

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Nov. 20, 1891.

## A HEART'S TRUE GOLD.

The sweetest songs are never sung;  
The fairest pictures never hung;  
The fondest hopes are never told;  
They are the heart's most cherished gold.

—Henry A. Lovell.

## IF WE KNEW.

Could we but draw back the curtains  
That surround each other's lives,  
See the naked heart and spirit,  
Know what spur the action gives,  
Often we would find it better,  
Furer than we judge we should;  
We should love each other better  
If we only understood.

Could we judge all deeds by motives,  
See the good and bad within,  
Often we should love the sinner  
All the while we loathe the sin.  
Could we know the powers working  
To overthrow integrity,  
We should judge each other's errors  
With more patient charity.

If we knew the cares and trials,  
Knew the effort all in vain,  
Under the bitter disappointment,  
Understood the loss and gain,  
Would we grudge, external omits roughness  
Seem, I wonder, just the same?  
Should we pity where we hinder?  
Should we pity where we blame?

Ah! we judge each other harshly,  
Knowing not life's hidden force;  
Knowing not the form of action  
Is less turbid at its source,  
Seeing not amid the evil  
All the golden grains of good;  
Oh! we'd love each other better,  
If we only understood.

## MISS LIDDY'S CHANCE.

BY HELEN S. CONANT.

Miss Liddy stood in the door of her cottage shading her eyes with her hand and gazing intently down the road. It was a crisp morning in September, but the sun, shining from a clear blue sky, had already turned the frost into drops of dew. The woodbine which covered the porch over the cottage door was a mass of flaming red, and in the yard yellow and white chrysanthemums tossed their heads side by side with the pink and purple tuts of late China asters. Curled on the door mat at Miss Liddy's feet was a large Maltese cat basking in the sun. In a field at one side of the cottage was a sleek red cow with nipping the grass, and a flock of turkeys were scurrying about on a brisk morning hunt for grasshoppers. So absorbed was Miss Liddy that she did not notice the approach of a neighbor until the woman, leaning over the gate, said:

"Good morning Liddy. Be you expectin' company?"

"Good morning, Miss Ditson. Walk right in," said Miss Liddy, starting, and dropping her hand from her eyes. "No, I ain't expectin' company," she added as she ushered her guest into the trim little sitting-room, where a neat work table, snowy muslin curtains, and various bits of decorative needlework proclaimed that a new England old maid was the ruling spirit of the cottage.

"I see you gazin' down the road as if somebody was comin'," said Mrs. Ditson.

"I was watchin' for my trunk, Dick Bowles said he'd bring it along from the depot," replied Miss Liddy.

"Your trunk? For the land sakes, what be you goin' to do with a trunk?" asked Mrs. Ditson.

"I'm goin' away," said Miss Liddy. "The stage driver sent to Concord to get me a trunk—one of them kind with a box in the top for a bonnet, and he expects it'll come on the train this mornin'."

"Where are you going, Liddy?" asked Mrs. Ditson, after a pause, during which she had lifted her hands in astonishment.

"I'm goin' first to Boston to see my sister Lizbeth's children. The poor things are all alone there with their folks. I believe it's right for a woman to stick fast to her husband; but when he happens to be a sea-captain, I can't say it's right for her to leave her children to the care of strangers for the sake of gallivantin' round the world with him. Father didn't approve of Lizbeth marryin' Hiram, anyway; and as things has turned out, I believe he was right. I guess when I get there those children will be glad to see some one of their own flesh and blood."

"I should say their father's folks was their own flesh and blood as well as you," said Mrs. Ditson.

"I s'pose they are; but mother's folks always seemed nearer to me," replied Miss Liddy. "I think they've got the most right, anyway," she added, finally.

"If you'd married Liddy, and had children of your own, as I have, you'd know that the husband's folks think they've got the most right," said Mrs. Ditson, with an air of superiority.

"Why, I never eat Thanksgivin' dinner with my own folks once since I was married. Until there were so many children that we began to have dinner at home, I had to go to his folks year after year."

"Well, I didn't marry, thank the Lord!" snapped Miss Liddy. "If I had, maybe I wouldn't have the chance I've got now. I've always been wantin' to travel; but there always been somethin' agin it, and I haven't sleep a wink under this roof but once since I was born, and that was when Mr. Paterson died, and I staid up there one night to look after the children until their aunt would come for 'em. Father he always said that when folks had a home they ought to stay in it. That was why he was so set agin Hiram, 'cause he wanted Lizbeth to go to sea with him; so there was no use for me to talk of goin' anywhere while he was alive. Then after he died I couldn't go and leave mother all alone; and we laid her away at father's side, with all the doctors bills and one thing or other I hadn't money enough left to do anything but live along here and be thankful that I had a roof over my head. Now, that legacy Uncle Stiles left me just gives me the chance I've been longin' for since I was a girl, and I'm goin'. I'm sick of the sight of

these everlastin' hills, shuttin' me in here as if they was prison walls. After I've seen Lizbeth's children I'm going out West to visit Cousin Ben's folks. I ain't comin' home for a year."

