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DR. J. L. DUHART.

A practitioner in the State 22 years, and in Lafayette Parish 11 years.

O. P. GUILBEAU, Notary Public.

Justice of the Peace.

C. H. MOUTON, Attorney at Law.

St. Martinville, La.

A LITTLE MEDIATOR.

How She Innocently Helped a Bashful Lover.



AND the young prince married the princess and lived happily ever after.

This interrogation from the older girl the younger one unobtrusively ignores for a time.

Waking from her reverie, she turns those blue, wondering eyes to the face above her.

"Do you know, Julia, that prince reminds me of Mr. Mercer?"

"Yes, he did. Least he's going to marry a queen. And isn't it strange, Julia, her name is just the same as yours?"

"Why, child, what are you saying? How do you know all this?"

"Well," answered the little one, puckering her mouth in a childish, quizzical way.

"Yes, he did. Least he's going to marry a queen. And isn't it strange, Julia, her name is just the same as yours?"

"Yes, and what did he tell you?"

"He said: 'Once there was a man who liked a girl awful much, but he was afraid to tell her so, 'cause he didn't know how she'd react.'"

"By Jove, I wish she wasn't so distant to me. And I said: 'Is she so far away?'"

"Yes, she is. Then I told him she wasn't nice if she wasn't at my feet, said, right quick: 'Oh, yes, she is nice, she's adorable—she's a queen.'"

"What's her name?" said I. Well, he was staring in the fire, and he took a big, long breath and said: 'Julia.'"

"Yes, yes," said the older girl, very much interested to hear of it.

"Why, that's my sister's name," I said. "Does she know her?"

"And he jumped up so quick he really frightened me, but then he kissed me and said: 'Now, Joyce, I started in to tell you a fairy story, didn't I?'"

"Yes," said I; "but it wasn't much good." "I know that," said he, awful quick; "and I want you to forget all about it, and I'll come around some other time and tell you another one."

"Well, if it isn't any better than the one I told you, you needn't come," said I. And he—why, he laughed and said he'd try and make the next more interesting.

"Then you came downstairs, and when you were going out with him he turned around, put his finger on his lips and he looked real serious."

"Why, Joyce, he meant you should not say anything about it."

"About what?"

"Why, about what he told you. It was naughty of you, Joyce; it was wrong."

"Well, that's the second time I didn't know what 'keep quiet' meant. You know that 'keep quiet' meant. You know that 'keep quiet' meant. You know that 'keep quiet' meant."

"I want you to forget all about it," I know what you said about him last week. Well, after I told him about it."

"What did you tell him all about?" Miss Julia sits back in her chair again.

"Yes, I told him, and he said: 'My, my, Joyce, you mustn't tell things like that.' But he didn't tell me that till I was all done talking."

"Oh, you horrid child! How dared you do such a thing? How—?" Overcome by her feelings, Miss Julia sat in silence, but she did a good deal of thinking.

The two girls sat in quiet for a time without speaking, and it became very embarrassing to both when the entrance of a maid with a card caused both to rise. The older girl reads the card: "Mr. Mercer."

Obeying her sister, Joyce just reaches the doorway when her path is blocked by the form of a tall, good-looking young fellow.

"Good evening, Miss Julia. How are you, Joyce? You are not going as soon as I come, are you? Why, I have brought you a present. But then you won't want to see it until to-morrow."

"Oh, yes; show me now, please," pleads the little one.

And while the young man kneels to untie the package he has brought, Joyce's diminutive figure squats on a rug by the fire.

Giving vent to an exclamation of surprise and delight, Joyce makes a rush for the prize, and, obtaining it, spends several hurried moments in admiration and examination.

With a perceptible blush, the sister answers: "Why, yes he is, indeed. But you must run off to bed now."

With a happy smile on her little face Joyce kisses both her sister and Mercer good night and starts off to bed.

But at the door she hesitates, stops and turns. "Mr. Mercer," she says, "I hope you won't be angry, but I didn't forget that fairy story you told me, and I told Julia about it. Now, you're not angry, are you?"

Mercer just about realizes what the child has said. He is dazed, but he replies with a nervous, forced laugh: "Am I angry? Oh, no; not at all."

The little one is too young to notice that the older girl does—that this is said in a sarcastic way, kindly withal.

"I'm so glad," Joyce says, in a relieved tone. "I didn't think you would be angry 'cause I told Julia you liked her. You know, she only had trouble to retain her composure during this"

interrogation, but felt she was in danger of fainting from embarrassment. However, she controls herself long enough to say:

"Joyce, it's most nine o'clock; go to your bed."

Without any further remarks, save a sweet "Good night," the little one runs off to bed.

The unexpected declaration that Joyce had made regarding the secrets she had told her sister, Julia, had not been thought buried in the child's mind.

