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ENVELOPES,

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&c.

[WRITTEN FOR THE COURIER.]

"Circumstantial Evidence in a Love Suit."

BY EUGENE HALL.

CHAPTER II.

A beautiful white cottage gleamed through the Grove in the mellow Autumn sunset. The irregular tinkle of the cow bell testified to the close proximity of the driver as did the wild and not unmusical refrain which re-echoed through the woods. The barking of a pointer and the baying of a half dozen deer hounds, signaled the approach of others, than Toby the cow-boy. The family carriage stopped at the gate and Mr, Moreland got out saying pleasantly, "we are here Miss Ralston, it is only a short distance."

"I am almost sorry it is ended, I have really enjoyed it."

When they reached the porch she was introduced to Mrs. Moreland who was very handsome, and presented her three beautiful children with considerable pride. Hugh, Lena and Robbie; they seemed under such good control, and Mr. & Mrs. Moreland so kind that Miss Ralston felt that it would be exceedingly pleasant in this happy little family, and soon her cold reserve gave place to real affection. She had been domesticated about a week, when one evening after the mail had been brought in and read, Mrs. Moreland said,

"My Son writes me that he will be at home to morrow."

"Your Son!" repeated Addie in surprise.

"Yes," I have really another boy by a former marriage." Here the delight of the children at the news made them quite noisy, and Addie escaped to her room, wandering why this happy little family could not be complete without a grown up son. But the children would not let her forget for an instant the unwelcome intelligence that brother was coming. Not until their bright eyes were closed in slumber, did they lose sight of the coming of brother. Then Addie thought it quietly over, and although, it was a source of great annoyance, she tried to persuade herself that one so much loved at home could not prove much of a terror. The next day after dismissing the children; she remained in the school room until no excuse for delay could even be invented, and then with a reluctance that she had never felt at meeting strangers before, she walked slowly to the house which was in sight. She saw at a glance that the family were in the porch. The children ran to meet her. She did not look at the manly figure, who arose as she came up the steps, until Mr, Moreland said, "Miss Ralston, let me introduce you to Mr. Ewing"

A quick startled glance, an inclination of the head and Miss Ralston passed on to her room, wandering why she had not heard before the name of the absent son and brother. Charlie was quite as much surprised as she, and asked why in the thunder they didn't tell him who it was that taught."

"Why," asked Mr. Moreland laughing at Charlie.

"Only I---I was taken by surprise."

"You know her then."

"I know her by reputation," he said getting into a frolic with Robbie, evading farther questioning.

Circumstances were a little awkward, but Addie determined to meet them with sufficient tact for the emergency. So when the tea bell rang she was in her usual place so interesting and lively, it seemed that if no former acquaintance existed, a very pleasant friendship would soon be engendered. Mr. Ewing made no allusion to their last interview, during the course of the evening, Addie said, "Carrie wrote me that her father was quite sick. Do you know how he is?"

There was a half merry, half reproachful glance from his black eyes. when he said,

"Yes, he is much better, I should have volunteered the information, had it not seemed like alluding to a former acquaintance."

Addie determined to extricate herself from anything like displeasure at his neglect, hid her embarrassment by an amused smile saying.

"I cannot imagine Mr. Ewing, why you should have been vexed at my losing sight of having met you before. I will be candid, at first I thought as I had only a faint recollection of you, perhaps you had lost sight of me entirely."

"Did you think that possible," he interrupted.

"Well it had been so long, we would really have had to become acquainted again, that is why I met you as a stranger, when I found it vexed you, I feigned farther ignorance purely for aggravation,—nothing more," she said laughing.

Charlie had looked at her quietly, while she was speaking. his expression made her cheeks burn and her eyes avoid his.

"You are willing then," he said, that a new acquaintance should begin?"

"Certainly I never refuse an introduction to any one in the house of a friend."

He colored, his manner showed plainly that he was not satisfied with matters as they stood. I am truly sorry if in the faint recollection you have of our summer at the springs, there was aught in my conduct to necessitate the countenance of your friends."

"Mr. Ewing,' she said with a charming pout,' you purposely mistake my meaning."

