The Miser's Request.

The hour hand of Philip Acre's old-fashioned silver watch was pointing to the figure 8—the snug red curtains shut out the rain and darkness of the March night, and the fire snapped and cracked behind the red hot bars of the little grate in a most cosy and comfortable sort of way, casting a rosy shine into the thoughtful brown eyes that were tracing castles and coronets in the brightly burning coals.

For Philip Acre was, for once, indulging himself in the dangerous fascinations of a day-dream.

"If I were only rich," he pondered to himself, "ah! if! Then good-bye to all those musty old law books; good-bye to mended boots and turned coats, and all the ways and means that turn a man's life into wretched bondage. Wouldn't I revel in new books and delicious paintings, and high-stepping horses? Wouldn't I buy a set of jewelry for Edith—not pale pearls or sickly emeralds, but diamonds, to blaze like links of fire upon her royal throat! Wouldn't I—what nonsense I'm talking though," he cried suddenly to himself. "Phil Acre hold your tongue. I did suppose you were a fellow of good sense. Here you are, neither rich nor distinguished, but a simple law student, while Edith Wyllis is as far above your moon-struck aspirations as the Queen of Night herself. She loves me, though—she will wait—and the time may one day come. If only Dr. Wyllis were not so distrustful of a fellow. Hallo! come in there, whoever you are."

It was only the serving maid of the lodging house, carrying a letter in the corner of her apron, between her finger and thumb.

"Please sir, the postman has just left it."

"All right, Katy. Now then," he added, as the door closed behind Katy's substantial back, "let's see what my unknown correspondent has to say. A black seal, eh! Not having any relations to lose, I am not alarmed at the prognostic.

He broke the seal, and glanced leisurely over the short, business like communication contained within, with a face that varied from incredulous surprise to sudden gladness.

"Am I dreaming?" he murmured, rubbing his eyes, and shaking himself, as if to insure complete possession of his senses. "No, I'm wide awake and in my right mind; it is no delusion—no part of my waking visions. But who would ever suppose that old Thomas Mortimer whom I haven't seen since I was a boy of sixteen, and picked him out of the river half dead between cramp and fright, would die and leave me all his money? Why, I'm not the shadow of a relation; but then I never heard that the old man had any kith or kin, so I can't imagine any harm in taking advantage of his odd freak. Rich—am I really to be rich? Is my Aladdin vision to be an actual fact? Oh, Edith, Edith!"

He clasped both hands over his eyes, sick and giddy with the thought that that lovely far-off star of his adoration would be brought near to him at last by the magnet of gold. All those years of patient waiting were to be bridged over by the strange old miser's bequest; he might claim Edith now.

How full of heart sunshine were the weeks that flitted over the head of the accepted lover, brightened by Edith's smile, made beautiful by the soft radiance of Edith's love. There is only one alloying shadow—the almost imperceptible touch of distrust and suspicion with which stern old Dr. Wyllis regarded his future son-in-law. Ah! he feared to trust his only child to the keeping of any man who had not been proved in the fiery furnace of trial.

It was precisely a week before the day appointed for the wedding, as the soft lights, veiled by shades of ground glass, were just lighted in Dr. Wyllis's drawing-room, where Edith sat among her white roses and heliotrope, working on a bit of cambric ruffling and singing to herself. She was a slender, beautiful girl, with violet eyes, a blue veined forehead, and glossy, abundant curls of that pale gold that old painters love to portray.

"I wonder if Mortimer Place is so very lovely," she said to a silver-haired lady who sat opposite. "Philip is going to take me there when we return from our wedding tour, aunty; he says it is the sweetest place a poet's fancy can devise, with fountains and shrubberies and delicious copses. Oh, shall we not be happy there?"

She started up with a bright, sudden blush; for even while the words were trembling on her lips, Philip Acre came into the room, his handsome face looking a little troubled, yet cheerful withal. Mrs. Wyllis with an arch nod at her niece, disappeared into the perfumed perspective of the conservatory, leaving the lovers to themselves.

"You are looking grave, Philip," said Edith, as he bent over and kissed her cheek.

"And I am feeling so, darling. I have a very unpleasant disclosure to make to-night—our marriage must be postponed indefinitely."

"Philip, for what reason?"

