

# THE EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, July 15, 1871.

## WHAT CAME OF A DREAM.

[CONTINUED.]

Wilhelm fancied he had been quite unobliged, but then he was more than that. He found Lucy very pretty, and on nearer inspection her figure was so slim, her hair so dark and wavy, her eyes of so beautiful a blue, and there were so many fat ducks to choose amongs, and such a savory heap of sausages to look at, that his marketing took quite another half hour. He was patient, though he used to be sharp enough sometimes to haggle or undecided over Meinberr's broken English was very hard to understand, and the noise in the market so great that Wilhelm had to come behind that stall to be comprehended at all.

"How is your ducks up?" (With which you will be the Dutchman's bad English, you might not be so patient as Lucy gets.)

"I don't know; they get better fed than the others, perhaps."

"And how is it you are so much fresher and rosier than the other girls?"

"Oh! we get fresher air, you know. I live at Grangely-super-Montem."

"Where? That's a very hard name—Grange Grange."

Lucy laughed merrily and made him repeat the name till he said it right; that took quite two minutes.

"And where is this favored village?"

"Don't you know? When you are down in the cars, have you not seen a church tower on a hill? Our tower is a beacon for miles around."

"Ahl! Yes, of course I have, and that is Grangely-super-Montem? Is your name really hard to spell?"

"Lucy, ah, that is not so hard, but soft, soft as your fat ducks. Lucy—what?"

"Metcalfe."

"Oh, the harsh English! I will not try to say it even. I will stop at Lucy. And you will say you if I came to Grangely-super-Montem?"

"Perhaps you would; it depends where you went to."

"I would go to the high tower to breathe a deep draught of the fresh air that makes you so rosy. May I come and look for you? I want to know how to make sausages like these; they are so good!"

"Ah, but I know."

"Cannot your wife, Mrs. Van der Roost—oh! what a long hard name—make sausages?" asked Lucy mischievously.

"Perhaps she could if I had ever found her, but I have no woman at home Lucy."

"Suppose you were to take your duck and go now, I have to be busy," suggested Lucy.

Wilhelm had no excuse ready, so after a few moments more over the change, he slowly departed.

That evening the Dutchman spoke a great many contemplative pines. The duck and sausages were so good that he thought he could not wait till next market day for another. Next morning, when he got to the cars, he looked up to the square tower of Grangely-super-Montem till he could rest no longer from much fatch another duck.

It was time to start again, and though he did not find this out at once, and it was longer still before he made the discovery that he had carried off Lucy's in its place.

It was December; the dullest days of all the year were at hand. Wilhelm wished the big drains were all dug and full of the slushy waters, that he might return to his beloved Holland with his precious Lucy and her recipes for fat ducks and sausages-meats. But neither of these wishes seemed likely to be fulfilled.

As regards Lucy, a great obstacle had arisen. Her parents would not hear of their daughter, the apple of their eyes, the light of their old age, going to a foreign land, a land unknown to them—full of all sorts of horrors and drawbacks, with a strange man, whose language puzzled them, and who might have half a dozen wives for aught they knew. So Meinberr's Wilhelm Van der Roost was hunted away with a valley of north-country abuse, and some severe injunctions were laid upon Lucy against ever speaking to this Dutchman again, that the lovers were in despair.

But Lucy was wiser; she never gave him up for a moment; she meant to go to Holland with him, come what would, yet she did not say so. She kept at home so quiet and docilely, that she appeared to have forgotten Wilhelm so easily, that her mother's fears were allayed; and though she would not let Lucy go to market any more, or even out of the village, she grew quite kind again.

Lucy's birthday was at hand. As a reward for her good conduct, her mother gave her leave to ask all her friends to the tea-party. Lucy clapped her hands with delight. How she would have liked to see Wilhelm! But that would not do, her mother would have said. So Lucy had to make up her mind to go without him.

A few days before the party Lucy's mother had a dream. Now Lucy's mother was old-fashioned and simple in her notions, and possessed a long list of the meaning of dreams. This time she dreamed that Wilhelm Van der Roost was in one night as the clock struck twelve, and offered her a big meerschaum pipe, such as he used to smoke, and that Lucy was dancing round the room. She dashed the pipe from his hand; as she did so her best China tea-set, that was always kept in a special cupboard, came down with a clatter about her head, and lay in a million fragments mixed up with those of the big pipe.

The good mother told Lucy her dream. Now, Lucy was not in the least a believer in dreams, but she had a quick wit, and while her mother ransacked her memory to ascertain whether dreaming of a meerschaum pipe betokened, Lucy read the ride off: "Don't you see, mother, it means that on my birthday, when I am dancing, just before twelve o'clock, Wilhelm will offer you the pipe of peace. That is, he will come again, as you for me, and if you dash his offer aside, we shall be ruined, for he will let the floods sweep all the lands; now he's got these big drains full, you know, he could soon let it overflow all our Carr land; that is the China tea-set falling down." So mother if he should come—though that's quite impossible, since you've refused to let him come near us—but if by any strange chance he should come, you will not say again, would you, mother?"

The good dame was puzzled. Lucy was a very Daniel in her interpretation, and twist her dream, in which way she would she could not read it any better than they had done, and she was not one to reason logically. Her only consolation was that Wilhelm would not know of it and come, so she would keep the doors well fastened, and take care to send every one home by eleven on Lucy's birthday, so that they might all be in bed and asleep before twelve, and then the Dutchman could not fulfill her dream. To fly in the face of it never occurred to the simple woman; but there, of course, he would not come; how was it likely?

To be continued.

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