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WHITTAKER'S PLACE

merit why, by the big dipper, we're aground again! Bos'n don't want summer clothes. It's comin' on winter."

He threw the magazine on the floor, rubbed his forehead and then burst into a laugh.

"For goodness sake, don't tell anybody about this business, boys!" he said. "I guess I must be havin' an early spring of second childhood. But when I heard those women at the meetin' house goin' on about how pretty Licia Atkins was got up and how mean and shabby Bos'n looked it made me bble. And, by the big dipper, I will show 'em somethin' afore I get through too! Only dressin' little girls is some off my usual course. Bailey, does Ketury make her own duds?"

"Why, no! Course she helps and stands by for orders, but Effie Taylor comes and takes the wheel while the riggin's goin' on. Effie's a dressmaker and—"

"There! See, Ase? It is some good to have a married man aboard, after all. A dressmaker's what we want. I'll hunt up Effie tomorrow."

CHAPTER VIII.

AND hunt up a dressmaker the captain did, with the result that Miss Taylor came to the Whittaker place each day during the following week, and Emily was, as the captain said, "rigged out fresh from main truck to keelson." In this "rigging" Captain Cy and his two partners—Josiah Dimick had already christened the pair "the board of strategy"—took a marked interest. They were on hand when each new garment was tried on, and they approved or criticised as seemed to them best.

One Sunday Cyrus took the Bos'n for a long walk. On the horizon the sand hills of Wellmouth notched the blue sky. The girl drew a long breath.

"Oh!" she exclaimed. "Isn't this just lovely? I do like the sea an awful lot."

"Say, Bos'n," he said a few minutes later, "I've been thinkin' about you. You've been to school, haven't you?"

"Course I have," was the rather indignant answer. "I went two years in Concord. Mamma used to help me nights too. I can read almost all the little words. Don't I help you read your paper most every night?"

"Sartin you do! Yes, yes! Well, our school opens tomorrow, and I've been thinkin' that maybe you'd better go. There's a new teacher comin', and I hear she's pretty good."

(To be Continued)

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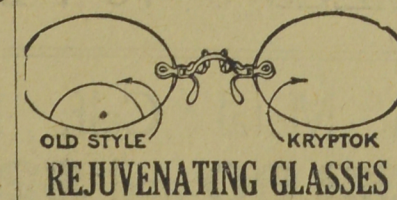
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acurab got together a half dozen numbers of the Home Dressmaker and other periodicals of a similar nature. The captain took them under his arm and departed, whispering to Mr. Tiddit as he passed the latter in the hall:

"Come up by and by, Ase. I want to talk to you. Bring Bailey along, if you can do it without startin' divorce proceedin'."

Later, when the trio gathered in the Whittaker sitting room, Captain Cy produced the "fashion books" and spoke concerning them.

"You see," he said, "I—I've been thinkin' that Bos'n—Emily, that is—want' rigged exactly the way she ought to be. Have you fellers noticed it?"

His friends seemed surprised. Neither was ready with an immediate answer, so the captain went on.

"Course I don't mean she ain't got canvas enough to cover her spars," he explained, "but what she has got has seen considerable weather, and it seemed to me 'twas pretty nigh time to haul her into drydock and refit. That's why I borrowed these magazines of Ketury. I've been lookin' them over, and there seems to be plenty of riggin' for small craft. The only thing is I don't know what's the right cut for her build. Bailey, you're a married man. You ought to know somethin' about women's clothes. What do you think of this, now?"

He opened one of the magazines and pointed to the picture of a young girl, with a waspy waist and ill-fitting feet, who, arrayed in flounces and furbelows, was toddling gingerly down a flight of marble steps. She carried a parasol in one hand, and the other held the end of a chain to which a long haired dog was attached.

The town clerk and his companion inspected the young lady with deliberation and interest.

"Well, what do you say?" demanded Captain Cy.

"I don't care much for them kind of dogs," observed Asaph thoughtfully.

"Good land! You don't s'pose they heave the dog in with the clothes for good measure, do you? Bailey, what's your opinion?"

Mr. Bangs looked wise.

"I should say," he said—"yes, sir, I should say that was a real stylish rig-out. Only thing is that girl is consider'ble less fleshy than Emily. This one looks to me as if she was breakin' in two amidships. Still, I s'pose likely the duds don't come ready made, so they could be let out some to fit. What's the price of a suit like that, Whit?"

"Afternoon gown for miss of sixteen," he read. "Humph! That settles that first crack. Bos'n ain't but half of sixteen."

"Anyway," put in Asaph, "you need somethin' she could wear forenoons if she wanted to. What's this one? She looks young enough."

The "one" referred to turned out to be a "coat for child of four." It was therefore scornfully rejected. One after another the different magazines were examined and the pictures discussed. At length a "costume for miss of eight years" was pronounced to be pretty nearly the thing.

"Godfrey scissors!" exclaimed the admiring Mr. Tiddit. "That's mighty swell, ain't it? What's the stuff goes into that, Cy?"

"Material, batiste, trimmed with embroidered batiste." What in time is batiste?"

"I don't know. Do you, Bailey?"

"No, never heard of it. Ketury never had nothin' like that, I'm sure. French, I shouldn't wonder. Well, Ketury's down on the French ever sence she read about Napoleon leavin' his first wife to take up with another woman. Does it say any more?"

"Let's see. 'Makes a beautiful gown for evenin' or summer wear.' Say—"