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IN THE SHAWANGUNS.

Mr. Slingerland Valentine sat in his spacious arm-chair, his hands resting on its broad arms, his forehead wrinkled up into a nest of wrinkles, his eyes staring with intense, pazzled thoughtfulness out through the window of his room into the beauty of the park beyond.

"I wonder what ever possessed me," he thought—"I do wonder what ever possessed me! Here I am, fifty-seven years old, and fool enough to imagine I couldn't get along the rest of my life as well as heretofore, and must go and actually ask pretty little Effie Herman to marry me—no!"

As if the idea was appalling, Mr. Valentine arose from his chair, and began a restless, desperate sort of prouade around his room.

"Not that she isn't the sweetest little creature that eve' lived! a pair of blue eyes to a man's face—a dainty, flower-like girl, whom anybody would love; but to think—why, what a confounded fool I've been, and I old enough to be her grandpa!"

A stern, half-indignant look came to his eyes, and he paused a minute, as if more fully to appreciate the folly of his position.

"Of course it's impossible the child can for me! of course it's my money—that has her and the consent of her mother. Well, and the halo, robust old gentleman drew a long, deep sigh, and plunged resignedly into the depths of his Turkish chair again. "Well, there's no getting out of it now. I'm not the first man the has made a fool of himself over a pretty face, but it's seven. Slingerland Valentine, you certainly were supposed to know better!"

And then he squared himself with a cigar, while, in another room, in a pretty little cottage not far away, Effie Herman was sitting in the wicker-backed bay-window, looking on exquisite pictures of herself among the swaying foliage, and looking very wistfully, drooping as she flushed a glance from her blue eyes across the room at her mother sitting stately and elegant in her gothic-back chair.

"I never hoped to hear such nonsense from a child of mine, Effie. The boy is not wanting to marry Mr. Valentine. Why, he can give you everything in the world you can think of. To have a summer-mania holiday tour to Europe; to be mistress of his magnificent mansion on Long Branch; to have command of all that is luxurious, elegant, in every sense. And you don't want to marry him?"

Effie pouted her red lips. "No, I don't! Mamma, your side of the picture is very tempting, but my side all the time keeps showing me a fat, bald-headed, stumpy old man, who wears false teeth, and pads his coat, and tries to look and act as if he were twenty years young, or there is. Mamma, I don't want to marry him at all!"

And something very like a sob came fitfully from the girl's lips. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself," Mrs. Herman said, severely. "You shall not be allowed to throw away such a chance for the sake of sickly sentiment. You know what a struggle my life has been, on account of poverty and obscurity, and I resolved, years ago, to save you from a like fate."

Effie opened her blue eyes widely. "Poverty, obscurity, mamma? Why, I think we have a lovely home, and enough of everything!"

"That will do, Effie! You need bring no imaginary arguments to confute my assertions; and, as far as Mr. Valentine is concerned, your word is plied, and the wedding day set for 25th."

Then a sudden little resolution shone in Effie's eyes, and she ceased toying with the swaying spray of strawberry plant.

"Mamma, I have told you, as kindly as I know how, that I do not want to marry that old gentleman; but, as you seem to take no notice whatever of my wishes, I will not mind him!"

And the blue eyes flashed, and a scarlet stain came on both cheeks.

Mrs. Herman laughed lightly. "You foolish child! What weight do you imagine your words have with me? You will not injure him! Effie, you will, and that settles it!"

"No, mamma, it does not settle it; for the very next time I see Mr. Valentine I shall tell him so!"

For a second Mrs. Herman grew pale with anger; then she looked coldly, sternly at her daughter.

"You will not dare to do it, I assure you positively commands. I will myself see Mr. Valentine, and prepare him for any insanity you may dare to perpetrate; and while I am pushing forward the preparations for your marriage, and Mr. Valen-

tine is superintending the re-furnishing of his seaside villa for your occupancy, you will be sent into the country, to your Aunt Hepzibah's—quiet, stupid place—where you will speedily come to your senses, and learn to thank me for having saved you from yourself."

And, twenty-four hours later, Effie Herman was en route for the mountain farm house away up in the Jersey Shawanguns, and Mrs. Herman was coldly congratulating herself.

"She shall marry him! If there is any understanding between her and Frank Fielder—which I have once or twice imagined—I have effectively put a quietus on that. My letter to sister Henry contained strict orders that no living soul male or female, was to be allowed to see Effie, except members of her own family—so there's no dinner on that score. And two or three geets will work wonders. She will be glad to come back, and finish the season at Long Branch and Newport as Mr. Valentine's bride, and go Europe in the winter."

And then Mrs. Herman leaned back in her chair and indulged in a little cat-nap, composed and enthralled by the plaudits of good conscience.

Such a place as the Berrian farm, in the Shawanguns! Effie had all her life imagined it the most dreary, desolate, forsaken place in all the wide world, and her rapture knew no bounds when she found that it was the very ideal of picturesque, romantic, luxuriant loveliness, and that Aunt Hepzibah was a genial, jolly soul, blushing over with good nature and good sense; that Uncle Zebulon was worthy to be her husband, and that the girls—Jessie Dunbar and Gwen Clifton—were just the very ideals of loveliness, and promised to make a pet and playmate of them; that the house she was to live in was the identical striped one that Mr. Slingerland Valentine was coming to see his betrothed, and that Effie was to treat him accordingly.

