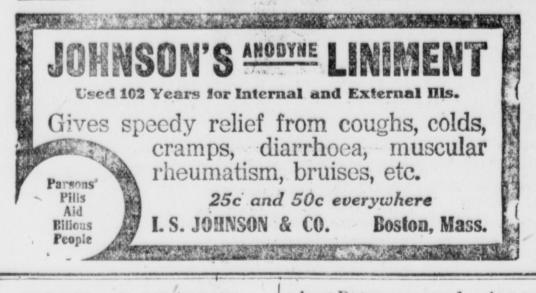
THE DISPATCH



THE LITTLE MOTHER.

(By Harriett Gordon, in 'The Christian Globe'.)

little supper on the table, and boarders?' eat it by her lonely little se f

stranger. The woman stopped, outsiders in." gave a questioning look, then ['I don't b ame you,, sighed the and said: 'Good evening!',

on a weary dejected figure, 'are again.' you a lady traveller?'

sit on the step?'

'Come right in,' cried Betsy, married once?' 'I ought to a-seen how tired you

when Betsy returned. the tears were still on her cheeks. 'Some fo'ks you can't accept favors from,' observed the woman, as she took a cup of tee from Miss Betsy's hand. 'I've only known you a few minates; Miss Betsy Dodd sat in the but I'd accept from you, where garden waiting for six o'clock, I wou'dn't from some I've known when she would put her lonely all my life. Have you ever took

'No, I've never took boarders As she arose to go in she saw ---seems, like I couldn't. Mother a woman approaching. There used to say when we was al was an unfamiliar, look about here, 'our home's our home.' ber, and it could hardly be ex- Now the home's come to me pected that. Betsy would resist --- I'm the only one left an' it waiting to find out if she was a seems li e I couldn't take no

advanced slowly up the path woman. 'A home is a home A home's what I need. I want 'Good evening ma'ma;' re- to be taken care of, and I got a turned Betsy, looking down up- chance to be taken care of ye leave it with?"

'Why don't you take it?' asked 'Yes,' answered the woman, Betsy. 'There ain't no sense in poking a 'ock of pale b'onde hair a woman refusing to let a man behind her ears to keep it out of take care of her, un'ess he's a her eyes, 'no--yes---Oh, may I bad man, or she'd rather be of the station, when the lusty screams alone. I take it you've been of a child greeted their ears. Betsy

The woman's red face changed to pallor; she rose agitated. 'Don't look that way,' cried Betsy. Set down, I ain't inquir / wouldn't for the wor'd.' 'I've been married right and honorable,' said the woman,

e, and the woman, to be dosomething, got up from her seal and aim ess'y gathered up be teaspoons, dropping spots of tea on Betsy's cean table cloth.

Do you suppose I'd have any uck se ling postcard?' inquired the woman.

'I don't know,' answered Betsy. l'il tate some.'

'No you shan't!' cr'ed the woman, suddenly bursting into a flood of tears 'I lied to you, I did. I have got postbards to sel, 'ut that air't what I come here for, I wan't a night's odging, and I can't afford to pay for it, and I got a baby down to he station.'

'A baby!' screamed Petsy, springing to her feet. 'The poor jessed litt e thing! How cou'd you leave it all this time without aying nothing?', She pulled exitedly as slefitalled at an old plaid shaw ! el ir d'il e dcor. S'You don't mind chi dren?' asked the woman, eyeing her

snap.

'Mind them? No 'Cause I'm an old maid isn't no sign I'm as dried up inside as I am outside. Who did

'The lady at the station at the refreshment counter. I expect she'll think I am a long time, but I was afraid to tell you. It was so homelike, and I was afraid you'd put me out.'

They walked in silence till in sight ran, the lady traveller made a brave

effort that trailled away after a few steps. When she reached the station Betsy had the child in her arms, and the vigerous little fellow had ceased his importunings to regard the new stranger. The girl in the refreshment ing into your private affairs --- I counter, red of face and worried looking, was holding the bottle to the baby's lips. 'He'd pull and cry, but he didn't seem to get anything,' she cried. 'You didnot take the cotton out.' said the mother. She removed the nipple and took out a wad of cotton away. The girl looked shamefaced. 'It was all right till the little fellow got hun-

started clearing the gry,' she said. 'I tell you I felt bad when I couldn't satisfy him.'

