# A Confidence

A Story of One Who Misjudged His Wife.

.....

fresh eigarette. He puzzled me. Rumor had led me to expect to find him, after my long absence, a disappointed if not soured man, I had sought him. here in the retreat where he and his cold, uncongenial wife lived, it was said, like a pair of hermits. Arriving at a moment when the lady was absent, I thought mysclf for unate and prepared to probe the unhappiness of one whose affection in early youth had left a very sunny spot on my memory. I was, in fact, ready to give him all the pity and sympathy which a bachelor of experience can feel for the irremediable mistake of a married friend.

"Have you been hearing tales about me?" he asked. "Shall I tell you the story of my wedded life? "H' it does not pain you?"

"Do you know that I have been a

"I have beard something of it." "The wealth of an ameent relative powed in on me after his death. They the golden wave came and went is a story by itself. For five glided yours I was transfigured in the eyes of the world, and it was during that period I mer and fell in love with my wife."

I had heard all this and more, and I felt sorry. I looked steadily at the opposite wall lest my pity should dannt. bim. I knew the story of the worldly mother and daughter who had forced him into a loveless marriage for greed of the fortune which had proved so

clusive. He went on: "It was not I alone who thought her supremely beautiful. The world had already bestowed on her a queenship before the June day when I first saw her at an open air fete, all in white, pale, cold, severe and sweet, like a goddess in marble. Her mother walked beside her, a woman of a different type. As I gazed after her in what you would call romantic enthusiasm a friend laughed and bade me veil my admiration, as those women were known to be in quest of a golden million. If it be the case that what everybody says must be true, then true it was that the cold, exquisite daughter her arm around my neck. and the haughty, hawklike mother were adventuresses playing a game for

fortune, beauty against a slender purse and a year or two of prime youth. Aldared to reject love, adoration and fortune considerable. Their figure has mit that all the encouragement I re

me in thrall." "She accepted you willingly?"

"Tacitly so. The mother seized on me with effusion. My affianced wife appeared just to endure her new position with patience, nothing more. The mother assured me that her daughter had a most affectionate nature hidden his shoulder. under that chill exterior. She loved me, and she had never loved any other man. I tried to believe her. And so we were wed.

"After a time, when the excitement of my first pride and happiness had sub. give you a surprise. So much for the sided, I began to feel reluctantly conscious that there was something wanting in our life together. My wife's behavior was perfect from every point of enough saved out of the wreck to live view, but there was a wall of reserve on simply and with content. Hark, between us which nothing was able to I hear wheels. My wife is arriving break through. Wherever we went I home. Come and be introduced to was aware that people said I had been married without love for the sake of my million. How was I to feel sure that the verdict was not a true one? Had she given her heart to some worthy fellow who was millionless and re- affliction about the chest and ribs or jected him even as she had accepted me at her mother's bidding?

"I resolved to take things as they came and to make the best of the goods the gods had provided for me. of the terrapin are not free, as in the We led a life of amusement and pleasure. Our house in town and our country house (not this house; something much grander) were as perfect as monthe world expected to see her. We entertained the smart crowd known as society. I was proud beyond the pride of man when I saw the woman I had pin's turn now, and the terrapin is paychosen receiving the admiration which no one could refuse her. I even thought pin sickness, and all your ribs have she seemed glad of my pride in her, grown together and to your breastfor once or twice as I looked at her bone. across the shoulders of a crowd that divided us I thought I saw something remedy prescribed in such cases-I forin her eyes of warmth which was absent from them when we found our he was cured. selves again in our home.

"As time went on her reserve, which was my despair, communicated itself to me, and the impassable barrier between us was complete. Do you apprehend the situation?" he asked.

"Perfectly." I said. "Does all this agree with what my

friends say about me?" "I confess I had heard you had un-

fortunately married a cold and heartless woman," I said. We went on smoking in silence. At

last he said abruptly, "I have more to "Hurt yourself no further, dear old

friend. I think I can imagine all the rest." "Can you? I am not so sure that you

can."

