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A Short Story For the Home.

Say pa, what do you think? exclaimed Mrs. Bradshaw as she appeared in the garden one summer afternoon where he was at work and showed him a letter she had been reading. 'What you got there?' he asked by way of reply. 'A letter from my sister, Hetty. She'll be with us next week to stay for at least three months. She's a widow, you know. I'm so sorry I can't stand still. Just to think I haven't seen her in 15 years, and you never saw her at all!'

It had been agreed to keep all of Ohio and every woman in that state always does her duty. I am not a foreign country, so to say but news she said it seemed to her nothing can serve me. Society that the town ought to have some one with moral courage to tell the people what was what, and she proposed to start out in the morning and tackle the job.

Next morning when she repeated her words, efforts were made to discourage her, but as she tied on the mourning bonnet she had worn for the past 14 years but with one trimming she replied: 'I've always been careful of the society I got into, and I always shall be. I'm going out to look for you have here. If they are not right I shall cut my visit short. I wouldn't think it get back to Ohio, suppose a girl must marry most anywhere, what is a most respectable state, that I'd spent three months in the, 'till you can earn the bread and butter for a lot of villains and villainesses for no money.'

Aunt Hetty made her first call on next door, calmly announcing her name, age, sex and condition, and then proceeding to say with great frankness. 'My sister next door says that your husband is slowly but surely drinking himself into the grave. You don't know how sorry I feel for you. My husband never drank anything stronger than cider, and only three times a day of that, but I've seen any cases of men going to destruction. Did you ever try sewing him up in a sheet when he was drunk and helpless and then putting the horse-whip on to him good and keen? I know a Mrs. Jones whose husband used to come home drunk and she—'

But at this point Aunt Hetty was stopped and turned out door. Five minutes after she was gone, the woman she had interviewed was standing in Mrs. Bradshaw's door and talking even more frankly to her. Aunt Hetty had also been told that a certain old maid in the village was trying to catch a young man five years younger than herself, and she was indignant over it. The respectable state of Ohio permitted nothing of that sort within its borders. It was only three or four houses down, and she was soon at the door inquiring for Miss Church.

FIRST BASEBALL GAMES.

Pains of the Reporters in Detailing the Plays.

The first newspaper report of a baseball game that I remember reading was an account of a game played at Hoboken, N. J. in 1859. It appeared in an illustrated weekly and was such a novel and interesting event that the weekly gave a double page illustration. These were the baseball schedules in those days and nobody lay awake nights hatching up reasons why Harvard should not play Princeton and Yale should play Pennsylvania. All that was needed was an occasion such as a Fourth of July celebration to account for a house raising, or some other event of that nature. The occasion for this particular game was the entertainment given to a team of English cricketers then touring this country and defeating 'United States' twenty-two with commendable regularity. We had evolved a game from the old English 'rounders,' which we called baseball, and we wanted to show our cousins what a high old game it was.

As a matter of fact, the point of the game is to make the most runs between bases, the party which counts the most runs wins the day. The fact that the reporter thought it necessary to explain how the game was played indicates the extent of the public knowledge of baseball at the time, and even he was quite sure whether there were four bases or five. When he says a base runner may be put out by hitting him with the bat, he makes no mistake for that was an old rule and it was considered a good play on the part of a base runner to draw a throw from the pitcher, usually the runner would dodge the throw and gambol around the bases while the fielders were hurrying after the ball. This rule was abolished as soon as the game became popular for a base runner instead of touching a runner with the bat would often mean a short range, which often brought forth unpraiseworthy remarks from the audience.

The astonished young man blushed and stammered and tried to say something, but before he was able to name, age, sex and condition, and then proceeding to say with great frankness. 'How you ever got enough spunk to ask a girl to marry you I can't tell, but I suppose you'll turn out like the rest of them and boss the roost in a week. Then the girl who had thrown her nephew Harry over for a better man was found swinging in a ham mock in her father's yard. She was informed that had such a crime been perpetrated in Ohio she'd have got ten years in prison for it, and that all the Bradshaws and their neighbors thought that Harry had made a fortunate escape.

When the coquettish young lady had answered back for five minutes without drawing her breath her mother came out and talked for ten minutes. Then Aunt Hetty took her departure to meet a woman on the street, and tell her that the moral atmosphere of Rawsonville was on a par with that of Sodom, and that an earthquake must soon be expected. Then she made her way to the Bradshaw house to park up the few things she had taken from her trunk and to say to the family at large. 'I came to stay for three months, but I must take the train back to Ohio. I felt, as soon as seeing the town, that there was something morally wrong about it, but now I have made sure. In the state of Ohio the people want the truth, but here it is good-by all.'

And an hour later Aunt Hetty and her trunk and mourning bonnet and plain-speaking tongue were speeding back to the buckeye state. —By Eleanor Smith

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