

THE TWO WILLS.

Josephine Mayhew was left an orphan in her childhood, the sole inheritor of her father's princely fortune. Her guardian conscientiously fulfilled his duty in the proper investment of her money, but left her intellect and character to be formed by the servile crowd of money-worshippers who surrounded her. Consequently she grew up selfish and haughty, impatient of contradiction, claiming and receiving homage and admiration as her right. She possessed great beauty of both face and figure, and was well educated and accomplished.

Josephine resided with her guardian. He was a widower, and his family consisted only of himself, Josephine and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Monroe. Mrs. Monroe was a nice, patient little woman, scarcely more than a child in years or strength of character, yet old in sorrow and trouble. She had married George Monroe against the wishes of her parents, who saw and comprehended his utter worthlessness, and very soon she rued her hasty step, for he proved wild and dissipated and careless of her comfort or pleasure.

Unlovely as was Josephine in many respects, the rich treasure of affection of many a manly heart was lavished upon her; but her heart remained untouched until she met Norman Remington. He was her equal in birth and station, and greatly her superior in moral worth and true dignity of character. She soon loved him with all the ardor of her passionate nature, and gladly pledged to him her troth. Norman lavished upon her the earnest devotion of a strong, loving nature. He thought he saw beneath her apparent heartlessness some true womanly sensibilities which he fondly dreamed it would be his care to awaken and develop.

Soon after their engagement Norman had expressed his disapproval of Mr. Gasper Fenton, one of the most persistent of her followers. He was of good family and of rather prepossessing appearance, but he had a dissipated, unsettled look. Josephine, with her womanly instinct, had mistrusted him from the first, and had only permitted him to join the train of her admirers that she might have the pleasure of scorning him when he should presume to propose.

There was to be a large charity ball, got up by the elite of the place. Norman asked Josephine to go, extending at the same time his invitation to Mrs. Monroe. Much to Josephine's chagrin she accepted the invitation, and when alone she petulantly asked: "Why did you ask that low-bred widow to accompany us? You might at least have consulted my pleasure first."

"My dear Josephine, cast aside all such unwomanly thoughts and feelings. I pity her loneliness, and it surely will not harm us to give her one evening of pleasure."

Josephine shrugged her shoulders, but remained silent. She did not care for an open rupture with her lover, but she mentally determined to punish him by luring again to her side Gasper Fenton, whom she despised and hated, as did every honest man.

The ball had already begun when they entered, and Mrs. Monroe being claimed by an old acquaintance for the waltz just forming Norman and Josephine were soon floating about in its dizzy mazes. After the dance he left her to speak to some friends.

Gasper Fenton, who had been watching his chance, now stepped forward and paid his respects to the haughty beauty. She was all smiles. And emboldened by his suave reception, he begged the favor of her hand for the set just forming. She graciously accepted, darting a look of triumph at Norman, who was just leading Mrs. Monroe to form one side of the same quadrille.

After the dance was concluded Norman led Mrs. Monroe to a seat and hastily excused himself. Turning to seek Josephine, he saw her just stepping through the open window to the balcony. The silvery moonlight struggled faintly through the parted curtains, and glistened softly on her satin robe as she swept from his view. He hesitated a moment and then strode after them. Walking up to them, he offered Josephine his arm, without noticing Fenton.

"The night air is too chilly," he said, "after the heat of the dance. You had better return."

Meeting his rebuking glance with defiance, she said, jocosely: "Excuse me, Mr. Fenton, I suppose I have to obey."

Fenton bowed, saying, "Remember the next waltz is mine."

Norman hurried her in without giving her time to reply. He said nothing, but with a determined, almost fierce look upon his face he led her to the conservatory and, placing her in a seat where they were hidden from view he said abruptly, "Now, Josephine, explain your conduct."

"Really, Norman, your tone of command is highly offensive."

"Josephine, don't trifle with me. You have insulted me, and evidently with a purpose. I want you to tell me why you have thus openly defied my expressed wish by receiving that base associate with freedom and suavity."

"You have no right to speak to me in such an authoritative manner. I re-

sent it. You choose your own companions, and I claim the liberty of doing the same."

"Josephine, once more I will suppress my indignation and beg of you to shun that man. He is, under the outward semblance of a gentleman—a mad, bad man; an adept in all manner of evil, a gambler and a scoffer at women. You, know me too well to think I would thus malign any one without undeniable proof. His very presence is a contamination to any woman, and my wife must never consort with such an exceptional character."

She arose with a gesture of impatience.

"You are really quite dramatic. If Gasper Fenton is so dreadfully wicked why, your favorite Mrs. Monroe, with her over-abundant supply of goodness restores the balance."

