

## ANNIE EDWARDS.

BY ZILLES MANNING.

"Phil, there is no such person here as Ella described. Surely she said an elderly lady, and the only person in the ladies' room is a tall, graceful-looking young girl, dressed in mourning."

"But here is the trunk with her name, and Jones says there was only one lady got off the train, and this baggage belonged to her, so it must be Miss Edwards."

"Well, I suppose, nothing venture, nothing have, so I will put on my best front, and inquire; I can but apologize if mistaken."

"By Jove! Percival is handing her into the carriage. What can a girl like that mean by accepting a situation as housekeeper? I wonder what Ella will say to her paragon of an elderly lady of twenty summers. Guess I'll cut across the field, and prepare the way for her."

And Phil Brotherton, a fine specimen of a six-footer, broad shouldered and manly, with eyes full of merriment, took the "short cut," and reached the house just as the carriage came in view, and startled his sister with the announcement of the housekeeper's arrival.

"She is fair, and less than forty. By the way, Ella, how did you know that Miss Edwards was an elderly lady?"

"I did not know that she was; I merely took it for granted that only a person advanced in years would apply for such a position." And Mrs. Percival, a frail, delicate-looking lady of about thirty years of age, rose from a reclining lounge, smoothed back the disordered hair from her aching temples, and seated herself in an easy chair, ready to receive the new comer.

A few months previous to the opening of our story, Mrs. Percival was stricken with a severe attack of typhoid fever, from which she had never fully recovered. The many cares and perplexities of governing a household, in her shattered state of health, induced her to secure the services of a housekeeper who was competent not only to exercise a general supervision of the house, but of the two children. And so it was with a feeling not only of astonishment, but of disappointment, that she beheld a young and attractive stranger new ushered into her presence, though, with the true instinct of a lady, she betrayed no feeling beyond that of kindly welcome.

"Miss Edwards, I am sorry to have left your reception to Oak Lawn to the tender mercies of the little ones, but this has been a day of suffering, and I have not been able to leave my room."

"Pray do not apologize; though a shy, it was a kindly welcome, and their sunny little faces relieved the strangeness. I am so used to children."

"I feared that I was hardly explicit enough in my letter, and that you failed to realize the care and responsibility that must necessarily rest upon you. You look young and unexperienced. You need apprehend no trouble with the servants, and Alice and Mary, and there will be much to require your care and attention."

"I said, in answer to your letter, (which was perfectly understood), that I would endeavor to be willing and faithful, and I trust my years may prove no disparagement."

Much as Mrs. Percival would have liked to know the reason that one so evidently adapted to grace a higher position accepted the present situation, there was something so dignified and reserved in Miss Edwards' bearing to encourage curiosity.

Several months have elapsed since the introduction of our heroine to Oak Lawn. It is needless to follow her through her daily round of duty, in the accomplishment of which her thorough care and lady-like deportment, gained her the respect and confidence of Mr. and Mrs. Percival, while her gentle ways and loving words endeared her to the children. The most menial services were rendered pleasant by her natural grace of manner, and her kindly consideration of the servants under her charge endeared her to them that her slightest wishes became law, and order outruled the previous chaos existing in the culinary department.

Nothing occurred to mar this harmony until the arrival of Miss Cummins, a young lady friend of the family.

Alice Cummins was one of those "gushing" girls who so well cover sarcasm and unkind actions in such an apparently artless manner, that to the careless observer it seems mere thoughtlessness, while to the ear intended for it, it becomes cutting and stinging shafts.

The youth and beauty of Annie Edwards, the high esteem with which she was regarded in Mrs. Percival's household, together with a jealous magnifying of the kindly consideration of Mr. Brotherton into something deeper, rankled deeply and bitterly in Miss Cummins' mind; and no stone was left unturned which could wound Miss Edwards' naturally retired and sensitive nature.

Never had Annie felt so keenly the position she occupied until the arrival of the proud, imperious visitor. She would not have regretted the "good times" of fun and amusement among the young folks, in which her only share was work and preparation; if the orders, as issued by Miss Cummins, had been divested of their undercurrent of bitterness. Her own proud nature rebelled against the insolent manner of that young lady, and her utter disregard of wounded feelings.

Mr. Brotherton had invited, and Mrs. Percival had urged her to share in their pleasure excursions; but her seeming indifference, and household excuses, had annoyed the gentleman that he ceased to say any more on the subject. But who could knock the bitter tears shed and her inward shrinking from the duties before her, while, with outward composure, she entered with seeming interest into their plans. Overseeing the house, the children and servants,

with overtaxed strength which all were too occupied to see, how could she but grow sensitive and morbid? To Mrs. Percival she always came with a smiling face, the same tender touch and gentle words, "a ministering angel." But, on this bright, June evening, even her drooping spirits failed, and her soul cried out against her. Nothing but the thought of her little sisters dependent on her energy restrained her from wavering in her chosen path.

She leaned her head wearily on her hand, and scarcely heard the low tones of Mrs. Percival, as she talked of tomorrow's guests, and the kindness of Alice Cummins in con-enting to remain and assist in their entertainments. She merely caught the import of the words, for the bitterness of her thoughts welled up and filled her eyes with tears.

