

PAUL VANE'S WIFE

"How pale I am—how my eyes glare! I look like a beautiful fiend!" she muttered, hoarsely, as, leaning on her elbow and staring into the gleaming eyes that met hers in the mirror, she went on in fitful soliloquy: "I am a fiend, I suppose, for but a few hours ago I was driven mad by the discovery of a fatal secret in my life—a secret too hard to bear with impunity, so I took arms against it, and I have conquered Fate. The fiend she is out of my way, the baby-faced creature who, ever since I first saw her, little more than a month ago, has persistently come between me and all that I most prize! But I always meant to punish her—always, and I have kept my word!"

At that word she shuddered and looked behind her, as if expecting to behold the ghastly wraith of Gerald Holmes with his pallid, menacing finger pointed at her in reproach and anger for her broken vow; but no blood-curdling specter was there, and with a sigh of relief she flung herself down upon her couch, tossed her round white arms over her head, and whispered with a tender, dreamy smile:

"Oh, those glorious moments alone, up in the blue empyrean with my love—my love—let me call him that! He does not know. How fresh and exhilarating was the pure air, how the silver moonlight shone upon us, and how passionately he leaped at finding myself alone with him for those few blessed moments when no one could interrupt us! I crept nearer to him; I clasped his arm with both hands and whispered imploringly: 'You will not mind if I cling to you a little? I am frightened at the strangeness of it all! Does it not seem awful to you? We two are all alone up here among the stars—' as much alone as were Adam and Eve in Paradise."

A dreamy, tender smile curved her beautiful lips at the memory of the kind and gentle smile with which he looked down at her with his eyes fixed on her. "It is strange that you should feel frightened, for all consciousness of your weakness is overpowered in me by a sort of mental buoyancy and exhilaration. I find it delightful, Miss Lisle. Only feel how pure and fresh is this high air. See how the golden light of the stars sifts through the thin, clear atmosphere. Do you not think—gently—that we seem a little nearer to God and the angels?"

Lorraine recalled with a blush of rapture how she had sighed and exclaimed: "Oh, how good you are, Mr. Vane! While I am dizzy with such fear that I can not even enjoy the novelty of my position, you are filled with sweet and reverent thoughts. It is no wonder that Vivian, your pretty young wife, seems so calm and saintly. It is your influence. One grows better by merely living near you. Even I—wild, wilful Lorraine, as I have been called—even I would be a better girl if I had such a kind and noble husband."

"May you find one even nobler and better some day, my dear Miss Lisle," the rector answered, gently; but she felt the arm that she clasped tremble slightly at the words, and she knew that he was not altogether true.

Given such a romantic scene as this, and so enchanting a companion, and even a rector of thirty might be somewhat moved to his ardent passion of her words, and she knew that he was not altogether true.

"God bless you!" Lorraine cried, she bent her head impulsively and pressed her warm lips on his hand. "You have made me happy by those words!" she cried. "So you do believe in me? You think a good man could love me?"

"Yes," he answered, in a low voice, and she cried:

"Then I shall not envy Vivian so much hereafter. I shall know that she is not the only woman who could have won you. If you had met me first you could perhaps have loved me. Was not that what you meant?"

Paul Vane was embarrassed by the directness of the question—troubled, too, that he found his heart beating so tumultuously as this lurking, dark-eyed girl flung close to his ear, whispering to him in her sad, half-loving fashion. Her eyes clung to his face with a fondness that disconcerted him.

white hand clasped tightly in his, speaking little, but watching her with adoring eyes, thinking that she looked like an angel with that aureole of moonlight above her fair brow and golden hair, and with her dress of some pale shining blue stuff that looked silvery white in the moonlight. A white embroidered scarf was drawn for protection about the half-bare shoulders of her evening dress, and caught at the throat with a long silver arrow, with a jewelled head. Some long wreaths of feathery white clematis trailed from her corsage below her waist, giving almost a bride-like air to the exquisite simplicity of her costume. Yes, she was lovely as a dream, and the man's heart, that a moment or two ago had throbbled with strange unrest at another's honeyed words and glances, returned with eager zest to its allegiance and rested in her with subdued rapture.

Suddenly one of the servants from Arceady approached him with a message, summoning him to the death-bed of one of his parishioners some distance away, and he rose, pained at the thought, but bitterly regretting to go, feeling his whole heart drawing him back to the fair young wife whose red lips quivered in child-like grief.

