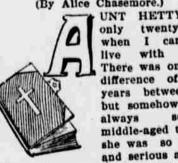


AN EASTER ROMANCE.

(By Alice Chasemore.)



UNT HETTY was only twenty - six when I came to with her. There was only a difference of two years between us, but somehow she seemed middle-aged to me, she was so quiet

and serious and so different from my restless, excited self. She was so sad at times that I could not help wondering if some time in her life she had not experienced some serious sorrow, for she had means and friends enough to make her life worth

living, and should have been happy. One day I found her weeping quietly with a little red book in her hand. I endeavored to calm her, to find out the reason for her sorrow, and then

she told me this story: "It happened when I was only eighteen. I was engaged to be married. My lover was four years older than myself; he was a mate of a ship, and a fine, dashing young fellow named Edward Blake. We had been engaged six months and were to be married a month later. The day was fixed, and Edward had arranged to give up the sea and take a situation on land. We were as happy as two young people could possibly be; but, unluckily, just a month before the time fixed for our and I were of the party. There was a handsome young fellow there named Percy Sandys, the son of a neighboring clergyman. He was fresh from col-

wedding day, a picnic was gotten up lege, and full of fun and frolic. I chanced to be placed next to him at luncheon, and not knowing, as I afterward discovered, that I was engaged, he was specially attentive to me. I did not care for his attentions in the least, but I was in high spirits and only bent on the enjoyment of the moment, and I did not check him as, perhaps, I ought to have done. Presently, I caught sight of Edward's face, and saw that he was looking terribly cross and angry. Foolishly I thought it rather good fun to make him jealous, and, on purpose to tease him, I pretended to take all the more notice of Mr. Sandys. When we finished luncheon the party scattered and strolled about the woods in various directions. I naturally expected Edward to accompany me, but he rather rudely, as I thought, held aloof, and, to punish him, I paired off with Mr. Sandys. When the party got together again Edward looked so savage that I thought it better not to provoke him any further.

"I shook off Mr. Sandys, and, walk-

ing away with Edward, began to scold him for his unreasonable jealousy, Of course, I did not think I myself was in fault: nobody ever does. A loving word would have made me penitent directly. Unfortunately, he was white with anger, and began to reproach me in a way that roused my temper, too. for I was quick enough to take offence in those days, Ruth, though I have learned better since.' I can remember, as if it were yesterday, the nook in the woods where we stood, the sunshine glinting through the trees and lighting up Edward's flushed face and angry eyes. He reproached me bitterly-more bitterly, I think, than I deserved. He called me a heartless coquette, and I called him little-minded and told him he had made himself ridiculous by his unreasonable jealousy. We got hotter and hotter, and finally he declared that if I did not admit that I had been wrong, and promise to behave differently for the future, all must be over between us. I did not care a straw for Mr. Sandys, and would fifty times sooner have had Edward with me, but I would have died sooner than have told him so then. So I gave him a bitter answer, and we both grew angrier still. His last words, uttered with all the intensity of passion, ring still in my ears. I can tell you them word for word: Hetty, if you let me go now, understand clearly you will never see my face again.' I did not quite believe him. Perhaps if I had I should still have let him go. At any rate, I was far too angry to give way then. 'Go, by all means, if you wish it,' I said,

and in another moment he was gone. I

had been tearing to pieces, in my passion, a little spray of hawthorne he had given me earlier in the day. I had pulled off the leaves one by one, and when he left me the bare stem was left in my hand, with one leaf only remaining. See, here it is, the last relic of my first and last love. God grant that in your whole life, my Ruth, you

She opened the little red prayer book in her lap and showed me, hidden in a tissue paper pocket, the yellow hawthorne leaf.

"This little book," she said, "was Edward's gift to me, and this old dry leaf is my only relic of the day when we parted in the wood, never to meet again in this world. Stay, I have one more treasure, see!"

