

POETIC CHIPS.

He stood a spell on one foot; fast,
An' then he stood a spell on 'other,
An' on which one he felt the wust
He couldn't help told you nuthin'.

Oh, let the poor woman's clothes alone;
They're none of your concern;
She never makes no fun of your,
Then, why poke fun at her'n?

A maiden once said, "I'll not mate
With a man who has not fortune great."
So she pouted and waited,
And seemed to mate.

She's a maiden yet—age, forty-eight.
Our lives are albums, written through
With good or evil, with false or true;
And as the blessed angels turn
The pages of our years,
God grant they read the good with smile,
And blot the ill with tears!

When lovely human, once so jolly
Finds, like life, her hair grows gray,
How to make her care less melancholy,
How hide Time's step that some can stay?
The only way his track to cover.
To mask her age from every eye,
And if she's a spoon for lover,
To keep him still "spoons," is—to die!

Man's a fool!
When it's hot, he wants it cool;
When it's cold he wants it warm.
Never contented with his lot.

What's dry
He for showers is heard to sigh,
Wants to meet his wish—it rains,
Of the wet the fool complains."

Hot or cold, dry or wet,
Nothing suits that he can get.
I consider, as a rule,
Man's a fool.

IN A TRUMPET.

A story of Christmas.

"I knew it," said Miss Pamphyllia answering a rufous glance from Miss Mehitable's brother; "still it's a great comfort to reflect that she could have the trumpet."

Miss Pamphyllia certainly had a very peculiar way of looking at human griefs. She would stand for a moment of dismay, and then suddenly illuminate with some comforting "reflection" about something that had been, or had not been, or could be, after all. It always reminded Miss Mehitable's brother of a cluster of ripe grapes he had noticed one October day when the skies were fitful. For one instant, while a cloud crept over the sun, they hung heavy and dark as the leaden shadow behind them; then, as a quick, strong ray of sunlight pierced the cloud, the red wine that was in them took fire, and gleamed and blazed, until his very pulses warmed as he looked.

He felt them suddenly warming again in just the same way, as Miss Pamphyllia uttered the words, "she could have the trumpet." What a thing it would make of life if that "could" only began with a "w" instead of a "c!" But as it did not, and there wasn't the least prospect that it ever would, Miss Mehitable's brother patiently took it with the "c," much as he would have hugged a warm soap stone, it wandering in the dark among the glaciers of the Alps.

Miss Mehitable, meanwhile, peacefully unconscious that either of them had said anything, sat gazing into the glowing heart of coals, with a satisfied little smile on her face, and a fresh-folded handkerchief in her lap. She always did have a fresh handkerchief in her lap—it was so tidy just where the hands lay; and as for her smile, her very features were as likely to disappear. That was because she found life always so pleasant; indeed it contained but two regrets for Miss Mehitable, and it would have been foolish to let such a minority disturb all the rest. One of these regrets was that Pamphyllia did not feel quite inclined to marry Phenix. He had asked her every Christmas Day for ten years in succession—though never until after dinner, for he liked everything hot, and the faintest hope is a warmer sauce than disappointment—but it was of no use. Miss Pamphyllia's inclinations did not quite agree, and the trial was put over till another term, leaving the first part of the evening a little downcast, until Miss Pamphyllia regularly brightened with a consoling thought.

"After all, she said, "it is a great comfort to reflect that he needn't ask me if he didn't choose."

"Don't be a goose, Phenix," Miss Mehitable always said gently, the next morning, to comfort him; and though perhaps he had seemed a little like one, pluming himself and picking up his crumps so many months, only to be slain on this fatal day; still, when Hetty sat to him, he remembered what he really was, and rose from his ashes to begin another year.

But it seemed such a pity about spoiling the evenings, particularly as Miss Pamphyllia only came once a year, that she at last insisted upon a different arrangement.

"Don't ask me again until I am ready to say yes," she said with the firmest air.

"And when will that be?" asked Phenix;

Miss Pamphyllia hesitated a moment, and then looked with a sudden gleam of mischief in her eyes.

"Whenever Hetty asks for the trumpet," she said.

That was coming very near the second of Miss Mehitable's regrets in life, which was simply the miserably indistinct way in which people were allowing themselves to speak the last few years. It was growing upon them, too, instead of improving, until she had really given up expecting to hear anybody unless they came and spoke directly to her. Then, of course, they took care to enunciate properly, knowing how much she disapproved the modern carelessness; but the moment she turned away it was all forgotten, and even Phenix and Pamphyllia, who were as well brought up as herself, did no better. One said "M-m-m-m," and the other answered, "M-m-m-m," and it was only a miracle that they ever made head

or tail of each other's remarks. But Miss Mehitable always preferred her friends should please themselves rather than her; so she sat peacefully by, heard what she could, and let the rest go.

It was not till the circle of those who attempted proper enunciation had thinned down to the very strong-winded ones, and Miss Mehitable's replies to their remarks sometimes fitted about as well as if she had put her own bonnet on Phenix's head by mistake, that one of the bravest of them ventured a suggestion.

Would it not seem a little strange if all her friends had lost their voices at once? Might it not be possible that her hearing had lost a trifle of its acuteness?

But Cousin John wasn't to be caught; he was very busily engaged with some one else whenever she passed near him; and, indeed, every one grew very talkative, and even the candles and fire light seemed to Miss Mehitable gayer than on other nights.

"Strange ways New England people are falling into," said Cousin John's nearest neighbor, "Chr istmas dinner not squared by any other house. Wedding Outfits a Specialty. Patterns Hats and Bonnets always on hand and made to order. Also, elegant assortment of Ribbons, Sashes, Flowers, Plumes, Bridal Illusions (3 yards wide), Plain Silk, all colors. Turquoise and Hair Goods, etc. Just received a splendid assortment of Christmas and Holiday Goods. Agency for Mme. Demorest's Patterns. Catalogues sent free to any address. When in town come and see me, or send an order. JOHN M. KNIGHT, Des Moines, Iowa.

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"Yellow tags on the white of the eyes, and the purplish appearance of the skin change is a clear, clean, healthy sign.

"Those suffering from weak or ulcerated lungs or tubercles will readily gain strength by means of air, windpipe, throat and pulse; diminishing the frequency of coughing, and the power of breathing, and the number of expectorations.

Weakness of the skin, legs, shoulders, etc., caused by rheumatism, will be removed by the use of a simple ointment.

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