'Everybody here's big-hearted,' said the lady traveller as they went out. 'It does seem like the city takes the heart out of people. But there's a fascination about it; no denying-why, I could sit and watch pretty dresses and pretty people till-my, but you hold that baby like you'd had a dozen Anybody seeing us would think things had reversed around, and you was his mother. How'd you like to have him?'

'Oh, ain't you ashamed to joke about such a thing?' cried the little old maid, and clasping the baby close. 'I'd be frightened a judgement would be put on me, and he'd be took away.'

The woman tried to scare up a show of resistment at the aspersion put upon her motherhood, and Betsy. abscrbed in carefully wrapping the baty in her shawl, did not hear her vapid remarks.

When they reached the house the woman waited on Betsy, who undressed the baby, with such a happy, mother look in her face, that she seemed ten years younger. She could hardly bear to leave the babe with the mother in the spare room, making as many excuses as she could think of before she finally went out and shut the door; going back half a dozen times to listen at the door, at last tiptoeing in to see if there was enough cover to keep the little pink form warm. Mother and babe, exhausted from travel, were sound asleep. Betsy curiously, as Betsy shoved her kissed the little fat foid of wrist that out and locked the dor with a lay outside the cover and slipped out. In her own bed she lay sleepless and excited until the clock struck twelve. About four she was awakened by the baby's sobbing. She felt as if the sound had been going on fcr some time, and had just forced itself into her tired consciousness. The cry con-Finuing, with no mother voice hushng it. Betsy hastened to the spare room. The baby lay with his round, bare legs kicking outside the cover. His cry grew lustler when he saw her. Betsy picked him up and cud-

> dled him. 'We'll go to find your mother, you little boy?' precicus, hungry baby,' she said.

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to be a little boy, she entered into everything he did. and talked to him a great deal, so he bécame very 'oldfashioned,' as in the quaint way of saying he was old for his years.

'Why haven't I a father?' he asked at the age of six and a half. 'Your father went to Heaven when

you were a baby,' replied Betsy.

'Was he any relation to you?' then required the boy.

'No, he was related to the lady who left you with me. Aren't you happy?' the adopted mother could not restrain herself from asking passionately.

'Yes, very!' he answered, and felling that there was need for comfort. We don't need a father, we're getting along all right. Aren't you happy?'

Betsy knew her only happiness was his happiness, but she longed to know if he felt anything lacking in the love she gave him.

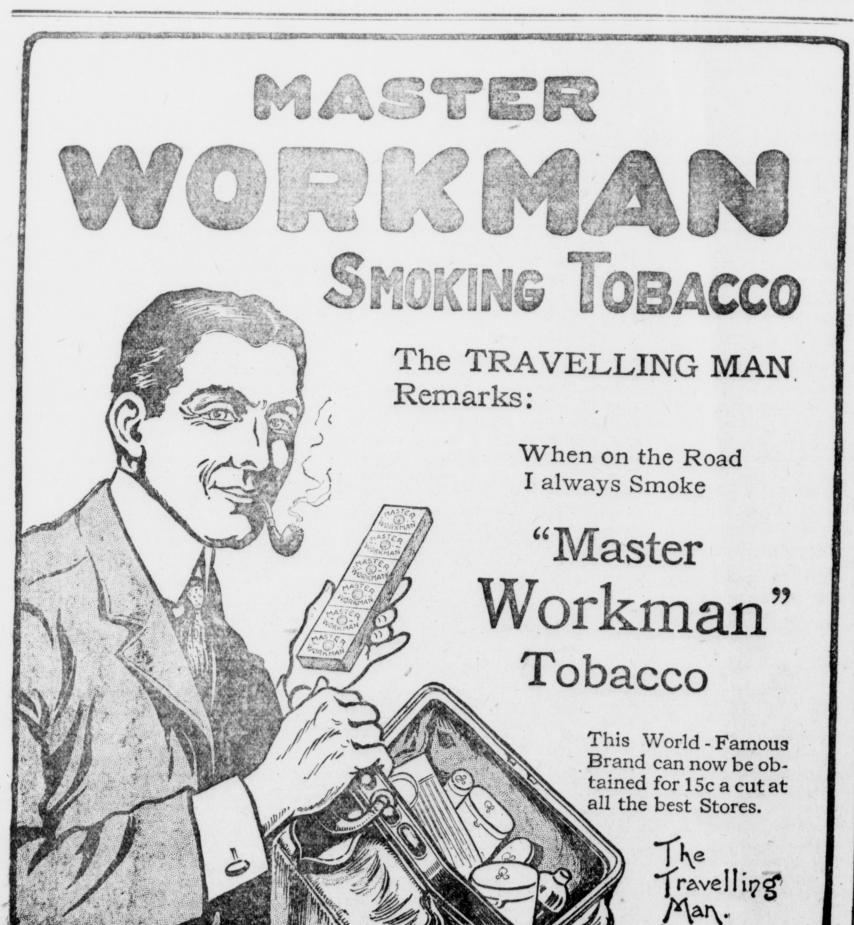
'Could you love her as much as you do me?' she asked one day. He look. ed at her surprised.

