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PARODY.

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood.

When I recall the pleasant days of my youth.

The sweetest of all the scenes of my life.

The scenes that I loved so dearly.

MIRIAM DAY.

And so they parted; and the two years rolled

down the road of time. The two years had

been so happy, dreaming, and thinking only

of each other, waiting, watching, talking of

that coming time when there would be no more

parting for so long a period as the twenty-four hours;

and the two years during which they had lain

in this to their hearts' content, a great grave,

where they buried their past thoughts and first

blow of their lives.

Why was this parting? A heavy word, my

friend, and each too proud to own the error.

And they really loved? Really loved? Let

me tell you all about it; a common story; it is

happening about us every day.

Miriam Day was a good girl, not an accom-

plished or brilliant one. She had a pretty face,

a neat hair, and a quick but quiet movement;

there was no bustling about Miriam, and yet it

was impossible to surprise her with her house-

hold work undone or her person in disarray.

She was like the good business man, who sits at

his desk, or quietly moves about his duty, per-

forming more by his mere presence than the blus-

terer, who is everywhere, doing everybody's

work.

Miriam Day was young—only seventeen—and

like all young people had more than a just idea

of her own sagacity; and so it was, one day, that

she met Harry Voorhes upon Broadway, walking

and talking closely with a lady—

When the first sharp pang

of love came over her, she knew nothing but

in the two long years that Harry Voorhes had

been pouring into her ears the declaration that

he loved her better than all the world—better

than he ever had loved—better than he ever

would love again.

Harry had not seen Miriam; and so Miriam

presided on, nursing her wrath, and turning over

in her own mind what she would say to him that

evening when she should meet. That he was a

boy, successful in his work, she made no doubt.

The lady was apparently an old acquaintance, or

should have been, was plain from the familiarity

with which he treated her; and yet he had fre-

quently declared to Miriam that since his engage-

ment to her he had dropped all lady friends,

even now, to the bowling ones. And, therefore,

when Harry Voorhes came in that evening, the

conversation ran about this. Miriam did not

want to say:

"Did you have a pleasant walk, Mr. Voorhes?"

This was said with an assumed quietness, which

immediately instructed Harry in all the particu-

lar. He knew there was jealousy, and as it

was a new thing to be determined to indulge it

for a while.

"Very pleasant, thank you," said Harry—

"Did you?" for he suspected Miriam had seen

him.

"And pleasant company?" said Miriam.

"Very," answered Harry. "Did you?"

"Yes," she said, with well-acted carelessness,

"I met Morgan upon Broadway."

"Morgan?" Harry threw an emphasis upon

the name that needed explanation.

John Morgan had been a friend of Miriam's

brother's; and in the recklessness of his

associations, those associations that degrade the

finer feelings, had not scrupled to bring to their

bumble home this John Morgan, a wealthy, but

disgraced and characterless man; he had come

seeking Miriam as a wife, from the belief that

such a marriage would tend to elevate himself

in the eyes of the world, while he himself is

getting a young and pretty woman.

Being beyond this, John Morgan did not think

of anything but ground only he placed in the

scales. What was his agreement with Miriam's

brother was a portion of the matter which re-

mained between these two. He came, saw,

quietly made his offer, was refused, and as quietly

withdrew. His diplomatist after this was

Miriam's brother, who lost no opportunity of

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