She drew from her bosom a quaint old locket and put it in my hand. It was a miniature painting representing a young man in an old-fashioned naval costume. It was a handsome face, but stern and proud-looking, and I could very well believe that the original would have behaved as Aunt Hetty had described.

"But did you really part like that, auntie?" I said. "Did you never see him again?"

"Never. He did not go back to the picnic party, but joined an outwardbound ship the next day, leaving a brief note for my mother, stating that we had fortunately found out in time that we were unsuited to each other, and had, therefore, by mutual consent, put an end to our engagement."

"But that was very cruel, auntle." "I thought so then. Perhaps it was a little; but afterward I blamed myself far more than him. I had given the provocation; and I knew in my heart of hearts that one word of regret on my part would have made all right between us. But I was too proud to say it. I let him go with my eyes opened, and I have been justly punished."

"But have you never heard from him since, dear auntie?"

"Once or twice, but only indirectly. He had no relatives in our part of the country. I know that he gave up the wedding day, a picnic was gotten up sea and obtained a commission in some of our friends, and Edward some Indiana regiment. When last I heard of him he was a captain; but that is many years ago, and I do not know whether he is alive or dead. So ends my poor little romance. There is one thing I should like to ask, Ruth, and that is partly why I have told you my story. You have seen my relics. They have been my greatest treasure in life, and I should like them put in my coffin when I die. Will you remember this, dear?" I could not answer for tears, but I

kissed her hand and she was content. Two months ago, tired of our humdrum country life, auntie and I resolved to visit foreign parts. Accordingly, we went to Boulogne and took up our abode in a quiet boarding house in the Rue des Vieillards. There were a good many visitors staying in the house, but they were mostly in families or parties, and we did not mingle with them. Our vis-a-vis at table was a tall gentleman of soldierly appearance, who was always spoken of as the major. When he ventured to address an order to the waiting maids in French, the difficulties he got into were dreadful, and he always ended by gettnig angry with himself and them. I ventured to help him out of a difficulty once or twice, and in this manner a slight acquaintance sprung up between us. It had, however, gone



mark across the dinner table. With other visitors he fraternized even less. So matters stood until the night of Easter Sunday came, when we went to the little English church in an adjoining street. We were ushered into one of the pews appropriated for strangers and a minute or two later the major was shown into the same pew and sat down beside us. During the service the major, by an accidental movement of his arm, threw down auntie's little red prayer book. He picked it up, and was about to replace it, but as he held it in full view under the gas, his eyes chanced to fall upon it, and he started as though he had seen a ghost. He

from it to Aunt Hetty, as if trying to satisfy himself on some point. The sermon came to an end, and the benediction followed, but I fear the major had no part in it. He took advantage of the

do a very unmannerly thing. He slyly put up his eyeglasses and read the name inside auntie's book. It was quickly done, and might have escaped notice, but I watched him closely. I could even read the name myself. It was in a bold, manly hand: "To Hester; June 28, 18-." I was aghast at

noticed it, for she made no sign. The congregation began to disperse, and we went out, but we were scarcely in the street when the major spoke

such an act of impertinence, and

glanced at auntie to see if she would

moment when all heads were bowed to

"Madam, I am going to ask you a very singular question, but let me assure you that I have a deep personal interest in asking it. Will you tell me how you came by that red prayerbook you use?"

I shall never forget auntie's quickly-given answer, but I could tell by the faint flush on her usually pale face how deeply she was moved.

"You gave it to me, yourself, Major Blake, years ago."

Surprise, delight and incredulity struggled for the mastery in the major's face. He took off his hat and stood bare-headed, and that one little gesture told more plainly than the most passionate protestations could have done, that the old love had been kept a treasured and sacred thing. I think, from the smile on her mouth, as she looked at him, that the same thought came to auntle.

"And you are Hetty! Yes, I know you now," he said.

"You had forgotten the eight years Major Blake. I knew you from the first."

