



It is undoubtedly a fact that our grandmothers, the pioneer women of the country, led more laborious lives than the housewives of to-day. In spite of this fact, they bore their husbands healthy, robust sons and daughters, and did not become weak, complaining invalids as a consequence.

There are probably several reasons for this. One is, that they lived more in the open air, and another, and probably the most influential of all, is that they were less prudish than the women of to-day. They were not ashamed to know something of their own physical make-up. They were not too nice to take care of their health in a womanly way. Women now-a-days suffer untold tortures in silence, because of weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism, rather than consult a physician, or even talk upon the subject to their own husbands. They imagine that troubles of this description can only be cured by undergoing the disgusting examinations and local treatment insisted upon by the average modern physician. Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription cures all diseases peculiar to women in the privacy of their own homes. It does away with the necessity for examinations and local treatment. It acts directly on the important organs concerned, making them strong, healthy and vigorous. It fits for wifehood and the burdens of household duties. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration and soothes pain. It tones and builds up the nerves. It banishes the discomforts of the time of expectancy and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. Thousands have testified to its merits.

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NECK OR NOTHING.

SOUTHERN STORY OF ANTE BELLUM DAYS,

BY JEANNETTE H. WALWORTH

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CHAPTER XII.

"Your tragon!" whispered Mamie.

"My housekeeper. Placate her if you do not care to starve to death before morning," said Strong, laughing light heartedly.

"Oh, I've got used to starvation and every other conceivable horror since I started out on this awful trip. I don't mind it for myself, but Annabel is so delicate and that boy of hers is such a young fiend, you know."

He did not "know," and he did not care to know. They had passed by Vi-



ney and gained the fireplace, where he was clumsily retarding Miss Colyer's efforts to get out of her wet waterproof and muddy little rubber shoes by awkward assistance. He was quite content to leave Seth to cope with the pretty, white faced owner of that peevish voice and with the famished child whom Mamie had called "a young fiend."

"How many mo' of you is they?" Vi-ney asked, with sour inhospitality.

Miss Colyer turned a placid face upon her.

"Only two more of us, auntie. Young Mrs. Adrien Strong and her little boy. I promise you we will all be as good as gold if you don't turn us out into the storm again."

And into this area of speechless surprise Seth surged at that moment, his crimsoned face and hatless head envied by the flying fists and gyrating heels of the young fiend, whose disgust for these nocturnal proceedings was boundless and outspoken.

CHAPTER XIV.

"And you?"

The professor's daughter suddenly passed from recitative, slightly tinged with apology, to a challenging tone, which made Strong Martin's heart thump heavily against his ribs.

Overawing Seth by an assumption of reckless indifference was one thing. Seth was slow and receptive. Satisfying Mamie Colyer in the matter of his own dubious inertia quite another. Mamie was both fiery and exacting.

His cheeks flamed hotly, but his lips refused to frame the inadequate apologies which he knew would bring that laughing scorn into her bright eyes which had once been the terror of the whole college crew. His sullen silence irritated her. She had been alone with him now for nearly two hours. Viney's crabbed hospitality had culminated in preparing the one bedroom of Neck or Nothing for the white faced, peevish young mother and her tempestuous offspring.

Annabel and the boy were sleeping, intertwined so closely in each other's arms that their pretty slumber flushed cheeks touched, blending their soft roundness into one curving profile.

Seth had long ago climbed the cliff and gone home, promising to "fetch sissy over first thing in the morning."

He had been an open mouthed sharer with Strong in Miss Colyer's explanation of her errand. The recital had been, to his simple, direct nature a revelation of astounding iniquity. Strong received it with contemptuous credulity. To him nothing that went to prove the darling of Sans Souci a fraud was difficult of acceptance.

In her own graphic style Mamie had told them of Adrien's marriage during his college term to a daughter of the woman from whom he rented a room.

"Good people. Just as good as gold. Annabel is a fool about him. Most women are fools about somebody, I suppose. The silliest part of the whole performance was their giving their consent to keep this marriage a secret until Adrien took the helm at home. I fancy he underrated his grandfather's constitution. Bah! But that poor little simpleton," nodding vigorously toward the sleeping apartment, "cared for nothing in life so long as Adrien Strong came to see her tolerably regularly and was decent to her and the boy. Now, however, that this rumpus has separated them things have come to an awful pass, and I just forced Annabel to assert herself and claim her rights."

"You know she only has her mother's business for a support, and now the bonnet business don't amount to much. Her brother, little Fred Welsh, is in

the army. Only 16 years old. Think of it! Father is in it, too, fighting in Virginia." This with a proud uplifting of her head. "Dear me, I hope he isn't faring any worse than we are at home—no flour, no coffee, no sugar, lots of patriotism, sweetened with glorious anticipation. Dry diet, though. And, as I tell Annabel, when she has got to a pass when she can't even keep her boy properly shod, it is time she was putting him where he belonged, in the affections of his grandmother and his great-grandfather. I am going to leave them in that grand house we passed this afternoon. I really did not have the courage to stop with Annabel looking so frouzy and the boy acting like a young Comanche."

She summarized the situation crisply with practical acceptance of the inevitable.

"Of course we must expect a scene, but I prefer daylight for a pitched battle always."

It was then that Seth suggested Liza. Liza was the saving clause in the Martin family. No affair involving tact or sensibility could be carried to an effective climax without her supervision.

Both of the men regarded the resolute face of Annabel's little champion anxiously. She looked supremely self reliant and adequate, but would she prove adequate to "the madam?"

"I think I'll fetch our Liza. She's got a headpiece worth havin, and if there is anybody on this green football that can stand up to the madam when she mounts her high horse it is our girl Liza."

"In union there is strength. Fetch our Liza, by all means," Mamie had said, with tragic eagerness, and Seth had gone away, promising faithfully to be back promptly in the morning with that potent damsel.

It was with a sense of infinite gratitude to destiny, which so rarely played him a kind trick, that Strong had mended the fire, surreptitiously blown the just-off the wooden mantelpiece with one blast from his powerful lungs and essayed a general betterment of his shabby sitting room while Mamie "took a peep" at her sleeping charges in the still shabbier bedroom.

(To be Continued.)

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