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## Poetry.

**AN RETROSPECT.**  
My mind goes back before I wed,  
When first gazing her dear head,  
With rapid beating heart I said—  
My Queen,  
Her sweet reply came back to me,  
Her downcast looks I still can see,  
Her whispered words with thee agree—  
My King,  
What loss of friends and loss of love,  
Distressed her mind and grieved her soul,  
Who fought and toiled for her the more?  
Her faithful love, her truest friend,  
Who followed her through all her pain,  
What was it but one time past gone?  
The Bishop,  
Now safely housed in the dear land,  
We often, clasping hand in hand,  
Talk of old times when that was planned—  
Our Castle,  
And counting round my knee there speed  
Eight sturdy boys who me impede,  
Yet my "my sweet of life" indeed—  
My Father,  
**DEAR GRANDMOTHER.**  
Grandmother peace with steady tread  
I passed and back through the quiet old room  
Of the first night, dancing and reel,  
Into the gathering dusk and gloom;  
Forward and back, in her silver dress  
With its falling ruffles of frost-like lace;  
A look of the deepest tenderness

Then there was Hetty, the eldest girl,  
who, if her eyes were not dark as mid-  
night, had at least the dearest little nose in  
the world. A pure Greek feature, perfect  
in every respect, ignorant of cold in the  
head, that made one long to tell her (only  
she would have blushed), they were all  
sincerely brought up about Dulu, and her  
Uddian appendage.  
Then came George—"George the  
Third," as she was playfully termed in the  
bosom of her family—who, if she had  
neither nose nor eyes like her sisters, had  
certainly a prettier mouth than either.  
A sweet little kissable rosette of a mouth,  
that pouted and laughed alternately, and  
at considerable exertion.  
And finally, there was Lily. A tall,  
pale girl, with blue eyes, a finely-cut  
nose, and a good deal of determination all  
about.  
Kate's eyes were larger, darker, and  
(when she looked at Snooks and thought  
of his thousands) more mooring than ever  
that night. Her dress, if slightly bizarre,  
was intensely becoming. Snooks, for the  
first half-hour, kept himself bravely aloof  
from her fascinations, declined to nod  
or reproachful glances, and, for reward,  
was wretched. Finally, being driven into  
corner during a fatal set of Lancers, he  
met her eyes, saw, and was conquered.  
The would dance the next with him? Yes  
(boldly). And the next? Yes (more  
boldly). And the ninth—he can see she is

that a few minutes since was the scene of  
her sister's happiness.  
There he proposed in due form, and was  
again accepted. Hetty's conduct, indeed,  
was perhaps a degree more pronounced  
than Katie's, because she laid her head up-  
on his shoulder, and he felt he was by all  
the laws of sentiment bound to kiss her.  
Her nose looked lovely in the pale moon-  
light; so I dare say he did not find the ful-  
filling of this law difficult.  
After that he had some more, a good  
deal more, champagne; and then he pro-  
posed to Miss Georgie, who also consented  
to be his. There now remained but one  
other step to be taken. He crossed the  
room, and asked the youngest Miss Brown-  
rig to dance. He was getting rather mix-  
ed by this time, and was on the very point  
of asking her to marry him instead, so cus-  
tomary had the question become to him  
now. Miss Lily, however, declined to  
dance, on the plea that she was tired, and  
could exert herself no more that night.  
With questionable taste he pressed the mat-  
ter, and begged her to give him one, just  
one. At this she told him frankly she did  
not admire his style of dancing, which of  
course ended the conversation. So he ask-  
ed her to come for a stroll instead; and  
having arrived at the momentous spot, de-  
livered himself of the ornate speech that  
had already done duty three times that  
night. I forget what it was, but I know it  
wound up with the declaration that he

"Where?" demanded the other three, as  
though with one mouth.  
"In the laurel avenue."  
At this they all groaned aloud.  
"Perfidious monster!" said Hetty, from  
her heart.  
"Am I to understand," began Mr. Brown-  
rig, with suppressed but evident fury,  
"that this—this—unnavigated scoundrel  
asked you all to marry him last night?"  
"If we speak the truth, yes," replied the  
girls, dismally.  
"He was drunk," said papa, savagely.  
"I can't believe it," said Katie, who was  
dissolved in tears—in fact, "like Niobe,  
all tears"—by this time. "Nothing could  
be nicer than the way he did it. His lan-  
guage was perfect, and so thoroughly from  
the heart."  
"He addressed me in a most honorable,  
upright and Christian fashion," said Hetty.  
"I am sure he meant every word he said."  
"She was thinking unbecomingly of that  
kiss in the moonlight. Could any one have  
seen her?" Was old Major Sterne any-  
where about at the moment?  
"I certainly considered his manner  
strange; not a bit like what one reads,"  
said Georgie, honestly, "but I thought of  
the title and the property, and I said yes  
directly."  
"I thought him the very greatest snuff I  
ever spoke to," broke in Miss Lily, with  
decision. "I refused him without a mo-