"And would you really have let me go without a word?"

"Why not? How could I know you would wish to be reminded of old

"Reminded! I have never forgotten I tried my hardest to forget and couldn't. Although you preferred an-

"Another! What other?"

"Didn't you marry young Sandys?" "I have never seen him since."

At this stage of the conversation it



Will You Tell Me How You Came by the Red Prayer-book You Use?"

Blake, side by side with auntle, was walking slowly homeward, and on may be ordered by the board to perreaching a convenient street corner, I form any act. Under the present law went off for a stroll in an opposite di- the board has power to enforce orders rection. When I reached home I found through the courts. The bill reverse auntie and the Major sitting in the this and holds the board's orders final courtyard under the trees. The Major lifted his hat at my approach and said: "Miss Danvers, your aunt and I are of the board are unjust.

very old friends; indeed, many years ago we were engaged to be married, passage and on roll call it was killed, but an unfortunate misunderstanding Senator Grothan coming in and voting separated us. We have lost many happy years, but I hope some still remain cess, however, on motion of Senator to us. I trust we shall have your good Grothan, a motion to reconsider carto us. I trust we shall have your good

I looked from one to the other.

"You dear, darling auntie, then you really are going to be married after passage or rejection. all? Of course I wish you joy, and Major Blake too, from the very bot- not gone through the course prescribed tom of my heart!"

every one in the house knew that the was legitimately before the senate. handsome English major had met an The vote in detail on final passage old love in the person of the gentle was as follows: little lady with the sweet smile and the soft gray hair, and that after a Beal separation of eight years they were engaged to be married, and they were accordingly promoted to all the privileges of engaged lovers.

I must pass over the homeward journey and the astonishment of our friends at Fairfield when auntie returned engaged to be married. Some few of them had known Major Blake, but to most of them he was a stranger. Many were the questions and explanations before everything was accounted for to everybody's satisfaction; but it was done at last, And then came the preparation of the trousseau; and at last the happy pair have been made one, and auntle is off to the Isle of Wight to spend her honeymoon. Before going she called me to her room and said:

"Ruth, dear, I am going to give you this little red prayer book as a parting remembrance. You know how I forenoon considering the general appropriation bill, house roll No. 615, the type is an sure for having been salary bill. The bill was disposed of it the less ! am sure, for having been after the noon recess after some so dear to me. And if, when Mr. Right changes were made. comes, Ruth, you are tempted to be willful or wayward, or to pain a heart that loves you truly, think of your every mistake in life ends as mine did on Easter Day."

She Did.

"Jane," said the landlady, severely, where are the eggs for dinner? I told you to cook that dozen I borrowed from the neighbors." 'Yes, mum, but you told me later to

Press. The most honest man in the world will lie about what he pays for his ellaid the book down, but he glanced gara.

TWENTY - FIFTH SESSION HAS ADJOURNED.

Closing Week of the Nebraska Legislature a Busy One-Many Important Measures Passed Non-Partisan Report of the Proceedings of House and Senate.

The legislature closed its work Friday, but was unable to adjourn at noon, the time fixed for doing so, and the services of a junitor were called into requisition to keep the hands of the resent it; but she had probably not clocks from reaching 12. It remained in session pending the enrollment of the general appropriation bills and other measures This work was completed Saturday morning and the members departed for their several homes

While the records show that the legislature adjourned sine die Friday noon the business of the session was not finished till almost twenty-four hours later. The record for passing bills was broken by the legislature just adjourned. One hundred and thirty-three were passed, an average of one for each member. Eighty-two originated in the house and fifty-one in the sen-

THE SENATE.

Tuesday, April 6. The senate spent the day considering the current expense bill, providing for main enance of state institutions. attempt to cut off the soldiers' home at Milford had the support of only five senators. The senate showed its idea of economy by increasing the appro-priations for nearly every institution. The failure of the house to hold a

night session tonight is said to have killed all bills now in the senate on

third reading.

