

(Continued from first page.)

awake, and my eye fixed upon her's with a severe, penetrating expression.

'Madame,' said I, in a low, stern, measured tone, 'if you would save your guilty life, do not attempt to escape or call for help! I am not the poor fool you suppose! You have played your part and I miss it! Do not flatter yourself that I have been ensnared! I know you, and boldly came here to detect you in your guilt! Not a single drop of your poisoned wine has passed my lips! Your whole establishment is under the surveillance of the police; and unless I return to my friends by daylight your mansion will be entered by the dread officers of the law, and every living soul in it will be taken into custody! Now mark well what I say! You must instantly yourself conduct me clear of your premises and if you dare to falter in the least, that moment, so sure as there is a God in Heaven, you die! Now give me your hand and lead the way!'

White with terrified amazement, and trembling like an aspen, the guilty, wretched woman stood covering before my stern, penetrating glance. For nearly a minute she seemed too much overpowered to leave the room. I took her hand, and grasped it like a vice, and silently pointed to the door. At length she went forward with tottering steps. In silence she led me through the dark corridor, down the stairs, through the passage, into the court, through another passage, and opened the last door that admitted me to life and light.

Morn was just breaking; and as I felt the cool air of Heaven upon my fevered brow, and thought of my narrow escape from death, there came such a whirl of strange emotions that I reeled forward like one intoxicated!

The mansion I had just quitted, stood on the banks of the Seine, about two miles below the old city; and I believe, if I had drunk the wine offered me, my riddled body would soon have been cast in the rushing waters. I believe, moreover, the mansion, grand as it appeared, was only a den of robbers and murderers; that the woman was simply a beautiful decoy for foreigners and strangers; and that many a poor, unsuspecting soul, had taken its flight from there to the eternal world! I did not communicate with the police, for reason that, in the first place, I could bring no charge of guilt against any; but thankful beyond expression for my own escape, I firmly resolved never to risk my life again in another mysterious adventure in Paris.

EARNING A WIFE.

'And so you want to marry my daughter, young man,' said your father, removing his pipe from his mouth, and looking at the young fellow sharply from head to toe.

Despite his rather indolent, effeminate air, which was mainly the result of his education, Luke Johnson was a fine looking fellow, and not easily moved from his self-possession; but he colored and grew confused beneath that sharp, scrutinizing look.

'Yes, sir,' I spoke to Miss Mary last evening, and she referred me to you.'

'The old man's face softened.

'Molly is a good girl, a very good girl,' he said, stroking his chin with a thoughtful air, 'and she deserves a good husband. What can you do?'

'The young man looked rather blank at this abrupt inquiry.

'If you refer to my ability to support a wife, I can assure you—'

'I know you are a rich man, Luke Johnson, but I take it for granted that you ask my girl to marry you not your property. What guarantee can you give me in case it should be swept away, as it is in thousands of instances—that you could provide for her a comfortable home. You have hands and brains—do you know how to use them? Again I ask, what can you do?'

This was a style of catechism for which Luke was quite unprepared, and he stared blankly at the questions, without speaking.

'I believe that you managed to get through college—have you any profession?'

'No, sir, I thought—'

'Have you any trade?'

'No, sir, my father thought with the wealth I should inherit, I should not need any.'

'Your father thought like a fool then. He'd much better have given you some honest occupation and cut you off with a shilling, it might have been the making of you. Here you are a strong, able-bodied young man, twenty-four years old, and never earned a dollar in your life. You ought to be ashamed of yourself.'

'And you want to marry my daughter?' resumed the old man, after a few vigorous puffs at his pipe.

'Now, I've given Molly as good advantages for learning as any girl in town, and she hasn't thrown 'em away; but if she didn't know her work, she'd be no daughter of mine. If I chose, I could keep more than one servant; but I don't, no more than I chose that my daughter should be a pale, spiritless creature, full of dyspepsia, and all manner of fine-line ailments, instead of the smiling, bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked lass she is. I did say she would marry no lad that had been cursed with a rich father; but she's taken a foolish liking to ye, and I'll tell you what I'll do; go to work and prove yourself to be a man; perfect yourself in some occupation—I don't care what, if it be honest, and then come to me, and if the girl is willing she is yours.'

