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SOMERSET PA.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY. A. D. 1622.

MRS. MARGARET J. PRESTON.

"And now," said the Governor, gazing abroad
on the piled-up store
Of the sheaves that dotted the clearings, and
covered the meadows o'er,
"'Tis meet that we render praises because of
this yield of grain;
'Tis meet that the Lord of the harvest be
thanked for his sun and rain.

"And therefore, I, William Bradford, (by
the grace of God to-day,
And the franchise of this good people), Governor
of Plymouth, say
Thro' virtue of vested power—ye shall gather
with one accord,
And hold in the month of November, thanksgiving
unto the Lord.

"He hath granted us peace and plenty, and
the quiet we've sought so long;
He hath thwarted the wily savage, and kept
him from doing us wrong;
And unto our Feast the Sachem shall be
bidden that he may know
We worship his own Great Spirit who maketh
the harvest grow.

"So shoulder your matchlocks, masters;
there is hunting of all decrees;
And fishermen, take your tackle, and scour
for spoil the seas;
And maiden and dames of Plymouth, your
delicate crafts employ,
To honor our First Thanksgiving, and make
it a Feast of Joy!

"We fall of the fruits and dainties so close
to our hand in Devon;
—Ah, they are the lightest losses we suffer
for the sake of heaven!
But see, in our open clearings, how golden
the melons lie;
Enrich them with sweets and spices, and
give us the pumpkin pie."

So bravely the preparations went on for the
Autumn Feast;
The deer and the bear were slaughtered;
wild game from the greatest to least
Was heaped in the Colony cabins; brown
home-brew served for wine,
And the plum and grape of the forest, for
orange and peach and pine.

At length came the day appointed: the snow
had begun to fall,
But the clang from the meeting-house belfry
rang merrily out for all,
And summoned the folk of Plymouth, who
hastened with glad accord
To listen to Elder Brewster as he fervently
thanked the Lord.

In his seat sat Governor Bradford; next,
matrons and maidens fair;
Miles Standish and all his soldiers, with
corselet and sword, were there;
And sobbing and tears and gladness had
each in its turn the sway;
For the grave of the sweet Rose Standish
o'ershadowed Thanksgiving Day.

And when Messasoit, the Sachem, sat down
with his hundred braves,
And ate of the varied riches of gardens and
woods and waves,
And looked on the granaried harvest—with
a blow on his brawny chest,
He muttered, "The good Great Spirit loves
His white children the best!"

And then, as the Feast was ended, with
gravely official air,
The Governor drew his broadsword out from
its scabbard there,
And smiting the trencher near him, he cried
in heroic way,
"Hail! Pie of the Pumpkin! I dub the
Prince of Thanksgiving Day!"

—*Wide Awake.*

THE KEEPER'S DAUGHTER.

A lighthouse on a rocky coast. Outside, thunder, lightning, wind and rain, and great black waves dashing up against the rocks at the foot of the tower. Inside a winding flight of stairs leading to an octagon-shaped room containing the plainest furniture. The occupants, a girl of eighteen, tall and lithe, with black hair hanging in massive braids to her waist, and luminous gray eyes under straight black eyebrows. Her dress of gray water-proof cloth was short and scant, and hung in wet folds about her limbs; and strangest of all girdles, a coil of rope encircled her waist and trailed one end on the floor. By her side a boy of fourteen years, with his blue blouse open at the throat, and a faded plush cap on his dark curls. These two were bending over a man who lay in all his magnificent length on the floor, a picturesque looking man, with fair hair clinging in dripping masses to his forhead; a curling golden beard and a white firm throat, and one might be persuaded that the closed lids with their long fringes covered a pair of steel blue eyes.

"Reckon he's a goner, Liz," said the boy, as he paused in his vigorous rubbing of the man's hands.

The girl was forcing some liquor from a tin cup between the blue lips and did not answer directly; but when her patient gave the faintest possible sigh, she exclaimed joyfully: "See, Neddie, he breathes! Now work fast," whereupon they both fell to rubbing him at a great rate.

When Allen McIntyre opened his eyes he looked about him confusedly. The odd little room, the girl with the black braids, the boy looking so like her that one would at once recognize the relationship, the drenched condition of all three, and the strange languor that through all his frame—what did it mean? He closed his eyes wearily, and then the boy spoke up in this bluff fashion:

"You came near going under, cap'n, but Lizzie pulled you out."

Then McIntyre remembered all, and languidly raised himself into a sitting posture.

"It is too wild a night to be afloat in a little craft like that," said the girl, making a gesture seaward, where a tiny boat had broken up before.

"It was fair when I left the shore," replied the man. "I ventured further then I intended. Then the wind went down, and I could only drift until the storm arose. I have a recollection of a fierce rush of wind and wave that upset my boat, and a blow on my head, probably from some part of the boat as I went over."

"Yes," said the boy there came a flash of lightening, and Lizzie and I looking out saw the boat capsize. So Lizzie caught a rope and ran, and I after her. We're used to that sort of thing—eh, Lizzie?" Lizzie nodded and the boy continued, animatedly: "You see, my father keeps the light, but he is sick or gone to the mainland—and we've pulled out more than one fellow more than half dead. Who—"

"Never mind that, Neddie," interrupted his sister, gently, and the unspoken reproof in her voice had the effect of making the lad look shamefaced as he went back to the first part of his story.

"Well, sir, we ran down the slope at the side of the cliff out there, where the waves were tearing up like 10,000 wild horses. And every time it lightened we could see you bobbing around out there like a piece of cork. We were afraid of your striking against the ledges, so Lizzie fastened one end of the rope around her waist, and I held the other while she went straight in and struck out for you.