Norman turned very white, but remained speechless. He followed her back to the crowded rooms. As they entered Fenton met them saying: "Really, Miss Mayhew, I began to think you had deserted me. Our waltz is just going to begin."

She took his arm, her overweening pride exultant at thus defying her lover.

Norman did not come near her again during the evening; but when she descended the stairs, shawled and wrapped for home, he stood ready to conduct her to the carriage. The drive home was a silent one. Mrs. Monroe, still excited by her unusual dissipation, chattered merrily about the pleasures she had received; but the grim silence of companions quickly quenching her flickering gaiety and she sank back in the carriage oppressed she knew not why.

Arriving home, Norman conducted the ladies to the house, and with a cold good-night, retired.

"Putting on his dignity," said Josephine to herself as she went up to her room.

Next morning, after a restless night a note was presented to her which, on opening, made her flush with anger and surprise. It ran as follows:

"MISS MAYHEW:
"I find that I was completely mistaken in your character. We would never be happy together, and I shall consider our engagement annulled.
Yours, etc.,
"NORMAN REMINGTON."

A variety of emotions struggled in her heart; she had loved Norman Remington passionately. Pampered and spoiled as she always had been, she had never once thought that her rebellious folly would lead to this. Pride and resentment were dominant traits in her character, and she exclaimed, "He doubtless thinks that he has inflicted the direst punishment upon me for opposing his wishes and means to return to me when he presumes I am sufficiently humiliated; but he shall learn his mistake. When he next addresses me it shall be as Mrs. Gasper Fenton."

One month after the eventful ball Josephine married Gasper Fenton. It was a brilliant affair, and the young couple started off on their wedding tour with all the pomp of circumstances which wealth affords.

Two years of unmitigated misery passed away. Josephine's revengeful act had recoiled upon herself. Her husband had proved to be more despotic than Remington had assumed. Restraint no longer necessary, he attempted no concealment of his evil companionship or his immoral practices. Nightly he either held an orgie at home with companions as brutal as himself or went abroad to some den of no doubtful character. He had long since ceased to treat his wife with any semblance of respect. He taunted her with coarse allusions to her love for Remington, which he knew she still cherished, and never ceased to worry her for sums of money.

One cold, wretched day in winter, as she sat by the window, gazing wearily out at the wildly drifting snow, her husband entered, and taking a seat beside her he said, "You do not look well, Josephine."

"Indeed I am quite well," she replied; for she would never acknowledge to him her increasing weariness. She well knew that he would rejoice rather than weep over her death.

"No, you are not well, and have not been for some time. You should see a physician."

"Yes, and make my will, I suppose?" she added maliciously.

A look of hatred flashed from his eyes, but he answered quietly, "I did not mean that, but it is certainly every one's duty, who has much property, to make a will."

"You are wonderfully anxious for my death," she said bitterly. "However," she continued, with the semblance of resignation, "perhaps it would be as well. If you will bring an attorney here this afternoon I will ease your mind, if not my own."

His eye sparkled with this unexpected compliance, and he said, unsuspectingly, "and dare I—will you—"

"Oh," she said, quickly, "to whom should I leave my property if not to you? I have no near relatives or friends."

your forgiveness for my harshness toward you. You see," he continued, "I was madly jealous of that Remington, and feared you still cherished his memory, and it made me act unbecomingly. But after such an unmistakable evidence of your love I can doubt no longer. I shall return presently with a lawyer." And he hastily left the room.

Josephine cast a scornful, malignant glance at the retreating figure of her husband.

"Fool! does he think to blind me with his maudlin sentiment? I will outwit him yet."

Fenton, fearing to let her resolution soon return with a lawyer, and a will was quickly drawn up and attested and signed. This will Josephine gave to her husband with every appearance of satisfaction, and Fenton, locking it securely in his private secretary, muttered exultantly: "I never hoped to secure it so easily. It shall now be my care to see that she makes no other."

But Josephine was a match for his cunning. The very next morning she had another will drawn up, leaving everything to some distant relative whom she had never seen.

Her health gradually failed, and when the cold, raw winds of March swept dolefully around her dwelling she was confined to her room, and soon she was too weak to rise from her bed. She knew that before the balmy, life-giving air of summer would come she would be lying in her grave, but the thought of her second secret will was the source of an exultant joy even on the borders of the tomb.

Fenton, too, knew that she was dying.

"I will search," thought he; "she is sly and crafty, and perhaps she has eluded my vigilance and made a later will than the one I hold."

So he searched the house over, but found nothing.

