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NO. 38

WHAT THE BIRD SAID

WHITTEN FOR THE ROANOKE NEWS.

On a pleasant spring morning in I now by the long drooping lashes the year 1864 the cheery cry of as the young man told his fateful a bird called loudly from the top of news. a tall oak tree, "Clean up! clean He was hardly more than a boy home was an attractive one. Sui-up! clean up!" An old colored but strong and rugged, one of tors came and won both the

pare fer comp'ny." "I wonder is gittin' too tight fer comp'ny. If

possible at this time and place. and ran up a narrow stairway to the rooms above. with the plow. As they came nearer he said, "How I do envy

Here laughingly humoring the those men the privilege of staying old woman's superstitious fancy that this peculiar cry of the bird was a homely prediction the question was whose lover would come as he spoke and his eyes sought

in fulfillment of the prophecy.
"I guess it will be Harry, Kitty, "I guess it will be Harry, Kitty, so you get ready to receive him, he could not understand remained

maiden sat on the vine-covered The odor of the honeysuckle, which clambered up the columns sending graceful tendrils and these are terrible times, when Of coming to our store when, of the pink and white blossoms will it all end and how? she reover and through the lattice, filled plied the air with its rich perfume, A humming bird fluttered in and our among the leaves gathering sweetness from the scented cups. The low hum of the bees made music es' des 'fore daybre'k, so doan in an undertone to accompany the giv' up so, fur Mammy's sake." horror of war seemed to have dearments, peculiar to her race, she past.

longed had been ordered to pre-

The quiet of the little town of W., had been broken a few months before by the coming of Captain Woodson's Battery of Light Artillery to a camp in the suburbs of the town. While subject at any time to be called to the front this was a strategic point and it was important that a strong guard be kept here while at the same time the men could be better prepared for more active warfare.

She with her sisters had spent all of their young lives in this quiet country home, the darlings of their ders. Among her greatest crosses man whom they called Mammy and who had been their nurse from the time their baby area. Their father had died before they care. Until the coming of this at de front door when dey wants I ask your forgiveness when I small number of years by the sum-mers only. Fresh, rosy cheeked, with ripples of auburn hair which be here to show um how to cook." other I'did not care to return with ripples of auburn hair which be here to show um how to cook.

their place in a circle which welcomed as well as benefitted them. what was called the ordinance sear- loving welcome in the old home. if dey will stay ter dinner" she con- gent of the company to which he Mammy Phylis renewing her officer and one in high regard with As time passed these children bedis wa doan soon end we will all his superiors was evident from the came the joy of the home. Their fer comp'ny. But I'm gwine ketch dat ole tyaller hen an get her am sorry I had to be the bearer of the part of my heroine and her

e roanoke news

up some unfinished task.

sat by an open window. Her life hands the moments passed neglected by. Still fair she sat with the love light in her beautiful eyes, rich melody of the negroes singing In this way she sought to com- which had not grown dim save by at work in a field near by. The very fort her nursling sitting at her feet the moisture gathered by the air was filled with sunshine and with the little hands clasped in her thoughts of other days, and gazed

mark of a flourishing town and read as follows: My DEAR KITTY:-May I call you 'My Dear?' After all these years of silence can I at last hope to claim you as my own? Am I mistaken in thinking care which left their lines upon that, as you have never married, you did care a little for your boyish soldier lover? I called "an old maid" but I had did love you Kitty with my rather be an old maid than to whole heart. How often have I reproached myself that I did not find out from your own lips whether you returned that boy in the years that have her, for I love her even more than love in the slightest degree or gone. If you are sure that it "Umph! what in de worl' you not. Do you remember that will be your happiness you can chillun gwine do widout me" she day I bade you good-bye on the come. same morning to tell you that know what's gwine come er you see you no more. That I loved up! clean up!" "Dars dat bird on every possible occasion and all ef I doan go wid yer. Who's you better than my life! but for ergin. I wonder whose beau vonr sake I did not, I had heard dat is comin' now," said Mamfrom what I considered good city niggers what good manners trothed to another and that dat bird what I thinks er dat other then with Lee in Virginia. I had brought you the

did not yield the harvest they had done in former years. have always loved the farm. have told you many times that I would rather plow than drill, That I wanted the war to end, that I might make a home for some loved one among the vine scented fields of the country. I have made money by farming but have failed in many of my boyish calculations. Perhaps the mistake was in not seeking French, but whose family were We called our little girl by your name. She is the joy of her father's heart. After a few years my wife died. I miss her so much and my child pines for did not meet. a mother's love. I learned a short while since that you had dat ole tyaller hen an' get her ready ter bake, den I can po'ch some aigs an' make er 'lasses puddin' an' dat'll do fer dese t.mes."

