THE RED CLOUD CHIEF

A. C. HOSMER, - - Proprietor

FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 1884

A LUCKY LEGACY.

Young Tom Collins, law student, had just come into a strange inheritance. He sat solitary in his little boarding-house room trying to realize it.

"If the poor child hadn't *me*," he said to himself, "it could go and apply for admission to some institution. If I hadn't *it*, I could—but Lord! that is not the idea. I must decide what I am to do."

Tom had solemnly promised to care for the new-born babe of his only sister, who had just died.

Tom was interrupted by a knock on the door. It was followed by a cry of mingled entreaty and command, such as only hungry babies know how to emit.

"I've fetched the poor little dear around, sir," said the nurse, brandishing her charge. "There! there! there! It's got wind this minute, mixin' milk. Have you found a nurse, sir? And baby wants clothes."

She dropped her shrieking charge upon Tom's bed and started toward the door.

"Oh! oh!" gasped Tom. "Do not go! In the name of mercy, do not! Why do you say I want a nurse? Are you not one?"

"I am, sir," she said, turning confidentially to Tom, "a 'monthly.' I am willing to stay with you while I can. But, sir, my summons may come any day or hour. It is impossible to calculate. I'll work for you while I can, sir, but when my call comes no earthly thing can keep me."

"Can you," said Tom, looking gloomily at his now silent prize on the bed, "can you give me any advice?"

Mrs. Primmins placed her arms akimbo.

Tom fervently prayed for light on the meditations.

"I have it," cried Mrs. Primmins. "Malviny's got to take it!"

"Bless your dear soul!" responded Tom. Malviny's the very one! What a talent you have for managing, auntie dear."

There was Tom, his very self! He had hit on exactly the right compliment to pay the old nurse. He was actually floating through life on this instinct he had for saying the most pleasant thing to everybody. Mrs. Primmins of all things desired the reputation of a maneuverer, as it was, of course, the one of all others she did not deserve.

"Yes," she cried, chuckling, "I *can* manage. Let *me* alone! And first thing in the morning I'll go there with you. Now," said she seizing her charge, who was beginning to squirm, "now I'll see what's to be got out of your landlady."

Winking violently with first one eye and then the other, she started to go; then, with a sudden solemnity, she reinserted her head in the doorway.

"If I'm summoned," she said, "it's above all else. If I'm called, I must go, day or night!"

"Certainly," said Tom, much puzzled, "but you won't be, auntie!" As the young man walked abroad to get his dinner he felt impressed with an almost mysterious awe of the old nurse.

"To think of living always with death grinning one in the face like that!" he muttered.

In the night Tom's dream of peace was again dispelled.

Another knock at his door.

"Am I under a ban?" growled Tom; "what's the matter now?"

"I'm called," said the voice of Mrs. Primmins. "My summons has come!"

"Oh, the devil!" cried Tom, lost to all sense of the importance of conciliating the nurse. "Go to bed! Hold on till morning!"

In the morning Tom, who, happy fellow, always slept soundest under a sense of depression, did not make his appearance until 9 o'clock. He found that Mrs. Primmins had actually disappeared for parts unknown. In the arms of his hitherto stern landlady he found his charge nestling. A new light—that of love—was beaming in the solemn woman's eye—that woman, thought Tom, who could see any of her boarders starve and rot for 10 cents a day saved!

"I have undertaken," said the landlady, giving Tom a smile such as he had never dreamed could rest on her features—"I have undertaken to go with you in search of Mrs. Primmins' niece, Malviny."

Several hours later Tom Collins sprang from a light wagon in which he had driven to the door of a pretty cottage.

"We will make one last effort by inquiring here," he said to his landlady, who held the baby.

With his usual impetuosity he pushed directly through into the little rear kitchen. There he forgot his errand—forgot everything except what he saw. A young girl, plump, neat, and rosy stood with round arms bared before a table. She was assiduously occupied in caressing with white hands little lumps of dough into shape.

Suddenly she turned. Such a dimpling smile! such rosy embarrassment! Tom, great black-haired, jetty-eyed giant that he was, thought this little plump blonde an angel. Thought? why, he was sure of it!

After a while he came to his senses and said:

"I'm looking for one Malvina Barker."

"And that is me," said the rosy lips.

"Then I've brought you a baby," he [illegible]

A good deal of astonishment can be [illegible] pair of bright blue eyes [illegible] them—and so there [illegible], at that point the [illegible] and so, a moment [illegible] mother, called up [illegible] voices.

[illegible] soon completed.

[illegible] little room, found [illegible] place he had [illegible] upon.