"If she has any, it is secreted about her bed," he thought; and he watched her with cunning cautious eyes. He soon detected her nervous habit of feeling about her pillow, and once thought he saw the corner of a paper "The sly jade!" he fiercely muttered. "She has one beneath her pillow; but by heaven, I'll have it and destroy it!"

Watching his opportunity, he entered the room where she had been left alone. He had been drinking to drown his anger and disappointment, and when Josephine saw his fiend-like face, she shrieked with fear.

"Hush your noise! You thought to fool me, but I'll have that will that you've secreted about you, if I have to choke you to get it."

He made a rush toward the bed and snatched the pillow from beneath her head. Filled with fierce strength born of excitement, his wife clutched him about the neck with her attenuated hands, thus impeding his movements. He attempted to shake her off, but the clung to him with a deadly grip. Her sunken eyes glared frightfully; the round, red spots on her cheeks deepened, showing more vividly the ghastly pallor of her face, and her shrill cry for help rang through the house.

The servants rushed to the room, and dragged the infuriated madman from the bed just as his frantic clutches at the bed clothes had disclosed a legal-looking document. The dying woman sank back exhausted. The glaring eyes grew filmy and expressionless, the jaw dropped, and the clenched hands relaxed. She was dead.

Gasper Fenton was handed over to the authorities, and the last will and testament of the unhappy Josephine bequearing her husband, was executed.

The Changes of Time.

The other day he returned. He stood again in his native village. He found the can where he had hid it. He procured a pint of milk. He went to his old familiar boyhood's home, entered, and in a hesitating and trembling voice, said, "Father and mother, here's your milk." He was given a warm welcome, but he noticed there was a change in his parents' appearance; they had not the old familiar look. He questioned them; explanations followed. The young man discovered that, though the good people were still his parents, the change in their personal appearance was readily accounted for. Shortly after his sudden and mysterious departure from home his father died and his mother married again. Then his mother died and his new father married again.

Thus on his return the wandering boy found the dear old home as he had left it, the only difference being that he had a new father and a new mother. Verily, truth is stranger than fiction.—Old Colony Gazette.

A Rheumatic Superstition.

Rheumatism is caused by the deer or by the measuring worm, the idea being suggested in the latter case by the manner in which the measuring worm arches his body in walking, which is supposed to be like the contortions of a rheumatic patient. On no account must the patient eat a squirrel or touch a cat, since the manner in which these creatures arch the back indicates an affinity with the disease. Nor must he eat the legs of any animal, since, as every one knows, the limbs are most frequently affected with rheumatism, and by eating the legs of an animal the "disease spirit" residing there might be taken in.—Youth's Companion.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Review of the Work Done by the Government During the Last Twelve Months.

Recommendations and Suggestions on Various Important Questions.

EXCERPT OF THE MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—To the Senate and house of Representatives:—The reports of the heads of the several executive departments required by law to be submitted to me, which are here-with transmitted, and the reports of the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general made directly to congress, furnish a comprehensive view of the work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs. The reports, will, I believe, show that every question has been approached, considered and decided from the standpoint of public duty, and upon considerations affecting the public interests alone. I invite to every branch of the service the attention and scrutiny of congress.

AFFAIRS OF STATE.

The work of the state department during the last year has been characterized by an unusual number of important negotiations and by diplomatic results of a notable and highly beneficial character. Among these are the reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded, if in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the tariff law, with the republic of Brazil, with Spain for its West India possessions and with San Domingo.

Like negotiations with other countries have been much advanced and it is hoped that before the close of the year further definitive trade arrangements of great value will be concluded.

CHILIAN AFFAIRS.

During the progress of the war in Chili, this government tendered its good offices to bring about a peaceful adjustment, and it was at one time hoped that a good result might be reached; but in this we were disappointed. The instructions to our naval officers and to our minister at Santiago, from the first to the last of this struggle enjoined upon them the most impartial treatment, and absolute non-interference. I am satisfied that these instructions were observed, and that our representatives were always watchful to use their influence impartially in the interest of humanity and on more than one occasion did so effectively.

We could not forget, however, that this government was in diplomatic relations with the then established government of Chili, as it is now in such relations with the successor of that government. I am quite sure that President Montt, who has, under circumstances of promise for the peace of Chili, been installed as president of that republic, will not desire that, in the unfortunate event of any revolt against his authority the policy of this government should be other than which we have recently observed. No official complaint of the conduct of our minister or our naval officers during the struggle has been presented to this government; and it is a matter of regret that so many of our own people should have given unofficial charges and complaints that manifestly had their origin in rival interests and in a wish to prevent the relations of the United States with Chili.

THE BALTIMORE KILLING.

