

NOT TOO LATE.

She was not seven. I was nine. I loved her madly, and she knew it, I knelt and begged her to be mine.

At thirty-eight her hair is gray. Her roses brighter bloom than ever; To-morrow is my wedding day.

"Till late, but better late than never." -J. Benton Wilde, in Munsey's Magazine.

The Actor's Story.

BY JOHN COLEMAN.

CHAPTER XIV—CONTINUED.

And the two men went at it hammer and tongs. Dempster had met his match for the first time in his life, and in a quarter of an hour he lay on his back, beaten within an inch of his life.

The poor little pointer perceived "a divided duty," he came and snarled at the victor as if going to bite him, then apparently he altered his mind, and licked his hand. After that he went over to his master, and licked the beaten giant's face.

CHAPTER XV.

Only a Tramp. Night was falling at the Gairloch house when a conveyance drove up and stopped at the hall door. The driver got down, and began to bring forth sundry boxes and to load the cart with them.

Suddenly the horse came to a full stop. It was now quite dark, and the cart, who had a "drappio in his ee," endeavored to urge the animal onward, but in vain.

Several weeks elapsed, and Jamieson's slender resources were running short, but fortunately the time for the commencement of his engagement at Glasgow was drawing near.

Dr. Miller wished Curly to stay with him, but he pleaded so piteously not to be left behind that Jamieson could not find it in his heart to say him nay.

Turning round he saw Dempster riding down the street, his eyes blood-shot and his face aflame. Whether he came to seek Willie with murderous intent, or whether the devil got the better of him at the sight of the man who had beaten him, can never be known till the day of doom.

With his heavy riding whip he struck him a tremendous blow on the head, which brought him to his knees, and would most certainly have split his skull open had it not been for his tall chimney-pot hat.

Before Willie had time to speak, she had urged him forward into an adjacent bedroom, where his poor friend lay shivering in a fitful, fevered sleep. Great hollows were in his cheeks and beneath his closed eyes.

Long afterward Jamieson learned that as soon as Donald left the asylum at Kew the poor fellow started on foot for the North. Drenched with rain and half starving, he fell down fainting in the streets of Birmingham. He was taken up by the police and charged with being drunk.

After a sojourn of some months he was discharged. Thanks to his kind physician, he was assisted on by the mail as far as Newcastle-on-Tyne. From thence the manager of the theater sent him by coach to Edinburgh.

They grow older, and the world grew grayer and gloomier for both, and the case of "Jamieson and Miller vs. M'Allister and others" continued to impoverish the poor player.

"That is where she lives. Oh, no! It can't be—that's impossible!"

He resolved to write to Jamieson at once, but his impatience would not allow him to wait. He would go immediately. Then his pride stepped in.

There stood the house and the garden, exactly as he had left them two years ago—nothing seemed changed except himself. Yes—he must have changed, too, else she would not have sent him that cruel reminder.

At this moment a tall, spare man left the house, and came rapidly to the spot where Curly sat. The poor wretch could contain his patience no longer, so he accented the stranger.

"Ay—she was buried three days ago." And so the limb of the law passed on. Curly stood looking at his retreat.

Curly stood looking at his retreat, figure still it faded altogether into the mist of evening; then, without a sigh or sound, he dropped like a stone on the highway, where Duncan M'Tavish and Jeannie M'Pherson found him lying some hours later.

As far as care and kindness could alleviate Curly's sufferings they were alleviated, and gradually he came to himself. By degrees he resumed his old relations with Willie, and at last he was enabled to get about, leaning on the other's strong arm.

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Mr. McCrawley Gittona, having exhausted every artifice that pettifoggery and chicanery could suggest was at length brought to bay, and the final hearing came on, which resulted in a verdict for the defendant.

The very next day Jamieson gave notice of appeal. Then commenced affidavits, interlocutories and I don't know what all. Anyhow, the whole thing had to begin de novo.

While this precious lawsuit dragged its slow length along, Jamieson was acting in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, the York circuit, etc. Wherever he went Curly accompanied him.

As Pike got to this portion of his narrative we reached the summit of a hill at the bottom of which some two miles off lay Stuart Town, through which we had to pass during almost the last stage of our journey.

As we paused to contemplate the prospect, and indeed to take breath, for we were both a little blown, our attention was attracted to a solitary foot passenger, about three or four hundred yards in front who came walking along briskly toward us.