[illegible] latter he concluded [illegible] not to go and [illegible] charge. In an [illegible] of time he was [illegible] impression again [illegible] to take to baby, who had [illegible] that the moon is more [illegible] the door-knob, a box of [illegible] blocks. Then he went to [illegible] need pocket money; and [illegible] Malvina that he knew she was [illegible] nights with it, because her eyes were so bright.

After tea the moon came out. Oh, that wicked, shameless moon! Tom, by its light, told Malvina right out that her eyes were bluer than heaven—her lips sweeter than roses—and all that.

When they parted Malviva went to her room and cried.

What could a perfect king of a man mean by talking like that to her? Of course he could not mean to marry a little school-mistress only home on a vacation?

Tom acted queerly, too, when alone in his room. He took a paper and pencil, and figured and calculated. He made a list of all the little properties he possessed. He added them up and he added them down. Then he set down a list of all the things he was accustomed to spend money upon that could be dispensed with. Then he brought out a book on economy, where it tells how a man can live cheaper with a frugal wife than he can alone. He was astonished to find that book so intensely interesting!

The next day Tom went again to see the baby. In fact, it had seemed to him as though the afternoon would never come. He had more waiting to do at the cottage, for Malvina's mother received him, and she did not appear. At last his impatience spurred him to ask.

"I don't want you to see her again, young man. I will be frank with you and tell the truth."

"Oh, Mrs. Barker!" cried Tom.

"She's a simple child, sir, and is in danger not to understand that attentions from one like you can mean nothing."

"Dear Mrs. Barker, you mistake me entirely. I must see her this once. I must, indeed. If she sends me away I will never come again."

Tom conquered. When he explained to Malvina about his small income and consulted with her about its sufficiency, she told him that he ought to be ashamed to waste such heaps of money on one. He should have sent half to the heathen.

Tom's income has thus far held out better than when he was single. Young man, try it!

A Dangerous American Tendency.

A Darwinian Cambridge professor sends us the following: "There is one practice of the Yankees which threatens to develop a most undesirable characteristic. It is the habit of yawning. Apparently it is rather more affected by people of the cities, especially by females and the more talkative of the males. Unfortunately it is not all confined to them. Naturally enough motionless jaws become tiresome to persons who ordinarily keep them moving. It is amusing to watch an individual exercise his hyoid apparatus like an asphyxiating fish, while the person opposite involuntarily—so sympathetic we are—gapes like a boa-constrictor, and is imitated by another and another down the car or through the audience. But there is a serious aspect to the case. By the laws of use and heredity we are abnormally developing the muscles which open the mouth. If this is allowed to go on, by and by great development of the mouth-openers will become characteristic of the American. There are altogether too many people in this country at present who have great difficulty in keeping their mouths shut."—*Boston Transcript.*

Herbert Spencer's lucid remark that "an incidental force falling on an aggregate containing like and unlike units segregates the like units and separates the unlike," never strikes a young man so forcibly as when a tailor refuses to trust him for a new Spring suit.—*Norristown Herald.*

The organ of the bachelors is worried to find out why a woman will spend six weeks putting scallops on her dress that nobody but herself will ever get a glimpse of, and then run around the neighborhood in an old dirty wrapper without any belt and every other button burst off.—*Fremont (Neb.) Herald.*

A Mississippi man who writes for a runaway wife describes her as having "high cheek bones, upper front teeth out, crippled in one foot, cross-eyed and quick spoken." One cannot help wondering why the husband didn't run away instead of the wife. He certainly had provocation enough.—*Norristown Herald.*

A Russian is not legally a man until he is 26 years old. Fancy a Russian mother saying: "Alvirawiska, who was that sitting so close on the sofa with you last night?" and Alvi replying: "Only Chipmunkiwiski, a little boy from over the way. We were celebrating his twenty-fifth birthday."—*Philadelphia Call.*

Statistics show that suicides are more numerous in hot weather, and that about 80 per cent. are males. It is not surprising that so many men—young men particularly—should commit suicide in hot weather. It is about the only way they can escape the ice-cream epidemic that rages during the season.—*Norristown Herald.*

More than 100,000 acres of Pike county, Pa., land are advertised for sale by the Treasurer of the county, for arrears of taxes. The greater part of this is wild or unsettled land.

A lady entered a Plymouth store, saying that she wanted to purchase a Bible to present to her husband upon his approaching birthday. She was shown what she wanted, and, having made her selection, was about to retire, when she suddenly remembered something else. "Have you playing cards?" The shopkeeper had playing cards, and the lady selected two packs. As she was going out an old gentleman remarked: "That's Plymouth religion all over—one Bible and two packs of cards."—*Boston Transcript.*

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