We smoked in silence for about a minute, and then he continued: "Some other time I may tell you of

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • rived. The news of what appeared to be total ruin reached me first in a telegram which I found waiting for me | one night when I returned home from a dinner party alone, my wife having pleaded a readache and retired to her room early in the evening. I gathered up the letters which had come by the last post and carried them to my dressing room, where I sat down to read "Twenty years! I am notched and them. Imagine casting one's eyes on a grizzled. You are only mellowed, rip. bit of paper as the eyes of the owner ened." My friend smiled and lighted a of a million and raising them with the knowledge that one does not own a penny in the world! I sat long immovable, stunned with the suddenness of the blow.

"How was I to tell my wife? How would she bear it, she who had mare of the corporation for over a century. Treasures under the ground. The inried me for the splenders which she must relinguish, the woman whose beauty, whose gentle if cold companionship and perfect conduct toward maand the world I had bought with gold? If she could not love me before, how bitterly would she turn from me now!

"I had sat for two or three hours moblinds, and I stirred and writhed in my | £5,000. chair. The door opened, and my wife, threshold in the gray light.

". What alls you?' she said gently. "Nothing that I can tell you at present," I said. "Go back to your rest." " Will you not tell me what is the

mntter? " Certainly, I will tell you tonso row. It is only some had news,"

"While I was smeaking for keen ever of the letters sprawled on the paper which spelled ruin. The next moment she was on her knees beside me.

"Oh, my dear, will you not share this trouble with me?

"I was so stupid from the shock I had borne that the sweet words and plending tone came on me like a seeond blow. The next moment I was not sure I had heard them, did not believe in them. I answered ernelly, Unfortunately you will have to share it with me."

"'No, say "fortunately." Oh, my love, my husband, am 1 so unworthy? Must I be counted as a thing bought with gold, living on gold and for gold, and cast aside when gold fails and love might well take its place?"

"'Is it not absurd,' I said, 'that you should imagine you could love me now when you could not love me through all the five years of my devotedness to you?

"She crept nearer to me and wound

"'I loved you,' she said. 'I loved you since the first day I knew you. But I knew there was a plan made by ready beauty had over and over again others to force me upon you that your possessions might be useful to me and those belonging to me. The knowlnot yet been reached,' whispered my edge of this paralyzed my actions, even cynical friend. Your million will do it. my looks. I knew you thought you too nervous, too timid, too proud, too ceived was from the mother. The unhappy, to have any power within me daughter remained ley. I persisted in to undeceive you. Now for the first accepted lover of the woman who held speak. We will work, we will laugh, nails. we will be happy together.'

"She tightened her sweet hold of my neck. My arms closed around her"-He stopped suddenly. He had been talking as if unaware of my presence. There was a long silence and before it ended my hand found its way to

"I understand now, old friend," I

said softly. He shook himself up and laughed a little bright laugh.

"Yes," he said, "I thought I should opinion of the world and a man's penetration of a woman's heart and mind. And here we are, after all, with her."-Tatler.

### The Terrapin Disease.

The terrapin is thought to have much influence in causing sickness, and the terrapin disease is either a rheumatic possibly some pulmonary trouble. The association of the terrapin with diseases in this portion of the body doubtless originates from the fact that the ribs case of most of the higher animals, but are united into one piece.

An Indian who was ill applied for relief to a shaman and was asked, "Did ey could make them. My wife went you not when a boy tie strings to the everywhere dressed and bejeweled as terrapin's tall and worry the creature?"

The patient admitted that he did. "Well," said the medicine man, "that is what is the matter. It is the terraing off old scores. You have the terra-

The shaman administered the proper get what it was-and the man thought

### Doing His Best.

In the early morning I went to the postoffice in an Alabama town to inquire for mail, but found I was half an hour too early. I was walking away when the colored janitor who was sweeping out called to me and asked: "Was yo' procrastinatin' around yere arter yo'r mall, sah?"

"Yes, but I see I'm too early." "Yes, sah, too airly. An' was yo' a stranger in dis town?"

"Yes." "An' hain't yo' no one to talk to?"

"Den, sah, if yo' don't keer to eliminate about de street fur balf an hour yo' can stop right yere, an' I'll do my best to considerate de reciprocity of de

situashun an' make yo' feel to home?" The cheerful man is one who prachow my unexpected fortune departed tices the art of having things as he as suddenly and surprisingly as it ar- would have them .- National Magazine. Press.

