

and I picked a real handsome little quilt