H. R. 611, introduced in response to the request of the governor in a spe-cial message, was read a third time and passed. It is a joint resolution setting forth the necessity for cheaper transportation on farm products to the Gulf

H. R 342, relating to the management of the penitentiary, and H. R. 18. appropriating \$30,000 for a new wing to the Hastings asylum, were passed with the emergency clause.

Wednesday, April 7. The senate today transacted the fol-

owing business: Killed by a vote of 16 to 15 Senator Beal's S. F. 325, to legislate out of exstence the Burlington relief depart

Passed S. F. 284, by Senator Graham. to regulate service of summons on foreign incorporated trotting or racing as-

Killed by a vote of 22 to 7, S. F. 358, repealing a law which provides that not more than one ditch can be constructed across land without owner's consent when the first ditch can be made to answer the same purpose. Passed S. F. 353, providing that as

signment of mortgages shall be re-Passed by unanimous consent con-

current resolution 23, providing for resubmission of constitutional amendment for two additional judges of supreme court at general election in 1898 Next came the bill enlarging the powers of the state board of transportation, conferring upon them semi judicial powers and suspending the present law of injunction. It reverses the order of procedure by placing the burden of proof on corporations which and conclusive, and the corporations are required to go into court, assume the burden of proof to show that orders

A warm fight was made against its nay, making the vote a tie. After reried, the vote demonstrating that the noon recess had been advantageously used by friends of the bill. The bill thus again came before the senate for

Opponents of the bill declared it had by the constitution, and if passed would not be constitutional. Friends I don't know how the secret cozed of the bill thought different, and said out, but before another day had passed the record would show that the bill

YEAS-19.

Graham Grothan Heapy Jeffcoat Lee McGann Miller Muffly Mutz Gondring NAYS-IL

RECORDED NOT VOTING-3 Dearing Howell Watson The current expense bill was further considered in committee of the whole

and several items increased. At a night session the senate considered the salary bill and at 11 o'clock adjourned.

Thursday, April 8. In the senate today house rolls 630. miscellaneous claims bill; 10 and 12,

providing for non-partisan election poards; 578, allowing Douglas county to bond herself for aid to exposition, were advanced to third reading. The state script bill was killed when

a motion toadvance was lost. The senate spent the balance of the

The fusionists voted down a motion to appropriate \$17,000 to pay bounty claims of the American Chicory com-Aunt Hetty, and the faded leaf, for not pany of Fremont for the manufacture on sugar bounty claims amounting to \$121,000, which is the bounty due the Grand Island and Norfolk beet sugar factories. A resolution was then introduced authorizing the governor to investigate and report to the next nounce legislature the amount due. The res- where.

olution was passed. Many bills were passed by the senste, mostly house rolls. Chiefest among be sure and return 'em."-Detroit Free the number were the following: House rolls 31, for mutual plate glass insurance companies; 283, placing institute for deaf and dumb and school for blind under control of board of trustees; 519,

ITS WORK COMPLETED appropriating \$2,000 for relief of Mrs. Lawson, who was injured Charter day by a gun wad: 491, placing home for the friendless under control of board of public lands and buildings: 67. de-tining chicken stealing as burglary: 124, withdrawing school lands from 23, adding the word chicory to warehouse law; 333, authorizing the issuance of teachers certificates to university graduates: 241, defining a legal newspaper as one that has been published three months; 529, authorizing the purchase of land near Hastings asylum for use of asylum.

The senate adjourned at 11 p. m.

Friday, April 9. Passage of bills was the only busi-ness transacted by the senate today. Among the twenty or more bills rushed through were the following house rolls: 578, allowing Douglas county to bond itself to aid the exposition; 630, mis-cellaneous claims bills; salary appro-priation bill; 575, allowing board of purchase and supplies to make contracts for one year for supplies not of a perishable nature; 10 and 13, for non-partisan election boards; 463, for blanket ballot; 456, declaring elevator trusts on lawful: 263, regulating charges of live stock commission men; 631, mis-cellaneous claims bill; 571, permitting state printing board to let contracts on each article or piece of work separately.

