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## Poetry.

### Naughty, But Nice.

She stood behind my high backed chair,  
Her curls against my face,  
And turning round to see me fair,  
My very thoughts to trace.  
She hid a dimpled hand in mine,  
To hide it in a tease.  
And, blushing, just a little, said:  
"I really think you're nice."

Such words a heart of ice would touch,  
And melt away in bliss;  
In fact, I think I said as much;  
And blushed at a kiss.

The window must began to post,  
To see a trifles out.—

"That's very naughty, sir," she said,  
"And now I think you're bad!"

I told her while I clasped her waist,  
Where long, dark tresses curled,  
I would not have her disposed,  
No, not for all the world;

And kiss without her sweet consent,  
I never, never would—

"I'll tell you, when you may," she said,  
"And now I think you're good."

She stood beside my high-backed chair,  
Her curls against my face,  
And turning round to see me fair,  
My very thoughts to trace.

I saw a dimpled hand in mine,  
Like cunning little mice,

And kissed her—when the master said,  
"It's naughty, but it's nice."

## Select Tales.

### The Spy.

BY LEON GUMPERT.

It was nearly a hundred years ago, on a bitter December night in the dark year of 1776, that three persons were earnestly engaged in conversation, in a small room of a house on Second street, opposite Christ Church, in the city of Philadelphia. The dimly flaring light of a wax candle revealed the group as they sat by the table—an old man, a beautiful young woman and a youth attired in the Continental uniform. The topic upon which they conversed seemed to agitate them greatly. The old man was especially nervous, as while he was speaking there suddenly came a great dash of shot against the window, and the startling crash of a hanging sash, that caused him to start with a look of alarm and throw the thread of speech. When he resumed, he said tremulously:

"God be merciful to us all! These are evil times! Methought I heard the rattle of drums and musketry! May the good God defend us!"

"Asson," said the young soldier reverently.

"Go on, daughter!" continued the old man, addressing the girl. "Tell us what this sort of business will do to thee!"

"I will tell thee all," answered the young woman, with tears in her eyes.

"This man, Robert Esteeck, hath been my cross for years! He has tortured me with his attentions—chained my heart and hand, although I spurned him as I despised him, and dogged my steps everywhere. Have I not told him that I was thy betrothed? laying her soft body on the soil here?—The wife of those, the brave Joseph Stamford! He knows not honor. But to-day, to day he telleth me, unless I become his wife he will bring disgrace and ruin upon me and mine. He taunted me—said to me, 'shame of me, if thou countest me?' Heaven pity me! What can I do to avert his pursuit, his calumny? To lay he hath even spoken to me the evil—"

"Say no more!" ejaculated the soldier, grinding his chair back upon the polished floor, and snatching his sword belt with the pommel of his hand. "Peace, Alice, peace, in God's name! I have heard enough! I know all! This maledict man! This man, this monster of Robert Esteeck shall not escape me! He shall not live, by heaven!"

"What is this?" broke in the old man with an expression of anger. "Mad words and malice! Man a bad man! Is this thy talk? Prithes, let me have no more of it! Leave the wicked to God! Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord!"

This rebuke brought a spell of silence upon the place for a moment. In an instant afterward there was a great knock at the door.

"It's the wind," cried the old man with a face of terror.

The knocking continued louder and louder.

Alice and the young soldier running with one impulse to open the door, the entered two dripping figures.

"A bad night!" said one of the men, as he entered the room.

"Yes, verily, friend!" answered the old man, peering at the newcomers, then continuing, "Art not thou, Captain Tamper?"

"That is my name, and I present you to Corporal Best, at your service."

"And your name is Abraham Shippen, if I mistake not!" said the officer.

"True true," said the old man and Captain Tamper, and Corporal Best are welcome to shelter, God knows. Draw near the fire, friends."

"I'm sorry to say, it's a bad night, and bad business brings us!" said the officer. "There was a large meeting to day at the Indian Queen Hotel, or Fourth street; respecting immediate action against spies, Tories, and friends of the king. Several were implicated. Among others, the Committee of Safety give us the news of one Robert Esteeck."



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"Ah! broke in the young soldier.  
'And one Joseph Stamford!'

A scream from Alice. A sudden outburst from the others. "Joseph Stamford!"

The young soldier rose up, and bowing to the officer, said excitedly: "At your service, Captain Tamper! Joseph Stamford is present! He salutes his superior officer!"

You are suspected of being a friend to George the Third!"

"That for George the Third! snapping his fingers. "George Washington for me!"

You are accused of singing 'God save the King' in this house!"

"What?"