The last of this was muttered to herself and showed the anxiety she well. I felt that I must say good, honey and too tyaller hen an' get her am sorry I had to be the bearer of the part of my heroine and her in the part of my heroine and her in L.—. May I go to see you, asking her hand in marriage, to all she gave the decided answer.

You would hardly recognize the gave the decided answer.

"Why doan't yer git married the gawky soldier boy in the herself and showed the anxiety she well. I felt that I must say good, honey and transition and entirely of nad the part of my heroine and her in L.—. May I go to see you, asking her hand in marriage, to all she gave the decided answer.

You would hardly recognize the gave the decided answer. You would hardly recognize blond with ripe red lips and hair the gawky soldier boy in the like fine spun gold, had become a my heart is as young and as full of love for you as in the dear old days. Perhaps I am too abrupt but I must know the truth at last and pray you to listen to my pleadings. I need you, my little Kitty needs you. May 1 come?

> As Kitty read she realized made plain, "An enemy hath done this" thought she, and then she remembered an idle tale letter fell from her hand. She had nothing with which to rethese pleadings? Could she hope to find happiness in the tinue her lonely way? There was no reason why she should do this. Old memories plead

not going to the office today. I

ter came to me as an echo from it was quite certain that she could the past. I had not forgotten not live. Then Ruskin wrote to my old time friend and my heart grows warm when I think that I am remembered by him. But, my dear, I am not the girl in which she feebly traced the you knew in the long ago. have had my share of toil and my face so that it is no longer as fair as it used to be. I am you love me." give my hand without my heart. This has not been mine to give since it was won by my soldier Yours.

KITTY," A few days later the bird sang out again with a shrill clear voice "clean up! my as she paused in her morning duties, "I doan never hear day Mister Harry come ter tell Miss Kitty good-by. news of a terrible battle which me like all de life went out er your lips quivered as I told the she's looked pearter and sweetfatal news. Awkward, blush er dese las' two days dan Ise ing boy that I was I could not seen her fer years." continued

It takes a lot of courage to enabeen free, she had counted her we've got er side gate to our yard for this thought I should have ble a woman to admit that she is

> Duty is a saddle that wears sores on one's back.

A LOVE TRAGEDY.

Ruskin's Adoration of the Lovely Rose La Touche.

In 1658, when Ruskin was in his fortieth year, he was asked by a friend to give some lessons in drawing to a child named Rose La Touche, whose name, indeed, was Irish. There sprang up between Ruskin and this young girl a very charming friendship, which, of course, at the time could be nothing but friendship. They wrote each other letters and exchanged drawings, and then for awhile they

Ten years passed by before they saw each other. Meanwhile the child, whom he had remembered as a blue eyed, saucy, clever little like fine spun gold, had become a very lovely young woman of nineteen. They resumed their old acquaintance, but in a very different way. Though Ruskin was now nearly fifty, he gave to Rose La Touche an adoration and a passion such as he had never felt before. On her side she no longer thought of him as "very ugly," but was singularly drawn to him despite

the difference in their years. The two met often. They took and apparent faithlessness all ant fields of Surrey, and at last Ruskin begged her to make him happy and to be his wife. Oddly which had associated her name enough, however, she hesitated with one whom she had loved as not because he was so much older a brother who had long slept in than herself, but because he had a soldier's grave. She sat lost ceased to be what she regarded as in thought for a while. The "a true believer." Some of the things that he had written shocked proach herself for hers had her as being almost atheistic. She been a well spent life. But was herself, underneath all her should she close her heart to gaity of manner, a rigid and uncompromising Protestant. She should she calmly put aside this explanation which had come so late in life and continue her longly way? There to be "yoked with an unbeliever."

