

# MISUNDERSTOOD.

THE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN.

There once lived a very amiable young man. The reason why I call him an amiable young man is because he had a great desire to make every woman he knew happy. How he could accomplish this was his thought night and day.

I.

One evening, while deeply meditating upon this subject, an apparition appeared upon him. (Apparitions from the unknown world often appear to spiritual, noble-minded young men, even at the present day.) Well, this mysterious being, divining the thoughts which were puzzling the brain of my hero, addressed him in this wise: "Young man, your great and laudable ambition shall be gratified. A woman's happiness is comprised in one little word, and that word is LOVE. Do not all the great writers of the past and present endorse my opinion? Yea, even though her love be unrequited, she is happier for having felt that noble sentiment. Tennyson says:

'Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all.

Therefore, young man, if you really wish to make them happy, you must have the power to win their love, which power I am able to give you, saying which the spirit laid its hands upon the young man's head and kept them there while he concluded his speech in the following words:

"I do not say that those whose hearts you win will know nought but bliss. No, on the contrary, many will suffer deeply through you and, like the flowers wither and fade away, for love in some cases acts like a disease. You will, therefore, be able to create both happiness and misery, but the happiness will over-balance the misery. Young man, I confer upon you this power on one condition, which is, that you will keep your own heart free. If you do not, the spell will be broken and I will not be answerable for the consequences. Now, promise what I ask and your wish shall be granted."

The young man promised and the spirit vanished.

For some time after the spirit's visit the young man's life was very delightful. Wherever he went, young and old, rich and poor, ugly and pretty, clever and stupid, all kinds and conditions of women followed him with adoring eyes. Those only were not under the spell whose hearts were already given. Wherever he went to places of amusement, balls and parties, he could pick his partners from among the prettiest and cleverest girls. The daughters of the wealthiest men in the country were willing to become his brides. Servant girls waited on him with the greatest attention. If he happened to go into any store where a young lady served, she was sure to forget to ask for payment for his purchases, and he could have got his board free from any restaurant or place where girls were attendants, if he had so desired.

This was all very nice for a time, but gradually his crowd of devotees (about six hundred) began to show signs of jealousy and resentment toward one another, and some disagreeable scenes were the result, for, having so many, he did not have much time to devote to each one, and being, as stated before, an amiable dispositioned young man, it rather bothered him to think that he could not give each one all the attention she desired. However, he managed to pay his six hundred girls one visit each a week. A hundred visits a day. Sunday he kept as a day of recreation. Truly, he richly deserved it. To work for his living he had no need, for the presents he received from his worshippers, when sold, realized a large income.

Time rolled on, and as it rolled the beings whose happiness this young man was striving for rapidly increased in number. He could not leave his door but a swarm of young ladies would rush after him. Even beggars and crossing sweepers followed in his train. This was all very annoying, but for the good cause in which he was enlisted this heroic young fellow was willing to bear

many things. What troubled his tender heart was that some of the girls began to show signs of sickness and fading away. He had to expect this. The spirit had told him as much. Besides, did not these girls experience a kind of melancholy pleasure which they would never have felt if it had not been for him?

II.

Well, it came to pass that when about five hundred of the sweetest beings on earth were in a half dying state he fell in love himself, in spite of the promise which he had given the spirit. In spite of the fact that he would lose the power he possessed of casting a spell over the heart of every girl, he fell in love. The spirit had told him that when such a thing happened the consequences would be dreadful—and so it proved, for the young lady, not knowing that her love was returned, and thinking that she only possessed the six hundredth part of his heart, pined away and died. Because he had lost his heart the spell was broken. On her death bed she called her friends around her, many of them her comrades in love, and told them in thrilling tones that she was about to leave them, that there was a fire raging within her which had destroyed all her vital forces. When she had uttered those words her soul departed.

Immediately after her death a great change took place in her friends. They began to revive, and energy and life returned. Yes, fresh life seemed to have been given them, but she who had so lately been their companion lay stiff and cold, and as they looked at her, lying before them, they swore to be revenged on him who had been the cause of her untimely demise. A kind of instinct told them what it was, and who it was, that had made them so miserable, and they forgot that if they had been miserable, they had also been made happy.

The word REVENGE passed from girl to girl, and on the evening of the young lady's burial the churchyard was thronged with deeply aggrieved ones breathing threats and slaughter. Following timidly among the train of mourners, they espied the young man, and one of them, who had a good strong arm, laid hold of him, dragged him before the assembled company, and demanded what was to be done with one who was a destroyer of life, health and peace? The answer was given:

"He who destroys life, health and peace is a murderer. Therefore he must be hanged."

The sentence was no sooner given than it was executed. From a tree, whose branches were strong and elastic, the young man was hung. Hung by the neck by the hands of those for whom he had borne so much, and whose happiness had been his great aim in life. No one felt any pity for him. No one shed a tear. In fact, every one felt that if he could have died a hundred deaths it would not have been more than he deserved.

