Beautiful Things

Reautiful faces are those that wear---It matters little if dark or fair---Whole souled honesty printed there. Beautiful eyes are those that show, Like crystal panes, where heart-fires glow, Beautiful thoughts that burn below.

Beautiful lips are those whose words Leap from the heart like songs of birds, Yet whose utterance prudence girds. Beautiful hands are those that do

Work that is earnest and brave and true, Moment by moment the long day through Beautiful feet are those that go On kindly ministries to and fro-

Down lowliest ways, if God will it so. Beautiful shoulders are those that bear Geaseless burdens of homely care, With patient grace and daily prayer

1 14

Beautiful lives are those that bless-Silent rivers of happiness, Whose hidden fountains few may guess

HER DIAMONDS.

"You know, dear, we are not the least bit in love with each other,'? Lucy Bassett said, reaching up to pull my whiskers and laying a coaxing cheek against my shoulder. It would be very foolish for you and me to fall in love with each other, and we just won'tthere !"

softest little fingers in the world being aunty, dear." still twisted in my whiskers, pulled my face down to a level with hers, and this girl, who was not the least bit in love very evident passion, and sending for with me, kissed me.

lips, and lips that glide past your face like ghosts, and lips that you would rather have a blow than kisses from ; but Lucy's kisses were half-opened rosebuds at 5 o'clock of a June morning.

Lucy herself was a whole garden of roses-dew, color, fragrance and all. When she looked at you, you felt as if your whole heart was exhalting at your eyes; and when she smiled upon you and lightning there was in any other part of the globe, it was distilled sunshine where you were. I don't know if Lucy were pretty, but she had a lot of pretty characteristics. She was all quality, like a gold wine that is better the longer you keep it, and that gets a new flavor every time you taste it a more molten sparkle every time it drips over the beaker's rim.

The beauty of her eyes was in their expression ; of her hair, in its brightness. Here face was a blossom, her hands birds, and if the white wings of see I was in love with Lucy if Lucy was they have so much more to make them not in love with me ; and it is my private so. Why, only think of one woman like opinion that we were very much in love Lucy Bassett making "sweet eyes" at

week.

"Shall I go, Mrs. Anstruther ?" I asked. 'I am sufficiently recovered, I think."

"Certainly not," she answered, sharpward. ly. "Whatever mischief is done can't be made any worse by your staying : and it might be as well, besides, for Lucy to have an opportunity for comparing you with other people. If I am not mistaken she will know a gentleman when she sees him."

"If I don't aunt, it won't be the fault swiftly besides me and pinching my ed to have it done and Lucy had not arm.

hindered her.

her diamonds.

dred years.

Anstruther.

I smiled.

have her.,'

urious price."

they do you now?"

more a man than at that moment.

to touch them ? why man they have

been in the family more than two hun-

wildly as she pleaded, and clung to me

"You ungrateful boy !" cried Mrs.

er one debt which will be impossible

"Madam values her diamonds at

"Do you mean to keep them in the

face of everything! What good will

"Madam forgets that there is a limit

Mrs. Anstruther thought I was in

and harder for a fortune like that."

trembled with agitation.

"After all I have done for you."

"Ta-la, Miss ! Impertinence, Felix, is very well ; but wait till next week." "I persume I shall, and considerably

longer," Lucy answered saucily. "Miss Lucy Basset, I should like to to a swooning consciousness.

know what this means ?" demanded Mrs. Anstru ther, loftily. "Nothing very serious-does it Felix in my prison cell.

And to emphasize the declaration, the laughed Lucy. "We are too well warned,

"I don't know about that," said Mrs. Anstruther, sailing from the room in a me to her apartment half an hour after. There's a great many different ways | I submitted to the curious tirade that sides. Only give me back my diamonds the spite of the disguise he had so

of kissing, you know. There are cold followed with mingled irritation and good humor, and offered at least six times in the course of it to leave the Grove that very day. But Mrs. Anstruther would not hear to such a proceeding.