Yet her heart was torn at the for her absent lover. His little thought of sending him away, and motherless girl, her namesake, so for several years their intimacy seemed to call for a place in her empty arms. Her heart re-sponded to these calls but still she thought on till the voice of that love was everything. She, on the other hand, read over those "Why honey, what's de mat- passages of the Old Testament

twenty-four and he was fifty-three, she gave him her final answer. She would not marry him unless he could believe as she did. His honesty forbade him to deceive her by a pretended conversion, and so they parted, never to see each other again. How deeply she was affected is shown by the fact that she soon fell ill. She My DEAR FRIEND:-Your let- grew worse and worse until at last her and begged that he might see her. She answered with a note words

> "You may come if you can tell me that you love God more than

When Ruskin read this his very soul was racked with agony, and he cried out :

'No, no; then I cannot go to God!

When she died, as she did soon after, the light of his life went out for Ruskin.-Lyndon Orr, in Munsey's Magazine.



UP YOUR LIVER and start it working. Then you can work, and enjoy it, too

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There are many nervous wrecks. There is nervous prostration of the stomach, of the bowels, and other organs. The brain, the kidneys, the liver, the nerve centers are all exhausted. There is but one thing to dobuild up the nervous system by the use of Dr. Miles' Restora-tive Nervine. Its strengthening influence upon the nervous system restores normal action to the organs, and when they all work in harmony, health is assured. Get a bottle from your druggist. Take it all according to directions, and if it does not benefit he will return your money.





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ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

woman standing by the vine cov- those taken by the urgent necessi- younger girls, nor did Kitty reered porch of a farm house situated in a large grove of the oaks, tossed her head significantly and said to some one on the porch.

"Umph, de bird says clean up, chillun an' yer better look out and "roundabout" showed him to be were fatherless. These found a porch who was alled the order of the mistake was in not seeking sought her love. One sister died you again, then I should have within a year, the other after a confederate army. The chevrons few short happy years was left a widow with two baby girls who were fatherless. These found a true and loving wife to me.

am gone.

near you Kitty but I must be gone.

the girl's as if to find courage to

silent, and with a warm clasp of

from her lips. A few hours later

"What's the matter honey,"

"Oh! Mammy, Harry has gone

"It's drefful sure nuff honey but

Mammy found her and asked:

she saw her changed look.

"Gord knows dese times belonged. That he was a trusted starve I'm afeard, let Ione 'viden' many privileges he enjoyed.

you know he has only eyes for you and we will not impose our- her hands he was gone, not know selves on him" said one of Kitty's | ing that the fact of his going had sisters teasingly and she blushingly sent the blood rushing to her heart

A few hours later a youth and

pare at once for active duty.

"The boys," as the Captain fondly called them, were not long in making friends among the citizens of the town and surrounding ountry, especially among the Those, whose fathers and brothers many of them had fallen or were then wearing the "Grey" were not loth to do all they could to relieve the tediousness of camp life for the soldier boys and many little social gatherings were planned and enjoyed in spite of the clouds of war. At one of these Kitty met the young artilleryman who on this spring morning had come to say "goodbye" and who according to Mammy Phylis' superstition held a place in the girl's heart nearer and dearer than a mere passing acquaintance. From their first meeting he had seemed happy only in her presence, seeking her companionship in many ways leading her to gwine nuss yer when yer gets sick feel that he loved her. From some and who's gwine wait on yer? cause he had never given or re- An' den I'd jes lak to show dem authority that you were quired any pledge of this love. hough between their frequent is. meetings would often come from gwine too, and this settled it. the near by camp closely written had helped to win her girlish

of her head, and which fell in na- called them.

a refined Christian woman to take Feeling the need of employment she sought and secured a position as bookkeeper in a large establishment which brought her a good income. In spite of her busy life she made many friends. Their youth in the care of the little ones. care and instruction an incentive

felt that the spirit of hospitality common at the South should be sustained even though it were im-

"Why Mammy what would you "All right, Mammy, "answered one of the three girls to whom she had hands were whistling a merry tune cheerfully reply as she turned the In the field near by the farm all do without me" she would spoken as they entered the house as they turned up the mellow earth tables on the old woman and took