"I am gratified that you did not mean it," he said looking relieved; then added thoughtfully. "I have never forgotten a single instance in that memorable summer, and I have built many hopes in the belief that you remembered some of them, but I suppose there was more truth than poetry in Mr. Moran's remark, that "you made all of the impressions without taking any."

"I consider one fortunate indeed who is not susceptible," she replied without looking at him.

'I considered myself invulnerable, until that eventful summer, I then found there was pleasure in the pain of Cupids arrows, but it seems there also lurks a poison in these little flirting missiles that take effect afterwards. I have never forgotten the thrill of pleasure, or gotten over the keen pain, and now that I am with you again, the pleasure is still in predominance, and will be until we separate, then the pain will be in propotion to what the pleasure has been; I know the better part of valor in this case – shall I profit by it?"

He was regarding her with intence interest, but Addie did not mean to put herself again in the power of the fascinating gentleman, so she replied somewhat pointedly,

"Your own judgement must serve you in this case as it has in some others, but you must excuse me as I have to write some letters tonight."

He looked disappointed but of course gave his assent.

The next morning Charlie said he would ride over and get the mail, also carry any letters they wished mailed; there was only one and that in the unmistakable hand of Addie, to 'Capt. Jno. Dunrich."

Charlie wandered why he had never heard of him before, just as though, Miss Ralston might not have a number of lovers, he had never heard of. The following week he brought her an answer, he was confident from the post mark, He walked down to the school room, meeting the children who said Miss Addie was in school, he walked in pausing on the threshold, Miss Ralston sat by the table, her head resting on it, looking very tired; hearing the footsteps she raised up, gathering her book.

"I only stepped in," he said to hand you this,—placing the letter on the table and relieving her of the books.

Thank you she said putting it in her apron pocket as they walked to the house, leaving him in the porch to wonder if she really avoided him or if her indifference to his company made her forgetful of his presence. If in days gone by, he had ever believed she cared for him he had no such thoughts now, but fully believed her engaged to Capt. Dunrich. After tea he challenged her for a game of chess and checkmated her in less than half an hour. She plead unusual stupidity.

"I should think you would be unusually bright, after that nice letter."

She glanced at him, as she replaced her men, and replied, "probably if you knew the contents you would advise me to centre all my thoughts on one point in order to make a wise decision, and excuse my indifferent playing."

"I had rather discuss the discission than play," he said quizzically, trying to hide deeper feeling."

She smiled, saying "did you ever take a step in a business point of view without consulting parties who were particularly interested in you?'

"I suppose you have done so?" he answered.

"Yes," she replied, and an immediate decission is forced upon me and woman-like I feel rebellious."

"You must give up teaching or forfeit—he had risked this much of his thoughts, but hesitated, and strange to say she finished the sentence for him—Capt. Dunrich's favor," and without much embarressment. After a moments pause he said very earnestly. Miss Ralston more depends upon this decision then you may think. Consider well, and I ask you to let me know your decision—not from curiosity, but pure interest, as it will decide an importent question for me."

Addie was surprised, but asked abruptly, "what is best for me to do?"

"I feel a delicacy in giving advice in such a case, and he was much agitated when he said, "If you love Capt. Dunrich; do as he wishes you; You once said that professions of love was only a waste of time. unless they were framed in gold. This may decide you,—rising he took from his pocket a paper and pointing to a notice, handed it to her, and left the room.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Hints to Young Gentlemen.

Don't stay later than eleven o'clock when you spend the evening with a pretty friend —the wisest and wittiest man in Christendom becomes a bore after that hour.

Don't believe any woman to be an angel. If you feel any symptoms of that disease, take a dose of sage tea and go to bed—it is as much a malady as the small pox, and it is your business to get over it as quickly as possible. An angel, indeed! If you don't find out pretty soon that she lacks considerably more than the wings, we are mistaken.

Don't make up your mind about any creature in a belt, ribbon and velvet rosette without first asking your sisters advice. Depend upon it, one woman can read another better in five minutes than you can in five years.

