

Washington Hotel, Kinston, N. C.

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A. J. LOFTIN, GEORGE BOUTREE.

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Lalage. Come to me, Lalage. Girl of the flying feet. Girl of the tooting hair. And the red mouth, small and sweet. Less of the earth than air. So wretchedly fond and fair, Lalage!

Touch me, Lalage! Touch the soft, white hand. Girl of the low, white brow. And the rosy-bloomed hand. Bloom from an orchard bough; Less downy-soft than thou, Lalage!

Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage! Kiss me, Lalage!

A Serenade. I sing beneath your lattice, love, A song of great regard for you; My moon is getting rather high, My voice is, too.

The larklet in deep shadow lies, Where frogs make a muffled hubbub; I think they sing a trifle hoarse, And love, me, too.

All motionless the cedars stand, With silent moonbeams slanting through; The very air is drowsy, love, And I am, too.

Oh, could I soar on loving wings, And at your window gently woe; But then your lattice you would bolt—so I'll bolt, too.

SCANDAL. A woman to the holy father went, Confession of sin was her intent; And so her misdeeds, great and small, She faithfully rehearsed them all.

And when she had finished her tale, The holy father said to her: 'You have a bit of scandal up and down To all the long-tongued gossip in the town.'

The holy father for her other sin Granted the absolution asked of him; But while for all the rest he pardon gave, He told her this offense was very grave.

Next day but one she went to the priest to tell; The priest said still and heard her story: 'You are a scandal, and that's what this was done, She must come back again another day To tell him his command she did obey.'

The woman, thinking this a penance light, Hastened to do his will that very night; Feeling right glad she had escaped so well, Next day but one she went to the priest to tell; The priest said still and heard her story: 'You are a scandal, and that's what this was done, She must come back again another day To tell him his command she did obey.'

The woman said, 'But, Father, 'twould be vain, To try to gather up those seeds again; The winds had scattered them both far and wide, Over the meadow, vale and mountain-side.'

The father answered: 'New I hope that from this, The lesson I have taught you will not miss; You cannot gather back the scattered seeds, Which far and wide will grow in scandalous weeds, Nor can the mischief once by scandal sown, By any penance be again undone.'

Somebody's Darling. We republish the following lines by request. Their tender sentiment can never grow old:

Into a ward of the white-washed walls Where the dead and the dying lay, Wounded by bayonets, shells and balls, Somebody's darling was borne one day.

Wearing still on his pale, sweet face, Soon to be hid by the dust of the grave, The lingering light of his boyhood grace.

Matted and damp are the curls of gold Kissing the snow of that fair young brow; Pale are the lips of delicate mould—Somebody's darling is dying now.

Back from his beautiful blue-veined brow Brush his wandering waves of gold, Cross his hands on his bosome now, Some body's darling is still and cold.

Kiss him once for somebody's sake, Murmur a short prayer soft and low, One bright curl from the cluster take—They were somebody's pride, you know, Somebody's hand hath rested there; Was it a mother's, soft and white? Or have the lips of a sister fair?

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God knows best. He was somebody's love, Somebody's heart enshrined him there; Somebody waited his name above Night and morn on the wings of prayer.

Somebody says when he marched away, Looking so handsome, brave and grand; Somebody kiss on his forehead lay—Somebody clung to his parting hand.

Somebody's watching and waiting for him, Yearning to hold him again to her heart; There he lies with his blue eyes dim And the smiling, childlike lips apart.

Tenderly bury the fair young dead, Pausing to drop on his grave a tear; Carve on the wooden slab at his head, "Somebody's darling lies buried here."

Selected. BLOWN AWAY. There were three of them—Kitty, Mary and Tommy—the children of the station-master at Black River Junction, on the Great South-Western Railroad. The station stood alone on the open prairie, miles and miles from anywhere in particular.

Black River flowed through the mountains, a hundred miles away to the north; and on clear days, the snowy mountains could be seen glimmering on the grassy horizon. The line leading to the Black River met the South-Western here, and thus it was the place was called Black River Junction.

The station-master and his wife and three children lived in the little depot quite happily, but there was not another family within ten miles, in any direction.

At times the children thought it very lonely. There was nothing in particular done, except to watch the trains that stopped at the junction several times a day. Once in a while a freight-car would be left on the side track, and the children soon found that an empty freight car makes a capital play house. They could keep house in the corners and visit, or sit by the open door and make believe they were having a ride.

One morning they were awakened by a curious humming sound out of doors, and they all scrambled up and looked out of the window. How the wind did blow! It whistled and roared round the house and played on the telegraph wires upon the roofs as upon a huge harp. As the wires were fastened to the roof, the house became a great music box, with the children inside. After breakfast, the morning trains arrived, but the wind was so high that the passengers were glad to hurry from one train to another as quickly as possible. Then the trains went away, and the great wind-harp on the roof sang louder than ever.

The station-master said that it blew a gale, and that the children must stay in the house, lest they be blown into the prairie and be lost. The station-master's wife said it was a pity the children must stay in the house all day. There was an empty freight car on the side track; perhaps they might play in that. The station-master thought this a good idea, and he took Kitty by the hand and Tommy in his arms, while Mary took hold of his coat, and they all went out to the empty car. Whew! How it did blow! They certainly thought they would be lifted up by the wind and blown quite out of the sky. The empty car was snug and snug, and once inside they were quite out of the way of the wind.

Mary thought the rear end would be a good place to keep house, but Tommy preferred the other end, so they agreed to keep house at both ends of the empty car. This was a nice plan, for it gave them a chance to visit each other, and the open part by the door made a grand promenade to walk on.

Louder and louder roared the gale. Safe and snug in the car, they went on with their play and thought nothing of the weather outside.

Suddenly the car seemed to shake, and they stopped in their housekeeping and ran to the door to see what had happened.

'Why, it's moving! Somebody's pushing it,' said Mary.

'They are taking us away on the freight train. Come, we must get out.'

'I didn't hear the whistle,' said Tommy. 'I guess something is pushing the car.'

The girls leaned out of the door to see what had happened. Why, where was the platform? What was the matter with the station? It was moving away. No, it was the car. It had left the siding and had rolled out upon the main line and was moving faster and faster along the road.

'Oh, we must get out! They are taking us away.'

'No, no,' said Kitty. 'We must stay here till the brakeman comes round. I didn't hear them when they took us on the train.'

'There isn't any train,' said Tommy, looking up and down the line.

'Oh, it's the wind! It's blowing the car away. We must put on the brakes and stop it.'