



BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

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Four Years on Crutches. For fifteen years I was afflicted with rheumatism, four years which I was compelled to go on crutches. Words are inadequate to express the suffering I endured during that time.

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WILLIAM P. COLE, Attorney at Law, Asheville, N. C. Practices in the United States Circuit and District Courts at Asheville, Statesville, Charlotte and Greensboro, in the Supreme Court at Raleigh, and in the courts of the Western District of North Carolina.

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J. A. TRIMM, Architect and Contractor. Plans, specifications and estimates furnished. All work in my line contracted for, and no charges for drawings on contracts awarded me.

DENTAL ROOMS, No. 24 SOUTH MAIN ST., Over Grant & Wintert's Drug Store. Residence, No. 58 Bailey St. Asheville, N. C.

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Table with columns: EASTBOUND, No. 51 Daily, No. 53 Daily. Lists destinations like Knoxville, Asheville, Raleigh, etc.

Table with columns: WESTBOUND, No. 52 Daily, No. 54 Daily. Lists destinations like Asheville, Hendersonville, Spartanburg, etc.

MURPHY BRANCH. No. 18 Daily except Sundays. No. 17 9:10 a.m. Asheville, Arr. 3:55 p.m. 11:10 a.m. Waynesville, Arr. 1:55 p.m. 4:48 p.m. Jarratt's, Arr. 7:00 a.m. 6:40 p.m. Wooten's, Arr. 9:10 a.m.

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THE ASHEVILLE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Rooms on Main street, opposite the post-office. Open daily, except Sundays, from 10 a. m. until 1 p. m., and 5:30 until 7:30 p. m.

A NEW DRESS, carefully prepared by hand by the members of the Asheville Fair to the finest parchment and heavy laid paper, containing all necessary information, and now on sale at the office of the CITIZEN PUBLISHING CO., No. 4 North Court Square, front of

MARRIED AT SIGHT.

We had been upon the Mediterranean station for about a year when our commander ordered the ship to head for Marseilles.

I was then a young midshipman and enjoyed the leave on shore in a foreign port with lavish delight. There were six in our mess, and we managed to get shore leave so as to be together when it was possible to do so.

The singular experience of one of our number I have often told since about the mess table or camp fire, but have never put it into print.

We were strolling on the square known as Le Cours St. Louis, a sort of permanent flower market, where the women are enthroned in tent like stalls of woad, encircled by their bright, beautiful and fragrant wares.

While we were idling away the hour in Le Cours St. Louis, with these regal and pretty flower vendors, we were all thrown into a state of amazement and curiosity by the appearance of a young girl of about 15, who rushed among us with a startling speed, and who, having passed to regain her breath, said in excellent English:

"You are Americans, and I trust, gentlemen. Is there one among you who will marry me?"

"We will all marry you," was the instant response, accompanied by hearty laughter. "Ah, you are in sport, but I am in earnest. Who will marry me?"

There seemed to be no joke after all. The girl was positively in earnest and looked at one and all of us as coolly, yet earnestly, as possible.

"Here, Harry," said one who was rather a leader among us, and addressing Harry, "you want a wife," and he gave our comrade a slight push toward the girl.

For some singular reason Harry took the matter much more in earnest than the rest of us, and regarded the newcomer with a most searching but respectful glance. Approaching her he said:

"I do not know exactly what you mean, but I can understand by your expression of face that you are quite in earnest. Will you take my arm and let us walk to one side?"

"Yes, but I have no time to lose," and taking his arm they walked away together.

We looked upon the affair as some well prepared joke, but were a little annoyed at the non-appearance of Harry at our rendezvous on the quay. Our ears were excited at sunset, and we dared not wait for him, as Capt. D— was a thorough disciplinarian, and we didn't care to provoke him and thus endanger our next Sunday's leave.

On board we went, therefore, leaving Harry on shore. When we reported the question was, of course, asked where Midshipman B— was, to which query we could return no proper answer, as we were not at all sure of his exact whereabouts just before sunset.

Harry did not make his appearance until the next day at noon, when he sailed to the ship in a shore boat, and, zoning on board, reported at once to the captain, who stood upon the quarter deck, and asked the privilege of a private interview.

him much away from his home. During his absence his wife treated Julie with the utmost tyranny, even keeping her locked up in her room for days together, telling her that when she would consent to marry her son, Hubert, she would release her and do all she could to make her happy. But to this Julie would not consent.

One day she overheard a conversation between her aunt and her hopeful son, wherein the mystery of her treatment was solved.

"The boy asked his mother what was the use of lathering and importuning Julie so."

"If she doesn't want to marry me, mother, drop the matter, I like Julie, and she would make me a nice little wife, but I don't want her against her will."

"You are a fool," said the mother. "You know nothing about the matter. Her father's will endows her with a fortune at her marriage, even if it be at 17, just her present age. At 20 she receives the fortune at all rates. Now, don't you see if you marry her we are all fixed for life?"

"Does Julie know about the money?" he asked. "No, of course not." "It's a little sharp on her," said the boy.

"I'm looking out for you," said the mother. "Just so," mused the hopeful. "I am resolved that she shall marry you, and that is why I keep her locked up, so that she may not see some one she would like better. Your father is expected home next week. I want you to be married before he returns. He approves of it, but is a little too delicate about pressing matters so quickly. I know that no time is like the present time, so I have been making arrangements to bring this about immediately. I have got a Protestant clergyman who will perform the ceremony first, and then you can be married at any time afterward in the Catholic church, to make it valid on her side, for her father was a Catholic."

This was enough for Julie. She understood the situation fully now, and saw that her aunt would hesitate at nothing. The poor child feared her beyond description, and had yielded to her in everything, save this one purpose of her marriage with Hubert.

Julie was a very gentle girl, one upon whom her aunt could impose with impunity. She had no idea of asserting her rights, much less of standing up for them. But she was thoroughly frightened now, and resolved to escape at any cost from the tyranny which bound her. No fate could be worse, she thought, than to be compelled to marry that coarse, vulgar and repulsive creature.

The next day after Julie had heard this information was Sunday, the gayest day of the week in Marseilles, and, fortunately, Julie succeeded in making her escape from her aunt's house. Still, undecided where to go, and in her desperation fearing that any moment she might be seized and carried back, she had wandered into the flower market, where she came upon us, already described.

As she explained to Harry afterward, she was intent only upon escape, and believed this to be her last chance. When she saw a half dozen young Americans, who seemed perfectly respectable, the idea that positive safety by only in marriage dawned upon her, and she actually ran toward us, as we have related, the moment the thought developed itself.

Harry became more and more impressed with Julie's story as they walked along, while he was delighted by her innocent beauty and manifold refinement. It was all like a dream, almost too romantic for truth. Our "fate" sometimes comes to us in this singular fashion, he thought. "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Suddenly he turned to her and said:

"Dare you trust me with your happiness?" She looked at him thoughtfully with her soft, pleading eyes. Her brain was very busy; she remembered what awaited her at home, what had driven her thence, and then, in reply to his sober question, she put both of her hands into his with childlike trust.

"Why not?" she asked. "I have always plenty of money in her purse, and she strolled into a little chapel on their way where they found a young clergyman, who could not resist their request to marry them, backed by ten golden Napoleons, and so, though reluctantly and advising proper delay, he performed the marriage ceremony, aided by the sexton and his wife, who each received a Napoleon.

As an inducement, Harry had also told the clergyman that he was just going to sea, and that he must be married before he sailed, that not even one hour was to be lost. "Perhaps I am saving the girl's honor," said the young clergyman, as he finally consented.

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