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WOMAN'S HEART



JOHN GANT drew his eyes behind a pillar of the veranda and pulled his slouch hat farther over his eyes as he felt the gaze of a passer by the little country inn, rest curiously upon his disfigured face. He had not yet become accustomed to being stared at. The fresh spring morning had no charm for him; he felt that his life was ruined. He looked over at the tiny vine-trilled cottage, with a bitter sigh and a rebellious spirit. He had come from the hospital to his old home, and for a whole week had been so near to Rose, his sweetheart, that twenty steps would have carried him to her side; and yet he had kept his room until the morning of his departure, fearing by chance to meet her. He had sent coldly polite notes of thanks for the many gifts of flowers and books which had come to him from her kind hands; and though his heart cried out in bitter protest, he resolved that he would never see her again. He would rather die than see her shrink from him in disgust. Suddenly, he smoked his cigar, and reviewed the past—the long years of toil and study in college, his admission to the bar, his first speech before a jury—a speech that had won for him glances and bright predictions of his colleagues. How full of promise life had seemed! But everything bright had come to an end on the day of the accident.

The explosion of a gun in his own hands had robbed his right eye of its sight, and torn his cheek so frightfully that he started in horror when he first saw its reflection in the mirror. The publicity of the court would be intolerable to him now. He must work at something away from the eyes of men.

Suddenly, a sweet young voice rang out in a merry song, behind the tall thorn hedge, and in an instant the man was on his feet.

It was Rose. The desire to see her once more overpowered him. His cigar and resolution were alike forgotten. He ran down the steps, and sprang through a gap into a little flower garden, where a slender, brown-haired girl, on her knees, was searching among the wet leaves for violets.

"Good morning, John," she said, quietly. "See! I have quite a nice little bunch. Papa had his yesterday morning; these are for you. Kneel down here while I pin them on."

And the young fellow knelt at her side, and shut his teeth tightly together, while with dew-wet fingers she pinned the fragrant cluster on his coat. How sweet she was! How dangerously kind and oblivious! He must not stay; he could not trust himself any longer. They both rose, she blushing a little at her nonsense. "I have come to bid you good-by," Rose, he said, almost curtly. "I have sufficiently recovered, I think, to go back to work, and I leave for the city."

"How weak I have been!" within an hour, Rose, I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for your many acts of kindness. I have seemed cold and unappreciative, but I have not been indifferent. Heaven knows I have not! I shrink so from meeting you. But I believe you will understand it all."

The girl looked at him with an aching heart. "Now, I understand," she said, "the city of it all! That stalwart figure, so suggestive of power and strength; that noble heart, cherishing only kindness for every living creature; that bright mind, sharpened and cultivated by diligent study; that indomitable will, which had overcome all sorts of obstacles and won success at last; all these attributes of a grand character to be shadowed by an external flaw."

She looked at the red scarred face, and could have cried aloud in her anguish for him. "Rose," he continued, "I had something I intended to tell you soon, but it will never be told now. God bless you, little friend; the thought of you will always be my sweetest pleasure and safeguard."

He wrung her hand in farewell and turned to go. "John!"

"He wheeled and came back a step. "What was it you had meant to tell me?"

"I cannot tell you now," he said, desperately. "It would not be right; you do not understand."

"But I want to know, John," persisted the girl, staring at the violet-bed, with glowing cheeks. "Don't torture me, Rose. You must have known that ever since you were a little girl and I carried your books to the little school-house over there, I have watched the ground you walk on. I meant to have asked you to be my wife; but now—"

"I know what you would say, John. Listen. Almost since I can remember, you have been my champion, my adviser, my hero. I revere your strong, pure nature. I have watched with pride your success in the busy world. I shall feel honored, John, to become the wife of so good and true a man."

"Rose" ejaculated the young fellow, seizing her hands, and looking at her in mingled doubt and delight; "you do not mean it, dear. You do not comprehend what you are saying."

A MOVING MOUNTAIN.

A WESTERN CLIFF SLIDING INTO A RIVER.

Slowly But Surely a Peak of the Cascade Range is Creeping Toward the Columbia—Various Theories Advanced Regarding the Phenomenon.

At a point about a mile west of the great canal now building at Cascade locks, on the Columbia river, and a little east or up the river from where the backbone of the Cascade range is cut through by that mighty stream, an irregular, low, fir-clad spur from the main range descends on the river in a series of terrace-like steps, ending in a steep, rocky bank.