The guarantee bond bills introduced in the house by Mr. Rich of Douglas, eleven in number, were then put on final passage. Two of the bills were defeated, H. R. 353, providing for the payment by counties of the premium on the bonds of county treasurers, the premium not to exceed one-half of one per cent, and H. R. 320, containing general provisions relating to official The bill giving county officers the right to give gurantee bonds, the counties to pay for the same, was one of the most important in the list.

H. R. 549, to provide for testing gasoline, passed The transfer switch bill was de-

feated. The municipal referendum bill was

The usual resolutions and motions incident to the winding up of business followed.

The sum of \$1,300 was allowed for preparing the senate journal. At 11 o'clock the senate was informally dismissed.

Saturday, April 10. In the senate today, during the wait for committee on engrossed and enmay cause its legality to be questioned.

A committee was appointed to notify the house that the senate was ready to adjourn.

Speeches were made by members and the best of feeling prevailed.

The lieutenant governor said the past few months would ever be precious to him. His closing remarks touched tender chords.

The gavel fell for the last time at Members of the senate shook hands warmly with each other and left the capitol for their homes.

IN THE HOUSE

Monday, April 5.

Consideration of H. R. 578, to allow Douglas county to bond itself in aid of the exposition, was resumed in committee of the whole this morning, the motion before the committee being to indefinitely postpone. The motion failed to carry and the bill was recommended for passage.

H. R. 32, the anti-cigarette bill was

advanced to a third reading. Standing committees reported on

everal bills. S. F. 330, Senator Gondring's antitrust bill was ordered to third reading. In committee of the whole H. R. 263. regulating commissions for selling live

stock was reported for passage.

Among the bills passed were the following house rolls: 241, defining a legal newspaper; 73, providing for col-lection of taxes in irrigation districts; 345, requiring commission merchants o act as agent of shippers, and prohibiting them depositing money re-ceived for such in banks in their own name: 575, allowing board of purchase and supplies to contract coal for one year; 529, for purchase of land for use of Hastings asylum; 333, providing that when normal schools have same course of study as state normal school, graduates of same may have state certificates: 491, placing home for friendless in control of state; 571, providing for letting state printing in small lots; 456, prohibiting combinations among grain elevator men; 625, to prevent

hog cholera. The following went through: H. R. 277, for establishment of free employemployment bureaus; H. R. 602, pealing the law allowing a bounty for the destruction of wolves, coyotes and wild cats: H. R. 255, providing for the holding of property in trust for theo-

logical purposes. S. F. 251, placing express, telegraph and telephone companies under control of board of transportation, was reported to be postponed. A lengthy discussion was had on the report, after which the house ordered it to third

reading. S. F. 371, taxing express companies. was reported for postponement by a majority and for third reading by a minority. A motion to adopt the mi-nority report led to a lengthy debate. On call for previous question the motion was lost.

On S. F. 375, a bill taxing telephone companies, there was also a minority report, the adoption of which was lost by a vote of 3s to 39. The majority report was adopted, placing the bill on general file, where it will remain uness resurrected by a two-thirds vote.

The committee appointed to fix a time for the joint convention moved that the time be at 4 o'clock, which was agreed to. That time had arrived and the senate was immediately announced. Its proceedings appear else-

After the joint convention, the senate bill taxing telegraph companies was presented in a similar manner with

vote was 46 to 36 and the bill was dis-

The house killed a bill on final passage by Mr. Hull of Harian, repealing the law providing for supreme court commissioners. The vote on this bill was taken immediately after the joint session, when the recount of the amend-

ments had been announced. The joint conference committee recommended that final adjournment be had Friday noon and that no bills be passed by either house after Thursday.

