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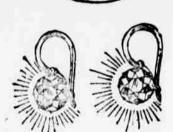


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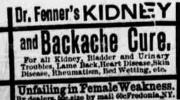
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The woman of the house seemed amused this time. She seemed also to

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CHAPTER XV.

FAITH BECOMES A "HIRED GIRL." When the door opened, there stood, facing Faith, a good looking, well dressed woman, who was evidently the mistress of the house.

"I have come in answer to your advertisement, ma'am," said Faith slowly. She was unexpectedly embarrassed by the woman's silent look.

"Will you come in?" The woman pointed to a chair, and Faith sat down. It was the dining room, a fine, large room, evidently well

"My name is Faith Kirk. I have been at work as a retoucher in Keffen's studio, and here are some references from that place."

Faith handed them out, and the woman took them and carefully read them. While she was reading Faith looked about, shyly but observantly. She liked the appearance of the house.

"Have you ever worked out in the city?" asked the woman suddenly as she finished the references. "No, ma'am. I came here to work

in the studio and lost my position there owing to a reduction of hands." "Can you cook?"

"Yes, ma'am," replied Faith mod-

"And do the housework for a family of four? There are my husband and my son and daughter."

"I think I can do it. I am sure I can. I am strong and well." Faith spoke with some pride, for whether she had her mother's beauty or not she had inherited her parents' splendid phy-

The woman of the house looked at her in some hesitation.

"I don't know you at all," she finally

"No, ma'am. I don't know you, ei-Faith said it without the least appearance of being impertinent, and after the fashion of Malcom Kirk she looked straight in the other's eyes as she spoke.

The women colored at first and then smiled a little.

"It does seem to be about an even thing, doesn't it? Well, the references are good as far as they go. Would you come for a week on trial? I have generally hired my help in that way." 'Yes. coa'am."

"I am willing to pay \$3.50 a week if you can do the cooking, or even \$4 if you can do all the work satisfactorily."

"I will come on trial, and if I don't please you you can dismiss me," said Faith, a little eagerly. There was something about the woman's manner that seemed to her cold and unnecessarily businesslike; but, on the whole, it seemed like a desirable place to work.

"My name is Fulton. Yours is?" "Kirk, Faith Kirk."

"Ah, yes! Well, Faith, I'll show you your room. Have you a trunk?" "Yes, ma'am. At my room." Faith gave her the number.

"I'll send an expressman after it." She went to a telephone in the next room and gave the necessary order. Faith had packed her trunk so as to have it in readiness.

Mrs. Fulton led Faith up stairs to her room, which was a comfortable place, and as they stood there she talked about the work expected of the

"I suppose you will want your Thursday afternoon and Sunday after din-

"I suppose so," said Faith, a little

vaguely. Mrs. Fulton looked at her sharply.

"I have always been in the habit of giving my girls that amount of time. Of course you don't have to take it if you don't want to."

to be able to go to church," said Faith "Of course. We have late dinner,

say 2 or half past. After that you are at liberty for the rest of the day."

Faith did not say anything, and Mrs. Fulton tock her down to the kitchen, which was furnished in a complete manner that pleased Faith the moment she stepped into it.

"Are you ready to begin work today?" nsked Mrs. Fulton after explaining the range and showing Faith where articles were.

"Yes, ma'am."

"Very well. We have lunch at 1. Dinner at half past 6. Mr. Fulton does not come out from the city until night. I expect my son and daughter from school always. Can you go ahead and get lunch without any help?"

"Yes, ma'am," Faith answered simply. She had determined to let her work speak for itself. She had her father's self possession in such matters. Besides, she found herself laboring under a pleasant excitement that stimulated her. She knew she would be able to do her best.

Mrs. Fulton looked at her new help again with some sharpness.

"Where did you say you were from? I mean before you came to the city?" "My home is in Kansas."

"That is a good ways from Chicago." Mrs. Fulton spoke in some surprise. "No farther than Chicago is from Kansas," said Faith, again after her fashion looking straight at Mrs. Ful-

ton.

be on the point of asking more questions, but finally went out of the kitchen, leaving Faith in possession there.

As Mrs. Fulton sat down in the parlor she sighed, but it was evidently a sigh of relief.

