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A Sociological Exhibit

Josefa Followed Her Nose, as Was to Be Expected.

By **MARTHA McCULLOCH-WILLIAMS**

If Josefa had not had the Morris nose things might have happened. The Morris nose, understand, was more than a feature—rather a hall mark of sorts throughout Rabun county. Whoever owned it was held bound not only to follow it, but to keep it going in the social lines marked out by Great-grandfather Morris, a gentleman whose spirit it had been as high as his nose.

She was not high spirited, but instead meek and lowly in mind, as because her very moderate fortune. Her mother, a born Morris, had married badly. At least the family thought so and had never scrupled to say that poor Billy Clayton never did but one sensible thing—namely, dying before he had quite wasted his wife's dowry. She had brought him land and money—and the land remained, only a little farm, to be sure, but big enough to maintain the widow and her child.

It would take managing, of course, but the Widow Clayton, she that was Anne Morris, was a born manager. That was exact truth. In proof take the fact that when Josefa was eighteen she had been fairly educated, kept always in wholesome comfort and had had all along clothes quite as good as any of her richer cousins.

What wonder then that Cousin Anne, who never whined or asked for anything—advice least of all—was well liked and wholly respected throughout the whole family connection.

What wonder either that Cousin Maria Dalton, also a born Morris, who, having no children, was a chronic joiner and daughter of whatever came along, took a violent fancy to Josefa, Maria Dalton was mighty proud of the Morris blood and doted especially upon great-grandfather. She had a copy of his portrait over the mantel in her front parlor and had coaxed Lemuel Morris, his eldest grandson, into giving her his commission in the Continental army. That, too, of course, was framed and hung up beside the portrait. Inevitably the next thing was to entertain her fellow daughters upon the occasion when state chapters foregather, and that meant having Cousin Anne and Josefa help in the entertaining, notwithstanding neither of them belonged to so much as one chapter. There were reasons, Mrs. Dalton was careful to explain to the visitors—Cousin Anne was the greatest home body, and Josefa, staying with her dutifully, had no need of belonging.

"Yes; Josefa is going to be my heiress. I believe so in blood," she confided to the lady president. That person pricked up her ears. Mrs. Dalton was rich, and the lady president had a son, a lawyer, just starting to practice in the county town. He needed a wife badly, especially one with expectations and family influence, and he was right on the spot, having come along with the chapter, not only by way of escort, but as speaker of the occasion. He had seized upon it as a chance to show his enthusiasm for local history. His mother, Mrs. Melvin, was inclined to regard the fact in the light of a special providence. She managed to speak with him quietly, a little apart, before he read his paper and was delighted to hear him throw into the reading solid chunks of enthusiasm for Rabun county and its glorious past.

Before the assembly broke he had met Josefa and talked with her a good half hour. Next week he called on her and the next and the next. Mrs. Dalton was early taken into his confidence and of course was his warm advocate. "Yes, as you say, Josefa is a Morris out and out, all but the name, and we'll change that," she said, smiling at him. "And, remember, you are going into politics. I want you to be senator at the very least. No matter how high you go, Josefa'll do you credit. But don't you fool yourself thinking you can get her just for asking. That is not the way with girls of the Morris blood. Court her like a man and don't take 'No' if she gives it to you the first time."

Jack Melvin listened, yearning to grit his teeth. He was not the least bit in love. Josefa was not pretty for all she was so fresh and wholesome, and he craved beauty above everything. Besides, there was Amelia Ware, but he dared not let himself think of her. Since they could not marry he meant to marry this Josefa. I made him laugh only to think of her saying "No" to him. How could she when she knew nobody else save a few awkward country fellows?

Imagine his state of mind when Josefa did say "No" the first time, the second, the third and each time more and more as though she meant it. After the third rejection he went to Mrs. Dalton. She laughed a laugh of indulgent pride when he had finished, but said emphatically: "I don't blame Josefa—not a bit. You've got the name of being a dreadful flirt. Whether or no you deserve it I am not saying. I'll go over and stay all night with Cousin Anne tomorrow. You come out the next day. I think you'll find things changed a bit."