Lucy was waiting on the landing outside when I left her aunt, and as she stood on tiptoe to whisper in my ear : "You don't mind, do you dear ?" and pends on me," said I. left warm print of rosy lips on my cheek, it did not matter what sort of thunder I can assure you I did not mind so much as I might.

When I felt Mrs. Anstruther I had fully intended to quit the Grove, whether or no, the following day, but a balf-dozen words with Lucy left me un. for me ever to repay." decided again. I was an idiot for stay ing, first because I was deliberately sacrificing a very pretty prospects in life by not going, and second, because I might have known beforehand what sort of an experience the next week's would be likely to be. But men are idiots when a pretty girl is concerned and I was a great deal more bewildered with Lucy than I owned to myself. I her fingers fluttered across your horizon | spoiled my own mess, too, with my conyou might as well be blind for all seeing ceit. I am willing to own that men are anything else but her. In short, you more conceited than woman, but then

spark from Lucy's roguishness lit on me with me when she had promised him, the opposite direction the detective and we went off into explosions of laug- and they had even got their places upon made his appearance, pretending to be ter that nearly took Mrs Anstruther off the floor. I suppose I was mad with a new guest.

her feet with amazement. However, jealousy, envy and wine, and I saw Mrs. Lucy met me like a woman. I had she laughed too, presently, and in the Anstruthh, shaking her head at Lucy not asked Mrs. Anstruther about her same breath announced that company from a corner. I insisted that Lucy and whatever her lovely, speaking face was coming to the Grove the following should dance with me instead of the might have said to me, if I had given it

Count, and she refused, of course. opportunity to express itself, it said Half an hour afterward, carpet-bag in nothing now but what my own did, and hand, I had left the house, and by that was cold and stern as I could make morning was miles on my journey city. it.

We were mostly at breakfast when I had recovered my senses by that Mrs. Anstruther's new guest came time, and was sufficiently conscious down and was introduced to us as Mr. what an idot I had made of myself. Clemens.

Whatever conceit was left in me then An instantaneous change flushed over was taken out before the day was done. his countenance, a swift momentary As I got off the cars at noon a strange pallor that left his very lips white.

man put his hand on my shoulder. He sat near the door, and when I I was arsested for stealing Mrs. Anagain looked in his direction, after Mr. of Felix here," spoke Lucy, coming struthers diamonds. She had telegraph- Clemens had taken his seat, he had vanished.

> Making a scarcely audible excuse to It was odd, but 1 never felt myself Mrs. Anstruther, I quitted theroom also and passed noiselessly up the corpet The touch of that terrible finger of stairway which led to the count's disgrace was like the surgeons lancet apartment. But before I reached it I heard the door open, and drawing back a step, heard him pass along to the By noon of the next day Mrs. Anstruther herself came to the city to me opposite extremity of the hall, caught the sound of retreating footsteps I fol-The woman was positively wild about lowed and looked through the blind af-

> ter him. "Oh give them back to me Felix, and But was that the Count Leopold? I won't prosecute the thing. I've got Scarcely, though there was something money enough to hush the matter and about him oddly like the connt; and I will; and I'll set you up in business be- then, in a moment, I knew again, in

Felix. How could you have the heart quickly donned. He crossed the garden, lesped the fence, and struck at a goood round pace into a path which led across the fields Mrs. Anstruther wrung her hands toward the depot.

"Eureka !" I cried, audibly, and fleewhen I would have risen from my chair. ing to the breakfast parlor again, asked "Madam you will never see your dis- Mr. Clemens, with small ceremony, if monds more, if the return of them de- I could have a word with him in the hall

His face flashed eagerness while I told my story! and before the last words were out of my mouth he had snatched one hat from the hall rack for himself I am aware that I owe Mrs. Anstruth- and crammed another on my head, and was dragging me towatd the depot.

