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THE SUGAR-PLUM TREE.

Have you ever heard of the Sugar-Plum Tree?
'Tis a marvel of great renown!
It blooms on the shores of the Lollipop Sea,
In the garden of Shut-Eye Town;
The fruit that it bears is so wondrously sweet
(As those who have tasted it say)
That good little children have only to eat,
Of that fruit to be happy next day.

When you've got to the tree, you would have a hard time
To capture the fruit which I sing;
The tree is so tall that no person could climb
To the boughs where the sugar-plums swing!
But up in that tree sits a chocolote cat,
And a gingerbread dog prowls below—
And this is the way you contrive to get at
Those sugar-plums tempting you so;

You say but the word to that gingerbread dog
And he barks with such terrible zest
That the chocolate cat is at once all agog,
As her swelling proportions attest.
And the chocolate cat goes cavorting around
From this leafy limb unto that,
And the sugar-plums tumble, of course to the ground—
Hurrah for the chocolate cat!

There are marshmallows, gumdrops and peppermint canes,
With stripings of scarlet and gold,
And you carry away of the treasure that rains
As much as your apron can hold!
So come, little child, cuddle closer to me,
In your dainty white nightcap and grown,
And I'll rock you away to that Sugar-Plum Tree
In the garden of Shut-Eye Town.

EUGENE FIELD.

A LITTLE GENTLEMAN.

Several passengers on a hot day in June, entered the train on the Columbia and Augusta Railroad. Among them were several young college boys, who were on their way home for their summer vacation. They were stylish, well-dressed lads, and were as gay and happy as boys usually are who have put books aside.

A party of merry girls already occupied the car, and in a little time the train seemed flooded with youth and sunshine. A very lean woman, with an ample lunch basket, divided her time between eating chicken and boiled eggs and fanning vigorously with a turkey tail fan, while a stout man in the corner mopped his face with a big bandana, and remarked, by way of emphasis, "Hot, very hot!"

The boys and girls took in every incident, laughing and tittering all the while. Just across the aisle, opposite the boys, sat a woman holding a baby. A pale, tired, dispairing look was on her face, and her eyes were full of suffering. The little one was fretful and cried piteously, but the young mother was too exhausted to try to quiet the baby.

"O, just listen to that young one! I think crying babies ought to be put out of the cars," one of the girls said, pertly.

"Yes, my head begins to ache," said another, while the boys laughed; and the louder the child cried, the more merriment it caused among the young people; while the lean woman and the fat man scowled and complained.

"I do not see any cause for ridicule,' said Fred Western, as he arose; and, to the amazement of all the passengers, he crossed to where the woman sat, and, with a courteous bow, extended his arms. "Please let me hold your baby a while," he said. "I have a little sister just her age, and she loves me dearly. You look so tired, ma'am."

The child opened wide her big brown eyes and gazed into the handsome, bright face of the boy, as without hesitation she sprang forward into the outstretched arms. She ceased crying, and her lips puckered into a plaintive sob.

"O, how good you are," the mother said, with a sigh of relief. "Thank you;" and she pressed her eye to keep back the tears of gratitude. "You are a brave boy," she said, "to show such an act of kindness while your companions jeer and ridicule. Thank you," she said again. "Ah, she loves you already," and the once-beautiful face of the woman was bright for a moment as she saw her baby laugh with joy.

"Now," said Fred. "since you see what good friends we are, suppose you lie down and rest. I will take care of the baby. Come, now, we will see the birdies fly." And with his little charge held tenderly in his arm, he took his seat beside the window, and soon had the baby's attention rivited on the passing,' flitting scenes as the train sped on its way.

The passengers looked on in surprise, and Fred's companions ceased laughing and became quiet. The effect of this kind, manly act was electrical; it was a silent rebuke to every person in the car. In a moment the ladies and the thoughtless girls each offered to assist Fred in caring for the little one. "Cute little darling!" was the exclamation of the girls; and with motherly tenderness all fondled and petted the child. But she clung to Fred tenaciously, as if resenting her long neglect and their sudden overtures of devotion. The lean woman put aside her turkey-tail fan, and went deep into the lunch basket for a "drum-stick" for baby.

The stout man forgot it was a very hot day, and looked on with interest. Calling Fred to him, he chucked the baby under the chin. "Pretty child she is. Now, say, young man, why doesn't the mother go in the sleeper, I wonder? She looks mighty uncomfortable over there. She is fast asleep, with her head on that hard leather satchel. Hump! I hadn't noticed the poor woman before. She looks more dead than alive."