"I never did such a thing before, to hire a girl on such slender knowledge. But she looked clean and intelligent," she said to herself. "And I am so tired of the help I have been having. I expect of course to be disappointed in her. I always am. But I'll let her try it for a week and see."

Mrs. Fulton sighed again and went up stairs to look after some of the work there, for no matter how many girls she might have had or how capable they may have been she was a born housekeeper and never was satisticd unless she was doing something herself.

Meanwhile Faith, down in the kitchen, planned and prepared a lunch that was a delightful surprise to the family when it sat down at half past 12. She had rightly supposed that Mrs. Fulton was a generous provider, and she found an excellent supple of everything in the larder. Dorothy had taught Faith cooking and had even gone beyond the simple, plain cooking ordinarily common to the life in the parsonage. It was not a difficult thing, therefore, with the supply before her, for Faith to produce a dainty and appetizing lunch.

When she rang the bell a few minutes before the time, the boy, who had been in the library, came in and sat down at once. Mrs. Fulton, who had not been able to keep out of the kitchen altogether, in spite of her determination to let the new girl manage alone, sat down with a feeling of surprise as she viewed the table. The girl, who was about Faith's age, came in from the parlor, where she had been playing exercises on the piano, and the lunch proceeded with many favorable comments, especially from the boy, who had brought home with him a schoolboy's appetite.

"Say, this salad is all right," said the young gentleman as he passed his plate for the third time. "Hope you'll keep this new girl for life."

"She certainly has done very well for the first time. I expect it will wear off soon. We never had a girl yet that kept it up very long," said Mrs. Fulton. She rang the bell for something, and Faith came in. It was the first time the boy and girl had seen her.

She was somewhat embarrassed, but she served something on the table quietly and gracefully. Something in her



"I should like my Sunday. I want "This is my daughter, Alice, and my son,

manner seemed to attract the girl, who, after a moment of awkward silence,

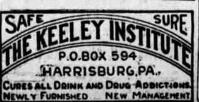
"Mother, you have forgotten to introduce Roy and me."

"Oh!" said Mrs. Fulton, with a shade of annoyance. "Yes, this is my daughter, Alice, and my son, Roy. Faithwhat did you say your other name was?"

"Kirk, Faith Kirk." "Yes, Kirk. You can bring in the dessert now, Faith, if you have any. Have

"Yes, ma'am," replied Faith. She could not help looking at the other girl

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girl if she had not noticed the look and into the parlor for such services. It been warmed at the beart by it.

here," said Roy as Faith was about the "domestic." Alice was troubled to take it off the table.

you today. Faith, take it out."

made a face and said: "What have you use of asking them?" got for dessert? Apple ple?"

Faith went out with the dishes. She cleared the cloth deftly and then brought in the dessert, which, to Masto be a delicious apple ple made from one of Dorothy's own recipes.

"This is what I call pie," said Roy as he attacked a segment which represented about a quarter of the circle. "It won't be a pie very long at the

rate you are eating now," said his sis-"There's another, I hope, isn't there?"

be asked Faith anxiously. "I like it cold for dinner." Faith nodded, and Mrs. Fulton looked sternly at her boy. But she was pleased with the new girl so far. When the lunch was over and Faith was

her in the parlor. "Mother, I'm sure she's not just an ordinally filred girl. She seemed to me

clearing everything away, Mrs. Fulton

and the children were talking about

like a lady," said Alice. "You needn't try to spoil her." Mrs. Fulton spoke with a near approach to Irritation. "She is apparently a capable girl as far as cooking goes. She

may be a failure in other ways." "The cooking is the main thing," said Master Roy as he strapped his books together and started off to school. "That last girl we had didn't know how to boil eggs. I vote for the new girl every time."

That afternoon Faith continued with her work, conscious that so far she had pleased the family. When Mr. Fulton came home and sat down to the dinner, he was agreeably surprised and joined with the rest in praises of the new girl.

"I think you have found a treasure," said Mr. Fulton. "And if so we ought to pay her \$4 a week. She is a superior "By all means, my dear," said Mrs.

