

Signature.

COUSIN ISABEL

Why are women so coquetish? The question lingers at my pen's point to-day, as I call to mind my beautiful, winning Cousin Isabel, the heroine of my little sketch. Do not wonder that I, a woman, ask the question, may be I have found the "spirit of evil" in my own heart, but of that I may not speak. I am not writing of myself, but of charming Isabel Waldgrave, who, I'll wager, has turned the heads and hearts of more men, by her arch coquetry, than a dozen scores of common women.

I was her friend and confidant always, and for several years a member of her father's household, and so it was that I came to know her well, but still noble heart, so perfectly. Of all who were the victims of her coquetry, she cared but for one; and that one she tortured more than all the rest together. I used to wonder, sometimes, as I watched the proud, almost kingly bearing of young Henry Wilson, how he bore with her so patiently and well; and why Isabel did not, for her womanhood's sake, put her trifling away, when she met the very man which she so reverential homage to her. But no, she would say, as I expostulated with her, there was no use in a woman's being won so tamely; a man in spite of himself, relished a fine spirit—besides, if she really did not care for Harry, why did she not see that pride and love were at little within her. But I could not be so easily deceived; she found out at last and dropped her shining hair upon my lap, and burst into a passionate fit of weeping. I did not speak to her; I thought that she would be purer and better after the cloud of anger had spent itself in a heavy shower. Perhaps I am not right in my conjecture, for when she arose, her face was calm, yes, almost stony in its expression, and she said, in a low, quiet tone looking me tenderly in the face: "That is all, Cousin Margaret—all!"

I did not answer, save by a slight inclination of my head, but marked by her side, silently, until we gained the house. At lunch Isabel was quite herself again. Her eyes had on their accustomed light; looking at them, one could not have imagined that a tear had ever dimmed their lustre, or the first shadow of grief had fallen upon her brow. She sat at a table in her glad merry heart. So the days went away, and were lost in weeks, and in turn weeks were thrown into the broader channel of months, and Isabel and Harry did not meet. At first the wonderment was great among the old people that he came no longer, for he was the dearest favorite among them; but, as Isabel steadily avoided explanation, the subject was allowed to drop, and they began, by degrees, to recede in his absence. I think I never saw Isabel so recklessly gay before. In August, and during the early part of September, she was at N., where she resided triumphantly, she belle of the season. Warming hands at every turn, she kept her a recluse within her never showing by word, or scarcely by a look, that she possessed any of those qualities that go to make up a perfect womanhood. I used to wonder sometimes what the end of it all would be; whether she would ever go back to the beautiful sweetness and tenderness of a few months before, or grow still harder and colder as she remained in the frigid frivolous world of fashion. If I asked her what it meant, if her conscience upheld her in her course, she would say: "Oh, yes, her conscience not only upheld her, but she gloried in it. She considered herself a sort of good Samaritan placed in the world to draw from the poisonous compound of vanity and conceit that was destroying them so rapidly. She was sure all the while, that hers was no mean mission."

I could not help smiling at her replies, though sometimes I longed to whisper the name of Harry Wilson in her ear, to see if her cheeks would crimson and her eyes sparkle as they used to in times past; but as something I knew not what, deterred me from doing so. One evening about two weeks after our return from N., as Isabel and I were sitting alone in the Gothic window that overlooked the west where it had been watching the sun go rippling down to rest in a grand sea of purple clouds, I ventured to tell her a little piece of gossip that one of my friends had told me concerning Harry Wilson. Isabel had been unusually silent all the day, and so I did not wonder so much that she dropped her white forehead upon her hands as I spoke, or shook the brown curls that clustered at the back or either ear, over her cheeks. "And so," I said, "if what I have told you is true, Harry Wilson is a poor fellow—not worth even a peasant's cottage." I waited for her to answer, but she remained silent. I had an idea that her head dropped heavier upon her hands for a moment, but perhaps I was mistaken at any rate, I went on, determined to sound her heart deeply and well. "It is a very lucky affair for you, Isabel, very lucky, that you did not accept him last June, when he offered himself; it would have been so awkward to release yourself from such a betrothal. 'Course with your senses in a sound condition, you would not have carried him.' Now there was no mistaking; her head moved, but not lower upon her hands. She raised her face proudly, and I could remember the gleam of her sparkling gray of the twilight, the greenish crimson of her heart go up in great dashes over her cheeks. I knew that her lips curled, and her eyes flashed as she said, in a low voice: "Go on, Margaret; I have always liked the way that you have lectured me upon my duties and my womanhood!" I smiled at her sarcasm, and continued in a light, running way: "Lizzie says—in Lizzie Parsons who told me about it—you know Harry has long been intimate with her family—that he bears up bravely under his misfortunes. There has been an idle report about, that you foresaw his wreck of fortune, and that what occasioned your breaking faith with him; you know Uncle Waldgrave has always been a sort of an adviser, or guardian, as you might say, of his."