Wednesday, April 7.

The house today refused to fix a time to adjourn, claiming the senate is fritting away its time in order to kill house

H. Rs. 385, raising the salary of adjutant-general from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and 584, permitting Douglas county to bond itself for the exposition, were

The bills to discourage sale of adulterated beer and for a beer inspector were postponed.

H. Rs. 450, creating a municipal court in metropolitan cities; 32, anti-cigarette bill; 263, regulating rates of live stock commission men; 197, giving county commissioners right to regulate charges for water by irrigation com-panies; 275, establishing a free employment bureau; 200, changing number of legress necessary in testing illuminating oils: 593, providing for manner of payment of the interest and principal of real estate mortgages, all were

passed. S. F. 2, Senator Haller's anti-compact bill, was the first senate file on third reading. It provides that insurance men in the state shall not combine on insurance rates. The bill received only 57 votes with the emergency clause. It passed without the emergency clause by a vote of 59 to 24.

Thursday, April 8.

The house today passed senate files 144, authorizing county judges in counties having over 25,000 to designate one of their clerks as county clerk; 199, providing for the disposition of dismembered school districts; 318, compelling real estate agents and owners of real estate to make written con-tracts; 330, the anti-trust bill; 264, the pure food bill; 117, granting certificates to graduates of state university; 305, providing for condemnation of land for irrigation purposes; 94, authorizing county treasurers to invest not to ex-ceed 75 per cent of the sinking fund in the respective countles in registered rolled bills to report, the senate made an effort to revive the legal newspaper bill. It was reurrected and sent to the governor under circumstances that venting transportation of same out of the state; 41, authorizing cities and vil-An effort was also made to have inserted in the salary bill an item for salary of deputy state superintendent. It failed. The salary was intended for Mrs. Jackson, who is assisting her husies of the first class to 25 mills; 61, placing government of Milford industrial home in state control; 269, putting power to appoint superintendent of Beatrice institute in the hands of the governor; 270, with similar provision concerning the girls' industrial school

at Geneva. The most important measure passed was senate file 251, which places the regulation of telegraph, telephone and express companies under control of the state board of transportation. about the only bill over which a fight occurred, and in order to secure its passage Representative Cronk, who was in bed sick with the measles, was brought in. The vote on the bill in

YEAS-52. loran lorrison NAY8-40. ouse mith of D'giss

ABSENT AND POT VOTING-A. Snyder of Sh'a

Taylor of Dgla

Before adjourning the house refused to concur in the senate amendments to house roll No. 614, the current expense appropriation bill. This means that the bill will go to conference today.

The house then adjourned.

Friday, April 9.

The house commenced its last day by

donating the flag over representative hall to the soldiers home at Milford. S. F. 271, placing appointment of superintendent of Kearney industrial school in hands of governor, failed to pass; 74, defining cruelty to children, passed; 250, allowing school board of Omaha to fix levy, passed: 238, provid-ing that boys and girls under 18 years may not be sent to penitentiary.

The sum of \$1,500 was allowed for preparing the house journal, to be divided equally between Clerks F. D. Eager, J. W. Barnhart and U. E. Fos-

The balance of the time was then passed by the members in presenting resolutions and motions of thanks and

recommendations. At 11 o'clock the members departed leaving the speaker and a janitor pres-ent to watch the clock, as some necssary work had to be done Saturday morning.

Saturday, April 10.

In the house todhy very little busi-ness was transacted. While waiting for the committee on enrolled and en-

grossed bills to report that all bills had been presented to the governor the members enjoyed a social session.

At 11:10 the senate announced that it was ready to adjourn. Chairman Severe reported all bills as enrolled and presented to the governor. The opening sentence in the journal was end and approved and on motion of Mr. Sheldon, the house adjourned

Roll call was taken on the motion to adopt the report of the majority, which was to put the bill on general file. The