#### COSTLY PLATE.

and Interesting Services,

possess plate worth such a fabulous came from the rising place of the sun sum as that owned by London's lord they called the heap Newfoundland and mayor during his term of office. Its chose it for a dwelling place," says face value has been computed to be Norman Duncan in Ainslee's. "It may slightly over £20,000, though three be so. In its remoter parts Newfoundtimes that amount would not buy it land might easily be taken for the owing to the historical interest attach- leavings and rejected materials of the ed to many of the articles.

which are employed at the banquet to Increaver, it resembles in that it condistribute 100 gallons of clear turtle to tains scraps of everything which enthe guests are valued at 4500 apiece bered into the making of the worldand are said to have been in possession from copper, real, gold and all other

dinner plates worth £1,500, 200 ice an interminably vast waste, where not pails valued at nearly 415000, 200 cm so much as a shrub is to be seen and tree dishes, the cost of which (2,000 to man chooses to live. Stanfed forwould not cover; 80 solid silver ment dishes worth another £2,000, and him- tone and spruce and burch, through dreds of other articles, such as grape which you may walk miles in vain scissors, salt cellars, while cups, waits scarch for a schooler's spar. The tionless as stone. The first gleam of ers' trays, decanter labels, etc., all of shore line is rack, in some places dawn crept in at the edges of the solid gold or silver and valued at over swept by flood and fire bare of all

in a white robe, appeared on the being increased, for every lord mayor is as great a wender as a horse," at the expiration of his term of office is expected to add an item, the cost of which must not be lower than 100

guineas In addition the lord mayor's official regula is couldy in the extreme. The dlamond prodent that hause about his neels could not be bought for \$1,000, and his collar cost a quarter of that enught sight of the open telegram and sum, while has pearl award necessinged the corporation spending 1000 when It was new-

But the other companies in the city possess plate of even greater value. The Goldsmiths, for instance, own the most priceless collection, the worth of which it is impossible to estimate. It includes Queen Elizabeth's coronation emp, for which an offer of £5,000 was refused some time ago. The Fishmongers' company boasts of, among other things, a silver chandelier, and estimates of its value have never fallen below £3,250. - London Tit-Bits.

#### POINTERS ON MANICURING.

When the nails are fragile, a little wax and alum rubbed upon them will strengthen them. If brittle, a little almond oil or cold cream will be found beneficial.

To remove white spots from the nails use a mixture of refined pitch and a little myrrh upon them at night, wiping it off the next morning with olive oil. When about to manicure the hands,

dip the fingers into warm, soapy water and hold them there for a minute or two in order to soften the nails and the searfskin about them.

The scarfskin should be gently pushed back from the nails before they are By this time I had proclaimed myself were taking a loveless wife, and seeing polished. It should never unless absoan open worshiper. I am bound to ad- you were willing to take me so I was lutely necessary be cut with the scis-

Agnails, improperly called hangnails, may be prevented by proper attention my suit and in a short time was the time my heart has found a way to to the scarfskin which surrounds the

> a chamois polisher, a bottle of vaseline and a box of rose salve or nail powder D., in Ladies' Home Journal.

### A Toothsome Revenge.

During the reign of Charles II., the among gentlemen when they drank a manhood and the place of a man. a lady's health, in order that they might do her still more honor, to destroy at the same time some part of their clothing.

Upon one occasion Sir Charles Sedley was dining in a tavern and had a particularly fine necktie on, whereupon one of his friends, to play him a trick, drank to the health of a certain lady. at the same time throwing his necktie in the fire. Of course Sir Charles had to do likewise, but he got even, for not long after that, dining with the same company, he drank the health of a fair one, at the same time ordering a dentist whom he had engaged to be present, to pull out a refractory tooth which had been troubling him. Everyone else was obliged in this manner to mourn a molar.

### Sitting Room Drama.

"Who comes there?" called little Willie, the sentry, in threatening tones as he brought his deadly wooden gun into shooting position.

"A friend!" answered little Tomnie from behind the rocking chair. "Advance and give the countersign." hissed the sentry, "or I'll shoot your

An ominous silence followed this terrible threat. Then Tommie said plaintively:

"I've forgot it."

whisper it to you ag'in."-Ohio State

#### Food Receptacles. All receptacles for food should, as

far as possible, be kept germ and insect free. Glass, pottery and metallic wares are therefore preferable to wood. They should have no joints or grooves, as these harbor minute particles of food. Before placing food in them they should be thoroughly wash- hit. Des plunk dat air stuff in my ed, scalded with boiling water, wiped bofe arms, but doan fix huh so she dry and then be allowed to cool. Placing them in the sun when practicable for a couple of hours will also add to their purity.