Despite his shabby clothes he had the air and manner of a gentleman. His figure seemed wiry and elastic; his hair fell about his neck in a profusion of snow-white silky curls; the collar of his shirt was turned down over a frayed black silk handkerchief, revealing a singularly beautiful neck; he carried his head erect; his eyes seemed fixed on vacancy, and his whole manner was so engrossed and preoccupied that he scarcely observed us until within a stone's throw.

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TO THE TWO HOUSES.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

Brief but Plain Talk in Reference to the Financial Difficulties that Beset Us—The Country's Troubles Charged Up to Unwise Congressional Legislation—The President Recommends Repeal of the Sherman Law as One of the First Most Important Steps—Early Action Essential to the Country's Welfare—Our Needs of a Stable Currency.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 8.—[To the Congress of the United States.]—The existence of an alarming and extraordinary business situation, involving the welfare and prosperity of all our people, has constrained me to call together in extra session the people's representatives in Congress, to the end that through a wise and patriotic exercise of the legislative duty with which they solely are charged present evils may be mitigated and dangers threatening the future may be averted.

Our unfortunate financial plight is not the result of untoward events nor of conditions related to our national resources; nor is it traceable to any of the afflictions which frequently check national growth and prosperity. With piteous crops, with abundant promise of remunerative production and manufacture, with unusual invitation to safe investment and with satisfactory assurance to business enterprises, suddenly financial distrust and fear have sprung up on every side, and numerous moneyed institutions have suspended because abundant assets were not immediately available to meet the demands of frightened depositors.

Surviving corporations and individuals are content to keep in hand the money they are actually entitled to receive, and those engaged in legitimate business are surprised to find that the securities they offer for loans, though heretofore satisfactory, are no longer so readily advanced. Loans, which are fast becoming conjectural, and loss and failure have invaded every branch of business. I believe the things are principally chargeable to congressional legislation touching the purchase and coinage of silver by the general government.

This legislation is embodied in a statute passed on the 16th day of July, 1890, which was the culmination of much agitation on the part of the silver interest, and which, considered a truce, after a long struggle between the advocates of free silver coinage and those intending to be more conservative. Undoubtedly the monthly purchases by the government of 4,500,000 ounces of silver, enforced under the statute, were regarded by the silver interest as a promise of a certain guarantee of its increase in price.

The result, however, has been entirely different, for immediately following a spasmodic and slight rise, the price of silver began to fall after the passing of the act, and has since reached the lowest point ever known in our history. This disappointing result has led to renewed and persistent effort in the direction of free silver coinage. Meanwhile, not only are the evil effects of the present law constantly accumulating, but the results to which its execution must inevitably lead is becoming palpable to all who give the least heed to financial conditions.

This law provides that in payment for the 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion which the secretary of the treasury is commanded to purchase, he is to accept of such silver as the treasury notes redeemable on demand in gold or silver coin, at the discretion of the secretary of the treasury, and that said notes may be retained in the treasury. It is declared in the act to be "the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present rate of exchange, and that such parity be maintained by such action as may be provided by law."

This declaration so controls the secretary of the treasury as to prevent his exercising his discretion nominally vested in him, in such a manner as to disturb the parity between gold and silver. Manifestly a refusal by the secretary to pay the bullion in gold, if he is commanded, would necessarily result in a depreciation and devaluation as obligations payable only in silver, and would destroy the parity between the two metals. Such a discrimination in favor of gold.

Up to the 15th day of July, 1893, these notes had been issued in payment of silver bullion purchases to the amount of \$147,000,000. While all but a very small quantity of this bullion remains uncoined and without usefulness in the treasury many of the notes have been redeemed in gold. This is illustrated by the statement that between the first day of May, 1892, and the 15th day of July, 1893, the notes of this kind issued in payment of silver bullion, amounted to a little more than \$4,000,000, and that during the same period about \$140,000,000 of gold were taken out of the treasury in gold for the redemption of such notes.

Earthquakes.

Earthquakes are due to the plasticity or folding of the upper strata. The same tension or compression which produced the mountain ranges is here in action, and tends to leave the earth crust behind. The weight of the crust, however, is greater than it sustains, and is therefore compelled to wrinkle. The geologists explain great ridges and furrows which cross the continents and river basins, they compare this folding of the earth's crust with the wrinkling of the skin of a dried apple. While the process of wrinkling or folding is going on, the equilibrium of the rock strata, in consequence earthquakes occur, continue with greater or less violence until the equilibrium is again restored.

