

The Stolen Diamond.

On the Island of Orleans, about the end of June last, three people were assembled in a pleasant little room fronting a neat little garden. They seemed to be discussing a subject of importance; they were a young man of about twenty-five a girl of twenty, and the father of the latter, a man of about fifty.

"Why do we need riches?" asked Theodore, the young man. "Can they by chance maintain our happiness? Anna and I would live very happily in a cottage, and the bread earned by my labor would be for us both sweet as ambrosia." Anna replied with a tender glance, which seemed very eloquent to Theodore, because it openly repeated that which the girl's heart had secretly told him many times. The father, who had a kind face, turned his head aside to hide a smile, then he exclaimed:

"My children, I might tell you many things which you would only use to repeat in your turn in vain to your children twenty years from now; till then you would neither believe them nor understand them; but as I love my daughter more than my life, and esteem him who desires to be her husband enough to confide her happiness to his care, I cannot consent to your union till Theodore returns from the voyage that he is obliged to make under his employer's orders."

Theodore spoke slightly of the profit which he would derive from this voyage, whose sole motive was commercial reasons; but Anna's father was inflexible, and the lovers were obliged to yield to what they considered an old man's whim.

"Good-by, Theodore," said Anna; "I shall pray Heaven, not that you return rich, but constant."

II.

Theodore assured Anna with a loving glance that her wish would be granted, and a few days later embarked.

During the long voyage Theodore thought of the places which he was to visit, which were entirely new to him. The splendors of the Tropics evoked by his imagination offered marvellous pictures; and little by little he formed an idea of the extraordinary luxury of Brazil.

But when they arrived in Pernambuco his disenchantment was intense. In disgust at the difference between the reality and the descriptions, he resolved to think only of his beloved; and as the merchant whom he accompanied was to share the profits with him, he calculated about what he should receive and exclaimed: "Anna's father



HER VISION OF THE COMING WINTER.

A WINTER VISION.

MISS CANADA'S PROSPECT.

will be satisfied. I am now certain that nothing will interfere with our happiness!"

One evening, seated in his modest room with his elbows on the table and his head in his hands, he amused himself by arranging the expenses of his future home, discussed the grave question of servants, formed an interminable list of furniture which he considered necessary to adorn his house, and, not content with all this, even thought of how his beloved would look at the wedding, when suddenly two knocks at the door interrupted his agreeable task. He opened the door, and was not a little surprised at the entrance of a man who after glancing around the room, turned and locked the door. Before Theodore could speak the unknown said:

"Sir, we have only ten minutes to make a bargain on which depends your fortune and my life."

"I do not understand you."

"Listen," replied his mysterious in-

terlocutor. "I am employed in the mines. I have stolen a diamond and, feigning illness, have succeeded in being sent here. No prince in the world possesses a stone so precious as this; but my diamond is a treasure useless to me, because I am in need of money and without resources I cannot escape to sell it. So, you understand, I cannot hope for any benefit from it; and if you will give me enough to escape, the stone is yours."

"But—" stammered Theodore.

"Look at it and accept my proposition; it will make you rich and me happy, because it will assist me to return to the bosom of my family."

And the slave showed an enormous diamond to Theodore, who contemplated it with intense astonishment.

"Certainly," he said, "it is a magnificent stone. I have seen many of its class, but none so perfect nor so large. Any ruler would be proud to adorn his crown with it."

"Do not lose time; by depriving