

It is based upon the war between the North and South for the abolition of slavery, and relates how Anna Maria is torn between her love for the South and her lover Drummond, whose conscience obliges him to fight for the North.

But the wedding gown is not directly connected with Anna Mar-ee-ah; it belongs to "Ole Miss" Agatha Talcot, who is holding the plantation in trust for Anna Maria until she comes of age. Her wedding gown was made for her thirty years before, when she was engaged to be married to Judge Standish. The wedding was postponed from one cause and another, but the Judge still remained the devoted admirer of the eccentric woman. "Ole Miss" was adored by her slaves, which gives the key to the fierce opposition to the Northerners on her plantation, although she was very unpopular in Virginia generally. Pansy, the little "handmaid ob Miss Agatha Talcot," is one of the prominent personages of the story.

She was an ingratiating little person, generally found with her ear to the keyhole or curled up in a corner feigning sleep, in order to acquire information, with which she proceeded to play the part of Providence.

Anna Maria threatened summary punishment when she found that Pansy had been spying on her and Drummond in the wood. "The soles of two little brown feet appeared as she fled in response to a furious glance from Anna Maria."

On finding her later under her own bed she dragged her out by the wool. "Pansy," she whispered furiously to the whimpering child, "if you ever tell you saw me to-day speaking to Master Drummond Hastie do you know what I'll do? I'll bang you over the head with my hairbrush as hard as ever I can."

"O lor! No, missy!" gasped Pansy, ashen with terror at this awful threat. "I'll nebber, nebber tell a blessed soul, honest Injun."

All the same, she promptly took herself to "Unk Tate," the seer of visions, and having related graphically the love scenes down his ear trumpet, "He wuz a kissin' her lyk dis," she removed her mouth a second from the trumpet and smacked the air violently by way of demonstration. "And den I heard dem say dee engage, and yo' should have heard how dee laugh at Ole Miss dee laugh and laugh at her."

"Dee laugh at Ole Miss," interrupted Tate angrily. "Dee dare laugh at Ole Miss. Lawk, I lyk to hab heard them. What fo dee laugh at her?"

"Coz she wear a yaller gown and green sun-bonnet."

"Ain't green and yaller beautiful colours?" he cried indignantly.

Ole Miss wore her wedding gown after all, for the Judge, like the proverbial worm, turned at last, and threatened to propose to her enemy, Sophia Hastie. So, amid the amused glances of the congregation, Miss Agatha walked up the aisle attired in it, even though it was made in the fashion of thirty years before!

H. H.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

MANY THINGS MAY HAPPEN!

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—You will remember that a year ago I consulted you about my nursing career. I had worked for twelve months as a V.A.D., and felt that nursing was my vocation—that I was only learning rough and ready methods, and not really being properly grounded in a Red Cross Hospital, where very little discipline pertained, and as I come of military people, I prefer order.

You advised me to enter a good training school and prepare myself thoroughly for responsible work, and to be ready for service in Q.A.I.M.N.S. if found suitable. This I did, and now where do I come in under this new Instruction (No. 678), just arranged by the Army Council with the Red Cross? It seems to me that I shall be ineligible at the end of four years' first-class training because I have not been a V.A.D. for two years, and that all my colleagues to be certificated three years hence are also excluded from service in Q.A.I.M.N.S., as the two years voluntary workers are to have their names on a roll, and so block us out for years to come. What right has an Army Council in wartime to make rules to interfere with free promotion for the best nursing candidates when war conditions have passed? I am told the social influence of the Red Cross Society has managed this job—and it will not be the last, as it is not the first, which has injured the nursing profession through its social influence.

Yours very truly,

DONE BROWN.

[We advise you to devote yourself to your daily work for the benefit of the sick. "After the war" is a large order. Many things will be changed before you are certificated, and once soldiers and nurses have votes, even the War Office will be required to move with the times, and mandarins who draft "Serf Clauses" and other obnoxious Instructions will be swept into Whitehall with other impedimenta. By the by, do you belong to the R.B.N.A., and have you thus proved you are prepared to help yourself and your colleagues by strong united action? If not, join at once, and help to save the independence of the Nursing Profession, in the coming fight for a just Registration Bill.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

September 28th.—How would you recognise perforation in a case of enteric fever? What immediate action would you take, and how could you temporarily relieve the patient?

October 5th.—How does puerperal septicæmia arise? Describe the course and management of the disease.

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