Give the Counterpart.

One day during the war, while a Tennessee regiment was stationed in the city of Nashville, an Irishman was put on guard duty on one of the principal streets in the city. One day he thought it his duty to challenge a man who came along, just as he was in camp. By and by a well-dressed citizen approached. "Halt! Who there?" says Mike. "A citizen," answered the man. "Advance, and give the countersign." "I don't know the countersign," said the citizen; "and if I did, I think it is strange and unusual that it should be demanded in a public place like this."

Mailing a Book for One Cent.

I wonder how many people in England who handle the Congressional Record every day are aware that it enjoys a unique distinction in the matter of postage rates? I have certainly nestled with my own eyes a hundred times the efforts of strangers in city, who have bought a Record to take home, to get it properly weighed and stamped. Their trouble is thrown away. In the view of the postal Record is a Record, regardless of weight; and any Record will go to part of the United States for one cent, no matter whether it is a big book containing an eight-hour speech by Senator George, or a little book containing a single sheet, holding only prayers of the two chaplains and a couple of resolutions to adjourn.

Cataract Cannot Be Cured.

With LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they do not reach the seat of the disease, a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal medicine. Hall's Cataract Cure is taken internally, acts directly on the blood and mucous faces. Hall's Cataract Cure is not a medicine. It was prescribed by one of the physicians in this country for years, as a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces wonderful results in curing Cataract. For testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props, Toledo, Sold by druggists, price 75c.

Jokes and Their Admirers.

The woman who talks had the man who writes jokes in her tentacles. "Really," she said ebulliently, "do you ever manage to write all these things? I couldn't do it to save my life." "No," he replied, evasively. "No, I couldn't, and sometimes I do even see the point to them." "No, I presume not," he said, sadly. "You know it requires quite a good deal of talent to see the point to a joke as it does to write one."

Snake Charming.

In India and Africa the charmer pretend the snakes dance to the music but they do not, for they never hear a snake has no external ears, and has gets evidence of sound through his skin, when sound comes in contact with him to vibrate. They hear also through the nerves. They hear also through the nerves of the motion, but do not comprehend as we do. But the snake's ear are very much alive to the motion of his confederate, and being alarmed he prepares to strike. A dancing cobra alarmed and in a posture of attack. He is not dancing to the music but is making ready to strike the charmer.

Three Harvest Excursions South via Wabash Railroad.

On Aug. 22nd, Sept. 12th and Oct. 12th the Wabash will sell round-trip tickets at all points in Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee (except Memphis), Mississippi and Louisiana. Tickets return 20 days from date of issue. For tickets or folders giving a description of lands, climate, &c., call at Wabash Station, 1502 Farnam Street, or write to G. N. CLAYTON, Northwestern Pass. Agent, Omaha.

Good Housekeeping for August is full complement of valuable and interesting papers, among which appear account of Miss Parlos's visit to Chicago Fair, and some of the best seen there; another installment of serial, "A Noble Girlhood;" a sensible article on "Pickling and Serving," by Margaret Fayerweather; a discussion of "Servants and their Quarters," by Mrs. Oliver Bell; a sound commendation of M. D. Food," by Isabella Gardner; a notable paper on country cooking in connection with city home, by Mrs. N. A. M. Roe, two pages of musical, innumerable suggestions to housewife, together with much poetry and the usual magazine departments. The Clark W. Bryan comp. publishers, Springfield, Mass.

The road to heaven is all up hill to man who looks back.

Great Britain has but one medical, while this country has over 200.

Many large bells are now being made of steel instead of bell metal.

Electricity preaches the early emanation of the mule.

The World's fair board of lady managers is all torn up over the quarrel between Mrs. Meredith and Mrs. Hall.

Senator Washburne says that he will not immediately push his anti-optical bill in the senate.

Mrs. Blicke—Is your son, who has gone to New York, a good worker?

Mrs. Maskey—Oh, yes; he is very industrious. Why, in the last letter he sent home he said that on arriving in New York he met a man who worked him for all he was worth. But his wages must have been poor, for he sent home for more money.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 8.—[To the Congress of the United States.]—The existence of an alarming and extraordinary business situation, involving the welfare and prosperity of all our people, has constrained me to call together in extra session the people's representatives in Congress, to the end that through a wise and patriotic exercise of the legislative duty with which they solely are charged present evils may be mitigated and dangers threatening the future may be averted.

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