There was a train due at 9:30 and we "Do you mean Lucy sin? Give me had hardly time to reach it. But we back my diamonds, and you shall even did reach it - Mr. Clemens entering at one door of the depot and I sauntered idly through the other. Our man was at that instant at the ticket office. He wheeled as Clemens put his hand on him and flashed out a revolver. With

a wrench that left his arm helpless, be twisted the weapon from him, and then to endurance vile, even for stealing dia. in a very brief time he had the handmonds. Many a man has toiled longer | cuffs on him.

Clemens knew him the instant he fairly saw him. The Count Leopold earnest. Her face whitened and she Keirst was an old offender, no more a count than Clemens himself, whom he "Well, then Felix," she said if you had recognized first, and profiting by HAVING OPENED A

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with each other, in spite of Mrs. Ans. you. truther's parting admonition, that we were on no account to commit so absurd a blunder.

Lucy and I were both orphans. Lucy was own niece to Mrs. Anstruther, whom she called Aunt Doria, and whos prospective heiress she was supposed to be provided she married to please her.

I was nephew to Mrs. Ansthuther's husband who was dead, and heir to nothing but my wits-a rather slender property, Lucy derisively assured me. and scarcely likely to yield an income equal to the probable demands of a pair so extravagantly inclined as we.

"So you see it would never, never do," Lucy would say, with a roguish pout of her rosy lips at me ; and Aunt Doria needn't be one bit afraid, so far as I am concerned."

Aunt Doria had been absent for the Grove some three weeks now summoned away by the illness of a friend, just as I had got myself comfortable bestowed in her best chamber, with a dislocated shoulder, which injury had been receiv. ed in a struggle with a refactory steed which had tried to run away with Miss Lucy.

Mrs. Anstruther was warranted in considering the incident as dangerously romantic in its tendencies, and she left us together at the Grove with manifest reluctance. She had, however, great confidence in Lucy, and she gave her circumstances, had quite lost that beauti distinctly to understand, in my presence that if we two made such nionies of ourselves as to turn lovers while she was gone, we would never see the color of her money, either of us.

Well, for some days I, for one, felt. like little else but groauing, and then gradually I became conscious of a velvet touch that swallowed pain, of a hovering face that might have been an angel's of a voice deliciously attuned that chorused all sorts of soothing and coaxing speeches, with a "dear." I was petted and babied and pitied to an ex tent that I don't mind confessing here and it was the means of my pretending sick a trifle longer than was really necessary, but I'don't think many would have blaimed me, under the circumstances.

The consequences was that I was only the inspection with great demurences, daring to aspire to Lucy I insisted upon

I am willing to own, at this day, that I had not at that time one misgiving as

to how it was likely to turn with Lucy and me if I stayed. My going or staying was a mere question of self-abnegation Should I stay and win the girl who loved me in the face of Mrs. Anstruther threats of poverty and starvation, or should I generously leave her to forget me as fast as she could, and bestow her matchlessness upon some prince of the crew that were coming to the Grove that week ?

I was not generous. I did not at all relish being forgotten, and I stayed.

Mrs. Anstruther's company came in due time-a household of them, toogentlemen and ladies ; some married, some single ; the young ladies, pretty creatures enough, and the gentleman good talkers and well dressed.

I understood long before the passage of the first day what Mrs. Anstruther meant by her tale about gentlemen. She meant men who owned their right to be ranked above the "plebs'' to their tailor. My best coat was of last years cut and a trifle seedy, having done duty alternately as every day gear and Sunday toggery. My boots were neither patent leathes nor morocco, and my

unmentionables, though as well kept as could possibly be expected under the ful shapeliness of limb which characterized those of Mrs. Anstruther's guests. In vain I kept repeating to myself, "A man's a man, for a' that" and "dress doesn't make the man." I was humiliatingly sure that I wasa't half a man,

because of my seedy garb. Mrs. Anstruther watched me and felt rejoiced at my discomfiture, what she could see of it. Out of sheer revenge 1

devoted myself to Lucy. Secure in Lucy's fondness for me I took airs upon myself, and for overy speer I imagined flung at my clothes I managed to make Lucy snub the sneerer.

