

19. AS GOOD AS A MOULDY CABBAGE

NANCY'S JOURNAL

I think me & Miss Dearing both had a DREADFUL NIGHT, but Alfred appeared bright & early this morning to take her for a driving lesson—which gave us both something else to think about.

Miss D. has given in to Mr Lubbock and decided to keep the motor car. I just can't picture her driving it. Normally she is very peaceful—but when she gets in that donkey cart waving her whip at other ~~veerculls~~ veerculls—she reminds me of Britannia on a Penny coin with her trident & her big cart-wheel. (Aunt Bee says it's a shield but it always looks like a cart-wheel to me.)



So then—whether I wanted to or not—I got sent off to visit Alfred's Mum. I must say even if Miss D. does not give actual orders she can get you to do something just by Being Very Nice. 'You've not had your Day Off yet. We must make amends for that,' was what she said. But somehow my free time turned into calling on someone else's mother. 'Ma's been out of sorts lately' Alfred said. 'She'll be glad to see a cheery face.' I don't know how he could think my face is cheery when I'm looking my very worst!

I was nervous knocking on Mrs Lubbock's door. Last time it flew open & somebody furious told me to Go Away! I was hoping that wasn't actually Alfred's mum—but I reckoned her right off as the same woman. Except there was nothing cross or peevish about her today. Only a sniff remained.

'Do come in.' She quickly took off her apron & stuffed it somewhere while showing me into the Parlour. 'Alfred has TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU!' When someone says that I get a quaking feeling inside. What have they told? Good or bad? I was just wondering when she peered a bit closer.

'Oh dear! Forgive me Miss Parker' she said. (Miss Parker indeed!) 'It was you that called the other day. I must ~~appte~~ apollergise. You see—I was feeling so poorly I couldn't bake at all—and I did not want to pass on my germs.'

Just then the mantel-clock struck the 1/2 hour & Mrs Lubbock jumped up again saying 'Rollis' & dashed away. I