As the old man said this, he deliberately knocked the ashes out of his pipe against one of the pillars of the porch where he was sitting, tucked it into his vest pocket, and went into the house.

Pretty Mary Allen was waiting down at the garden gate, their usual trysting place. The smiling light faded from her eyes as she noticed his sober, discomfited look.

'Father means well,' she said, as Luke told her the result of his application.

'And I am not sure but that he is about right,' he resumed, after a thoughtful pause, 'for it seems to me that every man, be he rich or poor, ought to have some occupation.'

'Then, as she noticed her lover's grave look, she added, softly:

'Never mind, I will wait for you, Luke.'

Luke Johnson suddenly disappeared from his accustomed haunts, much to the surprise of his gay associates. But wherever he went, he carried with him in his exile these words, and which were like a tower of strength to his soul, 'I'll wait for you, Luke.'

One pleasant sunshiny morning, late in October, as farmer Allen was propping up the grape-vine in his front yard, that threatened to break down with the weight of its luxuriant burden, a neat looking cart drove up, from which Luke Johnson alighted with a quick elastic spring, quite in contrast to his former leisurely movements.

'Good morning, Mr. Allen. I understand that you want to buy some butter tubs and cider barrels. I think I have some here that will just suit you.'

'Who's make are they?' inquired the old man, as opening the gate, he passed by the wagon.

'Mine,' he replied, 'with an air of pardonable pride, 'and I challenge any cooper in the State to beat them.'

Mr. Allen examined them critically, one by one.

'They'll do,' he said coolly, as he sat down the last of the lot. 'What will ye take for them?'

'What I asked you for six months ago to-day, the hand of your daughter, sir.'

The roguish twinkle in the old man's eyes brightened into a smile.

'You've got the right metal in you, after all,' he cried. 'Come in, lad—come in. I shouldn't wonder if we made a trade after all.'

'Nothing loth, Luke obeyed.

'Molly?' bawled Mr. Allen, thrusting his head into the kitchen door.

Molly tripped into the entry. The round white arms were bared above the elbows, and bore traces of the flour that had been sifting. Her dress was a neat ging-ham, over which was tied a blue checked apron; but she looked as winning and lovely as she always did, wherever she was found.

She blushed and smiled as she saw Luke, and then turning her eyes upon her father, waited dutifully for what he had to say.

The old man regarded his daughter for a moment with a quizzical look.

'Molly, this young man—mayhap you have seen him before—has brought me a lot of tubs and barrels, all of his own make—right good article too. He asks a pretty steep price for 'em; but if you are willing to give it, well and good; and hark ye, my girl, whatever bargain ye make, your old father will most cheerfully ratify.'

As Mr. Allen said this, he considerably walked out of the room, and we will follow his example. But the kind of bargain the young people made can be readily conjectured by the speedy wedding that followed.

The very flower of our corps of correspondents, while stopping at —, vouches for the following: (Last night while lying down in my chamber and being unable to sleep, deliciously cool as it was, I could not help overhearing, from the thinness of the partition and the open transoms, a dialogue between the occupants of the adjoining apartment. They were evidently man and wife, whom a few years of matrimony had robbed of the sentiment they had set out with.

'Jane, don't crowd me so; keep your own side of the bed.' This is anything but a tender tone.

'Why, William, I am not crowding you, and if I was, you ought to be too gallant to tell me of it. There was a time when you'd have kissed me for what you could me now.'

The feminine voice shook a little at the conclusion of this sentence.

'Perhaps so; but what's the use talking of the past. Gallantly is played out; that's for lovers, not for married people.'

'Didn't you declare, William, you'd always be my lover.'

'I don't remember, I suppose I said a great many foolish things in those days. You want to get up a scene. Women are death on scenes.'