"McIntyre uttered a low exclamation and turned his head from Neddie to Neddie's sister. The boy wagged his head proudly.

"Ah," said he with gleaming eye, "that's nothing for our Liz to do! She caught you and I pulled you both in. But you're monstrous heavy! I thought we'd never get you up stairs."

McIntyre laughed as he rose rather doubtfully to his feet.

"I feel a trifle shaky," he said; and then. "It is easy to see that you are brother and sister. I am Allen McIntyre, at your service, Miss Lizzie," and he bowed in a fashion that gave the lie to his declaration of shakiness. "Of course I realize that you and your gallant brother here have rendered me a great service—one for which you shall not go unrewarded, although I can never hope to fully recompense you."

Lizzie raised her head haughtily. "Sir, such work as we have done to-night we do not for wages. If you feel strong enough I will walk with you to the house. I think the storm is passing over. We live a quarter of a mile from the light. Our accommodations are plain enough, but there is no other house on the island."

"Oh, I am as good as ever, now," said McIntyre; "but will you leave this boy here all alone?"

She smiled.

"Ned is not afraid and he can tend the light as well as I."

"Very well, I will go with you."

He waved a smiling adieu to the boy, and followed his guide down the narrow stairway.

Two days later a small boat put out from the island, which when it returned, brought McIntyre's luggage.

Lizzie's father, who was laid up with an attack of rheumatism, had taken a fancy to the young man, who expressed a desire to spend a few weeks there at any price they may charge. Captain Clyde straightway ordered Neddie off in his new boat to the mainland for the gentleman's traps. The youngster obeyed this order with alacrity, for the good humored ease of the stranger, together with the appreciation of "our Liz," had wrought favorably on our Neddie. Even the maiden aunt, who kept house, smiled frostily at the prospect of this pleasant addition to their family.

McIntyre, who had been wandering about three or four hundred miles from home in search of a quiet place to spend the summer, congratulated himself on having drifted to the very place.

"Although it was an expensive style of drifting," he remarked, with a smile, as he enclosed a bank note in an envelope, to be sent to the owner of the little boat which had slipped out into the waves abreast of the light house.

A week later, as he sauntered shoreward there came to his ear a wildly sweet strain of melody. As he listened in amazement, for he had seen no musical instrument about the place, he began to realize that it was part of Strass' artist waltzes that he heard—a strain that he often whistled. He stepped round the junting of the cliff, and there leaning against the granite wall, was Lizzie her chin dropped carelessly, on a little red violin, as she drew the bow across the strings.

"You whistled that the other day," she faltered, "and I liked it so much—it haunted me all the time."

He stepped forward.

"Why, Lizzie, is it possible you play like that without notes?"

"I don't play much, now," she said, drawing her dark brows over her eyes. "A party of ladies and gentlemen came here to visit the lighthouse once and overheard me playing. I heard one of the ladies say: 'The idea of a girl with a fiddle!' So I thought may be it didn't look well."

"Not look well, indeed!" and he laughed in merry scorn. "Why, child, did you ever hear of Camilla Urso?"

"No."

"Well, she is a lady, and she makes the most exquisite music on a violin, and thousands of people go to hear her. Why Camilla Urso herself would listen with pleasure to your music, Lizzie," said McIntyre, extravagantly. "Who taught you how to play?"

"No one. This violin belongs to my father, and he learned me how to tune it. I pick up tunes that I hear, but I never heard anything half so beautiful as the tunes I hear you sing and whistle."

McIntyre smiled; his repertoire of music consisted of snatches of operas, waltzes, redowas, and German airs; which were dimly associated in his mind with nights of brilliant gayety; and he wondered dreamily how this pure minded healthy souled girl would look upon the elegant dissipation carried on by the set of which he was a favorite." A sudden glow warmed his heart as he thought that not one of the fine ladies, who had swung languidly through the mazes of that very waltz of the great composer's could have rescued him so bravely from the jaws of death as Lizzie had—Lizzie who stood there so quietly, with her little violin hanging from her breast, and her fingers straying lovingly over the strings.

"Tell me about Camilla Urso," she said, presently. "Did you ever hear her play?"

"Yes, indeed? I have a paper in my trunk containing a little sketch of her life, which you may read for yourself, and which can tell you better than I can, of her great talent."

For a moment Lizzie's eyes met his own, a look of shame and distress gathered in them.

"Mr. McIntyre, that will be of no use—I cannot read."

"Lizzie!" Her violin slipped from her grasp and would have fallen to the ground had not McIntyre caught it, and she covered her face with both hands.

"But, Lizzie," persisted her companion, in some perplexity, I do not understand. There are good public schools in the city, and surely your father must have known that it was his duty to give a girl like you an education, to say nothing of Neddie, who is growing up such a splendid young fellow."

"It is very kind of you to say such things of Neddie and me, we are common people, and ours is a common life. Neddie did spend two years with our uncle who lives in New York State. He went to school there. But father doesn't think much of book learning Aunt Jane never had time to help me, and Neddie is too restless to keep still long enough, I suppose." She continued quaintly. "You who live out in the world look at these things in a different way; but I know of many who are just where I am. Why, there's a whole family on that island," pointing to a tiny speck away to the eastward, "who cannot read or write." Once in three months, perhaps, they go to the mainland. I scarcely ever go. I suppose I shall always live here, and I am contented,—I think," and a look of doubt gathered in her eyes; "At least I was. But lately I have wished so much that I could read and write, and had books—for it is so lonely here in the winter."

"Well, dear child," said the young man gently, "this gives me the privilege of paying my debts, doesn't it?"

"Your debts?" echoed Lizzie, in surprise.

"Certainly. Did you not fish me out of the water a week ago? Well, now, you will put your six feet of driftwood to some service. I will teach you to read and to write