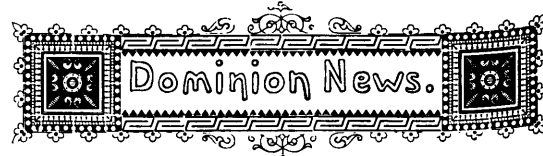
This was the reward of one who thought not of himself. This was the reward of years spent for the happiness of others. To be put to death by the hands of those very ones for whom he had suffered so many inconveniences, not even allowed to speak a word in his own defence,—was not he a true martyr?

This story has in it a lesson for all amiable young men. It is to be hoped they will learn it by heart, for 'tis sad, indeed, to be, like my hero, MISUNDERSTOOD.

Montreal.

EDITH EATON.

BUYING WIVES.—Wives are purchased with shell money, and are often married at a very early age on Duke of York Island. When a man marries a second wife, after the death of the first, the female relatives of the dead wife gather together and are permitted to do as much damage to his property as they can. A man may have as many wives as he can purchase, but if he cannot afford to buy one, and his credit is low, he may have to remain single. Sir John Lubbock said: "In some parts of Australia, when a man married, each of the bride's relations gave him a good blow with a stout stick by way of a warm welcome into the family."



Zorra, Ont., boasts of an apple crop sufficiently large to fill 10,000 barrels.

The Blood and Stoney Indians are indulging in hostilities in the vicinity of Merley, N.W.T.

The lumber cut on Lake Winnipeg, this year, amounted to about 7,000,000 feet worth \$13 per 1,000 feet.

Coal has been discovered at Oslow, near Truro, N.S., and is said to be a rich deposit. A company, with a capital of \$50,000, is being formed to open up the deposit.

The Dominion Government have decided to invite the Australian and New Zealand Governments to send delegates to Canada at an early date to consider the question of trade relations, and especially cable communication by the Pacific.

The Ice Railway Committee of the Montreal Carnival contracted to build an ice railway from Jacques Cartier Square to the Island. The contractor is to get a bonus of \$2,000, and the committee is to receive 25 per cent. of the profits.

The last transatlantic mail steamer by Rimouski will sail on the 22nd inst. It is the Dominion Line steamship Oregon. On Thursday, the 29th, at 7:30 p.m., the mails per the Allan Line steamship Polynesian via Halifax will be closed at Montreal.

Mr. Van Horne states that there was not a word of truth in the paragraph that has been going the rounds of the papers to the effect that the Canadian Pacific Railway is preparing to build wharves and elevators at Portland, Me., in anticipation of making that city its Atlantic seaboard port.

A syndicate, consisting of the Edison Electric Light Company and several Montreal capitalists, have purchased the Isle au Heron, situated right in the centre of the Lachine Rapids, for \$20,000. The syndicate purpose utilizing the magnificent water power, which can be obtained by deepening the natural channel, and tendering for the lighting of the city of Montreal by electricity, as well as furnishing private houses, manufactories and other establishments with the light.

## RED AND BLUE PENCILS.

A philanthropist asks me to write an article saying that all gambling is criminal, being a petty form of thieving, that is, obtaining the goods of another (not given) without due equivalent rendered. All gambling should be forbidden by law and liable to imprisonment, whether carried on in a private house, the club, or a wharf pot house. You would not put a man in gaol for playing cribbage for ha'penny points, any more than you would for stealing a pin or a pipeful of tobacco, but it is stealing all the same.

Fred. R. Cole writes me to give him the French equivalent of the saying: "A stitch in time saves nine." He further quotes:

A whistling woman and a crowing hen  
Are neither good for gods nor men.

And says that he often cites the lines to one of the noblest, pluckiest and most beautiful women in —, who has a bad habit of whistling, as also of henpecking her husband. He suffers because he is honest, a rare quality among a certain class of business men.

Judge Edlin, who has just received the honour of knighthood from Her Majesty, and thus become Sir Peter Henry Edlin, is brother-in-law to Mr. James Payn, the famous novelist, uncle to the Honourable Horace Emberson, Governor of Leruka, Fiji, and great uncle of the author of "The Art of Teaching," who is so well known in this province and in these columns.

"Ah Tea Ching" writes me that the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED is the only picture paper published on this side of the Atlantic which a civilized father ought to allow to enter into his house, or lie on any table accessible to his daughters. He finds that the art pictures, more especially, are pure, touching and heart-elevating, and instances "Secrets," in the number of November 10th, where the description which, in other hands, might have been made suggestive of sensuousness and even coarseness, has been employed to shadow the simple love of handmaidens below stairs.

My readers will like to have another sample of Canadian scholarship, and we, therefore, place before them Cowper's doleful hymn, in the