#### Hent and Cold. Professor,-Heat ascends, and cold de-

Pupil-Not always, does it?

Professor-Yes, sir; invariably. Pupil-Then how is it when I get my feet wet the cold always goes up and settles in my head? - Philadelphia

Refuse of the Universe.

"It was a Beothuk Indian legend that Some London Companies Have Old when God made the world he swept the universe of the refuse and east it Few people, at least in this country, into the sea, and when the white men work of creation, there east away. It The two solid silver soup tureens is as fertile as an ash heap, which, Moreover, there are a gross of silver torior is a sorgy, rock strown barren, exps fringe const, a strong growth of soil-grim, maked rock. To many a This collection of plate is constantly. Newfoundlander a sandy beach would

Merceschmung word in Mahlous-A fire in a pineusaker's shop the or day epolfed the preprietor's attack and of the blon common in most very expensive. Morestimum Book and expensives. That it if by the cted as naw universal from Austria, it most of it is obtained in Asia nor. Usually there are three or four forent grades, running from the rough and mixed to the more and finely nined article. There is no duty upon

The churks, not unlike cannot al in shape, are packed in oblong oxes, about two feet and a half long, foot wide and a foot high. The raw naterial is quite brittle and has to be scaked in water before it is used for modeling.

Meerschaum pipes are expensive because much of the material from which the bowls are made has to be thrown. nway before a piece is found that has no flaws in it. The shavings, however, are never wasted. They are used to make a cheaper grade of pipes which are known as chip meerschaums.-New York Post.

#### Control Your Temper.

There are three reasons why one ought to control his temper, and the first is self respect. When one loses command of himself and throws the reins upon the neck of passion, he may have for the moment a certain enjoyment in the license, but there must surely come a reaction of regret. When he is calm again and the fit has passed away, every serious person must be ashamed of what he said and what he did, of the manner in which he gave himself away and the exhibition he made of himself. He will recall the amazement on the faces of his friends and the silence which they adopted as a protective measure and the soothing language which they used, For manicuring only a pair of curved as if they were speaking with a baby, nall scissors, a nail file, an orange stick. and the glances which passed between them. He will not soon hold again with them as strong as he d!d before are necessary.-Mary E. Walker, M. this outburst, nor will be have the same claim upon their confidence as a sound and clear headed man. He has acted like a fretful, peevish child and age of gallantry, it was the custom has for the time forfeited his title to

> Woodworms Can't Stand Benzine. Woodworms can be destroyed in books and woodwork by benzine. Books are locked up in a cupboard with a saucer of benzine. The insects, as well as their larvæ and eggs, soon die off. Furniture and carvings are similarly placed in a room with a dish of benzine and kept closed up for several weeks, the time required for the complete destruction of the insects varying according to the thickness of the wood. New woodwork can be protected against their entry by a coating of glue, as, living on vegetable substances, they do not touch animal prod-

#### Amusing Superstitions. If you count warts, you will increase

ucts.

their number, or to handle a toad will cause warts. If two persons wash in the same water or dry their hands on the same towel, they will shortly quarrel. To bore a hole in the door frame and put in it the hair of a colored person is supposed to cure whooping cough. The rattle of a rattlesnake, if carried in the pocket, will prevent rheumatism or, if placed in the bureau drawer, will keep away moths.

### The Shrew.

The shrew was originally the shrew mouse, which, when her young were "You can't remember nuthin'," ex- helpless, would fight desperately in claimed Willie in disgust, throwing their defense, and so well known was down his gun. "Cum over here an' I'll the courage of this little animal, which would even go out of its way to seek an enemy at times when the nest needed protection, that the word became applied to a woman who was ever ready to seek a quarrel.

### He Objected.

"No, sub, Mistah Doctahman," objected the gentleman of color - "no. suh; doan' yoh go ahead en vacsumate gwine hab er so'e arm en cain' ten' ter de white folks' washin', kase ef yoh do I'ze 'pintedly got ter go ter wuk!"-Baltimore American.

### Hopeful.

Editor (to artist)-I refused this drawing a year ago. Why do you bring it here again?

Artist-I thought you would have had more experience by this time and know a good drawing when you see it. -Boston Herald.

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