



Every woman wears a crown who is the mother of a healthy baby. The mother of a puny, sickly, peevish baby bears a cross. It rests with every woman to decide for herself which kind of a mother she will be.

The woman who takes the right care of herself during the months preceding maternity may rest content in the assurance that her baby will be a strong, healthy, happy one. The woman who suffers from disorders of the digestive system, who bears the time of trial and danger, who is weak and invigorated, and insures the perfect well-being and absolute health of both mother and child. It does away with the squeamishness of the interesting period. It makes sure an ample supply of nourishment for the little new-comer. It transforms weak, sickly, nervous and despondent invalids into healthy, happy wives and mothers. Thousands of homes to which babies once came to stay but for a brief day and then die, now bless this wonderful medicine for the gift of happy, healthful babies.

organism during this critical period, and fails to resort to the right remedy, is pretty sure to have a puny, peevish, sickly baby, born into the world with the seeds of weakness and disease already implanted in its little body. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best of all medicines for prospective mothers. It imparts health, strength, vigor, and elasticity to the delicate and important organs that bear the brunt of motherhood. It prepares a woman for the time of trial and danger. It strengthens and invigorates, and insures the perfect well-being and absolute health of both mother and child. It does away with the squeamishness of the interesting period. It makes sure an ample supply of nourishment for the little new-comer. It transforms weak, sickly, nervous and despondent invalids into healthy, happy wives and mothers. Thousands of homes to which babies once came to stay but for a brief day and then die, now bless this wonderful medicine for the gift of happy, healthful babies.

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NECK OR NOTHING.
THE SOUTHERN STORY OF ANTE BELLUM DAYS.
BY JEANNETTE H. WALWORTH
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CHAPTER IX.

"Stamp out a lie! It is like a prairie fire. You stamp it out in one place and while you are panting over its harmless dead ashes it leaps venomously into fresh activity just across the pathway you have to travel. Perhaps if I had seen the spark when it first fell—but— one never does until it is too late—too late for everything but resignation."

Liza stamped her foot passionately. "You talk like an old crane of 80! And so you are going to sit down in this lonesome spot, this brain paralyzing solitude and throw away all your God given talents and your four years of hard study? Are you going through life whimpering because one man has played you false?"

"Not quite such an idiot! I am trying to make a lawyer of myself. I have taken this place on a three years' lease from Seth and hope, with the woodyard and the erop combined, to make enough to carry myself through a course of lectures."

"I thought they were going to make a doctor of you?"

"That was the plan when the Strongs were running the Martin family."

There was a revealing bitterness in his tones. Liza pressed her hands more tightly against his breast.

"I know now that man, that lie! Adrien Strong was the one and the other. Is it not so?"

He was spared the necessity for answering. With a scream of terror she suddenly clasped her hands over her eyes and leaned against him, trembling violently.

"Liza! In the name of heaven, what ails you?"

He seized her hands and drew them away from her face. It was white to the very lips. Her eyes, still wide and dark with fright, turned timidly toward the window.

"Horrible! A human face, with the gaunt, wolfish stare of a starved wild beast! Oh, Strong, look for him! Pity him!"

"Where? What did he look like? Do compose yourself, Liza. There is nothing to be nervous about. Was it a man or a boy?"

"A boy perhaps; only starved into the likeness of an old man. Such a tattered, forlorn pair of shoulders under the yellow, haggard face!"

Strong was hastily turning over a pile of newspapers on the table.

"Does this fit? Yellow, did you say? Listen:

"Ran away from the Laurel Dell plantation, boy, 18 years of age—small for his years—gruff in color. Answers to the name of 'French Abe.' Suitable reward for his detention or his return to Laurel Dell.

"S. B. FOULKES, Manager.

"Does the description fit?" Strong asked, laying the paper down.

"I don't know," said Liza, gazing absently toward the window.

"Do be sensible, Liza. You certainly saw the scamp."

"Only a pair of hungry eyes and ragged shoulders; nothing more."

"Which way did he go?"

"I don't know."

"Confound it! I wish you had not screamed. I have promised Foulkes to keep a lookout for him. If it is Ran Chambliss' Abe, I could have given him a word of comfort. Ran wants it given out that he shan't be touched. He is a sort of pet of Chambliss', and Foulkes is anxious to get him back. If you were not here, I would ride over to Laurel Dell and tell Foulkes. I promised, if I heard anything of him."

"Go. I am not afraid."

"I had best make sure first. Foulkes says he could wear Ran's shoe."

He passed out through the front door and around to the one window. Liza, leaning over its ledge, saw the small bare tracks left in the damp soil by the fugitive. Strong was laying a brass bound footrule in them.

"He would wear about a No. 5. I reckon it was Abe."

"What did he run away for, Strong?"

"Nothing, according to Foulkes. The boy is a fancy dorky Ran Chambliss picked up in New Orleans one winter and generally takes traveling with him, but the boy had the measles when Chambliss started on the last trip and was left behind. Mrs. Chambliss told Foulkes to put him to work—to keep him out of mischief—in the field until Ran came back, and the spoiled cub took to the cane. He has been out over two months."

"He did not look like a 'fancy dorky' nor like anybody's 'pet.'"

Strong was sending a searching glance up and down the face of the cliffs.

"I should like to let Foulkes know, as I promised. The scamp is not likely to come back again. I imagine he thought I had gone out to the river. I generally am there this time of day and he hoped to cajole Viny out of a dinner."

"Is Viny here?"

"Viny? Why, she runs this establishment, with me thrown in. She is as autocratic as ever."

"Then I am afraid to stay here while you are gone. See!" She held up the second finger of her right hand. It was capped with a golden thimble. "I told mother I was going to overhaul your entire wardrobe this morning. Please go, Strong. Don't mind my nonsense about Aunt Viny."

"And you will stay until I come back?"

"I will be here when you come back, if Viny has not devoured me in the meantime."

He was out of the room by this time, and a very little while later she could hear the soft thud of his horse's feet on the dirt road, carrying him away at a clattering pace.

He was going around by the wagon road. She got up and walked to the door. If only she could see that gaunt face once again! She would like to give its owner that comforting assurance about his returning without fear to his home.

She pierced the gloomy environment with anxious eyes. Concealment was so easy among the thick undergrowth of the cliffs, the serrated cane, or the brambly banks of Black Moccasin pond. She ventured as far as the stile, mounted to its highest crumbling step, sent futile glances in every direction and retraced her steps to the cabin with sudden resolution.

A newspaper, a sweeping motion of an eager hand, and she was ready for her mission, leaving the table behind her as bare of edibles as Mother Hubbard's famous cupboard.

"I suppose Strong would call this giving aid and comfort to the enemy," she said, laughing hysterically as she tightened the paper about its bulging contents, "but I just don't care. I could never sleep again with those wolfish eyes haunting me."

Once more on the top of the stile she poised herself lightly, scanned the somber vicinage with fruitless earnestness, and then sent a clear, kindly call aloft on the air:

"Abe! French Abe! Abram! If you hear my voice, come to me!"

(To be Continued.)

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