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Reassembling Dust

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Reassembling Dust



BY FRED ALSBERG

Atop the last staircase,
I push aside the formation of frayed chairs
guarding a barricade of boxes,
and take out of cardboard
packets of stationery,
gray and blue,
pale as early morning sky—
some letters received,
stamps yellowed,
contents detail a dinner
with the Bensons,
balmy air
and rareness of the roast.

Here are photographs
in which only poses are familiar,
a trunk of clothes
that could be the ones in the photos.
On the wall hangs a harness,
home to a spider;
the forty-eight star flag it lives beside
sways in the draft
above tires as worn
as those on the sides of docks,
and everywhere, dust—thick
upon a mirrorless dresser
that leans like a ship run aground.■

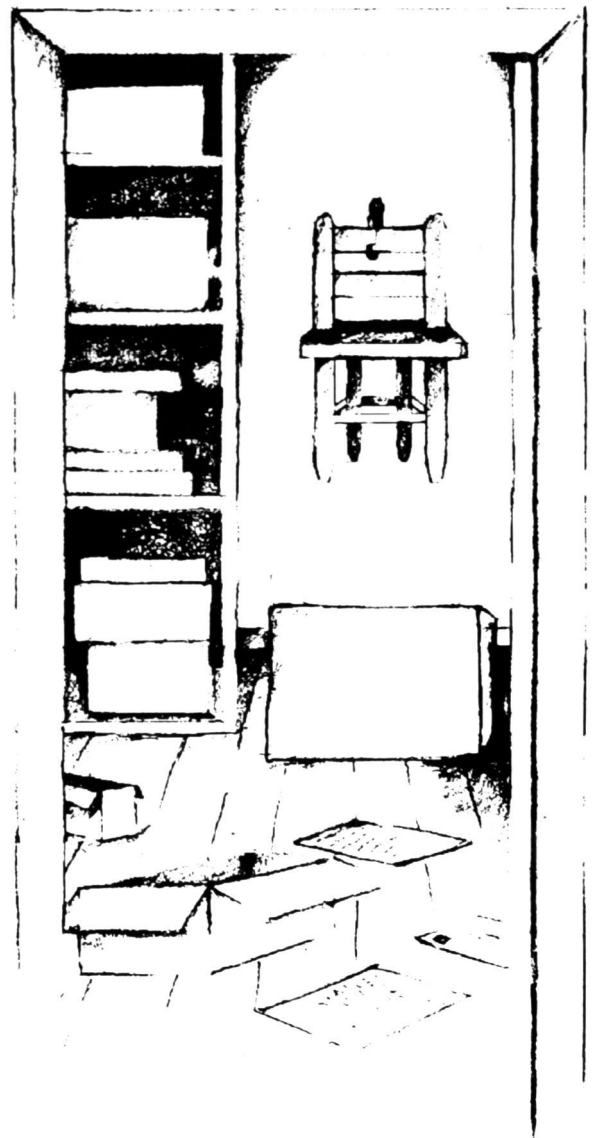


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