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**Selected Story.**  
**SNOOKS' PROPOSAL.**  
How He Got Out of It.  
"If you will take my advice," said Mr. Wilding, making a last noble but futile effort to balance the ivory paper-knife on the tip of his first finger, "you won't go to the Brownrigs' ball."  
"And why not?" asked his companion irritably.  
"Well, I really wouldn't, you know," said Mr. Wilding, giving up his struggle with the impossible, and laying the refractory paper-knife upon the table—for a variety of reasons. Girls play the very mischief with you, and you know what trouble I gave me to get you out of your last scrape. There are four Brownrig girls aren't there? And they are all pretty?"  
"I don't see what that's got to do with it," said Snooks, sulkily. "There's a snuff in a multitude. I can't marry 'em all, can I?"  
"Happily, no! Though, if the laws of our land did not forbid it, I am inclined to think you might try to accomplish even more. Still, be advised, Snooks, and your companions by your absence at the Brownrigs' ball and early." Papa Brownrig, when incensed is not nice, and you know you are decidedly *opis* with Miss Kate."  
"No, I am not," said Snooks, with decision, "not a bit of it. Though I allow she is a handsome girl, and has lovely eyes. Isn't she, now?"  
"I don't know. As a rule I never look into a woman's eyes. I consider it a rudeness," said Wilding, earnestly, telling him eyes without a blush. "Never mind her eyes. If, warringly, you should go to his ball, at least try to forget that she has any eyes at all. If you don't you will propose to her, to a moral!"  
"One would think I was a raw school-boy," said young Snooks, wretchedly. "Do you think I can't look at a woman without omitting myself? Do I look like a fool?"  
"Whatever Mr. Wilding thought at the moment, he kept it to himself. Before he spoke next, he and his conscience had agreed to dissemble.  
"My dear fellow, do not let us even hint at such a thing," he said, amiably. "You meant you were slightly—very slightly—susceptible, and that Miss Kate had a certain amount of pleasing power, and that— I positively would give up this ball if I—"  
"Are you going?" broke in Snooks, impatiently.  
"Well, yes, I dare say I shall look in about twelve."  
"Then I shall look in with you," said Snooks, defiantly.  
"Fact is, the fellow wants to spoon her himself, and don't see the force of being cut out," said he to himself, complacently, as he ran down the steps of Wilding's stairs.  
Beyond all question the Brownrigs' ball was a decided success. The rooms were filled to overflowing, the staircases were choked, the heat was intolerable. Sir Thomas and Lady Higgins had actually put in an appearance, after all, and the supper, if unattractive, was, I assure you, very expensive. No pains or money had been spared

