How Two Learned a Lesson

Betty sighed. Now why she should have sighed at this particular moment no one on earth could tell. And it was all the more exasperating because John had just generously put into her little shapely hand a brand new ten dollar bill. And here began the trou-

"What's the matter?" he said, his face falling at the faint sound, and his mouth clapping together in what those who knew him but little called an "obstinate pucker," "Now what is it?" Betty who had just begun to change the sigh into a merry little laugh rippling all over the corners of the red lips, stopped suddenly, tossed her head

ing, sent out the words,-"You needn't insinuate, John, that

and, with a small jerk no way conciliat-

I'm always troublesome !" "I didn't insinuate-who's talking of insinuating ?" cried he, thoroughy incensed at the very idea, and backing away a few steps, he glared down from his tremendous height in extreme irritation. "It's you yourself that's forever insinuating and all that, and then for you to put it on me-it's really abominable !"

The voice was harsh, and the eyes that looked down into hers were not pleasant to behold.

"And if you think, John Peabody, that I'll stand and have esuch things said to me, you miss your guess-that's all!' cried Betty, with two big red spots coming in her cheeks as she tried to draw her little erect figure up to its utmost dimensions. "Forever insinuating! I guess you wouldn't have said that before I married you. Oh, now you can, of course ?"

"Didn't you say it first, I'd like to know?' cried John in great excitement, drawing nearer to the small creature he called wife, who was gazing at him with blazing eyes of indignation: 'I can't endure everything !'

"And if you bear more than I do," cried Betty, wholly beyond control now, "why, then I'll give up," and she gave a bitter little laugh and tossed her head again.

Here they were in the midst of a quarrel! These two, who, but a year before, had promised to love and protect and help each other through life ! "Now," said John, and he brought

his hand down with such a bang on the table before him that Betty nearly skipped out of her little shoes only she controlled the start, for she would have died before she had let John see it. "we'll have no more of this nonsense!"

His face was very pale, and the lines around the mouth so drawn that it Betty stood just in front of the chair. would have gone to any one's heart to and blocked up the way, so she slunk have seen their expression.

it, or help it,' said Betty, lightly, to

at her sunny locks and the cool, indifferent face underneath, and before he knew it he was saying,-

"There is no help for it now, I sup-

'Oh, yes, there is,' said Betty, still in the cool calm way that ought not to have deceived him. But men know so little of women's hearts, although they may live with them for years in closest friendship. 'You needn't try to endure it, John Peabody, if you don't want to. I'm sure I don't care!' "What do you mean?"

Her husband grasped her arms and may go!" compelled the merry brown eyes to look up to him.

Betty, provokingly. "She wants me any day, and then you can live quietly hind. and live to suit yourself, and it will be better all around.

testation of fond affection and remorse and it cut me to the heart, how you which she fully expected, John drew might have married richer. I longed to himself up, looked at her fixedly for a long, long minute, then dropped her arm, and said through white lips very slowly,-

around. You know best;" and was recover from her astonishment enough to utter a sound.

With a wild cry Betty rushed across the room, first tossing the ten dollar it, and, flinging herself on the comfortable old sofa, broke into a flood of bit-

bill savagely as far as she could throw ter tears—the first she had shed during her married life. "How could he have done it-oh, what have I said? Oh, John, John!"

The bird twittered in his little cage over in the window among the plants. Betty remembered like a flash how John and she filled the seed-cup that very morning, how he laughed when she tried to put it in between the bars, and when she couldn't reach without getting upon a chair, he took her in his great arms, and held her up, just like a child, that she might fix it to suit herself. And the "bits" that he said in his tender way, they had gone down to the depths of her foolish little heart, sending her about her work singing for very gladness of spirit. And now!

Betty stuffed her fingers hard into her rosy ears to shut out the bird's chirping.

"If he knew why I sighed," she moaned. "Oh, my husband! Birthdays-nothing will make any difference now. Oh, why can't I die?"

How long she stayed there, crouched down on the old sofa, she never knew. Over and over the dreadful scene she went, realizing its worst features each time in despair, until heavy footsteps proclaimed that some one was on the point of breaking in upon her uninvited and a voice out in the little kitchen cried-

"Betty!" Betty sprang up, choked back her sobs, and tried with all her might to compose herself and remove all traces

The visitor was the worst possible of the closest intimacy with the pretty | this lot, which is a made known at sale. bride, who with her husband had moved into the village a twelvemonth

previous, Miss Elvira Simmons had made the very most of her opportunities, and by dint of making great parade over helping her in some domestic work, such as house-keeping, dressmaking and the like, the maiden lady had managed to ply her other vocation, that of newsgatherer, at one

and the same time, pretty effectually. She always called her by her first name, though Betty resented it; and she made a great handle of her friendship on every occasion, making John rage violently and vow a thousand times the "old maid" should walk!

But she never had-and now-scenting dimly, like a carrion after its prev, that trouble might come to the pretty little white house, the moke-mischief had come to do her work, if devastation had really commenced.