'You're downright rude, William, you'll make me hate you, Mr. Thomson. (Jane was evidently getting up her temper) If you said anything foolish in these days, I did one when I married you.'

'I wish you hadn't.'

'So do I, with all my heart; you can't regret it worse than I do.'

(I detect being an unexpected confidant of any one, particularly of men and their wives. I had already coughed and hemmed a dozen of times to let them know that I was an unwilling visitor, but they didn't heed me.)

'Mr. Thomson, you're a brute. You'll repent this. I'll find men who will treat me politely if you won't.'

'I am sure you haven't. I'm sleepy. Do stop that tongue of yours. Jane, you're more of a devil than I ever thought.'

'I'm the devil's wife, you wretch, I'll get up and sleep somewhere else, so I will.'

This was getting too bad. I was resolved to hear no more, so I cried out 'fire, fire!' very lustily.

Jane and William were up in a second. As I ran into the hall they were there too.

Jane was pretty, and the tears in her eyes caused her to look prettier; and her white robe falling gracefully about her form made her more than fancy had painted her. As I got up the door, Mr. Thomson who was lurking out of a trunk, said to me: 'As you have nothing, sir, you will be kind enough to take that bundle and fishing tackle in the corner. Never mind my wife, she'll take care of herself.'

I did not pause, I hurried down the hall. I was convinced that Mr. T. was a brute and his wife a sufferer.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.

A short time since a modest and captivating young lady, calling herself Nelly Sweet, visited Detroit, as she said, in search of her brother, who was represented to have been killed on one of the railroads of that State. Her quiet ways and great beauty captivated the hearts of all around her, and she became a general favourite.

At a party recently given, she appeared as an invited guest, and succeeded, almost unconsciously, in winning the heart of a wealthy young man, answering to the not very romantic name of Henry. Henry, after the festivities, walked with her home. A short courtship followed, and the parties were engaged to be married at an early day. A few days before the ceremony was to be performed which would make two loving hearts one, the young man visited his affianced, and to his surprise, found her in tears. He tenderly enquired the cause, and, after much coaxing, was informed that she had been disappointed in receiving remittances from home, that she was in debt to her landlady, and had no money to buy her wedding finery, consequently the wedding must be postponed a few days. Henry would listen to no such proposition, but would go straight and bring the money. He departed and in a few moments returned with a five hundred dollar bill, at the same time telling her if she needed more to let him know. The evening before the day appointed for the marriage, he determined to spend a few hours with his beloved, and repaired to her dressing-room; but alas! Nelly was not there.

The bird had flown. The landlady said she had packed up her things early that morning and had taken the early train, but where she went was a mystery. A note had been left on the wash-stand in Nelly's room, addressed to him, and which the landlady delivered. Its contents were brief, but to the point: 'Henry, you were green. I have been paid very well for the smiles I have given you, and with your generous present of last evening, I can now join my husband in California. Give my respects to that brother that was killed on the Central road when you see him, and oblige Nelly.' It was a rude awakening for Henry, but the lesson will probably do him good.

The Boston Traveller, of the 21st instant says: 'Mrs. Harrison Gray Otis, a lady well known for her numerous acts of benevolence and charity, was yesterday made the victim of a practical joke, a large number of bogus invitations to a reception to be given at her residence, No. 41 Mt. Vernon street, yesterday afternoon, having been issued, and the street in front of her residence was several times blocked with carriages. But these were not the only people hoaxed. Innumerable orders were sent to artisans of all kinds—to plumbers, painters, carpenters, gas-fitters, etc., to come and perform little jobs of repairing about the house—each job minutely specified in the order. Other orders were sent to coal dealers, flour dealers, grocers, etc., to bring stated quantities of their respective kinds of merchandise, to be delivered at stated times. Even the services of an undertaker were brought into requisition to lay out the body of a supposed dead child; and, in response to an advertisement in the Herald, members of the feline tribe were brought to fill out the miscellaneous and variegated assortment. Detectives are now engaged in discovering the names of the perpetrators of this strange hoax.'