"engaged for it? Yes (this time quite solemnly).  
An hour later the deed was done. Some capital champagne, a dark avenue (I believe there were some Chinese lanterns here originally, but a kind wind had blown them out), and a little hand slipped into his, did the work; and Miss Katie had won! Snooks, with a will, was ready to do anything, but with unmitigated willingness, to be the future Mrs. Snooks. Whether it was Snooks or the property pertaining to Snooks she most affected, deponent saith not.  
When, however, her betrothed found that he had done, and remembered his former words, and all the awfulness of parental wrath, his heart failed him. He went, as he usually did when in a sorry case, in search of Wilding, and, having discovered him, took him into a side room, shutting the door, confronted him with a rather pale face.  
"So the eyes were too many for you," said Mr. Wilding, calmly, after a deliberate examination of the disturbed face before him. "I told you how it would be."  
"That's the sort of a thing any fellow might say," returned Snooks, pathetically. "I didn't think you would have been so aggravating. And just when you see I'm down on my luck, too. Yes; I've been and gone and done it!"  
"Mother will be pleased," quoted his friend and law adviser with a shrug. "So, by-the-by, will be your father. They both regard nothing so highly as birth. I suppose Miss Brownrig can lay claim to some recent breeding?"  
"The old chap is a cornhandler, you know that; at least he used to be," said Snooks, with a heavy groan.  
"O, indeed! And very charming business, too, I make no doubt. Leads up to a train of ideas. Corn, wheat, stuff of the kind; miller, miller, miller, bridge-walker, dreamily, if Brownrig ever while late? And if so—why? Don't all speak at once. Well, she is a very pretty girl, such eyes, you know! I really congratulate you, my dear fellow."  
"Wilding!" desperately, "can't you do something? I—I don't know how it happened. It was the champagne, I suppose, of course you know she is pretty; but don't want to marry any one, and I know my governor wouldn't hear of it."  
"He will have to hear of it now, won't he?" asked Wilding, unfeelingly.  
"He would go out of his mind if such a thing was even hinted to him," declared Snooks, wildly. "Try to help me out of it. Wilding, can't you?"  
"I don't see what there is to do, except marry her. I only hope Lady Snooks and Miss Cornhandler will get on. And you should think of her beauty, you know; but I'll tell you off with the customary shilling."  
"I suppose I had better cut my throat and put an end to it," said Snooks, dismally, and then—overcome, no doubt, by the melancholy of his suggestion—he breaks down and gives way to tears.  
"I say, don't do that, you know," exclaimed Wilding, indignantly. "Weeping all over the place won't improve matters, and will only make you look a worse fool than nature intended, when you go out of the room. If you have put your foot in it, at least try to bear misfortune like a man. Look here, angrily, if you are going to keep up this lifeless boo-hooing I'll leave the room, and you, to your fate. It's downright indecent. They will hear you in the next house if you don't moderate your grief."  
As the nearest house was a quarter of a mile off, this was severe.  
"I shouldn't care if they heard me in the next town," said Snooks, who was quite too far gone for shame.  
"There is just one chance for you, and only one," said Wilding, slowly. "I have an idea, and you must either follow it, or go to the altar."  
"I'll follow anything," eagerly. "What is it?"  
"You have proposed to Miss Katie," solemnly. "Now go and propose to the other three!"  
"As Wilding gave vent to this idea he turned abruptly on his heel and left the room.  
"I'll do it," said Snooks, valiantly, drying his eyes and giving his

plored her and wanted to marry her.  
"It's extremely good of you, I'm sure," said the youngest Miss Brownrig, calmly. "But, unwell as I fear it must sound, I do not want to marry you."  
"Don't you, by Jove!" said Snooks, hastily, pulling himself up with a start; "I don't mean that, you know; I mean it's awfully awful, you know. In fact, I'm warming to my work through sheer gratitude, you have made me miserable forever; you've broken my heart."  
"Dear me, how shocking!" said Miss Lily, frivolously. "Let us hope Time will mend it. I'm not very sure you did not speak the truth at first. I really believe it is kind my refusing you. And now, Mr. Snooks, if I were you, I should go in and say good-night to mamma, because you have been having a good deal of papa's champagne, and it is trying to the constitution."  
Snooks took the hint, bade farewell to Mrs. Brownrig, who, to his heated imagination, appeared to regard him already with a moist and motherly eye, and taking Wilding's arm, drew him out of the house.  
"Well?" said the latter, interrogatively.  
"I don't know whether it is well or ill, returned he, gloomily. "But I followed your advice, and proposed to 'em all!"  
"And they accepted you?"  
"The most of 'em. But Lily, the youngest, she—"  
"I always said she was a sensible girl," put in Mr. Wilding, sotto voce.  
"Did you?" with much surprise. "Well, she refused me; sort of said she wouldn't have me, at any price. So you see you were wrong!"  
"I always knew she was one of the most intelligent girls I ever met." Mr. Wilding repeated, in a tone so difficult that his companion for once had sufficient sense to refrain from demanding an explanation.

When Mr. Wilding heard of all this, I regret to say he gave way to noisy mirth in the privacy of his chambers, and was actually caught by his washerwoman—who peeped through the key-hole—performing a wild dance in the middle of the floor.  
**Too Safe.**  
Half an hour before the departure of a lake steamer from her wharf, yesterday, the captain was approached by a stranger who had been inspecting the boat from the dock for the last ten minutes. Introducing himself as a would-be passenger, he asked:  
"Captain, is this boat provided with life-preservers?"  
"She is."  
"Are they all right?"  
"They are."  
"Can your crew launch a life-boat?"  
"They can."  
"Is your life-raft all right?"  
"It is."  
"Is the fire-house all ready for instant service?"  
"It is."  
"Will your engineer stand to his post in case of disaster?"  
"He will."  
"Do you call yourself cool and collected man in the presence of danger?"  
"I do."  
"Do you know exactly what you would do in case of a terrible Gale or a fire?"  
"I do."  
"Can your mate be depended on to second all your efforts?"  
"He can."  
"And will your crew stand by and obey you?"  
"They will."  
"Are your green and red lights all right?"  
"They are."  
"Machinery in perfect order?"  
"Going to overhaul the boat?"  
"No, sir."  
"Expect to do any racing?"  
"No, sir."  
"Is she fixed to blow off at four o'clock?"

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