On the 10th of October an event occurred in Valparaiso so serious and tragic in its circumstances and results as to very justly excite the indignation of our people, and to call for prompt and decided action on the part of this government. A considerable number of the sailors of the United States man-of-war, Baltimore, then in the harbor of Valparaiso, being upon shore-leave and unarmed, were assaulted by armed men nearly simultaneously in different localities in the city.

One petty officer was killed outright and seven or eight seamen were seriously wounded, one of whom has since died.

So far as I have yet been able to learn no other explanation of this bloody work has been suggested than that it had its origin in hostility to those men as sailors of the United States, wearing the uniform of their government, and not in any individual or personal animosity.

The Chilean government was also advised that if such qualifying facts did not exist this government would confidently expect full and prompt reparation. It is to be regretted that the reply of the secretary of foreign affairs of the provisional government was couched in an offensive tone. To this no response has been made. This government is now awaiting the result of an investigation which has been conducted by the criminal court at Valparaiso. It is reported unofficially, that the investigation is about completed, and it is expected that the result will soon be communicated to this government, together with some adequate and satisfactory response to the note by which the attention of Chili was called to this incident. If these just expectations should be disappointed, or further needless delay intervene, I will, by a special message bring this matter again to the attention of congress for such action as may be necessary. The entire correspondence with the government of Chili will at an early day be submitted to congress. The at-

ention of the Chilean government was at once called to this affair.

RUSSIA'S ACTS OF EXPULSION.

This government has found occasion to express, in a friendly spirit, but with much earnestness, to the government of the Czar, its serious concern because of the harsh measures now being enforced against the Hebrews in Russia. It is estimated that over one million will be forced from Russia within a few years. The Hebrew is never a beggar; he has always kept the law—life by toil—often under severe and oppressive civil restrictions. It is also true that no race or class has more fully cared for its own than the Hebrew race. But the sudden transfer of such a multitude under conditions that tend to strip them of their small accumulations and to depress their energies and courage is neither good for them nor for us.

SILVER LEGISLATION.

Under the law of July 14, 1890, the secretary of the treasury has purchased since August 13, during the fiscal year 1892, \$3,565,113 ounces of silver bullion, at an average cost of \$1.045 per ounce. The highest cost paid during the year was \$1.2025 and the lowest \$0.9636. In exchange for this silver bullion there have been issued \$50,574,888 of the treasury notes authorized by the act. The lowest price of silver reaching during the fiscal year was \$0.9636 on April 22, 1891; but on Nov. 1, the market price was only \$0.96 which would give to the silver dollar a bullion value of 74 1/2 cents.

Before the influence of the prospective silver legislation was felt in the market silver was worth in New York about \$0.975 per ounce. The ablest advocates of free coinage in the last congress were the most confident in their prediction that the purchases by the government required by the law would at once bring the price of silver to \$1.202 per ounce which would make the bullion value of a dollar 100 cents and hold it there. The prophecies of the anti-silver men of the disasters to result from the coinage of \$2,000,000 per month were not wide of the mark. The friends of free silver are not agreed. I think, as to the changes that brought their hopeful predictions to naught.

THE AMERICAN PRODUCT COINED.

The exports of domestic silver bullion from this country which had averaged for the last ten years over \$17,000,000 fell in the last fiscal year to \$14,797,391; while for the first time in recent years, the imports of silver into this country exceeded the exports by the sum of \$2,745,655. In the previous year the net exports from the United States were \$8,545,555. The production of the United States increased from 50,000,000 ounces in 1889 to \$4,500,000 in 1890. The government is now buying and putting aside annually 54,000,000 ounces which allowing 7,140,000 ounces of new bullion used in the arts is 6,640,000 more than our domestic product available for coinage.

I hope the depression in the price of silver is temporary and that a further trial of this legislation will more favorably affect it. That the increased volume of currency thus supplied for the use of the people was needed and that beneficial results upon trade and prices have followed this legislation I think must be very clear to everyone.

THE LAW IS GOOD.

The producers of silver are entitled to just consideration but they should not forget that the government is now buying and putting out of the market what is the equivalent of the entire product of our silver mines. This is more than they themselves thought of asking two years. I believe it is the earnest desire of a great majority of the people as it is mine that a full coin use shall be made of silver just as soon as the co-operation of other nations can be secured and a ratio fixed that will insure circulation equally to gold and silver.

EXTENDING POSTAL SERVICE.