"Been crying!" she said, more plainly than politely, and sinking down into the pretty chintz-covered rocking chair with an energy that showed she meant to stay, and made the chair creak fearfully. "Onlyffolks do say that you and your husband don't live happybut la! I wouldn't mind-I know tain't

Betty's heart stood still. Had it come to this? John and she not to live happy? To be sure they didn't, as she remembered with a pang the dreadful scene of words and hot tempers; but had it gotten around so often—a story in everybody's mouth? With all her distress of mind she was saved from opening her mouth. So Miss Simmons, failing in that, was forced to go cn.

"An' I tell folks so," she said, rocking herself back and forth to witness the effect of her words, "when they git to talkin,' so you can't blame me if things don't go easy for you, I'm sure!"

"You tell folks so?" repeated Betty, vaguely, and standing quite still. 'What? I don't understand you.'

"Why, that the blame is all his'n," cried the old maid, exasperated at her strange mood and her dullness. "I say says I, why they couldn't no one live with him, let alone that pretty wife he's got. That's what I say, Betty. And then, I tell 'em what a queer man he is, how cross, and-"

"And you dare to tell people such things of my husband?" cried Betty drawing herself up to her extremest height, and towering so over the old woman in the chair that she jumped in confusion at the storm she had raised, and stared blindly into the blazing eye and face rosy with indignation-her only thought was how to get away from the storm she had raised, but could not stop. But she was forced to stay, for

back into'the smallest corner of it and "I don't know how you will change took it as best she could. "My husband!" cried Betty, dwelling with pride conceal her dismay at the turn affairs on the pronoun-at least, if they were .had taken, 'I'm sure!' and she pushed to part, she would say it over lovingly back the light, waving hair from her as much as she could till the last moforehead with a saucy, indifferent ges- ment, and then, when the time did come why people should know that it wasn't That hair that John always smoothed | John's fault-"the best, the kindest, the when he petted her when tired or dis- noblest husband that ever was given to heartened, and called her 'child.' Her a woman. I've made him more trouble gesture struck to his heart as he glanced ! than you can guess; my hot temper has vexed him-I've been cross, impatient,

> "Hold!" cried a voice, "you're talking against my wife!" and in a moment big John Peabody rushed through the door, grasped the little woman in his arms and folded her to his heart, right before

> "Oh!" said Miss Simmons, sitting up straight and setting her spectacles more

"And now that you've learned all that you can," said John, turning round to

her, still holding Betty, "why-you "The chair was vacant. A dissolving

view through the door was all that was 'I can go back to mother's,' said to be seen of the gossip, who started up the road hurriedly, leaving peace be-

"Betty," said John, some half hour afterward, "what was the sigh for? I Instead of bringing out a violent pro- don't care now, but I did think, dear, put ten times ten into your hand, Betty, and it galled me because I couldn't."

Betty smiled and twisted away from his grasp. Running into the bed-room "Yes, it may be as you say, better all she presently returned, still smiling, with a bundle rolled up in a clean towel. gone from the room before she could | This she put on her husband's knee, who stared at her wonderingly.

"I didn't mean," she said, unpinning the bundle, "to let it out, now, but I shall have to. Why, John, day after to-morrow is your birthday!" 'So 'tis! said John. "Gracious! has

t come round as soon?" "And, you dear boy," said Betty, shaking out before his eyes a pretty brown affair, all edged with silk of the bluest shade, that presently assumed the proportions of a dressing gown, "this is to be your present. But you must be dreadfully surprised, John, when you get it, for oh, I didn't want you to know!"

John made the answer he thought best. When he spoke again, he said, perplexedly, while a small pucker of bewilderment settled between his

"But I don't see, Betty, what this thing," laying one finger on the dressing-gown, "had to do with the sigh?" "That," said Betty, and then she

broke into a merry laugh that got se mixed up with the dimples and the dancing brown eyes that for a moment she could not finish. "Oh, John, was worrying so over those buttons! They weren't good, but they were the best I could do then. And I'd only bought them yesterday. Two whole dozen. And when you put that ten dollar bill in my hand I didn't hardly know it, but I suppose I did give one little bit of a sigh, for I was so provoked that I hadn't waited buying them

John caught up the little woman, dressing-gown and all. I don't think they have ever quarrelled since-at least I have never heard of it.

till to-day."

At Public Auction, on Thursday, the 25th day of one she could have under the circum- | St. Michael Street, Chatham, a lot of land, 50 ft. stances. Crowding herself on terms and John Breen. There is a good building on by 70 ft., between the residence of Mr. D. Finn this lot, which is a desirable property. Terms MRS ANDREW, MeINNIS. L. JOHNSON, A actioneer



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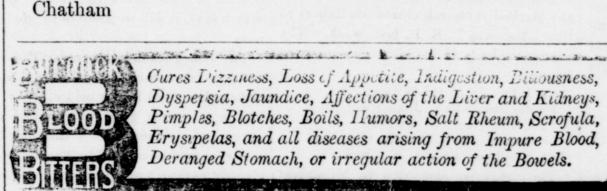
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