

ANNIE LAURIE.
Across the sea a fragment,
Blown with the spray and mist
Shoreward from rocky distance,
Where shade and shine hold tryst;
An old song set in courage
Of gold and amnesty.

A ship on the horizon
Where misty curtains cling,
Lightly to clearer leeward;
The sails of violet evening
A schooner nearing the harbor—
Late! The sailors sing:
"Maxwell brass are bonnie,
Where early for the dew,
'Twas there sweet Annie Laurie
Gave me her promise true"
Oh, the rainbow lights of boyhood
Kiss my skies anew.

"Maxwell brass are bonnie,
How sweet that old refrain!
The promise of morning
Break into bloom again,
And on the lowly roof I hear
The music of the rain."

"Maxwell brass are bonnie!"
There's a mother at the window
The cattle down the dusky lane
Are coming as of yore;
And, mounted on the pasture bars,
I swing and sing once more.

"Maxwell brass are bonnie,"
Oh, bonnie maid of mine,
Thro' all the mists of distance
Again the dark eyes shine;
The world is full of music,
And living seems divine!

Across the sea a fragment,
Blown with the spray and mist
Shoreward from rocky distance,
Where shade and shine hold tryst;
A vision and a memory,
In gold and amnesty,
—Jennie Lodge Johnson, in Lewiston Journal.

The Dancing Teacher

THE peculiar thing about Marie Vanderpool was that she had an insatiable appetite for happiness. She took to dancing slippers as naturally as other folk take to gossamer or walking boots. She sang as readily as other people sigh.

She had a chance for frolic with the same enthusiasm that others found an opportunity for work. No one ever claimed that she was of any use, and she certainly never made any such claim herself. It never occurred to her that she should be useful, and she often reflected that to world so swarming with useful persons as this appeared to be—if one judged by the self-placed estimate of these persons—there was plenty of room for one bluish creature of the nonutilitarian sort.

All of the other members of her family were industrious, and several of them were wise. They won distinction along commercial and intellectual lines, were noted for their philanthropies, and were solicited to lend their names to "causes." They were associated with nearly all of the leading benevolent enterprises of the city.

Now, it is impossible for any seeing and hearing person to go about Chicago without becoming aware of the fact that a large number of the citizens of this busy town are not having a good time. Even Marie observed it. She saw children with old, ragged coats and despair looking out of their eyes, and women nervous and crushed under a burden of toil. She saw homes that would not keep out the cold, and coats that hung in rags from the shoulders that supported them. And what was equally pathetic, she noticed that many persons were so hard of heart that the wolf's long howl that they had no heart for pleasure.

"It is as likely as not," said Marie to herself, "that they have never discovered how to be happy." And she felt a vast commiseration for them. Not to be happy! It was fearful—or it was stupid!

It chanced that on one occasion there was a certain festivity at a settlement house in one of the most crowded and poverty-stricken parts of the city, and that Marie was invited to go. It was not, perhaps, the sort of thing she would have selected, but as there was nothing else doing that evening, for a wonder, and as she had no mind to sit down with a book, she concluded to go. She was a good deal puzzled to know what to wear, for she was particular about the propriety of her dress. She hit upon a costume of tulle that seemed to be neither too plain nor too fine. She surveyed herself with pleasure. It was pleasant to have large and brilliant brown eyes, a mass of wavy, golden hair, a snow white neck and shoulders, modulated with tender and abundant grace, and a mouth that smiled with more merriment than the common run of mouths.

But what Marie saw at the settlement was calculated to make her forget, for once, the appearance of which she was so proud. She even forgot to be resentful because she had not people she met were serious. For the first time she found herself face to face with the serious problem of life—for the first time a dim notion that life was given to be used, struggled up through her consciousness. She found women as well born as herself, and much better educated and trained, devoting their lives to others—and therefore to themselves, since in the expenditure of life in service comes the best development. This type of womanhood was new to her. She had been acquainted with many who were rich, elegant and benevolent, but here were women who found it a privilege to express life in terms of love. Moreover, she found the "neighbors" who came to the settlements interesting in the extreme. Here was a whole library of human documents, and Marie Vanderpool felt that she was reading them.

