

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

VOL. V.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY.

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STRAWBERRY AND CHERRY
FRIENDS.

It is astonishing, Mr. Editor, how many friends I have during strawberry and cherry time! I'm overwhelmed with them all the time! There is no lack of picking! It's growing very well because of my growing popularity. I find myself saying "After all, it's its own reward," and I seem to be reaping the reward of careful industry and mind-my-own-business-habits—at least so far as apparent appreciation goes. For instance, who would have thought that Mrs. Stickuphernose would ever have deigned to visit my little home? Yet on yesterday, her carriage stopped at my gate, and she—delightful woman!—got out of it and actually entered my house! She told my wife that we had a most "chawming place," and that she had been trying to induce her husband to buy two or three farms to retire from business and indulge in pastoral pursuits as a recreation. "Recreation?" I repeated when I was informed of her desire. "Then she very naively and frankly informed Mrs. Garrulous that she was dying for a taste of strawberries, but she didn't suppose they would be ripe for a month yet (she had seen me selling them in market only the day before), and she thought she would drive out and get a breath of God's fresh air (she was very devout), look in upon our "chawming home." She had told Mrs. Tellabushars that she could not understand how Mrs. Jane Jones ever came to marry that Garrulous and shut herself out from the world. "I am a farm and find from Farmer Garrulous how long she would have to wait before she could put a strawberry between her lips!"

Of course I was sent for. Mrs. Garrulous (innocent, kind-hearted soul!) sent out for me with a message to bring in the best box of strawberries the boys and girls had picked. So went in with the box under my arm. Behold Mrs. Stickuphernose in the parlor awaiting my coming!

"Good morning, madam."

"Why do you do, Mr. Garrulous? I did want so much to see you and your dear wife, that I could not stay away any longer, so I came down to see you, and see when strawberries would be ripe. I'm dying for a taste of 'em!"

Well, madame, strawberries are fine! I exhibited a box of Mrs. Garrulous' strawberries up to me to get them and thrust them into the waiting hands of the delightful Stickuphernose, but I said, "I will show them to madame." So I did. But I did not let her touch them.

"Oh, how delicious!"

"How do you know, Madam?"

"They look, I mean," said she.

"Yes and they taste equally so," said I.

"Are you sending them to market, Mr. Garrulous?" she asked very deferentially.

"Yes, Madam; I was in market with a lot yesterday, which you saw me selling. This box I had picked especially for your next door neighbor, Mrs. Substantial, who bought five boxes of me yesterday, and ordered ten of my best today. Aren't they nice?"

"Very," said our visitor, rather daintily. "Can you spare me some today?"

"Certainly—how many do you want?"

"As many as you can spare conveniently."

"What, Madam? I can let you have five bushels if you want them!"

"Oh, you mean sell them to me?"

"Certainly!—why should I give them away?" Her wife looked at me depreciationingly and appealingly.

"Well, this makes a difference; if I must buy them, after having come so far without getting a taste, I suppose I had better have three or four boxes. How much will they be?"

"Twenty-five cents per box, Madam. And allow me to say that my wife, when she visits you, does not expect you will send for your husband and his samples of needles, thread, lace or silk, from his store with any idea that he will give her any old needles?"

"Oh, well! Mrs. Garrulous, you and I understand each other. You say these berries are twenty-five cents per box. Why, that is all they ask; for them in town at the fruit stands, and you do not get that for them there!"

"No! but when I do a retail trade, I expect pay for my time; and I do not propose to destroy my town market for my fruit by underselling my best customers. I will charge you the cost of more time to bargain with you for the sale of three or four boxes than to have sold three or four dozen boxes in town. I will send John in with the fruit. Madam, you can pay me now for it!"

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