

THE DEMOCRAT.

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VOLUME IV.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1888.

NUMBER 52.

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The Corn.

While Walter goes to plant his corn,
Says Mina to the fair May morn,
"How tall and strong and blithe is he!
O may the fertile grains of gold
Yield him twice a hundredfold,
For he is all the world to me!"

The morning breeze is fresh and strong;
The corn-bird sings his planting song;
The robin answers from the hill—
But not a note does Mina hear
Of all the music far and near.
Save Walter's whistle, sweet and shrill.

His prairie farm is new and wide,
But he has sought on earth beside,
And in a tiny hut he dwells;
And so, except in smiles and sighs
And gentle deeds and wistful eyes,
His love for her he never tells.

But if the year should go a night,
Nor drought nor hail the corn should blight,
What happy morners then might be!
So saith the maid, "O grains of gold,
Yield him twice a hundredfold,
For he is all the world to me!"

While Walter goes to husk his corn
He smiles upon the frosty morn,
For Mina, smiling, sits beside,
Since first the stalks of summer spread
Their rank green blades above her head
He claims a precious promised bride.

The spot is chosen where shall stand
The cottage, oft and gravely planned
In summer noons and Sabbath eve.
And trees are named to shade the day,
And charm the twilight hours away
With mystic murmurs of their leaves.

"Dear girl," he says, "before we knew
What hail or drought or frost might do,
Our happy goal seemed far away;
But now, so blest our fields have been
That when the last great leaf comes in,
Oh, then should be our wedding day!"

And Mina answers soft and low,
She husks with him the first long row,
The sweet, serene blades above her head;
And if he stops her here and there,
The corn itself gives license fair,
For more than once the ear is red.

—[Harper's Weekly.]

A Mistake All Around.

"Alice," said Mr. Warden to his charming daughter, as the family sat at breakfast, "I wish you to understand that you are encouraging the attentions of a young man I do not like."

"Miss Warden blushed copiously. "He is not the sort of a person to whom I could think of seeing you married, and from this moment I wish you to discountenance him—in fact, repel him. Do you hear?"

"Yes," she answered timidly, while she blushed more deeply. "But—"

"But! I want no buts, nor ifs, nor ands. This fellow—he said it contemptuously—is not nearly the right style, and I forbid you having anything more to do with him. There's an end of it."

But after a pause, as if to upset his own theory about there being an "end of it," he added:

"He's a worthless fellow—a scapegrace!"

Alice looked up indignantly as if to speak.

"Alice!" said her mother, reproachfully.

Poor Alice did not finish her breakfast, but stole away from the presence of her too exacting parent and wept. Not only had her father evinced his stern opposition to her lover, but had reviled him. That was too bad!

"What can he have against—Robert?" she sobbed.

Alice Warden had a lover, an industrious and energetic young man than whom none in the neighborhood gave brighter promise. The two were very much devoted to each other. His name was Robert Ogden—not Jack Carpenter. There was a misunderstanding.

Young Carpenter had happened to be in Miss Warden's society several times of late, and she had treated him pleasantly because they were old schoolmates. He had conducted her home from the party; but it was because Robert Ogden had met with an accident, and was obliged to be helped himself.

Jack Carpenter, though of a good family, and himself a good-hearted fellow, was a little inclined to rakishness, and was not a desirable match for a young girl when it came down to the matter of marrying. Mr. Warden realized this, and, coming to the knowledge of his friendliness toward Alice, jumped to the conclusion that he was her accepted lover. So it was Jack Carpenter he meant when he warned her against "that fellow," but she naturally thought it was Robert Ogden.

There came a stolen meeting with Robert. She told him all.

A number of stolen meetings followed. It was happiness.

A moonlight night came. Mr. Warden softened a little, and offered to take Alice out for a ride in his buggy. She declined—didn't feel well, and retired to her room as early as 8 o'clock.

On the floor at her feet was a large bag, utterly stuffed, and a mysterious parcel. And she sat watching the moon with such uneasiness as though she had feared it was about to burst and endanger the house with flying fragments.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

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Pieces of card board saturated with carbolic acid will kill flies more surely than anything else.

Females are more liable to attack from scarlet fever after infancy than males, but attacks among males are more fatal.

Recent observers attribute the supposed oscillations in the shores of the Baltic and Black Seas to changes in the volume of water caused by varying rainfall and overflow.

An English physician, has convinced himself that diphtheria has its origin in common mould fungi, which he thinks must require virulent properties under special conditions.

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