

226
1860

My Maiden Aunt. — Acetua

Among the blessings Heaven has sent,
To cheer me, here below;
To fill my bosom with content,
And soothe Life's constant sore;
To check me, in prosperity,
To lighten grief or want,
And teach me, in humility,
I count my maiden aunt.

She is not crabbed, cross or dull,
Though some inclined to fret;
Despite her years, her heart is full,
Of sprightly humor yet.
Ah, well I love the dear old soul;
And, though she is not fair,
There is a charm about her eye,
That banishes my care.

I used to look with harsh contempt
Upon her homely face
And thought those curls so nicely swept
Were sadly out of place.
But now I know it was not pride,
But Nature's artless spread
— Lest fairer sisters should deride,
That halo round her head

Of course, she's modest, neat and prim;
As all the gems are;
Her eyes will never grow too dim
To spy a recreant hair,
Or an unseemly spot or fold,
Imprinted on her dress.
Therefore, if they should, the title "old"
Will give her no distress.

Full oft, in Boyhood's merry days,
And Youth's impassioned course,
She checked my careless, forward ways,
With motherly discourse,
And once, when half unthinking, I,
A bitter taunt did speak,
I saw the tears overflow her eyes,
And course adown her cheek.

I know she tries to be a "blue",
And Learning much affects,
Paints landscapes with a Sunday hue,
And flowers and leaves dissects,
To day will pen an essay on
Old "Job, his wife & boils",
Tomorrow do him with crayon
Can show his woes, in oils.

Then too, she dotes on Heraldry,
And vents of "quarterings" and "sounds";
In "rampant" dogs, "crossed" "fleurs de lis,"
And "couchant" lions and "bounes";
Demonstrates clearly, that she came,
At times, so old and high;
And sighs, that with herself, the name
"Anglo-normans" must die.

But be her follies all forgot, --
Remembered this, -- that, few
Have better learned, what Heaven has taught,
To suffer and to love?
And this my wish, -- unwounded be
Thy heart, by jest or taunt,
Till Heaven's last message come, to thee
My Pucierd Maiden Aunt.

A. W. T.

My dear Aunt,

Received Nov 18 60
Paul & Mallory

C. A. M.

Nov 18 60

Received of Paul & Mallory
the sum of \$100.00
on account of the
compro of the
D.C. N.L.D.

Witness my hand
Nov 18 60

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013