"Yes, sir; she's very bad off, I think," Fred answered, "and I judge she has not money enough to take a sleeper. I have a little change, and I thought I would just offer it to her. From what she told me, sir, I think she is very poor."

"Indeed, indeed!" said the man, going deep into his pocket. "Now, my boy, you keep your money. Here, Brown Eyes, you and your ma be comfortable." So saying, he pushed a roll of bills into the chubby fist of the child.

"Now, I want your name," Fred Western said.

"Here's my card, Fred, and I want you to keep it, and if you ever want a situation, ever want assistance in time of trouble, ever want a recommendation, just come to me. You are a noble, manly fellow—a little gentleman. Your attention to that poor woman, and the courage you have shown in helping her, are a guarantee that you are sure to make a great and good man."

Here the train stopped, and he arose. "Good-by, my boy; you've taught me a lesson I'll never forget, and you have gained a friend for life."

A moment later he left the train, and Fred read on the card the name of a man who is called the "Cotton King of the South," and a man of whom he had often heard.

After having slept for some time, the woman suddenly awoke and looked about in a puzzled way. Fred was at her side. "Now,' said she, "I'm feeling so much better. My sleep has given me new life;" and she took the baby in her arms, and Fred gave her the money the gentleman had left for her, which proved to be a very liberal sum—more than the poor woman had seen for years. She simply bowed her head and wept as if her heart would break.

Again the train stopped. It was the station at which Fred must get off. The woman raised her eyes with a smile of gratitude that Fred forever remembered, and baby put out her arms and cred piteously for him. He stopped and watched the train until it turned the curve. The woman was waving to him, and the little arms still beckoned him. The engine rushed on its way like a great living monster.

"Come, Fred," called out one of his companions.

"Yes, I'm coming," said Fred, wiping a mist that had suddenly gatherd over his eyes.—*Children's Visitor.*

BIG SHOOT FOR TOLCHESTER.

Many Well-Known Trap Experts Expected to Take Part in Summer Bayside Tourney.

The sixth annual midsummer shoot under the management of J. R. Malone and J. M. Hawkins, which is always held at Tolchester, will take place on August 14 to 16, inclusive. The first and third days will be devoted to clay targets and the second to live birds. On the first there will be ten events, the second 7 and the third 9. Captain Malone said that several of the star shooters, including Crosby, Fanning, Parmalee, Woodruff, Banks and others, had promised to participate. On the opening day, besides the regular events, there will be the championship of the Eastern Shore. It will be at 50 targets and 16 yards rise. To the winner a gold medal will be presented. This event is open only to residents of the Eastern Shore. Each day the schooting will commence at 10.30 A. M., and all the events will be handicapped. Two sets of traps—a Magan trap and one set of the Sergeant system—will be used. Targets will be thrown from known traps, but unknown angles. A gold medal will be given to the high average men for the days at targets and $5 to second high average.

An interesting event will be between a 10-man team of the Eastern Shore and a team of the same number from the Western Shore. The event will be at 50 targets. The program of events for the three days follows:

First day, August 14—Five 15-target events, $1 30 entrance; three 20-target events, $1.50 entrance, and two 20-target events, $2 entrance.

Second day, August 15—One five-bird event, entrance $3; one seven-bird event, entrance $5; one 10 bird event, entrance $8, and four miss-and-out events, entrance $2.

Third day, August 16—One 15-bird event, entrance $1; three 15-target event, entrance $2; a 50-target event, entrance price of targets.

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All doctors in my town failed to relieve me of rheumatism. I have used about half a bottle of Nelaton and feel so much improved, that while I may not need it, I enclose P. O. order for $1 for one more bottle of the remedy that has been such a God-send to me. I cheerfully recommend Nelaton to anyone suffering with rheumatism.

MRS. JULIA A. PORCH, Lacon, Ill.

"I would not live alway,"
The poet sadly wrote.
He went to row that day,
And some one rocked the boat.

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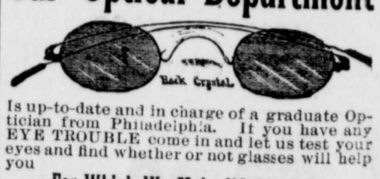

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