

AN AUGUST AFTERNOON.

All the long August afternoon, The little drowsy stream Whispers a melancholy tune, As if it dreamed of June, And whistled in its dream.

MY LITTLE WHITE ROSE.

It was peeping through the bramble, That little white rose, planted, My garden to inclose, All beyond was fern and heather, All within was sun and shelter,

In vain I strove to reach it Through the tangled mass of green; It only smiled and nodded, Behind its thorny screen.

So, in life's wilder garden, There are buds of promise, too, Beyond our reach to gather, But not beyond our view;

'Tis wiser far to number The blessing and the curse, Than ever to be sighing; For just one bud more sweet, My sunbeam and my shadow, Fall from a pierced hand;

How I served a colored minister for many years.

When Senator Mersey reached home one evening late in the autumn he was met at the door by his wife.

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to some poor brother down on the narrow-gage. "So he brought out the overcoat, and my husband tried it on, and it fitted him finely. It was a beautiful overcoat. And how long do you suppose he wore that overcoat?"

"Three years, perhaps?" inquired the lady, feeling almost as if she were insulting the family. "It was quite worn out, wasn't it dear?" She appealed to her distinguished husband.

"I don't think I recall the giving of the overcoat," smoothing the rim of his hat. "You don't mean that?" The minister's wife looked quite hurt.

"You give me the coat and just trust me," said I. So I ripped it up, and cleaned it, and sewed it together, and sure enough, it was almost as good as new.

"It has," he said. "The Lord has given me a powerful wife. It's the same old overcoat of Senator Mersey's turned inside out."

"It was such a beautiful material, you see, Mrs. Mersey! And he wore that coat for five years more."

"Now," says he, "wife, I suppose I shall have to throw Senator Mersey's overcoat away. It's getting almost too shabby to wear."

"And I had to confess that it was pretty bad, stained and colored with age. But I thought it over for a week. It was of such nice material and had been so handsome that it really seemed a shame to throw it away."

"I stopped for breath, while Senator and Mrs. Mersey looked from one to another with the smiles that border on tears."

"Well do you know, my husband wore that coat for five years more," she began, in a quieter tone. "The first two years the dye held its color very well. Then it of course faded and looked seedy, and I must say, toward the end, it was very shabby indeed."

"Then my husband was ashamed to wear it, and I had mended it all I could, and I was ashamed to have him wear it."

"You can do nothing more with it. I've worn it inside and outside, and I reckon now I'll have to go without." My husband said this. I knew it was true, and I went into the bedroom and had a good cry. I reckon I must have prayed right smart over it, for one night the inspiration from on high came to me—why not make it over for a coat for Jimmy? He needs an overcoat. The Lord surely sends that thought to me.

"Jimmy was just ten years old then; that was four years ago. So I ripped it up and cut off the worst parts and made a very good-looking coat for Jimmy. You see, it was such fine material I couldn't help but use it as the Lord told me."

"You ought to have seen Jimmy strut around with that coat on. He thought it was the finest coat in town, and so warm."

"She stopped and looked at her husband and wiped away a furtive tear while she stifled a cough."

"Where is Jimmy?" asked Mrs. Mersey, choking. "I should like to see Jimmy with the overcoat on."

"He died two years ago," came the low reply. "The Lord took him. I'm sure he's better off with Him than with us."

The mother broke down. She went over to her dusky husband and took his hand and put it on her cheek and kissed it. It was a rare caress.

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