She had not forgotten her boyish lover and among her secret treasures were the letters yellowed time and bearing date of long ago which he had written from the camp near her old home. At last one spring morning she

was not all sunshine and the past few days had been full of care and worry. But now, from a neigh-boring tree top came the shrill cry of a bird with the same old voice, 'Clean up! clean up!" For a while she sat lost in memories of the past. Again she heard Mammy's voice as it said "de bird says clean up chillun yer sweetheart's Again her soldier lover stood before her as he had done on that morning so long ago. The years that had passed were for-gotten and notwithstanding daily tasks which called for her willing

and he had brought sad news. The girl sat silent as he told her of a battle then raging in Virginia and that the Command to which he bealized that it is a woman's place to suffer and be silent and that hers was not the first heart to feel this pain. The only change was she seemed to have grown older than her years. Thoughtful of her mother, she anticipated her every wish, joining in the pleasures of her sisters when by so doing she could assist in their innocent gaieties, she lost sight of self and grad-

In this way the months passed away. With the end of the war came many changes. The loss of much that had assured them a competency, if not wealth, brought loss of health to her mother who soon sank quietly to rest. This left Kitty and her sisters with no protection better than the faithful nurse, who in spite of influence brought to bear by those of her own race, remained true to her charge. When the old home was broken up, and it was found to be best that they seek protection and possible employment in a neighboring city, Kitty suggested that perhaps she would rather stay among

ually the pain grew less.

her old associations. which plainly showed the impor-No, sir! ef you all goes I'm

With a remnant of what had been homemaking on her strong shoul-

Those eyes were veiled prepared by their mother who was for want of proper cultivation how

gladness. Not a note of the dreadful own horny palms by loving en- more closely into the saddened reached this quiet home.

But there was no longer a smile on Kitty's cheek. The bird's prophecy was true; her lover had come ber sleeve' so after this first out.

The postman's ring aroused her and a letter was placed in her was not one to yield to vain regrets or "to wear her heart upon her sleeve" so after this first out. for the writer's sake. Tremblingly she broke the seal; was she at last to know the cause of his long silence. In all these years not one word had she theard from her boyish friend. Once she had seen his name in the papers as an advocate and strong promoter of a bill to be of great benefit to the farming community and which was old soul Kitty picked up her then before the Legislature of the letter. An hour later she had State, but this was all. Her heart beat tumultuously as she read line after line of the closely written pages. The letter bore the post-

answered with an air of disdain, porch? Well, I wanted that tance with which she regarded her my heart was almost breaking place in the home. "I'd jes lak to at the thought that I should pages which breathed of love and theirs they made themselves a had just been fought, and that her day, and she's never been home in the town of L. True to we had been ordered to the the same since. her word Mammy Phylis went front. Never shall I forget heap ter know how cum he with them taking the brunt of the how your face blanched and nev'r cum back, but I declar

speak my thoughts and your the old woman. lover then bearing his breast to the storm of battle as it shall soon know all about it, were old enough to understand his to go to white folks front door you might not see among the loss. Their mother and "Mam- when I wants anything. Desc col- slain. Could I have been mis- day" and was signed ' had shielded them from every ored ladies comes an' rings de bell taken in this? If so, how can young stranger Kitty's heart had er cooks place an' I jes tells 'em can never forgive myself. But she contemptously called "red" as Then she would retire to her do- to old scenes. After suffering she tried in vain to confine the main muttering anathemas on as all the others did, I returned stray curls with a comb at the back "dese aggravations" as she often to my home to find many changes. Those who had been

herself and showed the anxiety she | well. I felt that I must say good- honey and stop dis everlasting | mature man that I now am but

Yours in the same old love, HARRY." the mistake that had so chang-ed her whole life. What to her had always been a mystery was now clear. The long silence long strolls together in the pleas

shall take a holiday for once "I'm glad you's comin' to yer senses for you's needed a rest er long time," replied Mammy, well pleased that there should be a pause in "de everlastin' work" of her mistress.

With a smile for the faithful posted the following:

"Never mind Mammy you "My mammy was er ole Fer- raged at the Wilderness. I said Kitty, who had overheard the time their baby eyes had opened to the light of the world. ginny darky" she would exclaim, prayed for your sake that he her mutterings, as she folded a she taught me better manners dan might be spared; that his name telegram which said "I will

If you want a thing well done, tural ringlets above her dark brown Kitty and her sisters had been rich were poor. Even the lands hire some one to do it who knows