'The other lady? No,' he said sim-ply. 'You are my mother; but I'm sorry for her, 'cause you said she had a hard time. How much am I her

Betsy told him God had given him The first rays of the sun lit upon first to the women, but she had no home. Betsy's shining pots and pans, as they and was not able to take care of him, so He thought best for Betsy, with her home in the country, to bring him up, and when he was a man he could go where he pleased. 'Why, I couldn't leave you, mother, he said, and her loving heart almost burst with joy.

The woman dumbly followed her in the house and sank into a rocking chair, with a tired sigh of 'I'm so thankful to you!'

Betsy saw her faded b ue eyes fi ing with tears, and with innate delicacy hastened to the kitchen; sinking back into the chair. 'My but the woman was either too husband died. He was honest tired, or had no desire to wipe an good to me and I had no cause that stopped the bottle and threw it them. away surreptiticusly, for to compain."



entered the kitchen. Baby's bottle was warming on the stove, but the mother was not to be seen. The whistle of a train shrilled through the morning air. A foreboding clutched at Betsy's heart. She pressed the babe to her bosom, and laid her hot cheek against

'Oh, baby baby!' she sobbed. 'A precious little baby!'

Then frantically, she rushed through the house, calling, 'Miss, Miss!"

How foolish it sounded! A married foolish. What was the woman's name? Where had she come from? Where had she gone?

By eleven o'clock the whole village knew that Betsy Dood had a baby. A few who understood congratulated her. The arguments of those who predicted unending trial are care, with probable ingratitude as a reward, were indignantly refuted by Betsy.

As the days wore on, Betsy's fear of her treasure being taken away grew less. the blonde lady seemed to have completely faded out of existence. The baby's name had not been mentioned, so she namked him Stephen, after her father. And Stephen became a beloved member of the community. Be:sy never left him alone. As he grew

> Women Suffer More than Men

Womenhave more than their share of the aches and pains that afflict humanity. They must "keep up," in spite of constantly aching backs, or headaches, dizzy spells, s Edward Calwood of 123 S. Harold Street Fort William, Ont., says:

"I suffered with dull miserable pains, soreness across my back and in my sides for months. They would catch me so hadly times that I could scarcely move around. I would have dizzy spells and altogether, fel generally run down. After using a number of remedies without finding reliet, I learned of Booth's Kidney Pills and found them a excellent remedy. They not only relieved, me of the miserable pains and screness in my lack lut cured ne of my kidney troubl

Booth's Kidney Pills] cure Backache, Dul Shooting Pains Thick and Cloudy Urine, Gravel or Stone, Rheumatism and all diseases of the kidneys and bladder.

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'I want to work for you,' he said, when he was fifteen. 'I see how you have worked for me."

Betsy, however, wanted to give him more schooling, hut he stoutly objected. He had gone through the village school. and had had two years at High School woman! But 'Mrs.' sounded more in a near by town. So his wishes were gratified, and he went to work on a farm,

> 'He's paid me back right along,' she reasoned with herself. 'I've' had fifteen years of seeing life through young eyes, and I thank God for it! If she was to come for him to-morrow, I couldn't say but what everything was fair, and no regrets.'

> Steve worked two years on the far me When he was seventeen the aged owner turned all the responsibility over to him; he was to share profits equally,and it was rumored that he would be the old man's heir. At any rate, his future was assured.

Betsy was musing on these things one Saturday afternoon, waiting for Steve. A knock at the front door, and Betsy hastened out, her face beaming welcome for her belated boy.

'Oh!' she gasped, at sight of a weary, jaded figure standing on the porch.

Continued on Page 3



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