

have only to suggest a time."

The girl looked anxiously at the interested audience of listeners that surrounded them. "I would prefer a private interview."

"Of course, of course," acquiesced the judge. "I believe we are going to the same place. I shall be stopping at the St. Charles Hotel. Any hour tomorrow outside of court will be convenient for me."

It was seven o'clock the following morning when a rescue party pulled the belated travelers into Hamilton. Promptly at 8.30, as agreed, the judge and the girl in the blue zibelline met in a private parlor of the St. Charles Hotel.

"An hour and a half at our disposal; you needn't hurry," the judge encouragingly informed his visitor.

The girl drew a letter from her bag, and with fingers that trembled, handed it to the judge.

"I am showing you this letter, Judge Duncombe," she said, "because the advice I want is as to the answer I ought to make to it, and to let you read it seems the easiest and simplest way."

The judge himself stopped her with, "Enough, child," as he leaned forward and put his firm hand upon her little one. "And so it is my advice you want, and you are willing to act upon it, whatever it may be. Well, here it is. Sit right down at that desk. Here is my fountain pen. Write and tell that young rascal in Chicago that you admit each and every count of his petition. You do, don't you? Yes, I thought so. Then tell him that, having submitted the matter to the Court, a verdict was entered in his favor, and here's the seal of my office to seal the whole business."

"Robert," said the judge at the next meeting with his son, "I can't blame you for surrendering to the girl. A young woman who at the first meeting can size up a hardened, well-seasoned old lawyer like your father, and discover the two vulnerable spots in his make-up—his appreciation of a good dinner and his sense of justice—isn't to be withstood. I shall be proud to claim her as my son's wife."



"HE READ THE CLOSELY WRITTEN FIVE-PAGE LETTER."

"Wonder if it's a divorce or breach of promise case," thought the lawyer as he studied the pretty, embarrassed face of the girl before him.

His eyebrows were lifted in involuntary astonishment as he glanced at the writing, but not another muscle of his face betrayed him as he read the closely-written five-page letter. The girl sat with eyes fixed intently upon the white golf-glove, which she nervously wove in and out.

The last word read, the judge took out his handkerchief, wiped a bit of moisture from his glasses, looked sharply at the downcast head, and then asked quietly:

"It isn't customary to submit a case to the Court until the evidence is all in. What has the prisoner at the bar to say for herself?"

The girl raised her eyes, and the judge could not fail to see the tears on the long, dark lashes, as she answered:

"Just one word she will say, Judge Duncombe. I love your son too well to help him do an unfilial act, or one which would alienate him from his father and mother. He is their only son."

"Little girl," the judge spoke very gently, "I may have my prejudices, but I'm not the hard-hearted ogre you may imagine. Tell me about yourself, child."

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