"Maybe you're right about the hills bein' prison walls, though I never looked upon 'em that way," said Mrs. Ditson, as Miss Liddy stopped for breath. But land sakes, when a woman has got as many children as I have she don't think about prison walls nor nothin' except to start the young ones off in time for school, an' have dinner ready for 'em when they come home. But, Liddy, what you going to do with the cow and all them turkeys? I was sayin' only yesterday that you'd have fine catin' for the holidays. The Queen of England couldn't have no better."

"They are the fattest turkeys I ever see, and I've taken a heap of trouble raisin' 'em," said Miss Liddy, with an air of satisfied pride; "but I can sell 'em and the cow too. The butcher down to the Corners said only the other day that she'd be a fine cow to fat for beef. He'd take her any minute. And I guess there's roast turkey to be had at Christmas time anywhere."

"What you goin' to do with Prince?" asked Mrs. Ditson.

The Maltese cat, who had followed his mistress in doors, and was now curled up in her lap, raised his head and purred on hearing his name.

"That's the only trouble," said Miss Liddy, her thin old face flushing as she gently stroked her pet. "He must have his saucer of warm milk and his basket to sleep in, and he'd grieve himself to death if he wasn't petted and talked to. He's just like a child to me and sometimes I feel as if I'd ought to stay and take care of him; but it would be flyin' in the face of Providence to give up such a chance o'fseein' the world as I've got now."

"I never bankered to go travellin'," said Mrs. Ditson. "I was away a week once, the time sister Susan was married, and I went to the wedding and I was never so thankful in my life as when I got home. The noise and joggle of the cars gave me an awful headache, and I was most choked to death with the cinders, and clean beat out sittin' upright hours and hours, with nothin' decent to eat or drink."

"You can sit in an easy-chair now, and have hot tea and some dinner brought and put on a little table right in front of you while the cars are goin'." I read a piece in the paper where it told all about it," said Miss Liddy. "And they have beds, too, made up with sheets and blankets, just as if you was home. When you wake up in the mornin' you're miles away from the place you're to sleep in. Now that's just what I'm longin' for. I've gone to sleep and waked up years with that same old elm tree, standin' right before the window, and I'm sick of it."

"I'm afraid you'll get sicker of always wakin' up in a new spot," said conservative Mrs. Ditson. "You remember Ann Morrison, she that married that young city chap? He was what they call a drummer, and he did nothin' from one year's end to the other but travel up and down. She was always grumblin' just as you be, 'cause she had to stick home and couldn't see the world as he did; so once he got out of patience, and took her along—said she should have all the travellin' she wanted, and I guess she got it. When he brought her home she come up here to stay with her folks and rest while he kept on, and she was the most worn-out-lookin' critter I ever see. She owned that she didn't have nothin' fit to eat the whole time. Her new gown she had made to go in was clean wore out, and the bonnet she paid five dollars for was whacked right off her head by the wind the very first day as was going from one car to another."

"They have entries between the cars now, so you don't have to go out doors. I read all about it," said Miss Liddy, grimly, determined to hold her ground in spite of neighborly opposition.

"When be you intendin' to start, Liddy?" asked Mrs. Ditson, as she arose to take her leave.

"I've laid out to go in two weeks; that is to say, if I can get everything arranged to suit," replied Miss Liddy, casting a quick, sidelong glance at Prince, who was rubbing against her skirts as she stood saying the last words to her guest.

Mrs. Ditson hurried home, not so fast, however, that she did not impart the news of Miss Liddy's journey at every kitchen door until she reached her own, when she sank exhausted upon a chair, with scarcely breath enough left to gasp out, "Miss Liddy's goin' away—goin' to be gone a year, for the edification of Martha Butters, the dress maker, who happened at that time to be giving Mrs. Ditson her yearly week of cutting and basting and making over."

Before night the entire village knew that Miss Liddy was going on a journey. The farmers shook their heads, and condemned the move as a piece of old maid's folly. They used much stronger language concerning the matter than it called for, probably to nip in the bud any inclination for roaming in their wives and daughters, as the women, one and all, with the exception of Mrs. Ditson, were in sympathy with Miss Liddy, and declared that she would be ravin' crazy to lose such a chance of seeing something of life outside of her native town.