A singular and distressing occurrence took place in this vicinity a short time since. A lady who, from her girlhood, had been subject to violent pains in her stomach, which nothing but strong liquors would allay—and that only for a limited period—married, and became we believe, the mother of two or three children. A week or so ago, being taken with a violent paroxysm, which caused her to fall with her face on the floor, and seeming to be in a choking condition, some of her friends resorted to the usual method of beating her on the back, when lo! from her mouth was ejected a chameleon, or species of lizard about a foot long, and two inches in circumference. It is supposed that she had swallowed accounts for the intense suffering of the lady, who now, as our trust, will enjoy good health, having got rid of her ugly customer.—Zanaville Times.

It was customary in some parish churches for the men to be placed on one side, and the women on the other. A clergyman, in the midst of his sermon, found himself interrupted by the talking of some of the congregation, of which he was obliged to take notice. A woman immediately rose, and, wishing to clear her own sex from the aspersion, said: 'Observe, at least, your reverence, it is not on our side.' 'So much the better, good woman, so much the better,' answered the clergyman; 'it will be the sooner over.'

McLEOD THE POST OFFICE CLERK.—The youth alluded to arrived here on Saturday evening with a horse and sleigh from St. John. He hooked his name at the Watson House as Stephens, and amused himself on Sunday by singing hymns in the most approved style. On Monday he was endeavoring to negotiate the sale of the horse with several gentlemen here, when he was arrested and brought before Justice Rose, on complaint of Mr. H. Young, of the St. Croix Exchange, who received a telegram from St. John, directing his apprehension, on account of his having run away with a horse and sleigh from a livery stable [Mr. Golding's] there. In consequence of a second telegram the matter received its quietus, the owners the horse and sleigh, the youth his liberty, and the neighboring Republic a future citizen.—St. Stephen, N. B., Courier.

SOUND ADVICE.—The New York Tribune has a means of keeping business men afloat in these depressed and uncertain times, which concludes with the following excellent advice: 'Be sure of one thing, whatever you have to sell, there are many people ready to buy of you rather than another. When buyers are reluctant, sellers must be active. It is neither cheap nor sensible to sit still behind the counter and wait for the bustle of business to revive. When business is dull, that is the very time to advertise. In the first place, that is when you most need to advertise; and in the second, that is when people devote most time to reading newspapers, and when your advertisement consequently is most generally seen.'

This is the way Mrs. Smith advertises her husband: 'Lost, strayed or stolen, an individual whom I, in an urgent moment of loneliness, was thoughtless enough to adopt as my husband. He is a good-looking and feeble individual, knowing enough, however, to come in when it rains, unless some good-looking girl offers him the shelter of her umbrella. Answers to the name of Jim. Was last seen in company with Julia Harris, walking with his arm around her waist up the plank road, looking more like a fool, if possible, than ever. Anybody who will catch the poor fellow and bring him carefully back to me, so that I can chastise him for running away, will be invited to tea by MARY SMITH.'

A woman should be like an opal, a man like a diamond. An opal conceals its fires, its soul, and you only know that it has one by its ever-changing colors. Its delicate pinks and greys, and roses and lilacs, and pearl tints are only so many expressions of the spirit within, and the charm would be lost, utterly lost, if it blazed forth. It would then be intellectual, instead of intelligent, and fanciful, and spiritual, and capricious, and versatile, and new, always new; now seeming so delicate as to be dimmed by a breath, and anon giving glimpses, but still veiled glimpses of a fire as strong as that which burns in the adamant diamond's heart.

Once upon a time, a rather verdant sprig of the law in a New England manufacturing city had a writ to make out against one of the female operatives in the mills. Being a little at a loss how to designate the person, he went to a brother member of the Bar and told him his perplexity. He said that he had thought of lady, but that didn't quite suit him. 'Is she unmarried?' said the brother lawyer. 'Yes.' 'Well, then say spinster.' 'Ah, yes!' says the incontinent attorney, hesitatingly, 'but the trouble of it is she don't work in the spinning-room, she weaves.'