And, above all, don't think that you must keep your lady-talk and your gentleman-talk in separate budgets, labelled and assorted unless you want the girls to laugh in their sleeves at your wishy-washy sentimentalism. Talk to them in a frank manly way as you would to an intelligent gentleman. Don't suppose, because they are women they don,t know anything.

EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED IN CONGRESS ON THE 19th MAY LAST, BY THE HON. J. J. DAVIS OF THIS DISTRICT.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Economy and simplicity should characterize a republican government and honesty and fidelity should mark the character of its public servants. In the earlier days of the Republic this was the case. From the 4th day of March, 1789, the day the Federal Constitution went into operation, down to June 30, 1875, the entire net ordinary receipts of the government, exclusive of loans, amounted to $6,337,034,618.25. Of this sum only $1,841,953,353.62 were collected from the foundation of the Government down to 1861, and $4,495,081,264.63 have been collected since that time. That is, largely more than twice as much money has been collected from the people in fourteen years of republican rule than was collected in more than seventy years prior to their advent to power. Now let us see how about the expenses for the same period of time. From March 4, 1789, to June 30, 1875, the net ordinary expenses of the Government —as any one may see by adding the figures under the head of "net ordinary expenses." on pages 65 to 67 of the official report (pamphlet copy) of the Register of the Treasury, made November 4, 1875 —amounted to $9,801,956, 954.69.

From March 4, 1789, to June 30, entire net ordinary expenses of the Government amounted to $1,581,706,195.34. From June 30, 1851, to June 30, 1865, fourteen years of republican rule, the net ordinary expenses amounted to $6,220,250,759.35 —and this is exclusive of the public or war debt; that is, fourteen years of republican rule cost the Government more than three times as much money as the whole cost of the Government from 1789 to 1861, a period of seventy-two years, But it may well be said that the ordinary expenses of the Government during the war were necessarily increased. That is true, and to make the comparison fair let us take a period of ten years since the war; and I wish to be borne in mind that I am now speaking of the 'net ordinary expenses" of the government, exclusive of the interest paid on the public debt, which amounted to over $1.000,000,000, and the sums paid on the public debt which amounts to many hundred millions more. From March 4, 1789, to June 30 1861, the expense of the Government—embracing a period of more than seventy-two years, covering the war of 1812 the Indian wars and the Mexican war—amounted as I have already showns, to only $1,581,706,195.34. The net ordinary expenses of the four years of Johnson's administration was $1,012,420,202,.14; six years of President Grant, $1.021813,950—making in ten years of peace the enormous sum of $2,034.233,412.14, being nearly one-third more than all the expenses of the Government for seventy-two years, from 1789 to 1861, including the war of 1812, the Indian and Mexican wars; and if you add to the ordinary expense of the six years of President Grant's administration the amount of principal and interest paid on the public debt, it will amount to $4,008,438,461.82; that is more than two and a half times as much as the entire expenses of the Government from March 4, 1789, to June 30 1861.

Let us look at this a little in detail. It is conceded that $182,000,000 were lost to the Treasury in one year alone 1868, on this one subject of taxation. Just think of it? In one single year of republican rule there was lost or stolen from this single source of revenue ten times as much as the whole expense of the Government for the eight years of Washington's administration, nine times as much as the whole four years of John Adams, four times as much as the whole eight years of Jefferson; $40,000,000 more than the whole eight years of Madison, embracing the war of 1812 with Great Brittain; $75,000,000 more than the whole eight years of Monroe; more than $120,000,000 more than the whole four years of J. Q. Adams; more than $40,000,000 more than the whole eight years of Andrew Jackson; $60,000,000 more than the whole four years of Van Buren. And some of us are old enough to remember how the economical spirit of the country was aroused by the extravagance of Martin Van Buren, and now in 1840 he was overwhelmed by the people because of what was thought to be extravagance, but in comparison with these times would be considered stingy economy, for in one single year of republican rule we have seen that $60,000.000, more was lost to the Government on spirits alone than the whole four years of his administration cost. In this one year $75,000.000 more was lost or stolen than the cost of the whole four years of John Tyler's administration; $16,000,000 more than the whole four years Polk, embracing the period of the Mexican war; $18,000,000 more than the four years of Taylor and Fillmore; and more was lost on whiskey alone in 1866 '67 '68 than the whole cost of the Government under the combined eight years of Pierce and Buchanan.