"To enable me, by diligent labor at my profession, to realize sufficient means to support you, dearest, in a manner satisfactory to your father's expectations and my own wishes."

"But, Philip, I thought——"

"You thought me the heir of Thomas Mortimer's wealth? So I was, Edith, a few hours since, but I have relinquished all claim to it now. When I accepted the bequest, I was under the impression that no living heir existed. I learnt to-day that a distant cousin—a woman—is alive, although, my lawyer tells me, in ignorance of her relationship to Thomas Mortimer. Of course I shall transfer the property to her immediately."

"But, Philip, the will has made it legally yours."

"Legally, it has; but, Edith, could I reconcile it to my ideas of truth and honor, to avail myself of old Mortimer's fanciful freak at this woman's expense? I might take the hoarded wealth, but I should never respect myself again could I dream of legally defrauding the rightful heir. Nay, dearest, I may lose name and wealth, but I would rather die than suffer a single stain on my honor as a Christian gentleman!"

"You have done right, Philip," said Edith, with sparkling eyes. "We will wait, and hope on, happy in loving one another more dearly than ever. But who is she? What is her name?

"That's just what I didn't stop to inquire, I will write again to my lawyer to ask these questions, and to direct that a deed of conveyance be instantly made out; and then, darling"—

His lips quivered a moment—yet he manfully completed the bitter sentence "Then I will begin the battle of life, over again."

And Edith's loving eyes told him what she thought of his noble self-abnegation—a sweet testimonial.

"Hem!" said Dr. Wyllis, polishing his eye glasses magisterially, with a silk crimson handkerchief; "I didn't suppose the young fellow had so much stamina about him—a very honorable thing to do. Edith, I have never exactly felt about Phil Acre's being worthy of you before—"

"Papa!"

"But my mind is made up now. When is he coming again?"

"This evening," faltered Edith, the violet eyes softly drooping.

"Tell him, Edith, that he may have you next Wednesday, just the same as ever! And as for the law practicing—why there's time enough for that afterwards. Child, don't strangle me with your kisses keep them for Phil."

He looked after his daughter with eyes that were strangely dim.

"Tried—and *not* found wanting!" he muttered indistinctly.

The perfume of orange-blossoms had died away—the glimmer of pearls and satins were hidden in velvet caskets and traveling trunks, and Mr. and Mrs. Acre, old married people of a month's duration, were driving along a country road in the amber glow of a glorious June sunset.

"Hallo! which way is Thomas going?" said Philip, leaning from the window, as the carriage turned out of the main road.

"I told him the direction to take, Phil?" said Edith, with bright, sparkling eyes. "Let me have my own way, just for once. We are going to our new home."

"Are we?" said Phil, with a comical grimace. It is to be love in a cottage, I suppose?"

"Wait until you see, sir!" said Mrs. Acre, pursing her little rosebud of a mouth. And Philip waited dutifully.

"Where are we?" he asked, in astonishment, when the carriage drew up in front of a stately pillared portico, which seemed to be not unfamiliar to him. Surely this is Mortimer Palace!"

"I shouldn't be surprised if it was," said Dr. Wyllis, emerging from the doorway. "Walk in, my boy—come Edith! Well, how do you like your new home?"

"Our new home!" repeated Philip, "I do not understand you, sir."

"Why, I mean that your little wife yonder is the sole surviving relative of Thomas Mortimer, although she never knew it till this morning. Her mother was old Mortimer's cousin, but some absurd quarrel had caused a total cessation of intercourse between the two branches of the family. I was aware of the facts all along, but I wasn't sorry to avail myself of the opportunity of seeing what kind of stuff you were made of, Phil Acre! And now, as the deed of conveyance isn't made out yet, I don't suppose your lawyer need trouble himself about it. The heiress won't quarrel with you, I'll be bound."

Phil Acre's cheek flushed, and then grew pale with strong hidden emotion, as he looked at his fair wife, standing beside him, when the sunset turned her bright hair to coils of shining gold, and thought how unerringly the hand of Providence had straightened the tangled web of his destiny.

Out of the darkness had come light.

Couldn't Stand Prosperity.

