

THE BABY FOR ME.

Have heard about babies angelic,
With a heavenly look in their eyes,
And hair like the sunbeams of morning,
When first they appear in the skies,
And smile like the smiles of a cherub,
And mouth like the buds of a rose,
And themselves like the hills and dales
And every sweet flower that grows.

VICTOR'S VICISSITUDES.

Victor Parlenon was by nature a bachelor. Of him it might be said he was to be free; and the predisposition present, it never occurred to him that great experiment which, extending death, is the final resource of one who have experienced all other means of misery and joy. He was not versed in less belladames, but his preferences being for male companions, he had little leisure for the lighter and more frivolous games of female society.

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necessary for him to follow. Two of these rules were very important. One was that Victor should confine himself to one source; the other was that he should abandon all mental exertion, and occupy himself with moderate physical exercise. To enforce these rules the doctor advised that Victor should go to the country for a time. These preliminaries completed, Victor produced his will and looked at his medical adviser, who said: "My fee for a first consultation is \$10. I presume you can afford to pay that?" "Yes," responded Victor, although he meant the opposite, for he did not relish the idea of expending that amount in such a manner. However, there was no escape, and the fee was paid.

"So soon!" exclaimed Victor. "Yes," Beatrice replied, sadly, "yet I like this place so much. Perhaps perhaps it is because of the pleasant acquaintance I have formed here." "I think I will also be obliged to leave," he murmured. "Ah, will you?" cried Beatrice, eagerly. "Will you go to town with mamma and I?" "Oh, yes; certainly," answered Victor. "Then that is settled," exclaimed the young girl as she arose, shook out her skirts and with them a cloud of perfume. "Let us then go down to the brook once more while it is moonlight."

It is curious to reflect that if Shakespeare had lived out his legitimate allowance of three-score years and ten, he might have witnessed the production, not only of the first, but of nearly all of the best productions of his school. Had he been prolonged for ten years more, he would have witnessed its final extinction. In these few years, things of the drama had undergone a change corresponding to the change in the national mood. The difference, for example, between Marlowe and Massinger at this opening and at the close of the period—though their births were separated by only twenty years—corresponds to the difference between the temper of the generation which expelled the Armada, and the temper of the generation which treated under the rule of the first Stuart. The misnomer of Elizabeth as applied to the whole school, indicates an implicit perception that its greater achievements were due to the same impulse which took for its outward and visible symbol the name of the Virgin Queen. But it has also led to writers being too summarily classed together who really represent very different phases in a remarkable evolution.

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