Walking to the window, Julia hides her face in the folds of a friendly curtain. The fire on the hearth had almost died out. Nothing came from the embers save a dull red glow.

Julia throws back the heavy curtains and the rich, silvery light from a full, round moon flows softly into the room.

And as the midnight hour draws nearer there comes floating to the window, over the city's roofs, the sound of chimes, as soft and as pure as the moon's white rays.

"Listen to the bells. Won't you come to the window? You can hear them better."

Mercer accepts the girl's invitation and is sure he can detect a tenderness in him before she has never used to him before, as he reaches her side and tenderly takes her hand within his own.

And says, almost in a whisper, as if moved by the stillness and the mystic music of the chimes:

"Miss Merton—Julia—Joyce asked me a question, and she left us to-night. You heard it?"

Faintly and faltering comes a "yes."

"Let me answer it to you. I like you. More than that, I love you. Tell me that I may hope."

Julia raises her head, and in her eyes she reads his love. Tenderly he stoops and kisses the lips returned to his, and locked in his strong embrace she stands silently, happy in his love.

And who knows, as they stood together, but what both blessed the child who had unconsciously told each of the other's love.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Wonderful Machine. A conception of the ingenuity involved in the construction of some of the finer tools now employed in various manufactures may be obtained from the following fact: A machine for turning out watch screws was recently exhibited at the institution of mechanical engineers in London, which was so complicated that several skilled engineers present confessed that they were unable to follow the train of mechanism even when it was explained by the aid of working drawings. Yet this machine, when a wire is fed to it, goes on doing its work, turning out perfect screws, and as long as the wire lasts it requires no interference by its human attendants.

—The Duke—"What on earth are you doing down there, darling?" The Duchess (formerly Miss May Yohe, of the "Hillarity")—"Burning your love letters, dear. There's no need to keep 'em now."—Pick-Me-Up.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

NEAT POULTRY HOUSE.

Very Handy and Convenient and Easily Kept Clean.

The accompanying illustrations show a very handy and convenient house, so clearly that the woman of the house can run in and out after eggs or for feeding purposes. It is built of matched siding, running up and down, and the roof is of the same material, with tarred paper on the inside, which makes it very unobtrusive for lice. All the inside fixtures are movable, and monthly during the warm weather

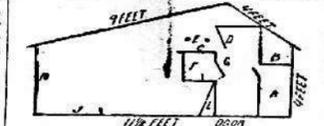


FIG. 1.—CROSS SECTION OF POULTRY HOUSE.

everything is taken out and the whole inside, including the roof, is given a shower bath of lime water and carbolic acid, applied with a spray pump.

The roost poles are covered with cloth which is occasionally saturated with kerosene. Near the right, as seen in the diagram Fig. 1, is the entrance door, and a bin four feet high and eighteen inches wide, running the whole length of the building, with a hinged lid, for storing droppings.

Above this bin is a shelf, for holding feed, shells, gravel, etc. At the left of the door is a light platform, four feet high, for the hens to enter the nest; a small crack is left at the top in the back, so that the light strikes the eight-inch alley, but not the boxes.

Above the nest boxes, a long trough with partitions for soft feed, water, milk, etc., running the whole length of the building. The space between this trough and the nest boxes is slatted up with common lath, running from the front side of the nests to the back side of the trough, thus leaving the trough open to the front. The lath cannot get into it—the lath being fast enough apart to allow the fowls easy access to the feed.

The lath is nailed to narrow strips at top and bottom, to be movable. At *f* is a dust bath in front of the windows, which faces the south.

In Fig. 2, at *a*, is an oil stove which is used when the temperature is too low. At *m*, *m*, are ventilators which slides to gauge them. The doors, *h*, *h*, are for access to dust baths, etc., and *n*, *n*, are windows. Each of the two apartments will accommodate twenty-five fowls.—American Agriculturist.

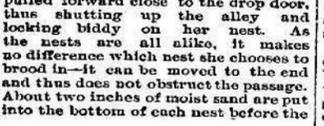


FIG. 2.—GROUND FLOOR OF POULTRY HOUSE.

hen is set; the straw nest is built thereon and the eggs are given her. The door, *g*, is then shut down. Every morning the hatching hens are let out for fifteen minutes to eat, drink, wallow, etc., after which they will usually take their own nests, if not they can be easily changed. The eggs can be gathered through the door, *g*.

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WOMEN AS FARMERS.

They Are Said to Be Much More Successful Than Men.

It is said by those who claim to be in a condition to know what they are talking about that the woman who takes up fruit culture, farming, raising and stock raising will make a success out of it nine times out of ten. Women are, in proportion, very much more successful than men, so says this country, for two reasons. One is, they are accustomed to sit down when their work is done, and find entertainment in some way without going outside for it. Another is, that they do not spend all of their loose change at the grog-shop and the corner grocery.

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