How awfully some geniuses do miss it in this world. Yesterday the writer went into a butter and egg depot on Perry street, and down stairs and up stairs were piled 4,000 egg cases, each case having a capacity for thirty dozen. "Do you see the inventor's name—Stevens?" asked our conductor. Sure enough, every case was marked "Stevens' patent." Well, that man Stevens made over $100,000 out of his patent in two or three years; and the reckless way in which he made money fly appalled his old friends and made some of his new ones rich. Then it came to it that he was obliged to sell out, and he disposed of his right at a very small figure. And now Stevens is working for his successors at $2 a day! The new firm is making piles of money." Such is the story of the inventor, who made eggs a commercial commodity throughout the United States. Prosperity overthrew him.—*Davenport Gazette.*

The Young Man that Married his Stepmother.

An extraordinary story comes from Silver Station, this State, wherein a young man is reported to have married his step-mother, under the belief that his father was dead. Twelve years ago, the wife of James Swingle, a wealthy farmer of the locality named, died, and a year and a half afterwards the widower, being sixty years of age, married a young woman who had lived in his family. She was twenty-two. He had six children by the first wife, and three of them married. Old Mr. Swingle was one of the most prominent men in the township, a devout member of the Church and a man generally respected. In 1865 Mr. Swingle disappeared, and was supposed to have been robbed, murdered and mysteriously buried. Eighteen months afterwards a skeleton was found in a deep forest near his house, and believing them to be his bones they were buried in the churchyard by the side of his first wife. A stone setting forth the circumstances connected with Swingle's death was placed at the head of the grave. An administrator of the estate was appointed, and his estate equally divided among the children. The homestead fell to the lot of the old farmer's widow, and the youngest son, also named James, continued to live there and superintended operations on the farm. In 1869 he married the widow of his father, and the couple were living in unruffled ease with three children that had been born to them, when in the early part of last month the young farmer was given a letter at the village post office addressed "To any living member of the Swingle family." The letter was postmaked at Cleveland, Ohio. Opening the letter the farmer was astonished to find that it purported to be written by his father, long believed to be dead. It was as follows:

CLEVELAND, December 30.—I am very sick and penniless among strangers. I was on my way home when taken sick. Some of you come to me at once and I will explain all. I am at a sailors' lodging-house by the lake.

JAMES SWINGLE.

The letter was written in a cramped and trembling hand, but resembled specimens of the old farmer's writing of years ago. He was visited and found in Cleveland. He was very ill with fever and became delirious soon after the arrival of his son, and it was some days before he could be removed to better quarters. Three weeks passed before he was in condition to be taken home, and during that time could be induced to say but little about his strange disappearance. He said that he left while under the influence of an impulse which he could not control, and after traveling about for a few days he was ashamed to return, and resolved to go West with about $3,000 he had with him, and invest it in some way, and after he had increased it sufficiently, to return home and surprise his family. He went to California, and from there to Australia, where he made $115,000 in five years, and came back to California where he lost it all. Thinking he was drawing near his his death he determined to return home, and was taken sick with the fever at Cleveland. He refused to enter into any details of his ten years' absence, till he recovered from his illness. He was brought home, but he died in a few days after his arrival. The son and step-mother were remarried after the funeral. The skeleton was that of a murdered drover.—*Pittsburg Leader.*

Cure for Freckles.

Grate horseradish fine; let it stand a few hours in buttermilk, then strain, and use the wash night and morning. Or squeeze the juice of a lemon into a half goblet of water, and use the same way. Most of the remedies for freckles are poisonous and cannot be used with safety. Freckles indicate a defect in digestion, and consist in deposites of some carbonaceous or fatty matter beneath the scarfskin. The diet should be attended to, and should be of a nature that the bowels and kidneys will do their duty. Daily bathing, with much friction, should not be neglected, and the Turkish bath taken occasionally, if convenient. If the exact cause of freckles was known, a remedy for them might be found. A chemist in Moravia, observing the bleaching effect of mercurial preparations, inferred that the growth of a local parasitical fungus was the cause of the discoloration of the skin, which extended and ripened its spores in the warmer season. Knowing that sulpho-carbolate of zinc is a deadly enemy to all parasitic vegetation (itself not being otherwise injurious), he applied this salt for the purpose of removing the freckles. The compound consists of two parts of sulpho-carbolate of zinc, twenty-five parts of distilled glycerine, twenty-five parts of rose-water, and five parts of scented alcohol, and is to be applied twice daily for from half an hour to an hour, then washed off with cold water. Protection against the sun by veiling and other means is recommended, and in addition, for persons of pale complexion, some mild preparation of iron.—*Herald of Health.*

A tornado at Princeton, Ind., a few nights ago blew down ten houses. One house was burned. Many other houses were badly damaged. Eight or ten people were badly injured, two it is thought fatally. Much damage was done in the surrounding country. The damage in Princeton is estimated at over $50,000.