"Well?" She spoke in a husky whisper, which I knew was not to be trusted. "Lizzie asked him the other day, while she was talking with him if the story was true. He said no—curving his lips, as you know he will—when that there had never been any faith between you and him to break; if there had been, he hadn't a doubt but what the report would have been true enough."

"Did he say that of me, Margaret? Did he, indeed, speak so unjustly and cruelly?" she cried, bending forward, and clasping both hands about my arm. "Oh, I thought—I was sure, indeed, that she knew me better; that she knew how in any hour of hearts I despised the mirror, and how I would build up a lifetime of happiness upon the sands of wealth and worldly distinction. Hear me, Margaret; I heard how I'll all my pride can speak. I would

ing through the trees, could rest upon it. "Oh, Isa, Isa!" I said, looking away down into her eyes, till I saw a glimmer of tears in their dark blue depths. "I'm afraid you do not know what you are saying. I'm afraid—" "No, don't say that!" she cried, interrupting me, and dashing her white fingers against the snowy curtains of her eyes; "see how like a fool I am now—you always make me one. But mark you, my eyes shall never be found guilty again, though I pluck them from my face. There let it all go that a dear; there don't speak again—let me talk. And, by the way, what a soft, sweet day this is; how like a perfect dream of poetry seems everything. The tremulous sound of the breeze, the murmur of the water, the mottled shadows upon the brown way, the white, creamy richness of the syringa blossoms, the—but that makes one think: Have you ever read 'Lamartine's Pictures of the East'?"

I shook my head again, and smothered the glossy bands of hair from her forehead. She was trying to be brave and indifferent; I knew that by the way her heart sent up its dewy softness to her eyes, and her white teeth went crushing down upon the scarlet of her lips, she was trying to put a curtain before my eyes that I might not see that pride and love were at little within her. But I could not be so easily deceived; she found out at last and dropped her shining hair upon my lap, and burst into a passionate fit of weeping. I did not speak to her; I thought that she would be purer and better after the cloud of anger had spent itself in a heavy shower. Perhaps I am not right in my conjecture, for when she arose, her face was calm, yes, almost stony in its expression, and she said, in a low, quiet tone looking me tenderly in the face: "That is all, Cousin Margaret—all!"

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rather be the wife of Harry Wilson, though he had not a friend in the world beside me, and not a single farthing with which to buy him bread, than the mistress of a million. Let him say what he will, I speak as cruelly as he can, there is the truth." She stood up before me, as she spoke, but the shadows fell to heavily upon her face to see her face. I knew she was terribly agitated, though not only by the confession which she made, but by the quivering of her sweet, misty eyes, which sounded like a low melody of sighs. She did not wait for me to answer her, but glided softly from the room, and up the wide staircase. She had been gone but a few moments, when a servant entered with light, and announced Mr. Harry Wilson. I started with surprise on seeing him. He came to see my Uncle Waldgrave, he said in a proud way, which implied a great deal more than his words, and he thought it well to wait for him, since he had been told that he would not be absent more than an hour. Yet, if I would pardon the intrusion, he would prefer to wait in the library.

