

angle. At recess the youngsters ran into the woods or to the lake and when it was time for school to call, he blew and blew in the tube but no one came and he would go in search of them and blow some more, when they came running as though they never had heard the first whistle. After each recess they expected a scolding and they never were disappointed on that score.

Elida was the youngest pupil and she sat at the end of the table and a mirror hung on the wall at the other end of the table. Two ideas in regard to children characterized that period; one was that the ignorance of the young should at all times be held up to them and the other was that it was a sin for any child to admire him- or herself. One day the teacher must have found Elida looking into the mirror and hurriedly he ran up stairs and came down with a pillow case, which he hung up over the mirror, saying to her, "Now you won't have a chance to admire yourself, so study your lesson."

That embarrassed Elida fearfully and from that time on he was no friend of hers. To that offense he added another which was still more embittering to her. He lived at Gustaf's place and in the evenings he joined the family in the living room. The three little girls slept on an extension sofa in this room. Elida had only recently graduated from her mother's arms and her mother still was the most important person in her life when bed time came. Evidently the teacher had observed this and took it upon himself to cure the baby of such foolish ways. He generally occupied the big rocker, and this he moved so that the little girl could not see her mother. That was an affront to Elida first of all but it was more; it was a cruelty as Elida had a fear complex that her mother might be taken away from her some night, and to ward off this harrassing fear she craved her mother's loving presence within her range of vision when sleep was near. This so increased her dislike for the teacher that years afterward, when the news came to the family that he had drowned in the lake, Elida felt no regret for his ill fate nor remorse for her antagonistic feeling toward him.

The immediate surroundings of Gustaf's homestead was as a minor village. A blacksmith had moved there and opened a shop and the new minister built a house and barn a little way from this; in all, this made about ten buildings within a small territory.

The minister, who had served the community earlier, had lived at Gustaf's house and he became interested in Amelia, when she still was quite young. But there was a maiden lady, who was very much interested in the minister. She was a quaint self-made teacher, from Sweden, who taught in some of the schools of the community and at one time the older children of

Gustaf's family were under her supervision. She, as most of the teachers, taught the church creeds and Bible history, but not the three R's to any great extent; therefore it was a most natural thing that she should consider herself a fit companion to the minister and she imposed her attention upon him when and wherever they chanced to meet.

A church dinner was on in one of the homes and this maiden lady and Amelia, together with other girls, served as waitresses. The first course was fruit soup, a popular dish among Scandinavians everywhere. This soup contained dried fruits, such as prunes, apples, currants etc. It was served cold and this made it possible to have it dished out before hand, ready for serving on short notice.

When all were seated, the girls rushed for plates of the soup and, naturally, one of them placed a dish in front of the minister first. The maiden lady did not move as swiftly as the younger girls and several had been served when she went to the corner of the kitchen and eagerly looking around on the floor, excitedly she called out, "Who took that plate I put over there on the floor? I fixed that specially for the minister. Where is it?"

"I served the minister the first plate that was taken in," said one of the girls and as another girl came into the kitchen she asked her anxiously, "Did you take in the plate that was there on the floor?"

"Yes, I gave that to Peter Monson. I thought that it would be good enough for him, even though it had been on the floor. What about it?"

"Well, you have broken the maiden teacher's heart as she had fixed that special for the minister."

"I did notice that it contained a lot of fruit. Well, perhaps old Peter needed it more than the minister. I bet he seldom gets a treat like that," and they all laughed heartily.

Amelia still was very young when her parents consented to her marriage to the minister. Then began the planning of the trousseau which was to be simple and yet it must conform to her position in the new place where she would go. This was quite a problem to Ingrid, who already had many duties about the home. When the stage came through one time, there was a drummer from whom Gustaf bought goods and they selected the necessary materials.

The foremost garment naturally was the wedding gown and this was made of pearl grey alpaca, which had the luster of silk, because it was a good grade, costing two dollars a yard. During the trying days of pioneer life, Ingrid had been given little opportunity to exercise her skill as a dressmaker but when this dress was to be made, she went at it as one who had always



worked with nice material. It seemed to thrill her and she spared no effort to make the dress beautiful.

Amelia was tall and gracefully slender and the style of dress which Ingrid selected for her was most becoming to her type. The skirt had a flared bottom with a dip at the back and was trimmed in bands of shirred self material a few inches from the bottom. The under waist of the bodice was close fitting, with a peplum of ample depth, which dipped in the back to conform with the skirt and with bands of shirred material. The sleeves of this waist were close fitting and full length. Over the waist was a bolero with bell-shaped sleeves, which ended just below the elbow, the trimming being similar to that of the skirt. The collar was high, with fullness at the back laid into pleats and at the front was a bow of grosgrain ribbon, also gray.

The dress, when completed, was a piece of art both as to style and workmanship. Ingrid's skill was plainly evident and it reflected the pleasure it had given her in the planning and the making of it.

It was a home wedding and intimate friends of the family were invited. The minister, who lived close by, officiated. Amelia was a beautiful bride and her youthful innocence plainly stood out and Ingrid almost regretted to let her go, while still so young.

After Amelia had been away from her own people some months, she became lonely for them and wrote and told her parents so and they decided to send Henry to her for company. Henry was only seven years old but he was a bright, cheerful child and the parents knew Amelia would be pleased to have him. Henry really had no choice in the matter, but the novelty of it appealed to him. It was not to be a vacation all together as he was to attend school and he was to be a handy 'man' about the place.