The amount out of which the Government has been defrauded is so immense that, like the centennial exhibition in Philadelphia, it bewilders you and and it cannot all be taken in at once by the eye or comprehended by the mind. Just think of it again. $182,000,000 in one single year on spirits alone. Why this is $50,000,000 more than the whole assessed property of the State of North Carolina, as shown by the census of 1870. Just think again! If all the property of this once proud old State—land, houses, corn, everything—were put up at auction and sold for cash it would not amount to as much as the whiskey fraud upon the Government amounted to in one year. It was more than the assessed value, according to the census of 1870, of Alabama, or Arkansas, or Delaware, or Florida, or Mississippi, or New Hampshire, or Vermont, or Texas.

Who will say with this exhibit—in which nothing is said of the frauds in the collection of the tobacco tax, for I have not time to go into that—that the estimate of Mr Curtis's commission is large enough? But assuming it not to be over the mark, we have shown by the highest proof that the Government has been defrauded out of one-fourth of its revenue; that is in round numbers, $1,500,000,000: but this does not represents all the loss

If this money had been faithfully collected and honestly applied, it would have gone to the extinguishment of that much of the public debt. So that to represent the real loss the interest must be added. Now, any one who will take the pains to calculate it will see that $1,500,000,000 + $600,000,000 = $2,100,000,000: the interest would exceed $600,000,000. Now, the public debt is less in round numbers than $2,240,000,000. So that it will be seen that nearly enough has been lost to the Government to pay the entire public debt. Is it not time for our people to arouse themselves? If this money had been faithfully collected and honestly applied and economy had marked the administration of the Government, how different would be the condition of the country to-day.

FRAUDS.

But this is not the worst. I have shown from the official report that the net ordinary revenue collected by the Government and which went into the Treasury since 1861 amounted to $4,495,081,264.63. Now I propose to show from high republican authority and from official sources that was not more than three-fourths of the amount that ought to have gone into the Treasury, and that the remaining one fourth, amounting in round numbers to $1,500,000,000, that ought to have gone into the Treasury, has been lost to the government, lost by the failure of those whose duty it was to collect it—to do so, or to account for it; but, I said—that puts it too mildly, stolen—stolen from the people by corrupt and fraudulent officials and combinations and rings. And for the proof.

The commission appointed by the President under the act of March 4, 1871, consisting of George William Curtis, Alexander G. Cattell, Joseph Medill, Dawson A. Walker, E. B. Elliott, Joseph H. Blackfan, and David C. Cox, made their report in 1871. And the President by his special message of December 19, 1871, transmitting this report to Congress, indorses it and "asks for all strength which Congress can give to enable me [him] to carry out the reforms recommended by the commissioners." These commissioners say, (Senate Documents No. 1 to 2, second session Forty-second Congress 1871–72:)

It is not easy to compute in figures the exact economical difference between a good and a bad system of the civil service. It is necessarily, a matter of inference and of comparison between the probable operation of a careless and careful method. But it is calculated by those who have made a careful study of all the facts, that one-fourth of the Revenues of the United States are annually lost in the collection, and for a large part of that loss a system of the service which is partially unsound may reasonably be held responsible.

Now, if this estimate is correct—and it is an estimate made by the highest republican authority, and I doubt not and I think I can show is under rather than over the mark—if this estimate is correct, not more than three-fourths of the revenue that ought to have gone there has found its way into the Treasury, leaving the other one-fourth, amounting in exact figures to $1,498,360,421.54, to be accounted for as "strayed, lost, or stolen," especially the last. But were these commissioners correct in their estimate? I propose to show their estimate of the amount is, if anything too small. The Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. Fessenden) in his annual report for 1864 said "the annual yield of our distilleries has been about 100,000,000 gallons.—The census of 1860 shows that it was then over 90,000,000; and I suppose I may safely appeal to the observation of the country for proof that the consumption of ardent spirits has kept full pace with the increase of population.

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