

HARLEY'S MARRIAGE.

CHAPTER I. It was blowing a strong southeaster one November morning in 1858—, as I landed at Long wharf, San Francisco, from the store ship lying out in the stream, of which I then had charge. I had not proceeded many steps toward Montgomery street, the principal business thoroughfare of the city, when a heavy hand was laid on my shoulder, and I recognized the cheery voice of John Harley, the most intimate friend I had made since my arrival in California some sixteen months before.

CHAPTER II. Immediately after I had left Mrs. Van Dusen, the rest of the company had also departed, with the exception of one or two bosom friends of Sussette who intended remaining with her till the newly married pair started in the evening. Harley was then in the room alone with Mrs. Van Dusen, and turning over the contents of a desk which he had forgotten in his hurry leaving the ship, and which I sent on shore after him, he took out a miniature of his father taken some twenty years before. This he handed to Mrs. Van Dusen, saying, "There is my father at the age of twenty."

CHAPTER III. "Why, this is a likeness of Charles Smith, not of your father. Where did you get it?" exclaimed Mrs. Van Dusen, excitedly. "I got it from my father himself. He was Charles Smith when it was painted, but some three or four years afterward he unexpectedly inherited a large estate, and with it the name of Harley. But how strange all this is! Did you know him, that you recognize the miniature?"

CHAPTER IV. "Oh, do not ask me," cried Mrs. Van Dusen, with much agitation; "I can hardly bear the thought of it. But speak—truly, say which I sent on shore after him, he took out a miniature of his father taken some twenty years before. This he handed to Mrs. Van Dusen, saying, "There is my father at the age of twenty."



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