Woman disposes; man proposes; sometimes fate intervenes. Josefa stood with fate in this particular wreathe. She said "No" again and in a way that told Jack Melvin at least the game was up. But Mrs. Dalton held on

stoutly to her plan. Cousin Anne had fallen in with it ardently. For all her thrift she had a whole lot of family pride. Moreover, she wanted Josefa to get the Dalton money. So she joined forces with her cousin, and between them they gave the prospective heiress small peace.

Obstinacy, pure and simple—that was what ailed Josefa. So said her two elders in conclave. There could not possibly be anybody in Melvin's way. Josefa had been sent to school, the strictest possible boarding school, when she was barely thirteen. Since she came back from it none of the youngsters roundabout had done more than speak civilly to her. Not one had so much as come to the house, except Clayton Trigg, who was a faroff cousin and had come to buy yearlings and fat lambs. In virtue equally of his kinship and a sudden shower he had stayed to dinner and after it had shaken hands cordially with both the ladies of the house. All he had said to Josefa was that if she happened to be at the county fair next fall he hoped she would look at his saddle horses, Muggins and Mill Boy, as he was sure they would win the blue ribbon.

At fair time, with Josefa still obstinate, Mrs. Clayton had doubts as to going, but Mrs. Dalton overruled the doubts. Thus the three went together in the Dalton barouche, and for the best part of the day Josefa was handed over to Melvin. Just how she managed it she never knew, but toward 4 o'clock she slipped away from him and lost herself in the crowd. It was a delicious sensation. All the late summer she had been telling herself she would run away if she had a chance, but how could she when she had not so much as a dollar of her own? She almost ran until she came to the farther side of the amphitheater. At the foot of the stairway she found herself stopped, her hand strongly gripped and a frank, sunburned face with honest blue eyes smiling down at her, but flushing in spite of its sunburn.

Mrs. Dalton was off with a knot of the daughters. Mrs. Clayton stood in contemplation of prize patchwork. Each believed Josefa safe with the other; also that Melvin was a further guard. Therefore they smiled affably when the ringmaster shouted that there was a new feature, a wedding in the exhibit of Scrollaw, Varnish & Co., the enterprising furnishing men. A popular young couple had agreed to be married in the parlor arranged by the firm, who meant to show their appreciation by making the newly wed a present of the suit. Mrs. Dalton said to her next neighbor: "Oh, I reckon it's somebody from the back country. It must be. Only bumpkins and their sweethearts still tolerate parlor suits."

The neighbor nodded, but added: "Let's go and see. I come to fairs mostly to see that sort of people. They are sociological exhibits, you know—better worth while than anything in the ring."

"Do you think so? Then let's hurry," Mrs. Dalton agreed, but somehow in spite of hurrying their progress was slow. They came close enough at last to bear without seeing. After the benediction the crowd drew its breath, and women in it whispered: "Why, did you ever! The girl looked radiant and quite the lady. And the fellow didn't kiss her, although the squire bade him do it."

"Here they come!" said others, falling apart to make way. Mrs. Clayton had somehow met them. Melvin was across the way, with Amelia Ware, her eyes downcast, clinging to his arm. Between them, bright eyed, head up, walked Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Trigg.

Josefa went straight to her mother, saying demurely, with the least hard drawn breath: "We're going on a little trip, mother, but it won't be extravagant. The money for the parlor suit—we sold it before we earned it—will more than pay expenses. You stay with Aunt Ria, please, till we get back."

"And then we're going to take care of you always," Clayton Trigg interrupted. Mrs. Dalton was too stunned to speak, but Mrs. Clayton said composedly: "Well, Joe, I suppose you had to follow your nose. The Morrises always did have their own way."

PRACTICAL HEALTH HINT.

Exercise.
The surroundings go a long way toward making exercise beneficial. That work at which one wins his daily bread is tiresome usually. It is restraint. He works because he must earn money. And there is just as much physical unfitness among workmen as there is among business men.

Light exercise that is enjoyable often does much more good than heavy exercise that is forced. That is why games which are founded on exercise do much more good than the same time spent in housecleaning, making barrels or hauling lumber.

Recreation is the first cousin of exercise, and when the two are combined the results are always more commendable. Exercise without mental response is an impossibility.

Exercise should embrace all physical processes—circulation of the blood, tearing down of worthless tissue, rebuilding of live tissue, fresh air and all else that goes to feed every portion of the body and keep it healthy. And work at the bench oftentimes lacks one, two or half a dozen essentials and is therefore muscular abuse rather than muscular use.

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