"Certainly," I said, smiling in a way that caused him a moment's embarrassment. "I would be pleased to conduct him there." In a moment more I stood before Isabel in her dressing-room. "Harry Wilson is in the library below," said: "Will you go to him?" Her face flushed and paled alternately, and her eyes her splendid eyes, dropped and gladdened as sometimes the sun will upon an April day. Love and pride were arrayed against each other in her breast; the last time that she plainly told of the arching of her head, the soft, tremulous smile that came and went its path of smiles about her rare, red mouth. Heaven be praised! Love conquered! She came to my side and held her right hand out to me. She tried to speak, but her words were wrecked in utterance. Ever after her face there was a look of ineffable sweetness, that told what new kingdom reigned, at last, untroubled in her heart. I stood and watched her with tearful eyes. She went to the mirror, and put back the dark hair from her forehead, and rebound it like a crown about her head; she snatched the spray of costly pearls from her bosom, and fastened in its stead a cluster of waxen snowdrops. There were jewels upon her hands; she drew them off, wearing only a band of gold upon one white finger—the only gift of Harry. And so she went down; and when she went, it was as though a sun had set from my sight, so dark, and dim, and rayless was the room when she left it. Harry was sitting in the library, with his head bent upon his hands. He glanced up as the door opened, and for a moment started out of his usual presence of mind, as he saw Isabel standing before him like a beautiful statue; the old pride vanished from her lips and mouth, and in their stead, a beautiful softness, such as only breaks up from the folds of a heart which has put afar from it, its ungodly idols. Harry was very proud, and for a little time he thought that his wife was coming back to him with her old ways of coquetry and frivolity—back to him like a beautiful dream of the past—that past now so dead and broken, so completely unlinked from the dark, merciless, almost beggared present. But she did not stand there long to perplex him, but went forward, holding out her hand, both white hands, as if to invite the eager grasp of his and saying: "Harry, Harry, let me say what you have vowed never to repeat to me again—that—"

She broke down there, and from her eyes half closed, as if to shield her face, the tears that were filling them, fell. Harry Wilson was as tender and true as he was proud and passionate, and with his glad eyes beaming with love, and his deep arch voice tremulous with emotion, he sprang forward to meet her, and finished the sentence that had broken upon her lips. And more, he said, as Isabel stood with one hand up on her shoulder, and with a beautiful face resting upon his broad breast. "Oh, Isabel, Isabel, after all, it was your heart that was truest—your heart that was the most noble—and, after all, the shadows that lay upon my own eyes, bless you, bless you, my Isabel!"

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LAND FOR SALE.

We are instructed to offer the following Lots of Land for sale: A Lot situate in the Parish of Douglas on the Western side of the Old Mill Pond, and bounded by the Old Mill Pond, the Road and the Royal Road, being a part of Lot number two, granted to J. G. B. King and conveyed by the late Benjamin Woodhouse, containing forty acres more or less.

New Livery Stable.

The Subscriber wishes to inform the public that he has opened a LIVERY STABLE in Westmorland St. near Queen St. will always keep ready for customers. FIRST CLASS TURN OUTS, BRIGGS TO NOSE IN THE CITY.

J. A. RUSSELL.

T. W. SMITH,

FISHER'S BUILDING, Queen Street, Fredericton, N. B.

EUROPE, CANADA, and the UNITED STATES.

CLOTHS, CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, AND Gents' Furnishing Goods.

One of the best and cheapest stocks of CLOTHS, CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, AND Gents' Furnishing Goods.

Just Received.

From LONDON, LIVERPOOL and GLASGOW.

10 CANS READY MIXED PAINTS.

2 cases VARNISH in 1 Pint, Pint, Quart and Gallon sizes.

JUST RECEIVED BY RAIL FROM BOSTON.

4 CANS READY MIXED PAINTS, from 1 to 10 gallons.

Flour Flour.

Assorted Brands and prices at Ely Perkins.

1,000 bushels Oats.

SALT AND MOLASSES.

CABINET MAKING.

JAS. D. HANLON, CABINET MAKER AND UNDERTAKER.

To the Electors.

YORK COUNTY.

The time is at hand when you will be called upon to elect.

FRASER.

And to celebrate that glorious event call at Fraser's.

BLAIR.

And I would never do to have a "big time" over him.

BARKER.

The farmer's man, who is always a friend of the poor.

THOMPSON.

For man who is famous for his great MacIntyre Machines.

CUT NAILS.

160 KILNS Cut Nails and Spikes.

BEVERLY'S Bookstore and Bindery.

HAS REMOVED to 230 BROADWAY.

E. E. Phair & Co.

230 BROADWAY.

Fraser, Wetmore & Winslow.

ATTORNEYS AND BARRISTERS AT LAW.

BECKWITH & SEELY.

Attorneys-at-Law, Notaries Public, etc.

ALLEN & WILSON.

Barristers and Attorneys AT LAW.

WAVEFLY HOUSE FREDERICTON.

THIS well known hotel has been improved, and the premises enlarged.

PUGH McOMAGLE.

Sussex, Corner, King's County. NEW BRUNSWICK.

SEEDS.