The Democratic National Convention is to be held at St. Louis, June 27, 1876.

☞Coughs and Colds in horses and other domestic animals can be cured by a proper use of Uncle Sam's Condition Powder, coupled with good treatment.

☞The strongest and sound-est lungs will succumb to the influence of a long-continued cough. Take Ellert's Extract of Tar and Wild Cherry before the rough sends you into incurable consumption.

☞"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," and the use of Uncle Sam's Harness Oil *prevents* cracking, rotting and mildewing of harnesses, and adds fifty per cent or more to their durability. Ask your harness maker or dealer for it. Emmert Proprietary Co., Chicago, Ill., manufacturers.

Important to Farmers.—The following is taken from the *Presbyterian Banner* of Dec. 9, 1875:

"AN EXCELLENT CORN SHELLER.—For some time past we have been advertising the 'Horse Corn Sheller,' manufactured by Messrs. Livingston & Co., Pittsburg, Pa. We know the machine to be what the manufacturers claim, as we have given one a pretty thorough trial. Farmers, if you want a valuable family corn sheller, send to Messrs. Livingston & Co., Pittsburg, Pa., for a circular, and if prices suit, you will not be disappointed as to its working."

Our readers interested will see a cut of this famous little sheller in another column.

Dr. Tutsee says: "It is unnecessary for me to enumerate the diseases for which the Vegetine should be used. I know of no disease which will not admit of its use, with good results. Almost innumerable complaints are caused by poisonous secretions in the blood, which can be entirely expelled from the system by the use of the Vegetine. When the blood is perfectly cleansed, the disease rapidly yields; pains cease; healthy action is promptly restored, and the patient is cured."

Dr. McALPEN—A regular graduate of British and American institutions. 30 years a practicing physician. Treats all Diseases of the Kidneys, Liver, Lungs, Heart, Throat, Head and Nervous System. Effects of Youth and Abuse of Manhood successfully treated and even after others have failed. $10 forfeit for any case of Seminal Weakness or private disease he says he will cure of that class he undertakes and fails to cure. Letters will also receive proper treatment for diseases peculiar to their sex. All letters containing stamps for reply promptly answered.

Consultation free. Send for circular. Address Lock Box 561, or call at office, 34½ Perry street, Davenport, Iowa.

The general talk is Dobbins' Electric Soap, made by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia. There never was a soap so highly and generally praised. It tells a story of its own merits, that cannot be contradicted. Try it.

Dr. Schenck's Standard Remedies.—The standard remedies for all diseases of the lungs are SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP, SCHENCK'S SEA WEED TONIC and SCHENCK'S MANDRAKE PILLS, and if taken before the lungs are destroyed, a speedy cure is effected. To there three medicines Dr. J. H. Schenck, of Philadelphia, owes his unrivaled success in the treatment of pulmonary diseases. The Pulmonic Syrup ripens the morbid matter in the lungs; nature throws it off by an easy expectoration, for when the phlegm or matter is ripe, a slight cough will throw it off, the patient has rest and the lungs begin to heal. To enable the Pulmonic Syrup to do this, Schenck's Mandrake Pills and Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic must be freely used to cleanse the stomach and liver. Schenck's Mandrake Pills act on the liver, removing all obstructions, relax the gall bladder, the pile starts freely, and the liver is soon renovated. Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic is a gentle stimulant and a tonic, the action of which it is composed mixes with the food and prevents souring. It assists the digestion by toning up the stomach to a healthy condition, so that when food is eaten the Pulmonic Syrup will make good blood; heal the lungs; heal, and the patient will surely get well if care is taken to prevent a fresh cold. All who wish to consult Dr. Schenck, either personally or by letter, can do so at his principal office, corner of Sixth and Arch streets, Philadelphia, every Monday. Schenck's medicines are sold by all druggists throughout the country.