A country paper says that a tall Eastern girl, named Short, long loved a big Mr. Little; while Little, thinking little of Short, loved a little lass named Long. To make a long story short, Little proposed to Long, and Short longed to be even with Little's shortcomings. So Short, meeting Long, threatened to marry Little before long, which caused Little in a short time to marry Long. Query—Did tall short love big little less because Little loved Long.

Sam Slick says: 'If you want your son not to fall in love with any splendid girl, praise her up to the skies, call her an angel, say she is a whole team and a boss to spare, and all that. The moment the critter sees her he is a grain disappointed, and says—'Well, she is handsome, that's a fact; but she is not so very, very fascinating after all.' Nothing damages a gal, a preacher, or a lake, like overpraise. A boss is one of onliest things in nature as is help by it.'

'My dear what shall we get for dinner to-day?' 'One of your smiles,' replied the husband; 'I can dine on that any day.' 'But I can't,' said the wife. 'Then take this,' said he giving her a kiss, and departing for his office. He returned to dinner. 'This is excellent,' said he, 'what did you pay for it?' 'What you gave me this morning,' said she. 'The d-u-s-e you did!' said he, 'then you shall have market money the rest of the time.'

Among the guests at a crowded hotel in a country town, during court time, was a burly, noisy, rude fellow, who entered the dining room late to find himself crowded out of his place at the table, when he commenced to upbraid the company as a 'drove of hungry hogs,' when a quick-witted young lawyer rose and rhymed him down as follows: 'In droves of hogs, my friend you'll always find The biggest hog of all the drove behind.'

The Rochester Union has a lady correspondent, who indulges in the following 'strain': '—Were I the last woman in the world, and did I stand with one foot upon the White House and the other on the Rocky Mountains, I would still swing the American eagle by the tail, and shout 'Crack Louie Republic!' as down I went among the fragments of creation.'

The majesty of justice was fearfully sustained by Lord Eskgrove, who, it is related, once sentenced a tailor for murdering a soldier in these words—'And not only did you murder him, whereby he was bereaved of his life, but you did thrust, push, or pierce, or propel the lethal weapon through the bellyband of his regimental breeches, which were the property of his Majesty.'

A man who was a great stickler for etiquette, having married a widow before her period of mourning had expired, soon after made his appearance with a weed on his hat. On being spoken to on such singular conduct he remarked that he considered it no more than the handsome thing toward his lamented predecessor.

Dr. Johnson, in spite of the contempt he affected for actors, persuaded himself to treat Mrs. Siddons with great politeness, and said, when she called on him at Bolt Court, and Frank, his servant could not immediately provide her with a chair, 'You see, madam, wherever you go, there are no seats to be got.'

'Who's there?' said Robinson, one cold winter night, disturbed in his repose by some one knocking at the street door. 'A friend,' was the answer. 'What do you want?' 'Want to stay here all night.' 'Queer taste, ain't it? But stay there, by all means,' was the benevolent reply.

In a village 'away down East,' so runs the story, an exhorter at a revival meeting became envious because a brother was his superior in singing and praying. So he got up and said: 'Brother—can sing and pray; but there's one thing I can beat him in—I can fiddle his shirt off.'

A French wit said, recently, that the gibbet was a sort of flattery to the human race, three or four persons being hung from time to time, for the purpose of making the rest believe they are virtuous.

A disturbed preacher remarked, 'If that cross-eyed lady in the aisle sits, with a red waterfall and a blue bonnet, don't stop talking, I must point her out to the congregation.'

Bismarck met his barber at Baden lately. The barber complained of the mixed society. Bismarck replied: 'Well we can't all be barbers, you know.'

A Dutch woman desired to advertise her pony which had lost himself, with a tall frisky ver mach, and strike her hard with his hind flaps.

How to take a census of the children of a neighborhood—Employ an organ grinder five minutes.

A girl with 'a ringing laugh' caused an alarm of fire in Peoria. They took her for a belle.

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