

THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

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RED CLOUD — NEBRASKA.

THE LOST BABY.

"I'm lost!" Could you find me please?"

Poor little frightened baby!

The wind had tossed her golden tresses,

Her eyes had turned too dimpled knees;

I stopped and lifted her with care,

And softly whispered, "May I?"

"Al! she is your ideal, is she?"

Much more to the same purpose,

Mingled with kisses and compliments,

was said, but nothing in it deserved the wounded woman's heart. For Nona, though not a fashionnable woman, was a true woman, nevertheless, and understood not only what had been said, but also all that had been left to be inferred. It was not possible for him to leave his business entirely, but it had been arranged that once a month he was to pay a few days' visit to the springs, and in the intervals be refreshed and comforted by regular and plentiful supplies of letters.

The supply was pretty fair the first week, but fell off gradually, until several days passed without any token of Nona's faith and memory. Still, he did not feel much anguish. He thought that he quite understood Nona's reasons, and at any rate he relied with implicit confidence on the effect which Philip Hays in his own proper person could not fail to make.

This confidence did not agree with events. He arrived at the springs and found Nona out driving with Jack Christie, a young man whom he particularly disliked for his pretentious manners. He was on the piazza when they returned, and he was certain Nona saw him, though she kept her eyes on Jack's face, and pretended the greatest interest in his foolish conversation, for of two things Philip was certain first, that her interest was "pretended," and second, that Jack's conversation was "trashy." Then he felt unaccountably and, as he very well knew, unreasonably envious of the greeting of the splendidly dressed Nona, who calmly and nonchalantly extended the tips of her gloved fingers to him, drawing out the while a pretty little assurance of being "too glad to see Mr. Hays," with the information that those were evil days in France. Even the good-natured, honest King himself, poor Louis XVI., was powerless to shield his wife and children from the fury of the French people. The royal family were already in danger, and the memories of the two previous Louis were being visited on their comparatively innocent descendants. All of the nobility and clergy who refused to take their oaths on the new constitution were thrown into prison, and it was for this reason that Pierre Latrelle and his companions had been imprisoned at Bordeaux.

"Cecile," he said, reproachfully,

"And you too, Nona."

"Oh dear me, Mr. Hays. It is quite too exhausting to expect any thing

at a time is quite sufficient."

Philip was shocked and silenced for the time. For one distressing half-hour he tried to assume his rights as her betrothed, but she kept Jack Christie persistently between them.

Brother Will was wise enough to credit his pretty sister-in-law with Philip's remarkable access of maternal affection, and little Nona Zeliska herself had a shrewd guess as to what kind of chores Mr. Philip Hayes came to the springs try to taste.

Well, after this, for a couple of weeks, there was no hesitating at the office door. "Up and strawberries" now when his friends rallied him about his sudden passion for the country, and the strawberries always did just as well as the silences. But as the weather grew hotter, the subject of summer resorts became unmentionable. Philip's mother and sister were going to some fashionable Virginia springs, and he greatly desired that his little Nona should go with them. To tell the truth, he'd dash she was a little moon-stylin', and would put up her curly, and abundant aprons, and dress like Jessie Mabon did. That would perfectly satisfy him, he thought. Yes, Nona Zeliska dressed like Jessie Mabon would leave him nothing to desire. He went about his plans with that tact which young men who have sisters easily acquire. A little present from Tiffany, and a modest check "just for spending-money," made his sister Cecile sufficiently interested in his project.

"Nona is a dear little girl, Cecile," he said. "All she wants is a more

stately matine and stylish dress."

"If that is what you desire, Philip, why do you not marry Jessie Mabon? I thought you liked her well enough."

"Because, Cecile, I want a heart inside the dress a pure, fresh, loving heart."

"It seems to me—" But here Cecile stopped. She was wise enough to know she would be "throwing words away."

The next difficulty was to make Nona dedicated understand his wishes, and induce her to accept the invitation sent her by his mother and sister. He approached the subject under the most favorable circumstances; the moonlight did not betray his confusion, and his encircling arm held her so close to his heart that he had no fear of not securing attention if argument or explanation became necessary.

"I am so glad, Nona, that you are

going with Cecile. I am sure it will do you good."

"And then he stopped and kissed her for emphasis."

"I go to please you, Philip. I am

quite well, thank you."

"But I don't mean about your health, Nona. You little wench who could have such bright eyes and red lips and not be quite well? I mean about dress and deportment, and those kind of things."

There was a little ominous silence, and then a low, grievous voice: "I don't think I understand you, Philip."

"No, dear, and upon the whole I

am glad you have never understood me. You see, when we are married we shall live in the city, and we must dress and behave as city people do. Cecile will show you all about it, darling, so don't trouble your pretty little head."

"I thought you liked me just as I

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

OUR BOY.

Our boy is learning to whetster.
It is a new something new.
He begins first thing in the morning,
And he stops last thing at bed time,
And he keeps it up at intervals,
The day through.

And who is he teacher?

We haven't received yet,
Whether it is the thrasher,
The nebbos in the meadow,
Or the swallows round the barn eaves,
Or Bob White.

What is the time he loses best?

With the between rail.

And the sound of the wind in the chimney,
Or a gale in the tops of the pines,
For, in fact, don't it seem to—

Time at all?

Or seeking little playmates,

And ask the lessoned, too.

It they like that sort of music.

They sing, "Oh, dear!" "Good gracious!"

Yes, now we are surprised, but when they blame you little one is just the same.

When mamma has to send you?

My mamma never sends, she knows,

And when I come home,

And when I come home,