"O you could, you could! But for you perhaps I should not have realized that I had one talent. It never occurred to me that that being happy and having light feet could be a talent."

There was a Virginia reel—just by way of diversion—and Marie Vanderpool flitted through it like a spirit of joy—Chicago Tribune.

"But I could do nothing," she said, dejectedly, to one of the residents. "I should only be in the way."

"I don't think you could be in the way anywhere, Miss Vanderpool," the lady had replied, gently. "If you would just come here and laugh for us occasionally, as you know how, it seems to me it might be an invaluable service."

Marie laughed then involuntarily, and at the bird-like, joyful note a dozen persons turned around with a sympathetic smile upon their faces.

The next night there was a dancing party at the home of a friend of Marie's. She went to it as eagerly as if it had been her first ball, and as she was a lovely sight in her white gown with its silver lilies of the valley woven in the mesh and her necklaces of turquoise. She carried lilies of the valley and forget-me-nots. A daintier maid or a more joyful one it would have been hard to have imagined.

Her programme was filled ten minutes after she had entered the ball-room, and as she danced it seemed to her that life was never so nearly perfect as when the music thrilled, and everyone was gay-hearted, and the lights burned and the flowers perfumed the air, and she, Marie, could lend herself to the rhythm and the joy and dance.

"Miss Vanderpool," said one gentleman, as he led her to her seat, "I have danced with many good dancers in my life, but I have never enjoyed a waltz so much as the last one. It is the perfection of motion which you have, and it is a charming gift. Really, I can call it nothing less than a gift."

He had expected a careless acknowledgment of this compliment, and was amazed when she said, gravely:

"And a gift is something which ought to be used, I suppose. That is what my sisters would say."

"Then they would approve of you, surely, for have you not been putting it to the best possible use?"

"I mean that it ought to be used for others."

"It has been—for as many others as could avail themselves of it. I regret that it has not been used more for me. One dance is a short allowance, it seems to me."

The beautiful head was shaken with yet greater gravity.

"Some time soon I am going to show you what I mean, Mr. Hadley," and then, smiling and dimpling, she went away with her next partner.

It was a month later when Kenneth Hadley received a letter from Miss Vanderpool, asking him to be at the Brown street settlement on a certain night.

Mr. Hadley was not interested in settlements, but he was in Miss Vanderpool's cab took him along a thronged street, past tenement houses and saloons and noisy stores till he came to the brightly lighted tenement-house standing tidy and serene-looking, in the midst of a block. He asked for Miss Vanderpool, and was shown past the crowded classrooms and lecture halls and music rooms to a room on the upper floor. The room was bright and airy and had a large window that looked out upon a familiar town, and he opened the door and stood within a large room filled with young men and women. But it was not a party which he beheld. He saw that at once. It was a dancing class. The pupils stood in line awaiting the directions of their teacher.

He looked about him for Miss Vanderpool, but the chairs by the wall were vacant. Probably he had arrived too soon. However, he decided to inquire of the teacher, that at moment he beheld her—Marie Vanderpool—in her pretty pink frock with its short dancing skirt, standing before the class. It was she who was the teacher. Her eyes had never seemed brighter. The smiles which she never willing to leave her lips played about them, but more adorable and unkept than ever. She seemed the incarnate spirit of the joy of life. She came running toward him.

"Come, come!" she cried. "I invited you over here with a purpose. I wanted you to show us the mazurka. You dance it so beautifully!"

She called to the musicians to play a mazurka, gave the class permission to be seated, and poised herself delicately. "Come, come!" she cried again, "I insist on your dancing the best you know how."

Kenneth Hadley, the dignified and reserved, the man who had thought himself a little better than others and had held himself somewhat haughtily aloof, bowed to his destiny and entered heart and soul upon his task.

Nearly the whole evening was spent upon this dance.

"We must get just right," Miss Vanderpool insisted. "You see, we are not learning in quite the usual way on account of a lack of the knowledge of the rudiments on the part of the teacher." And she laughed. "But we propose to dance as well as those who have learned by the regular, old-fashioned way."