Dr. Whittier,

617 St. Charles Street, St. Louis, Mo.

A regular graduate of the Medical College of Philadelphia, 30 years a practicing physician. Treats all Diseases of the Sexual Organs, whether arising from Indiscretion, Exposure, Infection, or Contagion, such as Seminal Weakness or Impotency, Gleet, Stricture, Orchitis, Buboes, all Urinary Diseases and Syphilis in all its complicated forms, Gonorrhœa, Gleet, Stricture, Orchitis, Buboes, all Urinary Diseases and Syphilitic or mercurial affections of the throat, skin or bones, blotches, pimples, ulcers, etc., in short, all cases of a private nature, even those pronounced incurable by other physicians, are here treated with unparalleled success. Consultation free. Medicines sent everywhere. Cures Guaranteed. Office hours, 9 A. M. to 2 P. M. and 6 to 8 P. M. Parties at a distance can be treated with equal success. Address as above.

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MANHOOD—Address Box 1, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for 15 Cents, Sealed, both Parts of Medical Adviser, Prescriptions, etc., for Sexual Diseases, Impotency, Nervous Debility, Seminal Weakness, Premature Decay, Impotency, Gleet, Stricture, Syphilis, Gonorrhœa, Nervous Debility, Spermatorrhœa, Sexual Debility and Impotency, Diseases of the Urinary Organs, Venereal Diseases, Diseases of the Skin, Blood and Nervous System, Diseases of Females, Pregnancy, Confinement, Nursing, Infancy, Marriage, Impotency, Sterility, Barrenness, Leucorrhœa, Menstruation, Abortion, Miscarriage, Premature Decay, Barrenness, Impotency, Sterility, Nervous Debility, Hypochondria, Spermatorrhœa, Impotency, Syphilis, Gonorrhœa, Gleet, Stricture, Orchitis, Buboes, Urinary Diseases, Diseases of the Skin, Blood and Nervous System, Diseases of Females, Pregnancy, Confinement, Nursing, Infancy, Marriage, Improper or Unhappy, are permanently cured. Consultation at office free by mail, $5. Medicines for one month, $5. Cure Guaranteed. Office hours, 9 A. M. to 2 P. M. and 6 to 8 P. M. Parties at a distance can be treated with equal success. Address as above.

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Mr Stevens: Dear Sir—I am seventy-one years of age; have suffered many years with Kidney Complaint, Weakness in my Back and Stomach. I was induced by friends to try your VEGETINE, and I think it the best medicine for weakness of the kidneys I ever used. I have tried many remedies for this complaint, and never found so much relief as from the VEGETINE. It strengthens and invigorates the whole system. Many of my acquaintances have taken it, and I believe it to be good for all the complaints for which it is recommended.

Yours truly, JOSIAH H. SHERMAN.

BEST EVIDENCE.

The following letter from Rev. E. S. Best, pastor M. E. Church, Natick, Mass., will be read with interest by many physicians. Also those suffering from the same disease as afflicted the son of the Rev. E. S. Best. No person can doubt this testimony, and there is no doubt about the curative powers of VEGETINE:

Natick, Mass., Jan. 1, 1874.

Mr. H. R. Stevens: Dear Sir—We have good reason for regarding your VEGETINE a medicine of the greatest value. We feel assured that it has been the means of saving our son's life. He is now seventeen years of age, for the last two years he has suffered from a Necrosis of the Leg caused by scrofulous affection, and was so far reduced that nearly all who saw him thought his recovery impossible. A council of able physicians could give us but the faintest hope of his ever rallying, two of the number declaring that he was beyond the reach of human remedies, that even amputation could not save him, as he had not vigor enough to endure the operation. Just then we commenced giving him VEGETINE, and from that time to the present he has been continuously improving. He has lately resumed his studies, thrown away his crutches and cane, and walks about cheerfully and strong.

Though there is still some discharge from the opening where the limb was broken, we have the fullest confidence that in a little time he will be perfectly cured.

He has taken about three dozen bottles of VEGETINE, but lately uses but little, as he declares that he is too well to be taking medicine.

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