

An Army.
An army of children encompassed by the sea!
When a number of warriors "is getting to be
too much for the boys," said the mother and
said: "I'll have to take them to the
They are coming to make a descent on our
They will alter the shape of it, sure—sure
Interesting and digging from morning till
What would have made such a redoubt in
a light?
Could any invader such parents take
As the boys had their sturdy young cham-
pions make?
See them merrily join the long battle array!
How they rally! On their feet, their legs
Oh! their brave soldiers are turning
their backs!
Ah, they rally! their force! No more
of their flight!
They recapture the fort, and they'll fight
again!
—Mrs. J. Hammond, in St. Nicholas.

A MOTHER'S CHOICE.
"So you'll give me up, will you?" said
Walter Merewale. "A pretty specimen
of constancy you are, Judith."
"But I can't help it," said Judith, Jay
hanging down her head. "I know for
dear that I am not good enough for
you. Your mother is quite right
when she says I am an insignificant
country girl with no accomplishments
at all."
"But it isn't my mother, so far as I
am aware, who is going to marry you,"
said Walter with imperious gravity.
"That don't signify," said poor Ju-
dith, swallowing the big lump in her
throat, not without difficulty. "I have
resolved not to be the bride of a con-
stant to mother and son. Dear
dear Walter, it breaks my heart to give
you up, but—"
"But I have not yet taken those awful
rows upon me, Walter," said Judith,
with an awe-stricken expression of
countenance.
"And you will give me up?"
"Yes, Walter, in a very low voice.
"Suppose I decide to be given up?"
"Oh, Walter!"
"Suppose I sue you for breach of
promise?"
"But you never would do that."
"But you never will do it, don't you?"
"If I didn't Walter, I could never
place your welfare before my own hap-
piness, as I am doing now," sighed
Judith.
"I don't want any such appalling
heroism as this," said the unromantic
lover. "My mother is all very well,
but how an old lady who has had her
own youth and her own love-making
and her own share of the world's
modelling with the young people's con-
cerns—"
"Oh, hush, Walter!" said Judith, put-
ting her soft little pink palm over
her flushed mouth. "Remember what
the Bible says—Honor thy father and
thy mother!"
"Now, look here Judith," said Wal-
ter, "do you really wish to give me
up?"
"Yes, I do," Judith answered after a
second or so of hesitation.
"Very well," said Merewale. "It isn't
polite to contradict a lady. Henceforth
I consider myself divorced from you.
If I'm to be a dutiful son, I'll be a
dutiful son with a vengeance. My mother
shall pick me out a wife to suit her-
self!"
He walked off, whistling, with both
hands in his pockets. And poor little
Judith ran back into the house, and
began to cry after a very unheroic
fashion.
"But I have done my duty," she wail-
ed. "I have done my duty! There is
always that to remember!"
While Mr. Merewale walked to the
Place, an old gray-stone house in the
midst of whispering maples trees, and
surrounded by one of those great old
New England farms which suggested
the Land of Plenty, where a handsome
old lady sat knitting on the porch.
"I've done it, mother," he said coolly.
"Done what, Walter?"
"I've given up Judith Jay. Or, at
least, to adhere most strictly to the
truth, she gave me up! I hope you are
satisfied now?"
Mrs. Merewale laid down her knitting
and crossed her mitted hands piously
on her lap.
"I am thankful for that, Walter," she
said. "But as you know how pain-
fully anxious I am to see you married
and settled, I'll give you my consent."
"All right, mother," interrupted this
irreverent young man. "Go ahead!
Pick out any incumbent you please! Ju-
dith is determined that I shall marry to
suit you, and it would be a pity to
swear her. I'll name the young wo-
man, and I'll go on my knees to her as
soon as I can!"
"My dear Walter, are you crazy?"
"No, only doubtful."
"Then," said Mrs. Merewale, with an
exultant heart, "if you really mean
what you say, Miss Florella Winton is
a young person of wealth, accomplish-
ment, and social position. I'll give
you my consent."
"All right," said Walter. "I'll go
and propose to her at once. Only please
have a list of second and third candi-
dates ready in case Number One says
no!"
"My dear Walter!"
"It's better to have these things all
straight and ship-shape," said Walter.
"There's nothing like system, even in
lovesickness."
"Miss Florella Winton, however, did
not say 'no.' She said 'yes,' and Mrs.
Merewale's heart grew triumphant with
it."
"She will be a daughter after my own
heart," said the old lady. "Dear thing,
I love her already. She is coming up
next week to go over the house with
me, and I shall have her under my
eye. I'll have her long directed plan
all her housekeeping arrangements."
"It's all right," said Walter, "but I
shall have to go to the bank to get
my money."
"My dear Florella," pleaded Mrs.
Merewale, "the furniture is very good
still, and—"
"You are going to be mistress of the
house, or am I?" retorted Florella, turn-
ing short on the old lady.
"But, Florella, so long as I live here—"
"But you're not going to live here,"
Florella said, with a very emphatic nod
of the head. "One of my unalterable
maxims, 'Don't put up with a moth-
er-in-law.' Every day I see that there
can't be two mistresses in a house,
don't they, Walter?"
Mrs. Merewale gasped, actually struck
dumb with anger and astonish-
ment.
"And," went on Florella, "there's the
old farm-house by the creamery that you
could live in, just as well as not. I
want to see my own home, and I want
my own relations, and I mean to have
it. I've asked a jolly lot of young folks
down from New Haven to visit me this
autumn, and we don't want any old
folks to come around—oh, Walter!"
"Walter," cried Mrs. Merewale, "do
you stand calmly by, and hear your
mother addressed thus?"
"But Walter, too wise to commit him-
self to any side in this contest, and
said: "That's the theme of her great