"Are you quite, quite sure?" she asked the man, wisely. "Because, Paul, I can not be for you to go."

"The message was very positive, Mrs. Vane," the man answered, and moved away after the rector had told him to say that he would follow in a few minutes.

"You will walk with me just a little way, my darling one," he whispered, and they went arm in arm away from the crowd, pausing among the shrubbery for that fond farewell caress with which they always parted.

"I will come back for you as soon as I can," he said. "I hope to be in time to take you on your trip to the moon, smiling cheerfully."

"If you do not, I shall be most cruelly disappointed. I have set my heart on going," she answered.

"If I should be late you will go with some one else, perhaps. I do not like for you to miss this coveted pleasure, taking her fondly into his arms and holding her close to his warm breast."

"Yet you must go," she said, reluctantly, though still holding him tightly. "I am in the class of her soft white arms. 'Oh, Paul, I have an idea. Take me with you.'"

"In your condition, my own love, no, that must not be. I will try to return to you very soon. If not, I will send my own sweet wife, and let me go. Adieu for a brief while, darling."

They stood heart to heart, lip to lip, one more yearning moment, then parted. "And you do not wish to walk with me, my darling?" she asked, looking at him with blue eyes dim with sudden tears and a cruel pang in her tender heart. This was their parting.

"These two—they dwell with eye on eye. Their hearts of old have beat in tune. Their meetings made December June. Their every parting was to die."

and we are adrift in the sky. He got no further, for, maddened with terror, the girl flung herself forward with a frenzied cry.

"Oh, Paul! oh, my husband!" and in a sudden impulse of unreasoning despair she was about to precipitate herself from the balloon. Just in time Colonel Fairlie drew her back, holding her tightly clasped in his arms, for she struggled violently to free herself and accomplish her insane purpose.

"Let me go, let me go to him!" she shrieked, wildly; but after many minutes he had to restrain her by force, she was so determined on breaking from him and leaping from her strange prison.

Tenderly but firmly Colonel Fairlie restrained the frantic creature, promising to save her life if she would be quiet and trust to him.

"See, there is a rope to the escape-valve, Mrs. Vane. I can easily let the gas out of the balloon, and it will descend to the earth. Be quiet and brave, and trust in God, and you will not be implored to gaze with intense pity into the lovely, frantic white face."

(To be continued.)

STORM KILLED FOUR
MAN FROZEN TO DEATH IN NEW YORK
Others Succumbed to Heart Disease—Much Suffering in the City—Great Chance to Work Afforded the Real Army of Tramps.

New York, Jan. 24.—New York to-night is digging itself out of a foot of snow, which tied up street cars and bewildered traffic.

Much suffering has been occasioned; there has been the usual toll of deaths exacted, and the monetary damage must be reckoned by the tens of thousands of dollars. Mercifully, the snow was accompanied by moderate temperatures and in its early stages it was welcomed by the honest part of the 35,000 unemployed men.

Most poignant distress was experienced by the several thousand genuine tramps who having ridden into town on the hard times, awoke, and since enjoyed the city's bounty, awoke to-day to find themselves confronted with a possibility of opportunity to work. Some rose to the occasion, and others shifted their lodgings.

A number of accidents and four fatalities were credited to the storm. One man was frozen to death near an East Twenty-third street lodging house, from which he had been ejected. A Grand street merchant succumbed to heart disease after battling with the snow and wind. In Woodland cemetery a special policeman died while digging a path to a newly made grave. A civil war veteran was another victim of heart disease caused by exposure.

COLDS CAUSE HEADACHE.
LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE removes the cause. It cures colds, coughs, croup, whooping cough, E. W. Grove's signature on box. 25c.

AT R. McKAY & CO'S., MONDAY, JANUARY 27th, 1907
JUST FIVE DAYS MORE OF THE
January Clearing Sale

'Tis absolutely necessary for us to reduce the stock before stock-taking and we are taking no half way measures about it.
Monday's list will give you a correct idea of the great reductions—we are giving.

Monday
ALL CHINA HALF PRICE

Monday morning at 8.30 sharp we start our great half price China Sale. Beautiful and winsome designs in cups and saucers, Fancy Plates, Five o'Clock Tea Sets, Fruit Sets, Marmalade Jars, Fancy Vases, Card Receivers, Fancy Pitchers and hundreds of other articles, too numerous to mention. Cold type does scant justice, so get here Monday and supply your china wants at HALF PRICE.