A regular persification of deceased pensioners has been discovered at the station of Dapouille. This is a delightful, healthy place in the district of Ratanigri, about five miles from the sea, at an elevation of 600 feet. It was the residence of veteran sepoys who had been pensioned after doing good service in 1857-5.

An anonymous petition brought to light the distressing condition of the pensioners drawn long after the cessation of the real incumbrances, and that there was, besides an original scheme by which pensions still due to survivors had been intercepted and were in the main enjoyed by money lenders in the bazaar and by the native clerks of the department, says the Saturday Review.

A long investigation followed, in which the military authorities were all but baffled. But by the skill of an Englishman in the ordnance department and of an intelligent Parsi soldier and by the native clerks of the department, says the Saturday Review.

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A caboose loaded with workmen going to remove from the track one of the numerous landslides near by, was precipitated through a small trestle-bridge spanning a mountain stream. Several of the men were killed and a number seriously injured.

The mountain has slowly but surely pushed its way toward the river here, and the Columbia has as a result bitten off chunks from the mountain, which were so temptingly offered; and the company, viewing this singular process complacently, has so far contented itself with edging itself back a little and a little further toward its erstwhile roadbed slipped "just a little" into the river's maw until this seemed to become the ordained nature of things to last indefinitely. But the big flood of this summer had not been provided for; old Columbia needed more room, and get through to the ocean, and, being in its strength, took all it needed, sweeping the obstructing mountain side with its railroad and county road away as snow goes before the Chinook wind.

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What causes this mysterious movement of the mountain? Have we not in America scientists who will undertake to find the reason? The solution of this home problem should interest some of them. Several theories have been advanced. One is that underneath the basaltic rock that covers the whole country hereabout like a big rumpled blanket there is at this point a stratum of soft, plastic, which, becoming wet and slippery, allows the superincumbent strata to drop in places along the river, as if to give color to this theory; but if this were the only cause would not the movement be more intermittent and violent and not so slow and regular as it appears? Is it not possible that in that past age when geologists tell us the greater part of the earth's surface was covered with an ice cap that a layer of basaltic lava here, imprisoned by a glacier thick enough to resist its heat? Is not the ice cave region under the basalt of Mount Adams, in Washington, not very far from this point, and in similar ice caves in the desert country near Prineville, Oregon, a proof that something like this happened? Then why not here? The movement of traveling mountain certainly in some respect resembles the march of a glacier.

The Montreal aldermen have before them a resolution restoring all property in the city now exempt from taxation, to be taxed on a basis of half its value. The city is heavily in debt and its revenues are unequal to the demands upon the treasury, and more money must be raised in some way. This scheme of taxing exempt property promises to add quite a sum to the revenue, for there would be some \$20,000,000 to be taxed. The greater portion of the exempt church property in Montreal is owned by Roman Catholics, while the Protestants are richer in proportion to their numbers. The Roman Catholic population of Montreal is said to be 165,000, and the value of the exempted property owned by the Catholic churches is \$11,645,750. There are 45,000 Protestants, who own church property worth \$6,710,984. In addition there is school and other property to be taxed.

The earliest known statue is one that has been recovered from an Egyptian tomb. It is that of a sheik or hermit of a village, and is evidently a portrait. Egyptologists say that it is at least 6,000 years old.

The Chinese prejudice of their country is well illustrated by the difficulties which attended the building of the present road from Tien-Tsin to the sea. It was at first a tram line, but an enterprising engineer put an engine on it, and a few years ago succeeded in inducing the mandarins to be conveyed by the steam monster. It finally attracted Viceroy Li's attention and little by little was extended stealthily until it reached Tien-Tsin.

Who Was Enabled to Draw the Pension of Two Soldiers. A regular persification of deceased pensioners has been discovered at the station of Dapouille. This is a delightful, healthy place in the district of Ratanigri, about five miles from the sea, at an elevation of 600 feet. It was the residence of veteran sepoys who had been pensioned after doing good service in 1857-5.

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FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up to Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Foot Puncture in Horses. One of the most common causes of lameness is puncture of the sole of the foot. It is caused by the animal stepping on a nail or other sharp object. The puncture is most likely to occur in the neighborhood of the frog, or where the sole and wall of the foot join, but it may occur in any part of the sole.

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