Eight thousand miles of new postal service has been established upon railroads, the car distribution to sub-stations in the great cities has been increased about 12 per cent, while the percentage of errors in distribution has during the past year, been reduced over one-half. An appropriation was given by the last congress for the purpose of making some experiments in free delivery in the smaller cities and towns. The results of these experiments have been so satisfactory that the postmaster general recommends, and I concur in the recommendation, that the free delivery system be at once extended to towns of 5,000 population. His discussion of the inadequate facilities extended under our present system to rural communities and his suggestions with a view to giving these communities a fuller participation in the benefits of the postal service are worthy of your careful consideration. It is not just the farmer who receives his mail at the neighboring town, should not only be compelled to send to the postoffice for it, but to pay a considerable rent for a box in which to place it, or wait his time at a general delivery window, while the city resident has his mail brought to his door. It is stated that over 54,000 neighborhoods are under the present system, received mail at post offices where money orders and postal notes are not issued. The extension of his system to these communities is especially desirable.

OPENING NEW MARKETS.

The most inspection by the agricul-

tural department of cattle and products intended for shipment abroad has been the basis of the success which has attended our efforts to secure removal of the restrictions maintained by the European governments. For years protests and petitions upon the subject from the packers and stock raisers of the United States have been directed against these restrictions, which so seriously limited our markets, curtailed the profits of the farmer, to a course of general congratulation, such has at last been attained, for the effects of an enlarged foreign market for these meats will be felt, not only the farmer, but in our public finance and in every branch of trade. It is particularly fortunate that the increased demand for food products resulting from the removal of the restrictions upon our meats and from the reciprocal trade arrangements which I have referred should have occurred at a time when the agricultural surplus is so large. Without the help thus derived lower prices would have prevailed.

WHAT WAS LOST.
The secretary of agriculture estimates that the restrictions upon the importation of our pork products into Europe lost us a market for \$20,000,000 worth of these products annually. The gross crop of this year was the largest in our history, 50 per cent greater than that of last year, and yet the market that had opened and the large demand resulting from short crops in Europe have maintained prices to such an extent that enormous surplus of meat and breadstuffs will be marketed at good prices bringing relief and prosperity to an industry that was much depressed. The value of the grain crop of the United States is estimated by the secretary to be this year \$500,000,000 more and of products of the farm seven hundred million more. It is not inappropriate, I think, however, to suggest here that our satisfaction in the contemplation of this marvelous addition to the nation's wealth is unclouded by any suspicion of the currency by which it is measured and which the farmer is paid for the product of his fields.

THE NEW NAVY.
The report of the secretary of the navy shows a gratifying increase in new naval vessels in commission. The Newark, Concord, Bennington and Miantonomah have been added during the year, with an aggregate tonnage of more than 11,000 tons.

Twenty-four war ships of all classes are now under construction in the navy yards and private shops, but while work upon them is going forward satisfactorily, the completion of the most important vessels will yet require about a year's time. Some of the vessels now under construction it is believed will be triumphs of naval engineering. When it is recollected that the work of building a modern navy was only initiated in the year 1883, that our navy constructors and shipbuilders were practically without experience in the construction of large iron or steel ships, that our engine shops were unfamiliar with great marine engines and that the manufacture of steel forgings for guns and plates were almost wholly a foreign industry, the progress that has been made is highly satisfactory.

A FAIR BALLOT DEMANDED.
If I were called upon to declare where our chief national danger lies I should say without hesitation in the overthrow of majority control by the suppression or perversion of the popular suffrage. That there is a real danger here all must agree. But the energies of those who see it have been chiefly expended in trying to fix responsibility upon the opposite party rather than in efforts to make such practices impossible by either party.

It is not possible now to adjourn the interminable and exclusive debate while we take, by consent, one step in the direction of reform by eliminating the gerrymander which has been denounced by all parties as an influence in the electors of president and members of congress.

CONCLUSION.
To the consideration of these very grave questions I invite not only the attention of congress but that of all patriotic citizens. We must not entertain the delusion that our people have ceased to regard a free ballot and equal representation as the price of their allegiance to laws and to civil magistracies.

I have been greatly rejoiced to notice many evidences of the increased union of our people and of a revived national spirit. The vista that now opens to us is wider and more glorious than ever before. Gratification and amazement struggles for supremacy as we contemplate the population, wealth and moral strength of our country. A trust, momentous in its influence upon our people and upon the world is for a brief time committed to us and we must not be faithless to its condition—the defense of the free and the equal influence of the people in the choice of public officials and in the control of public affairs.

BENJAMIN HARRISON.
Executive Mansion, Dec. 9, 1891.

Marie Bashkirtseff's tomb, near Pantheonists of a vault and chapel. Her portrait hangs just above the sarcophagus, and is wreathed in flowers true French fashion; and day after night a lamp is kept burning close to