And, three hours later, the gentleman himself appeared, to the awe of Jessie and Gwen, and the admiration of simple-minded Aunt Hepzibah, who ushered him, and all the glory of massive gold watch chain and sprays of diamond studs, into the prim, cool, dark "parlor" where the chairs—six of them—sat in straight rows, and the carpet was the identical striped one that had been a bridal present—and a rare and costly one in those days—to Aunt Hepzibah and Uncle Zebulon.

Effie was all ashish as she went in to meet him, and her eyes were shining radiantly as she crossed the floor to shake hands with him.

And Mr. Valentine also had an unusual look in his fond face, and not a little reluctance in his eyes as he rose to meet her.

"I hope you are well, Miss Effie," he said, smiling, as usual, most charmingly.

"Sorry I have such a short time to stay—but the fact is, I just ran up on a little matter of business, you see, and I don't dare run longer than is necessary."

However, they became fast friends,

and before a moment had gone had confided all her sorrows to her handsome, exquisitely cynical, who assured her, very seriously that it was an outrage that she should be so deliberately bargained for, and that, were he to be her husband, she should follow his desire, should who would stick to her resolution, and never give her hand, where she could not give her heart.

"He means to give me a lecture, and mamma has told him what I said," was Effie's thought; "and I'll never, never marry him, and I'll tell him so—now, this minute!"

So she looked up at him, very frankly, very honestly, very bewitchingly.

"You have good reason to be vexed with me, I know, Mr. Valentine, but what I told mamma to tell you I must repeat. I don't love you, Mr. Valentine, and I cannot marry one I do not love. Please don't be angry, will you?"

Angry! Every nerve in his body was dancing a jubilate. Angry, to be thus gracefully, charmingly given the freedom he had come to crave.

He laughed outright.

"Can it be possible! Wifey, Effie, I came purposely to see if you wouldn't let me off, because, you see, my brother's widow is a very fine woman, and—"

Then Effie caught his hand impulsively.

"Oh, that is just the very thing for you, Mrs. Grey! Yes, you ought to have thought of that long ago. And I—"

and dutifully blushed to her lovely face—"I am engaged to my cousin Harry, Mr. Valentine, and oh, I do love him so!"

And Mrs. Grey came—a plump, cheery, comely little girl, with soft, shining brown hair, all in waves and ripples, and merry, intelligent eyes, brown and big, and a sweet, vibrant voice, the very sound of which held a comfort and strengthfulness in its soothings.

She was a born nurse, and a born home-keeper, and even in his sick-room Mr. Valentine was conscious of the voiceless murmur of the domestic machinery, while in the many pleasant, confidential talks they had, her good common sense was always apparent.

"It's no wonder Jack worshiped her poor fellow," he thought.

"And you are actually going to be married, Slingerland! I was quite surprised when I heard of it; and a charming young girl I hear she is!"

"Well, yes, I believe I am thinking about it, Amy. Yes, Mrs. Herman is a very sweet, pretty little girl."

Mr. Valentine puckered up his forehead, doubtfully.

"Oh, dear me! yes, I hope so. A man's bound to make a fool of himself once in his life, and it's happened to me later than I thought. Oh, yes, I dare say Effie's very well."

"It's comfortable and safe to Mrs. Grey's lips—such fire-red lips, like luscious damson roses."

"You don't talk like the enthusiastic lover I expected to find," she said, bright-

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1879.

THE FLOWERS COLLECTION

[WHOLE NO. 313.]

LITTLE LADY IN LETTERS.

"SOMEBODY LOVES ME."

WEBSTER AND JENNY LIND.

AN EMPEROR'S LOST HEART.

GHOSTLY STORY ABOUT NAPOLEON THE GREAT.

AT PLOGSTEL, in Brittany, there is living an English physician named Thomas Cartwell, aged eighty-two years, who tells travelers a strange story, in which he says he figured as a principal actor.

On the 13th of May, 1821, Napoleon the Great died at Longwood, St. Helena, after causing Sir Hudson Lowe so much unhappiness that he went crazy and returning to England, lost all his fortune in extravagant speculations in stocks. The Emperor's last companions, Bertrand, Monthon, Gouraud, and Lascaux, immediately made a demand for a physician to attend to the science of embalming. Sir Hudson Lowe, who shrank from no expense, and who was anxious to have the

Emperor buried in his coffin, sent for Webster, the surgeon, to assist him in this.

"What will you take my coffin?" he asked.

"I'll make women of them!" Webster replied firmly and hopefully.

The surgeon singlehanded, examined the body and left the chief embalming on

the others to take care of the rest, and said,

"What will you take my coffin?" Webster repeated firmly and hopefully.

They were washed and dressed and provided with supper and beds. The next morning they went into the schoolroom with the children. Mary was the name of the little girl, whose chance for the coffin was nearly over.

"I'll make women of them!" Webster said again.

The judge singlehanded, examined the body and left the chief embalming on the others to take care of the rest, and said,

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