

gives
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THREE IN ONE.

A STORY OF LOVE AND ROMANCE IN THE CAROLINA MOUNTAINS.

By Rowland Howard.
[CONTINUED FROM NO. 20.]
CHAPTER VII.

The years from 1878, when the Gordons and the Campbells settled in Aiden Cove, down to 1892, constitute a period with which most of my adult readers are well acquainted. Nearly every one at the South has recollections of this period full of an array of observations and facts which were new and strange to people of our times.

The reconstruction years which immediately succeeded the close of the great civil war, were followed by the return of state control in the hands of the native whites of the South. It was the period of great prosperity all over the Southern states. Much of this prosperity came as a result of the coming of northern people and capital into our midst.

The story I am writing may be taken as illustrating what actually occurred in many portions of the Piedmont and mountain sections of the Southern states.

These years brought continuous prosperity to the dwellers in Aiden Cove.

Henry Gordon and Washington Campbell had yearly gained much valuable information as to the special treatment and culture which their farms required. Farming became a success with them.

Their wives and children had learned to adapt themselves to the new situation, and had become popular and useful neighbors, beloved by the mountaineers.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Gordon the Episcopal society had grown into quite a church, and a handsome little chapel was built in the valley. A school of high grade had also been in operation for several years, in which the children of Aiden Cove were as well taught as if they had gone to a city school.

Here Bennie Gordon and Claude Campbell were educated in class with Dollie Jones. If there is a place where the love of school days is felt with purest enchantment, it is in the schools of open country, amid beautiful natural scenery, earth and air and sky combining to inspire the hearts of the young in co-education. What reader educated in such a school does not recall the hazel eyes of the ruby lipped sweet-hearts of such school days!

Under these various influences in Aiden Cove the three children of my

story were moulded into models of humanity rarely surpassed in this world. The open and mountainous country had developed their physical nature into strong, vigorous and health-giving persons. The fine scenery with the school advantages had prepared the minds of these young people for the charms as well as the realities of life.

I must no longer ramble on in this general narration, however entertaining it might be to my readers; nor can I stop to describe the growth of the love-vine in the heart of each of the three young persons of this story.

Bennie Gordon and Claude Campbell were now grown into ardent young manhood; and Dollie Jones was a charming girl of sixteen. In her person were found all those perfections which painters and sculptors throw into shape and name of Goddess. Her cheeks glowed with the natural sweetness of the bloom of the mountain laurel, and her speech and laughter were music to all who knew her. Henry Gordon and Claude Campbell both loved Dollie Jones; and yet they loved each other. Dollie loved them both. If Aiden Cove can cradle and nurse and perpetuate love without jealousy and envy—love that knows no quarrels—then how happy if all earth were like Aiden Cove!

What our story of Three in One will further reveal of love and romance, the closing chapters are to reveal.

CHAPTER VIII.

In the spring of 1890, Aiden Cove was enlivened by a wedding on which many eyes of the mountaineers gazed with delight. It was performed by the Episcopal minister in their new chapel, the first marriage ever seen in a church by many of the dwellers in that section of the mountains. It occurred on a bright Sunday morning in May. The interior of the little chapel was adorned with flowers and festooned with evergreens. The groom was Claude Campbell and the bride was Dollie Jones.

I have not time and space to tell all the reasons why the groom was Claude Campbell and not Bennie Gordon.

As previously stated the fair Dollie seemed to hold each of the young men in equal esteem; and each of them appeared to love her with equal ardor.

There were some little straws thrown in the scale in which Claude Campbell was being weighed which turned the balance in his favor. He went at the courtship in a more business-like manner than did Bennie

Gordon. For a while no one could imagine which one of the young men would be the happy husband of Dollie Jones; and none seemed to doubt that it would be one or the other.

One circumstance which held Bennie Gordon back, was the fact that his mother seemed to think that her son should marry into a more fashionable circle than that occupied by the family of uncle Jonnie Jones. How often it is that influences like this impede the cause of true love!

But Claude Campbell saw the great beauty and real merits of the fair Dollie Jones, and he was encouraged by his intelligent and practical mother in his choice of a companion for life. Indeed, Mrs. Campbell had formed great attachment for her pet "Dollie."

So Claude Campbell was first to propose to Miss Dollie, and she showed her usual good sense in accepting his hand and heart.

Not long after the marriage a beautiful cottage was erected on the land of old Uncle Jonnie Jones, midway between his home and that of Washington Campbell, which was erected by the combined money and efforts of the parents of the happy couple. In this cottage Claude and Dollie began a happy life which was alas soon brought to an end.

After the marriage of Claude Campbell and Dollie Jones, Bennie Gordon seemed cast down and restless. Now being of age, made up his mind to visit the far West where he spent many months in business, succeeding well. Unlike many young men who meet disappointment in love, Bennie Gordon retained his manliness and continued to improve in building up a good character.

About six months after the marriage of Claude Campbell and Dollie Jones, the young husband was killed in the great railroad wreck near Statesville.

This sad event left in Aiden Cove one of the finest young widows in all the land.

Her old father's many acres of valley and mountain lands had by this time, increased in value until they were worth many thousand dollars, all of which Dollie, the beautiful young widow Campbell, would inherit at the death of her parents.

In May, last, just two years after the marriage of Claude Campbell and Dollie Jones, on another bright Sunday morning in May, 1892, another marriage occurred in the same chapel, performed by the same minister. This time the groom was Bennie Gordon and the lovely young widow Dollie Campbell.

Bennie had returned from the far West with the little fortune he had

made, to which he added the fair young widow of Aiden Cove and her father's valuable old homestead.

They now live happily in the cottage erected for Claude Campbell and his bride, now Mrs. Gordon.

(THE END.)

City Items.

Mayor Blanton wants the Charter of Asheville so changed as to have four wards instead of two, and allow each ward to elect two aldermen, making a council of eight instead of six aldermen. He wants, also, a commissioner of Public works.

J. M. Campbell, Senator from Buncombe county, has been put on several committees in the Senate, as has also J. W. Starnes in the House.

A prominent lady of Asheville says: "Since the late elections, the Citizen prints cutting articles against prohibition, and will insert no articles favoring that cause, though sent in with special request that they be printed." We have noticed that cuts at prohibition are often seen in the columns of our Neighbor, the Citizen.

We are glad to learn that our young friend Henry B. Stevens is a candidate for Solicitor in the Asheville district. We know the merits of this young attorney, as do a large number of the voters of Buncombe Court. Mr. Stevens has a character for manliness, temperance, morality, energy and legal ability which would well fit any man for public office; and the time has come when no man who is wanting in such a character need apply for election by the reformers of modern politics.

In this number of the REFORMER, the story "Three in One," is finished. We can furnish back numbers from the beginning to those who desire to preserve the story.

A subscriber from the country told us he likes the Buncombe REFORMER better than many larger papers, because every thing in it is original and to the point.

Come in and settle back and ahead for the REFORMER for we need prompt aid. If you can't come, send in by friends or by letter. Our terms are in advance, but campaign subscribers owe us for six issues published since the election.

Action with Compensation.

If the party in power are afraid to abolish the accursed Internal Revenue system, thinking they will need the thousands of office holders under that system to help retain power, why do they not repeal that system and substitute a national road system, or a land or a subtreasury system, with as many office holders? Why not even take hold of the railroads and telephones by a well devised system?