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FRESH GARDEN Field and Flower SEEDS.

SPRING STOCK OF SEEDS.

which will be found fresh and true to their kind.

GERMAN FLOWER SEEDS.

in original packages, very fine.

COLORED MOSSES and BOQUETS.

Dancers True Yellow Onion Seed.

GEO. H. DAVIS.

Druggist and Apothecary.

1878. SEEDS. 1878.

FRESH Garden, Field and Flower SEEDS.

Garden Peas.

are usually fine, and low in price.

FLOWER SEEDS.

in original packages from Germany, and of the choicest varieties.

METAL WREATHS.

Colored and Plain Mosses, Boquets, Wreaths, Dried Mosses, etc.

GEO. C. HUNT.

Druggist, Queen Street.

EDGECOMBE'S BLOCK.

York Street.

WHITTIER & HOOPER.

American and CANADIAN FLOUR.

The following brands in store and to arrive:

TAKE NOTICE!

The Highest Prices in Cash paid for HIDES & BEEF TALLOW.

F'ton Leather Co.,

KING STREET, FREDERICTON.

Special Notice.

THE subscriber wishes to inform the people of Fredericton and surrounding country that a large portion of his stock has arrived.

FOR SALE!

Apply to FRASER, WETMORE & WINSLOW.

THOS. LOGAN

50 Packages of STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS.

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

CARPETINGS:

Brussels, Tapestry, Dutch, Wool, Hemp.

HEARTH RUGS.

DOOR MATS, Cocoa Matting.

FLOOR OIL CLOTHS.

Lace Curtains, Lace Lambrequins, Applique Tidy's, Gilt Cornices and Window Poles.

HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Prices lower than ever before.

THOMAS LOGAN.

Fredericton, May 11, 1878.

JAS. L. BEVERLY.

Bookseller, Stationer, Book-binder, dealer in Fancy Goods, &c.

KEEP COOL.

ICE. ICE. ICE.

THE subscriber desires to return his sincere thanks to the customers for so liberal patronage.

JUST RECEIVED AT

GEO. HATT & SONS,

20 BARRELS of Granulated Sugar.

CASH FOR HIDES

FOR THE Gibson Tannery.

THE highest and best prices paid for Hides for the Gibson Tannery.

THOS. W. SMITH,

Fisher's Building, Queen Street, Fredericton.

FARMERS!

Whittier & Hooper.

Paints.

75 KEPS BEST WHITE LEAD.

Apply to FRASER, WETMORE & WINSLOW.

Brushes. Brushes.

Apply to FRASER, WETMORE & WINSLOW.

PLOWS. PLOWS.

50 WROUGHT IRON BEAM AND STEEL MOULDBOARDS.

25 CAST IRON BEAM AND STEEL MOULDBOARD AND END SIDE.

25 CAST IRON BEAM AND CAST MOULDBOARD; 6 DOUBLE MOULD BOARD PLOWS; 6 WOODEN BEAM AND CAST MOULDBOARD.

25 HAY KNIVES.

R. CHESTNUT & SONS.

Fredericton, June 4, 1878.

NEW STOCK, NEW D PARTMENT.

Youths' Clothing, YOUTHS' CLOTHING.

Will receive THIS WEEK: 4 CASES YOUTHS' READY-MADE CLOTHING, Extra Value.

INSPECTION INVITED.

COMPETITION DEFIED.

THOMAS W. SMITH,

Merchant Tailor.

Fredericton, June 8, 1878.

Are you in need of a Good Suit of Clothes!

if so call and examine as fair assorted stock of ENGLISH, SCOTCH, GERMAN, CANADIAN and DOMESTIC CLOTHS,

as can be produced in the city. A complete line of GENTS FURNISHING GOODS.

THE LATEST NOVELTIES PAPER COLLARS, IN GLASS J. RS. TR NKS, PAILS, ORNAMENT BOXES, &c.

a superior stock of Ready-Made Clothing, HATS, CAPS, &c.

ALWAYS ON HAND.

A Perfect Fit in all the latest Styles Guaranteed, at BOTTOM PRICES!

All Goods Warranted as represented at the Clothing Establishment of

THOS. W. SMITH,

Fisher's Building, Queen Street, Fredericton.

All Nature Dies and Lives Again.

50 bush. Grass Seed.

ELY PERKINS.

600 BUSH. OATS.

FLOUR STORE.

A BACK SEAT.

50 BARRELS.

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