

DRAWING NEAR THE LIGHT.

Lo, when we wade the tangled wood,
In haste and hurry to be there,
Nought seem its leaves and blossoms good,
For all that they be fashioned fair.

The Actor's Story.

BY JOHN COLEMAN.

CHAPTER VII.—CONTINUED.

One day Elspeth M'Diarmid and her husband came over to see how he was getting on.

Although he had no actual recollection of her, some finer instinct, which took the place of memory, drew him toward her.

"Kiss me, mother," as she did so, Elspeth's heart stirred within her at the thought of her boy fighting in the wild Mahratta wars far away, and a tear fell on the lad's brow as she turned from him in silence.

"You can spare yourself the trouble of putting up that call, captain; I shall not be here. Make my compliments to Mr. M., and say I don't play Grindoffs or melodramatic ruffians of that description.

The performance was destined to form an epoch in the lives of the young actors. It so happened that that very night the managers of the Royal theatre, Drury Lane and of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, were amongst the auditors.

Next morning Curly received an offer for the ensuing season at Drury Lane, and Willie was engaged as principal tragedian for the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

"Why, you see, sir," said Sandy, "the guildwife has a wee bit of second sight. It has been in the blood of her forebears for generations and she's just mixed him w' our ain Donald, who's in the Black Watch fighting out you'er for the queen, God bless her!"

Jameson's curiosity was aroused, so he told the old people that he was Curly's friend and brother, coaxed them into his lodgings, got them to eat and drink and then, in the fullness of their hearts, they told him all they knew of the business the other side of the water and their suspicions about Doempster.

"That was the first and the last Willie saw of Elspeth M'Diarmid and her husband, but he had occasion to remember her words later on.

CHAPTER VIII.

Parting of Orestes and Pylades.

Curly's recovery now was a mere question of time. One day Dr. Dixon said to Jameson:

"I think your friend may leave the hospital in a week or so but you must be very careful with him. Above all things keep him from drink. I fear he has a tendency that way, and any outburst of that description may prove fatal; certainly to his reason, probably to his life! Keep him from it, for God's sake!"

"With God's help I'll do my best," said Willie.

At the end of the week he took his poor friend to his lodgings, and tended him as if, indeed, he had been the little brother he had lost so long ago.

As they approached, they heard the sound of pleasant voices and ripples of laughter, but when poor Willie and his escort entered the green-room (so-called because there was nothing green in it, except occasionally some verdant youngster) it might have been a Quaker's meeting house.

Warned by former experience, Jameson was careful never again to refer to Flora, and Curly never even mentioned her name, so henceforth the subject was tabooed between them.

"Dundee! Ha! ha! m! There is such a place somewhere. I believe it is devoted entirely to the manufacture of marmalade."

"Not entirely," replied Willie. "They manufacture men there occasionally."

"Men, sir?" echoed Young Hopeful. "Yes, and very good men, too," continued Willie, with imperturbable gravity; "but they don't venture to compete with the metropolis of the country in the manufacture of puppies."

"Look here, old man, I've got a surprise for you. The doctor says I may act for your benefit. Please may I play some little part—something like Charles his friend?"

Members of the company, finding he was as modest and unassuming as he could be pugnacious when the occasion warranted, began to thaw, became communicative, and finally received him with cordiality.

Imagine if you can the consternation of the court of St. Petersburg upon beholding Ivan Ivanovitch, ensign in the imperial guard, walking into the awful presence of the autocrat of all the Russias, and tearing up under his very nose, the last imperial ukase. Then you may form some idea of the consternation of the Edinburgh greenroom at this act of unparalleled audacity.

The stage manager pulled his white mustache.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

A GOOD AND SIMPLE RATION FOR A STOCK BOAR.

How to Raise Turkeys.

Feeding a Stock Boar.

Dairy Items.

Household Helps.

Short on Suspenders.

The Force of Habit.

A Mere Matter of Justice.

LISPED BY LITTLE ONE.

Prayers and Hymns Assumed... Shape When Uttered by Children...

Hard time of it, and in no sphere... much as in that of religion...

Who is Etta Farr, mamma... asked one little girl who lives in the Quaker city.

Oh, yes, you do," persisted the little one. "We sing about her, you know."

And that curiosity concerning Etta's identity was rife within the small bosom.

The tale will bear retelling of the little girl who went around the house chanting, "I hardly think I have any father, I hardly think I have any father..."

Lord's last name?" The bewildered lady, who had never presumed to say anything about that subject, replied that she did not know, but was assured:

"O yes, you taught it to me; you see, it's in the bible; and was further requested to "Just say the Lord's prayer and I'll show you."

"This is News to Most People." "Hello" is almost a new word, and differs in form, sound and use from the old "halloo."

Household Helps. Spirits of camphor will remove white spots from furniture.

Mustard or celery rubbed on the hands will remove the odor left after peeling onions.

For housecleaning time it's well to know that a mixture of two parts of crude oil to one of turpentine applied with a soft cloth makes an excellent furniture polish.

Food becomes dangerous if put away in tin receptacles. China or glass dishes are the only safe things in which "leftovers" may be allowed to stand.

The perfect way of boiling eggs is not to boil them at all. They should be placed in a wire basket that the necessity of fishing the eggs out one by one may not keep some of them in the water longer than others.

After a certain stage of ripeness has been reached a very little delay will often lower the quality very materially. If the binder is used for wheat and oats be sure of the twine needed in good season.

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