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The Columbus Journal.

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COLUMBUS, NEB., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1880.

WHOLE NO. 552.

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"A MODEL MARTHA." Martha Griswold had been a member of her Uncle Harry Griswold's family ever since she could remember.

"No, uncle, I fear nothing; we have temperate wants, and with diligence we will succeed. The poor are more contented than the rich, and in that, at least, we can have a mine of riches."

"Contentment never made the kettle boil, nor furnished the meat for the boiling; but its rare tidbit for poetical souls to starve upon. These words, somewhat impatiently spoken, ended a long discussion between Martha and her uncle.

"What a wise little woman," said Gerald, half in earnest, half in jest. He could not endure the thought of Martha struggling on a farm; but, in spite of protestations, he at last fell into Martha's plan, happily, saying, "Of all avocations, it is the one I should choose for myself, but I fear for you."

"But I am perfectly healthy, and have a strong heart for my part with you; and I have expected to marry a poor man for the last seven years, and I have been idle but have endeavored to render myself a competent, practical housekeeper. Do not be frightened," she added, laughing at his look of wonderment, "but I wish to impress upon you the fact that we shall need no Philis to break our harmony—and the dishes."

Soon after this conversation, Gerald took a ride to the farm and inspected the house. Upon opening the door, he was oppressed by a moldily smell, and found it little fit to be the habitation of man. But patience worked its reward when, at last, cleaned, papered and painted, it presented an agreeable aspect.

"Oh!" she cried merrily. "Auntie has given me a store of cast-away furniture. There are piles of it in the attic."

"Come and see our treasures," she said, and roguishly tantalized him with the sight of a misshapen mass of furniture which she declared triumphantly to be all her own. "Ah," she said, "you have yet to learn, love, the magic of paint, glue and varnish."

Then, more gravely, she extolled an old kitchen range that lay there, and displayed its different merits, until he went away half comforted. But at night he had the nightmare and dreamed that the furniture took human shape and battled with him.

The wedding ceremony was performed at the house of Martha's uncle, who looked like an astrologer foretelling her doom, and the aunts and all the cousins sighed most ingenuously over her handkerchiefs. But, as a bit of comfort amidst this general wretchedness, Martha's uncle put three hundred dollars into her hand at parting.

"For pin money, my dear," he had said; but she thought, "It shall be for a rainy day." Gerald and Martha were glad to escape into the open air, as they started to the farm, upon their wedding tour; as Martha humorously called it. The winds blew bleak and the carriage jolted over a rough road, and Gerald leered for Martha's discomfort and her faint her took courage. "There's the storm and tide, we shall reach a sunny shore at last, love," he whispered; and love and hope cast their halo of glory around them.

The day before his marriage, Gerald had taken to the farm the furniture which Martha had selected from the debris, as useful to them, which consisted of a kitchen range, a parlor stove, a drum, two dozen chairs, three old lounges, three arm-chairs, two rocking-chairs, a kitchen and a parlor table, three bedsteads, several wash-stands, half-worn mats, and many bright pieces of carpeting. Gerald put up the stoves, and with stove polish and hard labor did justice to them; for, from rusty, unglightly things, they became as bright and as fine as new; and in a man's fashion, he put things to rights as much as possible; but how scant and dissipated looked the appointments! He thought sadly that it was a forlorn place to usher a bride into. But what a bright-faced bride entered his door with him, not all cast down, but blooming with health and hope! A bright fire soon crackled in the kitchen range, and its

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