

[Simeon Locke Doggett, MS p. 63 ff.]

The Good Farmer's Daughter Described.

"Hic tibi copia
Manabit ad plenum benigno
Ruris honorum opulenta cornu."

She is kind to her mother. This is the foundation of her character; -- on this depends the virtue of every recommendation, and the refinement of every accomplishment. It is the source of present satisfaction, and the assurance of future felicity; induces a self-approbation which is creditable, and encourages every laudable action; it is thrice blessed, rewarded in the exercise, it will be a consolation, when the object of her affection shall have passed away, and will be recompensed with bliss ineffable in another & better world. Whence the inference is that she is kind to her brothers, the evidence that she is kind to her father; & this assurance that she will be kind to her future husband. Mark the daughterly affection which illustrated the character of Miss ~~ELIZABETH SMITH~~ that beautiful specimen of female excellence, who was as remarkable for her kindness to her Mother as she was for the precosity of her Genius. She assisted her Mother with kindness, attended her sick bed with diligence; prayed for her recovery with fervency, and rejoiced when her health was restored. And when poverty oppressed her parent, with sympathizing tenderness & cheerful profligity, she relieved their wants by bestowing on them a present (\$20) bestowed on her, by a kind gentleman to increase her library. Ingenuous girl! Heaven blessed thee in thy birth, irradiated thy transitory existence, and returned thee soon to Spirit land, the abode of innocence and purity.

Remember the constancy of Naomi' daughter-in-law; -- how she clung to mother through sunshine & through shade; when plenty rejoiced in the land, and when famine came with its attendant miseries.

Having followed her Mother, to an unknown land, and witnessing her destitution, she went out into the fields, that she might "glean & gather after the reapers among the sheaves; so she continued from the morning until even, and beat out that she had gleaned; and it was about an ephah (3 pecks) of barley. And her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought it forth and gave to her."

If she who was connected only by collateral affinity, who was reared under the influence of a different religion, lived her youth in a heathen land, had friends & connections near & dear surrounding the home of her birth; if she, who had so many interests to disunite her from another differing essentially from her, could exhibit so much self-sacrificing devotion for a mother in law, how much ought to be expected from a daughter to her own Dear Mother.

The good farmer's daughter is industrious, frugal, persevering, remarkable for her aptitude in acquiring, and performing all that appertains to domestic concerns, and is commended for her skill in the occult science of making butter & cheese.

She is always neatly dressed; & her domicil is very inviting from the cleanliness which pervades its contour, which corresponds with the neatness & order which prevail within.

She is cheerful, and permits not her temper to be ruffled by the daily vexations which may arise; and she is praised for her urbanity by all with whom she is acquainted.

She has no predilection for small hands, slender waists. latest fashions & ~~STILL~~ helpless delicateness; nor does she desire to pretend to read french, walk Spanish, & sing Italian, and thrum on the piano, fall in love. She has no objection to these last mentioned accomplishments, but proposes first to obtain a competent knowledge of her own language, an acquirement which most boarding-school girls fail to obtain.

She never screams if perchance she should see a cricket, nor does she faint away at the sight of a spider. She never has any need of cosmetics, and always prefers the natural to the artificial, the useful to the unprofitable. It may be observed that she never dies ~~with~~ of consumption.

She takes pleasure in reading the Ploughman, & testing the practicability of the many wise suggestions of its Editor, both in the dairy, the culinary art. ~~SHE RISES EARLY AND~~ When the hot sun pours down his heat upon the Hayfields, with blithesome heart, & spritely step, she hastens with the cooling beverage, to quench the thirst of the toilers. And as the luscious berries ripen, she adds their delicious variety to the table. She rises early, & inhales the fragrance of her flowers which she has cultivated, and listens w^{ith} delighted with the matin songs of the feathered ~~SINGERS~~ minstrels & is charmed with the freshness which the dewy morning adds to the beauties of nature.

She is happy. Her cheeks are rosy with the glow of health, her limbs are agile, from repeated exercise, & her thoughts are pleasant because pleasant is her employment. For her the verdant spring opens its beautiful scenery, of odorous flowers, and ~~sing~~ warbling birds. For her the summer comes with blooming trees & exuberant foliage, adorning her sequestered bower where runs the gurgling runnel & where the birds retire, to arrange their plumage and to pass the sultry hour; while nearby the lamb, the emblem of innocence sleep in peace; the industrious bee busy among the blossoms & the little fish gambol in the liquid stream. And Autumn also with ~~its~~ unstinted w^{ith} wealth of Golden harvest & delicious fruits; & its expansive scenery of fading ~~living~~ nature; here the Maple scatters its scarlet foliage, there from the chestnut & the elm the sere & yellow leaves in sullen silence fall, hard by the disdainful oak displays its leathery leaves unstripped by the Autumnal winds, & yonder the whole forest appears emblazoned with all the brilliant colors.

And lastly winter comes with its fireside attractions; -- the amusing conversation, the instructive volume, the harmonious song, the luscious fruit, the sweets of contentment & the unnumbered comforts of a farmer's home.

Happy girl! all the conveniencies, the comforts, the beneficence, the happiness, and the dignity of life are thine. Thou art interesting to thy connections & pleasing to thyself. Health attends thy footsteps, and peace & contentment surround thee. Security and innocence ~~obtain~~ are in thy path, & virtue adorns thy way. Here rural scenes, amusements & companions entertain thee, -- and as the Latin poet above quoted observes, "here plenty, rich with the honors of the farm, flower to thee with her generous horn filled to the brim."

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Filius Agricultoris