"This is strange!" broke in Alice. "We are true patriots all, Heaven be our witness!"

"Does this look like loving the King?" said the young soldier, touching his military coat and sword.

"Ah! ha! It's a good joke, Captain!"

"Friends!" exclaimed the old man.

"I'm a man of peace, an old Quaker,

a fool, an enemy of bloodshedding,

yet I am faithful to God!

and the American Union, and let no one insult the flag of our rights in my house. I will fight for my health, my country, and my God! We are friends of liberty here, not spies!"

"One can't tell friend from foe, these times, master," said Coporal Best.

"We but do our duty," said Captain Tamper. "We have orders to hold our men until the Council of Safety decides!"

"But I am a friend of independence. I go to join Washington tomorrow," said Joseph.

"So might the gallant Robert Esteeck allege," answered the Captain.

"Did he hit thee?" she asked with a face of fear.

"No, beloved. Thank God, I escaped his shot! I have known him long as a spy. He will meet his deserts now. He hath been designing great evil here. I have all the papers all the evidence necessary to send him swiftly to the gallows. There are more like him hereabout. Let his fate be a warning to all traitors."

"Where is he?" asked the Captain.

"Everywhere," answered Joseph, and in all disguises—but, Captain, on my parole of honor as a soldier, I promise to appear to-morrow before the Council and take the oath of allegiance if need be. Leave me alone for this night!"

"So be it!" said the Captain; then went out Esteeck. The town is beset against traitors and spies and they will make your house if you harbor him. Can you point him out?"

"A soldier in the mob, happening to fire at the horseman, the steel struck a spring and threw the rider over his head. They ran to pick up the man. It was Robert Esteeck. The bullet had not touched him. The fall had broken his neck, and he was dead.

"Good sir," said Alice, "the man you seek hath often visited this house, but will do so no more, though I hate him, I will not slander him, he is a true patriot and no spy."

"Put, put, put, blurted Joseph, a patriot foremost—a Tory second, a renegade! Art thou not, Alice?"

"We have no time to lose!" said the officer briefly. "Lily, farewell! I shall be a sailor to-morrow! Good night, master!" So saying, Captain Tamper and the Corporal left the room abruptly followed by Joseph, who opened the street door for them.

"Ha, ha!" exclaimed the Captain, as he looked across the street. "Did you make that?"

A miffed figure sank into the shadow of the great church opposite. "We must keep our eyes open."

"So, so!" cried Joseph. "There is some mischief afoot to-night! Captain stay in the neighborhood for God's sake! That looks suspicious!"

"Good-night to ye!" And Joseph slammed the door and ran slinking into the room.

"Haste thee, while I hide myself behind these folding-door for the room."

"Oh! my beauty! I care not for myself—not care I for your devoted father there, I want you! I will have you! Come!"

He seized her hand. She withdrew with a scream, and the old father clasping his hands cried out, "God deliver us from this scourge!"

At that instant the folding doors flew open.

There stood Joseph Stamford.

The villain did not forget his smile! He drew a pistol from his inner waistcoat and aimed it at the soldier. Fortunately the flint took missed fire. In an instant more the old man wrenched the weapon from the rascal's grasp.

"I arrest you as a traitor and spy!" cried Joseph, drawing his sword and rushing on Esteeck.

The coward yielded the weapon without a word. His face became livid.

"Alice, let in the officers!" cried Joseph; and shortly afterward Captain Tamper and the Corporal who had been waiting in an alley way, resented.

"Here's your man continued Joseph, breathlessly. "A spy villain keeping up communication with the enemy! Carrying on illicit trade! Murdering thieving—designing himself! Take him off! I have all the proofs. Tomorrow the council shall hear me. Strip off his uniform; he disgraces the holy cause of Liberty! Away with him!"

And they took him well guarded, to the old Walnut street prison.

"I did not tell thee, live, to fear of icking these," said Joseph, pressing the beautiful Alice to his bosom and kissing her fair forehead, that this man yesterday, had twice at me on High street."

"Did he hit thee?" she asked with a face of fear.

"No, beloved. Thank God, I escaped his shot! I have known him long as a spy. He will meet his deserts now. He hath been designing great evil here. I have all the papers all the evidence necessary to send him swiftly to the gallows. There are more like him hereabout. Let his fate be a warning to all traitors."

"Don't think you ought to be afraid and soreme. That's a mistake. You have as few of the responsibilities of life that you ought to be as many as a bird all the time."

"Don't think you ought to smile the less because you haven't any one in particular to smile for—smile for spite, if for nothing else, just to make men sorry that they left such a bunch of animated sunshine as you captured."

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