

A Real Life Romance

"Quite a few years ago," said the leather-medal wearer of the Homely Men's club, reported by the Washington Star, "a homely but hustling young man of this lovely capital decided to make the break to see if the girl of his choice would have him. So he asked her right out loud, without any beating about the bush whatever.

"I've got a pretty good start," said he, without any undue inflation of the chest, but as a man who knew just where he stood, and I think I'll do pretty well when it comes to taking care of you. I know I'm not pretty, but I think you'll find me square enough when it comes to a question of treating you right. I am likewise perfectly honest when I add that you are the only girl in the world for me. How about it?"

"The only girl in the world for him said 'No.' She had been devoting a considerable share of her time to the perusal of one of Ouida's story books, wherein, it seems, much is set down concerning the fascinating male persons of the general type of beauty of Greek gods. The homely but hustling young man, being unable to conform in his own person to such standards of masculine loveliness, unfortunately did not appeal to the artistic side of the girl of his choice. Moreover, it appeared, from some remarks which she let fall, that she entertained sundry and divers ideals with respect to what is called the higher and nobler, which she feared the homely but hustling young man would be quite unable to assist her in realizing. With the conventional remark that while she liked and respected him, it could never be, she dismissed him, and returned to the perusal of the story books of Ouida, while her elderly mother got the bread for raising on the kitchen table.

"While the homely but hustling young man felt pretty sore over the way he had been dished, he did not swallow pulverized glass, nor did he insert any leaden capsules into his frame. On the contrary, he went to work with all the energy of a beach-comber stripping a wreck, so that within a few years after his dismissal by the girl of his choice his name figured quite extensively in the newspapers in connection with large real estate transactions, profitable paving contracts, heavy deals in sewer pipes, and such like, and at the end of one Olympiad after the girl of his choice had thought to put him in the air by declining to consider his suit, the homely but hustling young man found that he was in possession of more money than he actually knew what to do with.

"Meanwhile, the girl of his choice, who had refused to entertain his matter-of-fact matrimonial beseechments, had met the Greek god whom she had been longing to have come into her life and married him. The Greek god had been enabled to take a degree at a university through the overtime exertions of his sister, who was a dressmaker, and when he returned to his sister's humble home after taking his degree he permitted her to continue her overtime exertions to the end that he might be furnished high-grade raiment and plenty of cigarette money without the necessity on his part of toiling and molling for the same. Although there was never any question as to his personal beauty, the Greek god who married the girl of the homely but hustling young man's choice was undeniably regarded everywhere as a mutt of the purest ray serene. The one or more blackened eyes which his wife generally tried to cover over with a heavy veil were popularly attributed to the prowess of her Greek god husband (although she always claimed that she had fallen downstairs, or something like that), and the frayed and worn garments with which she appeared herself and her two children were accepted as sidelights on the character of the Greek god, who looked rummier and rummier as time sped on.

"About a year ago the Greek god was corralled by the mighty hand of the law and incontinently dumped into a reformatory institution for a term of two years and eleven months for attaching other names

than his own to numerous pieces of paper and realizing upon the same divers bunches of coin wherewith to purchase alcohol in various forms. His wife, who had been taking in plain sewing, thereupon seized the opportunity to obtain a divorce from her Greek god. A few weeks after the granting of the same the homely but hustling young man—need I say that he is a member in excellent standing of this club—drove up to the door of her humble home in a swell trap with red running gear, hitched to which was a pair of matched blacks that had cost 1,500 frigid plunks, and said he to the girl of his choice, now a saddened and sobered woman, with the Ouida end of it cut out altogether—said he: "Do you remember the remarks I made to you on the last night we talked together, several years ago?"

"Yes, Jim," said she, quietly.

"Well, they still go," said the homely but hustling young man.

"Whereupon it came to pass that they were quietly married in Baltimore on one day after Christmas and the next day they might have been observed driving around Washington in an open barouche, with a pair of mated blacks attached to the same, and looking as happy as kittens next to a pan of milk.

"Which is a true story I have told in illustration of motto No. 1 of this club, namely, that handsome is as handsome makes good."

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

the Chinese ships, and they are to be found even in Peking.

I heard yesterday of a curious incident which shows how widely these spies are scattered. It occurred at Tongku, the port on the Yellow sea, where passengers from the steamers embark for Tientsin and Peking. An American who spoke Japanese found here a party of twenty young Japanese students of a commercial college who had been traveling with their professor about the ports of Corea and China. They were being entertained at Tongku by what was supposedly a Chinese merchant of the town. The American addressed the professor in Japanese and he was taken into the party. He soon saw that the Chinese host spoke perfect Japanese and he charged him with being a Japanese. The man acknowledged that he was so, and from the circumstances and his surroundings there was no doubt that he was a Japanese spy. Later on a boat was needed to go out to the steamer, and a Japanese sailor, who wore a pigtail and was dressed as a Chinese, commanded the boat. Both were probably stationed at that important point to report to the government, the sailor from his knowledge of the waters being ready to act as a pilot for war vessels in case of need.

I am told that Japan has for some time been sending men into Corea, and that she has already soldiers there in disguise. She has, I know, a large number of Japanese at all the ports. A large part of the business of the seacoast towns is now done by Japanese. The high officials of Japan claim that these people are in Corea merely for trading purposes, but the whole world has not a more patriotic nation than the Japanese, and the mikado knows that he can call upon any of his subjects in time of need.

The Russians may conduct themselves so discreetly that there will be no excuse for war, but any overt act on their part may precipitate it at any time, and there is a strong likelihood that it will come sooner or later.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

The Murder in Literature

Detroit Journal: But the gray old millionaires in the problem story is by no means without recourse.

"Why do you murder me?" he exclaims. "It is not for you to commit this myste-

rious crime! For you are by no means the last person in the book who would be suspected of such a thing!"

The other is at once struck by the force of this argument and slinks away, first letting fall the glittering dagger from his nervous fingers, while the millionaire congratulates himself upon his accurate understanding of the literary properties.

Crushing Out Ambition

Chicago Tribune: "You told me you had sent an article to the magazine. Was it published?"

"No."

"Did the publishers return it?"

"They did not."

"Then you didn't send stamps for return postage?"

"Yes, I did. They returned the stamps. They said the manuscript was not worth returning."

"Why don't you sue them for it?"

"That's what they want me to do. They say they would like to have it read in court."

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