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THE JOURNAL.

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Entered at the Post office at New Berne, N C

A THANKSGIVING PARTY.

BY LANTA WILSON SMITH.

It was a neat, comfortable kitchen, though wholly lacking in orna ment. The floor was as white as soap and sand and willing hands could make it, and was well matched by the augular wooden chairs, which had become almost ghastly from repeated scrubbings.

The brass knobs on the dresser and even the pendulum of the loud ticking old clock shone like bur nished gold, reflecting the beams of firelight which brightened the dusky room.

The tea-kettle sang merrily, and

Aunt Esther passed to and fro, preparing the evening meal, and watching for the return of her husband from the woodlot.

A little girl stood by the western window, trying to read by the fastfading light. Her delicate face, long shining carls and dainty ap parel, formed a bright contrast to the plan room.

"What are you looking for in the almanac, my child! You'll injure your eyes.

"I'm trying to find when Thanks giving is; but I can't see any

longer."
"You'll be more apt to find it in but I can tell the last paper, Lucy; but I can tell you; it is a week from next Thursday.'

"Oh goody! so soon! We'll have one of those big tarkeys, jolly time, won't we?"

"I'm afraid not, dear; what put that into your little head?"

"Why, auntie, you told me when I first the that those turkeys were for Thanksgiving. I've thought of "Oh, yes, I did tell you so, Lucy,

but I meant that we raise them to sell_for Thanksgiving. We have not kept the day since we were first married; your uncle doesn't have a good time once in our lives." care for such things. I missed it sadly at first, for we always kept It seems a waste to me, I must conthe holidays when I was a girl at fess. home, but I've got used to it now. after all these years."

"I don't think I could," ventured the child, looking solemnly through the twilight at the turkeys, comfortably settled for the night on the lively spirit, we would have had bare limbs of the old apple tree.

"Well, don't shed any tears yet, Lucy; if you can get Uncle Jerry to consent, I'll do my part. Better him for years, Jeremiah; but, for not speak of it till after supper," all that, neither of us has lived a she added in a whisper, as she day without thinking of him." heard her husband's footsteps at

So, with what patience she could command, Lucy waited till the sup- for his best good; but I fear we per was cleared away, and they made some mistakes." were gathered around the crackling "He was wild as a young colt; wood-fire, Aunt Esther with her nothing could tame him!" The knitting and Uncle Jerry with his father spoke impatiently and

She was spending several months heart. with him, while her parents trav. "He was full of life and fiery, eled in the South, hoping to benefit too; and, instead of guiding him HOUSE KEEPERS. her mother's health. Two brothers gently in traces which could not and one sister were at college, and gall, we bound him, as it were, so tightly that he broke the fetters and disappeared. We wanted him to be old and steady, and his young long from home, and occasionally spirit could not be subdued. I see she suffered from homesickness; and now, with the fear that the loved holiday was to be slighted, an attack of that dread malady was cortainly imminent. She felt her No answer but a smothered HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS,

escape. "Homesick!" he thought; more. All these thoughts have and no wonder, with two dull old been crowded down in my heart folks like us;" and for a moment he long that I had to speak, and wanted to take her in his arms and think it'll do us good, after all." wanted to take her in his arms and soothe her as her own father would; but he had so long repressed all bender ways, that he could not manifest his sympathy. But some thing must be done. Rising abruptly, he took a pan from the dresser and started for the cellar, saying: "Esther, hold the light for me; I want some o' them fall apples; they won't keep long."

think it'll do us good, after all."

She drew nearer and laid her head on his shoulder, while tears rolled down her wrinkled cheeks, and thus they sat far into the night.

The next day, among the families of the neighboring farmhouses, there was but one topic of conversation: the invitation to spend Thanksgiving with Jeramiah Wight. won't keep long."

By the time a share of the fruit ters. had disappeared, Lucy had regained her good spirits, and, with Lucy, with a dozen girls and boys, new courage, exclaimed: "Uncle made the rafters ring with their

"Nonsense, child. What would it amount to?"

"Why, we'd have a jolly time. We always did at home." "Yes; a big dinner one day and

the doctor the next." "It never made me sick-never in the world."

she's always right. Just last year for dinner. papa thought we'd better not have a dinner, for mamma wasn't strong, and we were so disappointed-I was, anyway—and mamma put her arm around me and said: 'We'll all help and do the best we can, for we mustn't miss keeping a holiday. When my boys and girls have left home and gone out into the world, I want them to have the remembrance of a happy childhood and a pleasant home to help them over the hard places they will find. It will make them better men and wo men, I'm sure; so order the turkey, papa.' I remember it all, Uncle Jerry, 'cause I thought mamma was going to cry, her voice trembled so,

myself if she hadn't said 'turkey.' ' *She never had many good times to rmember," said Uncle Jerry, thinking of their hard, orphaned

"Perhaps that is why she wanted her children to be always happy,' suggested Aunt Esther.