Hadley looked about him and saw in every face, whether it was that of a young man or young woman, of Jew or Christian, of German, Bohemian, Scandinavian, or Italian, of factory hand or worker in the stock yards, a face of admiration and respect for Miss Vanderpool. Moreover, her infectious happiness had brought vivacity and something akin to delight even into the heaviest face.

"I never liked your dancing so much as I do at this hour," he said to her, earnestly. "I wish I might help you now and then."

"O you could, you could! But for you perhaps I should not have realized that I had one talent. It never occurred to me that that being happy and having light feet could be a talent."

There was a Virginia reel—just by way of diversion—and Marie Vanderpool flitted through it like a spirit of joy—Chicago Tribune.

"I have heard of persons whose hair was whitened through excessive fear, but I never saw myself anyone so affected. I am disposed to be incredulous on the subject."

The above remark was made to Dr. HADLEY, a physician of the highest repute in his pretty villa, discussing the different effects of terror on dissimilar temperaments. Without replying to me, the doctor turned to his wife, and said:

"Helen, will you please relate to my old friend the incident which you are now alluding to?"

I looked at Mrs. Maynard in surprise. I had observed that her hair, which was luxuriant and dressed very becomingly, was purely chestnut, but, on the other hand, I had seen a very pretty one, a young girl, that it was powdered to lighten the brilliancy of her fine dark eyes.

The doctor and I had been fellow-students, but after leaving college, we had drifted apart; I to commence practice in an eastern city, he to pursue his profession in the quiet village in the west. I was now on a visit to him for the first time since his marriage.

Mrs. Maynard, no doubt reading my suspicion by my look of incredulity, smiled as she took her own story, related by her husband's side, the following interesting episode:

It was nearly two years ago, since my husband was called on one evening to visit a patient several miles away. Our domestics had all gone to bed, and I was alone in the house, when a relative of one of our serving women came. This I was alone. But I felt no fear, for we never had heard of burglars or any sort of desperadoes in our quiet village, then consisting of a few scattered houses. The windows leading out on the piazza were open as usual, but I secured the blinds before my husband's departure, and locked the inside doors, all except the front one, which I left for the doctor to lock after going out, so that if I should fall asleep before his return, he would enter by the front door. I heard the doctor's rapid footsteps on the gravel, quickened by the urgent tones of a messenger who awaited him; and, after the sharp rattle of the carriage wheels had become but an echo, I seated myself for the night at my writing table, and became absorbed in the book I had been reading before being disturbed by the summons.

"Doctor," said I, with assumed composure, "I have the utmost confidence in your skill; I would not trust my life to another, but, doctor, you have forgotten to bring a napkin to staunch the blood. If you will have the goodness to ascend to my sleeping chamber, at the right of the hall, you will find everything you need for that purpose in the bureau."

"Ah, madam," he said, shaking his head anxiously, "I never drew him during a surgical operation; that is another one of my secrets unknown to the faculty."

Then, placing his hand on my bosom, he said, with horrible epigrammatic: "I'll scratch my nails on that skin whiter than snow, and smooth as monumental alabaster."

"O God!" I cried, as I felt the cold steel touch my breast; but with the same breath came deliverance.

Quick as thought a heavy wooden piano-cabinet was thrown over the top and person of the madman, and bound tightly around him. As quickly as I released, and the things that bound me soon held the madman. My husband held me in his arms. He had no less compassion for me than for the madman, and, taking in the horror of my situation at a glance, laid by the only means at hand, secured the madman, who was the very patient he had been summoned to attend, but who had escaped the vigilance of his messenger, who had now returned with the doctor in pursuit of him. As the poor wretch was being hurried away, he turned to me, and said: "Madam, this is a plot to rob me of my reputation. Your husband is a villainous fellow, and, taking in the horror of my situation at a glance, laid by the only means at hand, secured the madman, who was the very patient he had been summoned to attend, but who had escaped the vigilance of his messenger, who had now returned with the doctor in pursuit of him. 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