- Clearing Out Specials for Monday
Children's Toboggan Toques 15c
Only 10 dozen of plain and Honeycomb Woolen Toboggan Toques, in navy, cardinal, white, black plain or fancy striped, regular 25c, clearing out at 15c
Toboggan Toques and Caps 25c
10 dozen of fine Woolen Toques, also Honeycomb Caps, in navy, cardinal, scarlet, white, black, plain colors or fancy striped, regular 50c, on sale... 29c
5 dozen only of Scarlet Woolen Scarfs, also long Mitts to match, regular 30 and 60c, clearing out... 39c
Scarlet Toboggan Scarfs and Mitts 39c
200 dozen of Ladies' Fine Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, in quarter inch hem, nicely hemstitched, regular 10c, clean out... 5c
Ladies' Linen Handkerchiefs 5c Each
Ladies' Embroidered Collars 5c Each
12 dozen of dainty Swiss Embroidered Collars, in assorted patterns, regular 10c, for... 5c
Ladies' and Misses' Gloves 17c Pair
25 dozen of Ladies' and Misses' Cashmere and Ringwood Gloves, in all the best shades, all sizes, regular 25c, for... 17c
Embroidered Edgings and Insertions 3c Yard
2,000 yards of fine Cambric and Swiss Embroidered Edgings, 1 to 4 inches wide, also some nice Insertions, 1 and 2 inches wide, all good patterns, some short lengths, worth up to 8c yard, clearing out at... 3c yard
Embroideries and Insertions 11c Yard
5,000 yards of fine Cambric Embroidery, 2 to 9 inches wide, in dainty eyelet and shadow patterns, some manufacturer's sample ends, worth up to 20c, on sale... 11c yard
Corset Cover Embroidery 19c Yard
300 yards of Cambric Embroidery, 18 inches wide, embroidered in eyelet designs, 6 inches deep, beading inserted, short lengths, regular 30c yard, clearing out at... 19c yard
Nottingham Laces 2 Yards for 5c
300 yards of fine Nottingham, Torchin and Round Thread Valenciennes Laces, half to 2 1/2 inches wide, all good patterns, regular 5 and 8c yard, on sale 2 yards for... 5c
Lace Insertions and Appliques 25c Yard
100 pieces of Straight Band Insertions, 1 to 4 inches wide, also Lace Appliques in white, cream, ecru, Paris and black, regular 50 to 75c yard, clearing out at... 25c yard

Clearing Sale of Dress Nets and Chiffons 59c
\$1 Silk and Wool Dress Materials MONDAY at 69c
SEE WINDOW DISPLAY

By all means don't miss this chance to secure a pretty afternoon or evening dress at a great reduction. Monday you can buy pretty Silk and Wool San Toys, Plain and Fancy Silk and Wool Crepe de Chines, Plain and Fancy Voiles in silk and wool mixtures, Silk Eolienettes, etc. in splendid shades of greys, fawns, sky, mauve, Nile, myrtle, navy, cream and black, every yard worth \$1.00, Monday sale price... 69c

R. McKAY & CO.

FOLLOWED ELOPERS.
AN UNROMANTIC ENDING TO A LOVE EPISODE.
Louis Morgan Charged With Abduction by Girl's Father, Who Had Traced the Pair From Montreal—Lovers Were Separated.

Toronto, Jan. 25.—A tragic sequel to a romantic love affair was realistically staged in No. 3 police station last night, when Detective McKinley, acting on warrants Louis Morgan, a Russian Jew of about 28, and Betsy Fineman, a hand-some young Jewess. The man is charged with the father of the girl, Nathan Fineman, 111 St. Dominique street, Montreal, with abduction, and the girl with vagrancy.

DRUGS IN FOODSTUFFS.
They Shorten the Lives of People in America.
Washington, Jan. 24.—Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, reported to-day to the House Committee on Agriculture the results of exhaustive experiments to determine the poisonous effects on the human system of such drugs as borax, benzoic acid, benzoate of soda, sulphate of copper, sulphur dioxide, formaldehyde and salicylic acid when contained in foodstuffs.

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Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. It is the only cure that cleans the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower from All druggists or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.