"Settle it among yourselves," said he.
"Settle yourselves, and you'll suit me."
"I will not stay here to be insulted,"
said Mrs. Merewale.
"I'll give you my consent," said Florella
with provoking good humor. "I'm only
telling you the truth."
"And my son, who ne—never would
have proposed to you if I ha—hadn't
advised him to!"
"That's what old people always say,"
observed Florella. "They think the
world would stop wagging around if
they didn't push the wheels."
Mrs. Merewale hurried sobbing out of
the room.
"I never was spoken to thus in all my
life," she said hysterically. "Dear little
Judith Jay always treated me as if I
were a queen! Oh, dear! Oh, dear!
I'll never see her again!"
While Walter and Florella, left alone
in the dark wainscoted parlor, looked
at each other, half awed, half delight-
ed.
"Wasn't it horrid?" said Florella in a
whisper.
"Didn't you could be such a
brave little soldier," said Walter in the
same soft voice.
"Do you think she has had enough
of it?" said Florella.
"I—should—say—that—she—had,"
very softly replied Mr. Merewale.
Half an hour subsequently Mr. Walter
found his mother weeping pitifully in
her room—an elderly Niobe.
"Why, mother, what's the matter?"
"That girl!" cried Mrs. Merewale
suddenly.
"She's the very daughter-in-law you
selected for yourself," reasoned Walter;
"isn't she?"
"But I never suspected that she could
be such a dragoness," faltered the poor
old lady. "Oh, why did I interfere?
What made me suppose that I knew
better than Providence did?"
"Do you remember Judith Jay would
suit you better than Florella, mother?"
"Yes, a thousand times!" said the un-
wary Mrs. Merewale, clasping her hands
eagerly.
"Well, then, mother, I'll tell you a
secret," said Walter. "Florella and I
have only been doing a little parlor-
drama in one act. We aren't engaged
at all. Florella is to be married in the
spring to Captain Lee."
"And I wish him joy of her!" said
Mrs. Merewale with rancor.
"And I shall never marry anybody
but Judith Jay," said Walter.
"Judith is at least docile and am-
iable," said Mrs. Merewale.
"But I thought I would let you see
how matters would work if you had
your own way. I'm glad, Walter, you
laughing. "And now, shall I go and
bring Judith here?"
"Yes, Walter," said the old lady
meekly.
"Do your future daughter-in-law?"
"Yes, Walter."
The sun was just setting as Walter
rushed into the city cottage.
"Come, Jo," he said softly, "it's
all right. I've honored my father and
mother—or, at least all that's left of
them—and they've had quite enough of
it. Florella Winton has played Queen
Stork and my mother's heart is to
come back to Queen Log. Come Jay,
for better, for worse, for richer, for
poorer."
"Walter, what do you mean?" said
Judith, her eyes wide with astonish-
ment.
"Come up to the Place and see,"
said Walter with calm exultation.
And little Judith Jay found herself
joyfully received by her majestic moth-
er-in-law.
"I don't know what I have done to
deserve such happiness," said Judith in
a trembling voice.
"You have been a self-sacrificing little
darling," said Walter—"that's what
you have done."

LEO AT FREDERICKSBURG
In the August Century, Major J.
Horace Lacy gives some of his reminis-
cences of General Lee, from a boyhood
friend. He quotes as follows: "Ascending
the heights, I soon reached what was
called the headquarters battery of
General Lee. After across the valley
and river the light and airy
morning could be seen the white
porches of my home, Chatham, made
historic by Federal army correspon-
dents, and the Federal House. The porches
were filled with the gray-haired
dressed women, and from half a score
of brass bands rang out across the valley
"Kankie Doodle" and "Hail Colum-
bia." I remember the officer asked me
if I would permit him to accompany the
unbidden guests at my home. At his
request I asked General Lee to author-
ize the fire of the heavy guns, which
were then in the hands of the Federal
troops. With a smile he refused, and asking
me to walk with him, we withdrew a
short distance. He then motioned me
to sit by him on the trunk of a great
tree.
"Looking across at Chatham through
his field-glass he said, 'Major, I never
permit the unnecessary effusion of
words. War is terrible enough, at its
best, and I have seen the horrors of
war, and your dear family happy in
your old home. Do you know I love
Chatham better than any place in the
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