I don't know how it was ; I think I had taken a little toe much wine that evening, and their was a Count Leopold Keirst who was especially effected by Mrs. Anstruther for Lucy and who was

nothing loath himself. The man was fairly established down stairs when Mrs. the merest dandy, empty headed as a Anstruther returned, She eyed Lucy rattle-box, positively nothing but clothes been disgraced by my stealing them for and me very sharpely, and we two bore | and title ; but because I hated him for |

till, chancing to encounter glances, a her openly insulting him by dancing

are so hard as that I shall leave you to that recognition would have neatly the law. I should have liked to save the made escape but for the chance which diamonds, and avoid the disgrace to the family, but you will not permit me."

'Mrs. Anstruther," said I, putting a detaining hand on her arm as she was going, "do you honestly believe I know anything about your diamonds ?"

She stopped and looked at me in odd perplexity.

"Who else could?"

"When did you first miss them, Mrs Anstruther?"

"In the morning after you went away. "When did you see them last before that?"

"I always look for them before I sleep. I did so that night."

"And you did not retire, of course, till after your guests. Did they stop dancing any before 12?"

"I don't know about that, but it was after 2 o'clock before I got to bed. 1 remember noticing it was as that before I sent Lucy away. I had her in my room and talked to her pretty plainly him miss." about you."

"Pray, Mrs. Anstruther, what time is the night express due at the Grove?" "Oh at one o'clock you know-"

She came to a sudden stop, her face turned red and white in a minute-

"What a horrible wretch I am !" cried she, covering her face with her hands, and then holding them out to me "Why, you must have been miles away before I told Lucy good-night. Felix] am ashamed of myself. Can you ever forgive me?"

"Its of no consequence, madam.', said, frigidly.

"Indeed it is, but I will make it up to you. You shall see that I will, Felix. 1 was duly restored to honorable air again, and went back to Grove with Mrs. Union Business College. Anstruther on the first train thereafter. But I had not forgotten her.

We had arranged that a detective should go down to the Grove on the same train with us, though not in company, to avoid suspicion.

Mrs. Anstruther looked grave and anxious during all that homeward ride. She was thinking of her diamonds, and I almost believed she would have been willing that the family should have the sake of finding them again.

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set me on his track. We found Mrs. Anstruthers diamonds on him, unset and sewed fast in a belt

he had buckled around him. Mrs. Anstruther, when she heard the story and beheld its proof in the return of her glittering treasures, rewarded me for my share in her good fortune with a single sentence:

"No one knew of my absurd suspicion of you, Felix-not even Lucy."

Lucy's sweet face was very pale when she met my flashing glances, but she did not quit her sunt's side.

"Can Lucy forgive me what has been amiss in me toward her ?" I asked, sadly. "Let us at least be friends-dear." She flushed at the words, but did not lift her eyes.

"Ta-ta," said Mrs. Anstruther, "fricious indeed I shall divide my money between you; and Felix may go into business with his share any day he likes. You'll be glad enough to make up with | render.

Whereat Lucy began to cry, and slipped out of the room before her aunt could stop her. She hid herself in the chamber the best part of the day. but I was on the watch and I knew when she at last crept forth in the dusk of the evening and stole into the music

My sweet girl looked a little frightened when I followed her, but she did not refuse to hide her fears on my shoulder. and so without words we knew that we were all in all to each other once more.

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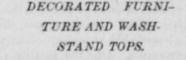
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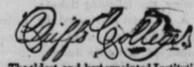
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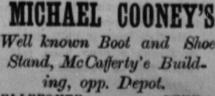


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