Miss Liddy herself was passing through an experience which she had not foreseen. The trunk had arrived, and the first sight of it filled her with joy. It was a huge affair, covered with marbled tin, and fastened with two locks, to which were queer flat little keys, which Dick Bowles explained must be put in the slot which served as a key-hole, pushed in a little way, turned half way around, and pushed again. This intricate proceeding terrified Miss Liddy's unmechanical mind; but the key was nothing as compared to the bonnet box, of which she had boasted to her neighbor. Her best bonnet—she "laid out" her old

one would be good enough to wear in the cars—would by no twisting and turning be made to fit in the small compartment which was intended to hold the tiny bit of ribbon and lace representing the head-gear of modern fashion.

"I shall have to wear my best bonnet after all, and tie it up in a veil to keep the dust off. That'll be better than jammin' it all out of shape," said Miss Liddy; but she was dissatisfied. The idea that the trunk was a swindle rankled in her breast, and when Mrs. Ditson, who came expressly to look at the purchase, declared that the trunk "warn't nothin' to the swindlin'" she would meet with along the road, poor Miss Liddy's heart beat with trepidation, although she kept up a bold front in the face of her neighbor's discouraging remarks.

The preparations for departure were much more gigantic than she had anticipated. The thought of possible dust and moths which might invade her home during her absence filled her with dismay. With many sighs she set to work to protect her little parlor. Old bedlinen was brought out of the great chest in the attic, and the hair cloth sofa and chairs put in winding-sheets to prevent dust and dampness, and little muslin bags of camphor were placed around the edges of the carpet to scare away any adventurous moth that might attempt to enter the sacred apartment.

The butcher at the Corners, hearing of Miss Liddy's proposed journey, stopped at the gate to say that he could take the cow and turkeys at any time.

"Don't you dere come for 'em till I send you 'em," snapped Miss Liddy, as she hurried into the house and slammed the door, an action which puzzled the worthy butcher greatly.

That night as she drove Clover, the cow, into the barn, the patient beast seemed to turn her big blue watery eyes reproachfully upon her mistress, whose own eyes grew watery in return.

"But that's settled. Cows is only cows, anyhow," said Miss Liddy to herself.

Prince was the only thing left to be cared for. The big Maltese seemed to feel that a change was approaching which might interfere with his comfort and set himself to work to make the most of present opportunities. If his mistress sat down for a moment to rest from the labor of preparation, he immediately ensconced himself in her lap and at night, absolutely refusing to sleep in his basket, he stretched himself, a purring heap of warm fur, on the foot of her bed. Miss Liddy went over in her mind the condition of every family in the neighborhood in her efforts to decide on a home for Prince.

One neighbor had kindly offered to take him, but she had small boys, and Miss Liddy knew they would pull his tail and otherwise torment him.

"Prince hates the sight of boys," she said to herself, "and I've no right to put him among 'em."

Another woman who had no boys, was willing to feed the big cat and give him a home, only he must sleep in the wood-shed. Prince sleep in the wood-shed, indeed! To Miss Liddy's mind a queen's boudoir was none to good for the bedroom of his royal catship.

The two weeks were long past, November was drawing near, and Clover still chewed her cud peacefully in her warm stall, Prince was still lord of the cottage, and Miss Liddy opened her eyes every morning on the same old elm tree.

"It's my opinion she's throwin' up her hands at the chance of her life just for the sake of that old Malty," said Mrs. Ditson, whose contempt for cats was second only to her contempt for "travellin'."

This was in a large measure true. Miss Liddy could not bring herself to desert Prince. The more she thought of it, the more impossible it seemed. If she were away, he might be shut out of doors on a snowy night; he might even have no turkey for Christmas. It made Miss Liddy shudder to think of it. There were other things, too, that troubled her. Visions of the faithful Clover with the butcher's knife at her throat haunted her dreams and it suddenly occurred to her that tramps—worse than all the moth and dust in the world—might break into the barn, perhaps into the cottage itself, and hold it among her cherished household laces and penates; they might even set fire to the buildings, and she would return to a heap of blackened rubbish.

One morning Mrs. Ditson, coming for her daily chat, found Miss Liddy hard at work undoing the wrappings from the parlor furniture, and humming an old tune as she stepped briskly about the room. Prince, perched upon the center table, was watching her with evident satisfaction.

"Why, Liddy! what's the matter? Ain't you goin'?" exclaimed Mrs. Ditson.

"I don't know as I be, and I don't know but I be. Lizbeth's comin' home," replied Miss Liddy, giving a vigorous whisk to her feather duster.