Henry and his father were up very early the day of leaving, as the morning train out of Morris for St. Paul left early and it was a long way to Morris. They entered the town from the east as the sun came up and the reflection of the sun in the town windows came back at them like huge mirrors of gold. This was Henry's first trip away from the settlement and the glory of that reflection filled him with awe and wonder. It was as if they were entering some mysterious fairyland and it keyed him to a pitch of expectancy which had no bounds.

As they had had nothing to eat before leaving, Gustaf the first thing looked up a hotel and he entered the dining room, Henry following cautiously but observing everything. Two waitresses stood to one side and one came to take the order. As the train was due in a short time, Gustaf paid little attention to Henry as he must hurry. When Henry put the knife to

the meat, it did not cut and he looked at it to see if he was using the sharp side. Yes, it was right and he tried again but he could make no impression on the meat. He tried with all his might again and again, but without success. As he turned to say something to his father, he noticed that the two waitresses were laughing at his misfortune and this embarrassed him to such an extent that he said nothing. Just then his father had finished his breakfast and he pushed back his chair, ready to go. Henry slipped from his chair and followed after his father, as hungry as when he came and carrying away with him a lasting dislike for tough meat and hotel waitresses.

Henry was to see his first train that morning and as they waited at the station his imagination tried to build up a semblance to that which he had heard about trains. As the whistle blew, he craned his neck to catch a first glimpse of it and when it pulled up to the station he was all eyes. New things passed before him so fast, that when he finally sat down in the seat on the inside of the coach, it was as a medley of newness. Now the bell rang and the place where he sat began to move away from the place where he had just been a moment before and as the station was left behind, houses and trees moved by in quick succession and he was aware that he was being taken far away from all that was familiar to him.

That trip was a revelation to the little pioneer boy and when he reached his sister's place he had gathered a storehouse full of new things, through two big eyes, that never loafed on the job until sleep dropped the tired lids, while his sister's "good night" still sounded in his ears.

Henry proved to be a willing errand boy and he performed many duties for his sister. One day, several weeks after his coming, his sister called him to her and told him that his mother and Elida were coming to see them. The surprise and joy made him gasp for breath and while a smile spread over his face, his eyes showed a red ring about the border and he ran back to his work.

Elida had come to the world on Henry's fourth birthday and from this he held special claim to her. It was not so easy for Henry to do his work with his sister around as she did little things that to him seemed funny; at all events they were more fun than the work and it therefore happened that he got many scoldings from the maiden aunt who had charge of the home since the baby had come. But scoldings were small matters besides the fun that these two got out of life together.

Then came the eventful day when Henry was to take Elida down town when she was to make her first purchase. At home when she wanted candy, all that was necessary was to go to her father and ask for it and she had no conception of the method



to use when buying candy so her mother instructed her in the right manners of a customer. But Henry, who often had gone on errands for Amelia, had observed that customers did not use his mother's methods in their business dealings and he protested, saying, "Nobody says 'thank you' when they pay for what they get."

"That is the right way to do, never-the-less, and Elida must thank the clerk or he will think that she has no manners."

"Ah, mother, you don't know. I guess that I have been in the store lots of times and I never heard anybody say thanks when they pay money for what they get."

"But I want Elida to be polite and you let her say as I tell her."

That was a trial for Henry. He wanted to obey his mother but this time she was all wrong. His pride was at stake. He just could not let his sister disgrace him and so when they had gone far enough, that they were out of sight of the house, he took her to task.

"You just can't thank the man for the candy when you pay for it. No one does that. Will you promise me that you won't?" Now it was difficult for Elida. She would rather please her brother than anyone but she was in the habit of doing as her mother told her and something seemed to tell her that her mother would know if she disobeyed but for the moment Henry domineered her whole soul and she nodded a smiling consent to do as he said.

When this was settled, Henry was doubly proud of his sister and they went on in a happy mood. As they reached the store he ushered in Elida and exchanged smiles with the clerks, who asked him pleasant things about his sister. Elida asked for the candy and watched the clerk very closely to see the amount that was going into the bag. When it was handed to her she beamed with delight and with rapture she said, "Thank you," and turned to her brother to go. Then she realized what she had done! Henry felt himself sinking through the floor; his face was red and his ears burned like fire. He was disgraced for life. Somehow he got out in the open and hurried away from the store but he never forgot the disgrace.

Though Gustaf was well established in business and his farm was paying good profit, there was an important question before him, which must be solved, though it was hard to solve. Each winter the bronchitis threatened to rob him of that which makes life worth while, his health. For some years the doctor had advised him to move to a warmer climate and the wisdom of this advice grew on him; and though it was a hard thing to do, he sold the homestead and the store and moved to a place far away.

Tige, the family dog, had for many years been inseparable from the whole family. He had performed his duties with unwavering faith and asked only love in return and the love which he craved was given him in full measure. Then the parting came. Gustaf knew that the people who took over the place would be good to him and he thought that the right thing to do was to leave him where he was at home. He was closed up when the family took their leave but when he was set free again, he knew that some great change had come as he found none of his loved ones and as they had gone in vehicles there was no trace of scent to lead him to them. He laid down by the wagon which he so often had followed, and he refused to take food. One day the new owners found him dead at his post, dead from grief.