"Yes, she said so once," continued Lucy, picking apple seeds out of a core; "and I think, Uncle Jerry, if you had some little boys and girls, you'd feel different about it. But I'm your little girl this year; won't you do it for me?" She was almost frightened as she looked up and met his stern, white face.

"It is your bedtime now, Lucy," interrupted her aunt. "We'll think it over till morning." And Lucy was glad to retire to the adjoining room, wondering what she "could have said to make Uncle Jerry look so-so dreadfu!!"

Au hour later Jerry Winters broke the silence, which was becoming oppressive:

"I suppose we must do something, or the child will be homesick.

"Yes," assented his wife. "Don't see how I can stop choppin' a day, with that contract on my hands, and Jake and Steve have both begged off for Thanksgiving. I wish there were no such days. I suppose nothing less than

a turkey will satisfy that child?" "No; but we can well afford it. Who is going to have our money after we are gone! We may as well make the child happy, and "She might be happy, anyhow.

"Well, Jerry, we never wasted very much that way; and it strikes me that if we had had more holidays, and had made the old farmhouse more congenial to a young,

our son with us in our old age." "Esther!" "I know we haven't mentioned

"Well, I did my duty by him, if ever a father did by his child." "We did what we thought was

scowled hard, lest his face might Lucy was his only sister's child, show the love and longing in his

"He was full of life and fiery,

courage ebbing away, and hopeleady act very still, looking straight
into the fire, till all the curling,
writhing flames melted into one
broad sheet of bright mistness, and
then—there were two big tears on
her row cheeks.

Uncle Jerry, who, underneath his
hard exterior, had a really kind
heart, was watching her over his
paper, and saw the tears, the sly,
quick brush of two little white
hands, and a brave effort to keep

No answer but a smothered groan.

"There, Jerry, I ain't blaming
you more than I do myself. We were wrong, and the boy was
wrong, too. If we only knew where
to find him, we might make it all
right before we die. I'll warrant
he has longed to return, but pride
and fear have kept him back. He
can't know how we long for him,
for he never knew how much we
loved him; we never told him!"

"Ch, Esther!"

Thanksgiving with Jeremiah Win-

The eventtal day came at last Jerry, can't we have Thanksgiving glad shouts. Down stairs, the best this year? I'd like to." room was filled with the hum of elderly voices reconning told times," while in the sitting room the young people were eating apples and counting the seeds, with much jest and laughter, sly glances

In the kitchen a long table was

Uncle Jerry excitedly went from room to room, trying to appear as if this sort of thing was of common occurrence in his house. For the first time in her life, his wife had asserted her right to entertain her friends, and now he felt glad that she had persevered. He was surprised to find what pleasant neighbore he had.

It was night, and the merrymaking was at its height. The walls echoed laughter and song, and from every window lights gleamed far out into the darkness.

From the village depot, five miles away, a traveler was walking over the lonely road, as if eager to join the joyous party; but when at and I believe I should have cried length he came in sight of the .nany lights, be stopped in amazement. Nearer and nearer he came, till through the unshaded windows he saw the friendly scene within. With a glad smile on his face h deep shadow of a pine, he watched long and patiently.

At last, after a host of thanks and pleasant "farewells," all was still, and only three sat in the deserted rooms.

A bush fell over them, and they looked thoughtfully into the flickering fire. Lucy, climbing on her bent and kissed her. Then, holding out his hand to his wife, he said: "This little lady has thanked me, but we both ought to thank you. It has been a pleasant day to me. 71 91

This was a great deal for this man to say; and they were allent again, but each one happy through Jas. A. Thomas, Salesman. making others glad.

Then the door opened, and stranger entered. He was tall and neavily bearded; but a mother's eyes will know her own, and, with eyes will know her own, and, with a cry which expressed the yearning of years, "My boy!" she was folded in his strong embrace, while about them both were classed the father's trembling arms. No one know the long separated family once more united. Lucy, with wide-open eyes, eployed to the number this crowning excitement, much pleased with the tall cousin of whom she with the tall cousin of whom she had never heard.

"Oh, John, why did you stay away so long?' ventured the mother.

"I came back once, five years ago, and saw you and father through the window. But, know ing I deserved ne welcome, I feared to enter, Tonight I should have entered at all events; but when I saw you with your friends about you, and, later, sitting here with clasped hands, I felt sure of welcome sure that you had forgiven the past, and felt only pity for your wayward son. Now I mean and Mercantile Picts. to cancel the suffering of the past by making the future happy."

"Now, Uncle Jerry, I told you so! Thanksgiving can amount to a great deal sometimes !" and the merry laugh which followed was not less hearty because it broke through tears of joy.

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