"Well, I never! When's she comin'?" Any thing the matter with her?" asked Mrs. Ditson, eager for a new bit of gossip.

"No, she's well enough, I guess," said Miss Liddy, without stopping her work. "It seems she and Hiram came to port last week, and he is going off this time without her. She writes she is tired out sailin' up and down, and she wants to come here with the children and rest a spell. She calkerates to get here the day before Christmas; says she hasn't eat a good New England Christmas dinner for a year, poor thing!"

"Them turkeys will come in handy after all, Liddy," said Mrs. Ditson with a grin.

"Yes, they'll taste appetizin' to Lizbeth. And I've got apples and vegetables in the cellar, lots of them. It seems kinder like the work of Providence that I didn't sell them off afore now, don't it?" replied Miss Liddy, too happy at the turn of affairs to pay

attention to the mischievous amusement of her neighbor.

"I should think you might go away easy now Lizbeth is comin'," said Mrs. Ditson. "If she is goin' to stay here she can take care of everything, and keep it just as it is. After Christmas you can start and go right out West as you was intendin'."

"Now, Mrs. Ditson, when I haven't seen Lizbeth for years do you suppose I'd go right off and leave her like that?" said Miss Liddy her eyes snapping as she stopped her work and faced her guest.

"And then Lizbeth never was good at managin'. This house would be a pretty lookin' place after she'd had it a while. And then there's the children. They are all girls, thank the Lord, but for all that they might worry Prince, which they will not if I'm around."

Miss Liddy gave an emphatic twist to her head, which settled the fact that Prince was safe from the touch of teasing hands.

Christmas morning Mrs. Ditson stole a moment from the preparation of her dinner to run over to Miss Liddy's and welcome the arrivals. She found Lizbeth and Liddy renewing the ways of their youth by setting the dinner table together. Their loud eager voices and laughter could be heard before she reached the cottage. Lizbeth's three little girls were jumping about the room, examining every nook and corner with the inquisitive eyes of childhood, stopping from time to time to look with anticipation at the row of delicately browned pies and dishes of duck and raisin which adorned the dresser. The air was redolent with the fragrance of turkey and plum-pudding, and in the broad ray of sunshine which streamed in upon the floor sat Prince, licking his paws and preparing himself for the coming feast.

When Mrs. Ditson, after giving Lizbeth a hearty welcome and kissing and duly admiring the children, started for home, Miss Liddy followed her to the door.

"Mrs. Ditson, I ain't said nothin' to Lizbeth about my intendin' to go on a journey, nor I ain't goin' to," she said. "I've been thinking it all over in my mind, and I have come to the belief that the Lord gives some folks a chance to roam up and down the earth, and others He just plants down where they belong, and gives them a chance to stay there. I ain't sure, but what that last chance is the best; anyway, it's mine, and I'm goin' to be thankful and make a blessing of it."

## Merino Sheep.

Good Words for Them from a Man Who Loves Them Still.

They are the only breed that can be run in large flocks or will bear crowding, and right here is where the mutton breeds will strike a snag. They will thrive if kept in large flocks. Again, you can keep more of the fine wools on the same feed; it requires no more grain or grass to make a pound of meat or a pound of wool on one sheep than on the other; the fine wools are much more easily cared for, and in times of short pastures they will live and thrive where the latter will starve. We have heard this cry of mutton sheep before.

About the close of the war the same cry of mutton sheep and combing wool was heard all over this broad land and everybody had the Cotswold craze, but after fine wools came to the front as they have since, in these matters, we are run into the extremes. We are liable to run into the extremes in these matters, and then we must call a halt and take account of stock, and for this reason we want to say to our fine wool breeders, go slow. We have seen many cross their fine wools with mutton breeds to their sorrow. For the mar, who only keeps a few sheep along with their other mutton sheep are all right and they do well but for the man with large flocks it is quite different, as some will learn by sad experience before the craze is over.

It won't do for everybody to run in the same channel. Our manufacturers need the different kinds of wool and must have them, and if we do not produce them they will be imported, cost what they may. A few general principles should be kept in mind. It is as great a folly to try for wool alone; wool and muttons must go together in order to be more profitable. Our markets need the different kinds of wool and must have them, and if we do not produce them they will be imported, cost what they may. A few general principles should be kept in mind. It is as great a folly to try for wool alone; wool and muttons must go together in order to be more profitable. Our markets need the different kinds of wool and must have them, and if we do not produce them they will be imported, cost what they may. A few general principles should be kept in mind. It is as great a folly to try for wool alone; wool and muttons must go together in order to be more profitable. 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