Fulton. "We can afford to give that to

When Faith came in to serve that evening, she was startled as she recognized in Mr. Fulton the graybearded man who had stood in front of the picture with the young gentleman he had called "Malcom," Evidently Mr. Fulton did not recognize her or remember that he had seen her before. He seem ed like a man who was completely engrossed in his business. He was gen erous and wanted the best of everything, especially on his table. Like the others of his family, he welcomed with a feeling of relief the domestic service which meant comfort and pleasure in

the affairs of the kitchen and the table. At the close of the week Mrs. Fulton felt so well satisfied that she told Faith she would give her \$4 a week to remain. Faith accepted the offer, and in her room that Saturday night she took account of her surroundings with considerable satisfaction.

"I am really making more money than I was in the studio," she said to herself. "Nearly all I make now is clear gain. I get my board, room and washing, and that saves a large bill of expense. If I went into a store at \$5 or \$6 a week and bad to pay my board, I couldn't save anything."

She was right about that, for she had come away from home well provided with clothes, and her expenses, outside of board and room and car fare, had

been almost nothing. There was one thing that troubled

her now, however, She had not yet written home of her present place of work. She said to herself that she ought to tell her mother frankly how it all came about, and that resolve seemed to give her peace of mind. She would write home tomorrow. Sunday afternoon.

But when Sunday came several things happened through the day to

disturb her. In the first place, Mrs. Fulton informed her that they were to have company for half past 2 dinner, and Faith knew that meant a hard fore-

noon's work. "It doesn't seem right for people to have company dinner on Sunday," she said to herself as she cleared away the breakfast dishes and proceeded to wash them while the family went into the parlor for Sunday morning pray

The kitchen door had been left a lit tle ajar, and presently Faith could hear the plano. Mr. Fulton never had family worship during the week. He was too busy to stop for it in the morning. But Sunday he held to the custom which his own father had strictly observed back in New England, not only in the morning of every day, but at night as well.

Alice was playing. The family had read a passage from the Bible in turn. and now, before the prayer, they were

"Welcome, Sweet Day of Rest," floated out through the dining room into the kitchen, and Faith paused as she wiped a dish, and to tell the truth a very hot tear dropped down into the dishwater. She had not been asked to unite with these Christian people in worship, and for a moment an angry, hard, rebellious spirit stirred in the girl as she listened to the familiar hymn. It was one the family at home often sang at prayers on Sunday.

Mr. Fulton kneeled to pray. He was a trustee in a large and fashionable church, had a class in the Sunday school and was considered to be a

with interest. She was pale and did strictly honorable, exemplary Christian not seem to be very well. She was the man. It never crossed his mind that extreme opposite of her mother evi- the servant in his kitchen could possidently. There was a pleasant smile on bly need or want a little worship with her face as she nodded to Faith, and other Christian people. As for Mrs. Faith would have been a very stupid Fulton, she had never invited her help

was her theory and practice that it was "Wish you would leave that salad best not to encourage familiarity with over the matter and had in fact once "Roy," said his mother sharply, "you or twice timidly said something, but have had all the salad that is good for Mrs. Fulton silenced her objections always by saying: "The girls never want Faith removed the dish, and Roy to come into prayers. So what is the

In the kitchen of the Fulton mansion Mrs. Fulton rebuked him again, and that Sunday morning while the family were all away at church a struggle was going on that would possibly have startled the complacent doctor at Mr. Fulter Roy's great satisfaction, happened ton's church as he preached beautifully from the text, "There is no respecter of persons with God."

[TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

The census authorities have had some difficulty in classifying the Chinese in this country and in fixing their ages, the latter trouble being caused by the difference between the calendar used in this part of the world and that of the Chinese, which has the lunar months, giving some of the years 12, some 13 months. While every Chinaman so far interviewed knows the month, day and hour of his birth, the information is useless to the bureau unless converted into the time adopted here.

A man in Massachusetts caught a kunk in a trap and threw it, trap and all into a brook, where it was drowned. In less than two hours the odor was distinctly noticed in the water of a spring more than a quarter of a mile away, though no connection between the stream and spring had ever been suspected. The manner in which typhoid fever may be spread is brought to mind | + by the item.

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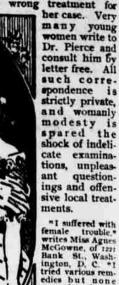
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