She was startled from her reverie to find Mrs. Percival asleep, and Mr. Brotherton standing by her side, with kindly interest in his eyes.

"Miss Edwards, I fear we are taxing you beyond your strength; you look weary to-night, and sad."

"Thank you; but nothing is the matter beyond a slight headache, which will be well to-morrow." And she turned her head to hide the blinding tears.

"You confine yourself too closely to the house. It is a lovely evening; will you walk? It may do you good."

"Rest is generally considered the best cure for headache. I am sure Miss Edwards would prefer being alone; so come, let us have some music." And Alice Cummins, who had entered unobserved, playfully took his arm.

"Miss Cummins is right. I will not detain you. Good evening." And, with a white face and flashing eye, Miss Edwards swept past them into the hall, and out into the evening air.

## CHAPTER II.

"Come, Ida, if you are through unpacking, let us go down stairs." And Alice Cummins smoothed her curls, brushed up her frizzes, shook out the folds of her dress, and swept out into the hall, rudely brushing past Miss Edwards without the slightest recognition.

"Alice, who was the young lady that just passed on the stairs?"

"I did not see any one but the housekeeper."

"How very graceful and refined she looks! Mrs. Percival has given me such glowing accounts of her that I must cultivate her acquaintance."

"Oh, hush! You and Ella are always discovering shining virtues that no one else can see. Some of your swans will turn out geese some day. How very handsome your brother Tom is! He is so grand and dignified that I am half afraid of him."

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## CHAPTER III.

Happy, pleasant days elapsed each other in quick succession for six weeks,

each bringing its own pleasure and enjoyment. Never had Oak Lawn resounded with more merriment. Annie's share was no longer all work. Ida watched over her, and made many happy hours for her friend, bringing out rare talents, until she became the brilliant, fascinating Annie she had known in their happy school-days.

Alice had in vain tried to repress this sparkling vivacity, but her shafts flew unsmiling, for Ida seemed ever near to interpose a shield for her friend's defense.

It was a gay party that had assembled in the hall of Oak Lawn, equipped for a day's excursion to the Ponds—a lovely drive of twenty miles—and luncheon in the woods. They had all agreed to make a merry time of it, for to-morrow was to be the breaking up of the pleasant circle, and the young guests departed for home.

Annie had wished them a "pleasant time," and with a smiling face watched them until the last of the party had disappeared from view. In spite of her disappointment in not being of the party, she turned with a light heart to her duty, for she had seen the look of keen regret pass over the handsome face of Mr. Seldon when he found that Mrs. Percival's illness prevented Annie from joining the party. The thought that her presence could add to his enjoyment was pleasant; she had not dared to give expression to the feeling that he loved her even in her own heart, but it was unconsciously there, and made sunshine in the darkened room where she spent her morning beside the bed of suffering.

At last Mrs. Percival was soothed to sleep, and Annie noiselessly left the room. The warm, sultry day, and the close confinement in the sick room, made her cheeks burn and her head throb. Mechanically she took her way to her favorite retreat, the library. She sat down in an easy chair and leaned her head wearily on her hand, and her eyes filled with tears as she thought of the happy days just passed, and she tried to school herself to the settling down in the same old routine of duty.

She was startled from her reverie by a firm clasp of her hand, and, as she looked up, her cheeks flushing, she encountered the smiling face of Mr. Seldon. In her embarrassment she stammered some excuse, and rose to leave the room; but he gently led her back, and sat down beside her.

"Miss Annie, when I found you were not to be of the party, I lost all charm for me, so I rode over to the village, and returned to answer some letters. I have waited here in hopes of seeing you, and fate has at last been kind. Miss Edwards, you have heard that Mrs. Percival is going to disperse with your services? In fact, Mr. Brotherton has already engaged another housekeeper. Do not look so startled; he has succeeded, after three years wooing, in persuading Ida to preside as Mrs. Brotherton. And there is another house, lonely and deserted, that is waiting for a housekeeper—a house that needs just the touch of your fairy fingers to make it a home. Will you come and be my friend?"

He had to judge to hear the faltering answer, and that it was a satisfactory one you may judge by his radiant face as he clasped her to his bosom, and pressed her soft lips to his.

And Ida, noble Ida, said that one of her dearest dreams was realized the day she called the gentle Annie her sister.

## The Blue Laws.

Many who have often heard of the Connecticut "blue laws" of probity never had an opportunity of perusing that celebrated code. The territory now comprised in the State of Connecticut was formerly two colonies, Connecticut and New Haven. The colony of Connecticut was planted by emigrants from Massachusetts and Windsor, in 1633, and Hartford and Weatherfield 1635-6. The other colony, styled by its founders the Dominion of New Haven, was founded by emigrants from England in 1637. The two colonies were united in 1665. The statutes copied below, from an ancient volume relating to the history of the American colonies, were enacted by the "Dominion of New Haven," and being printed on blue paper came to be known as the "blue laws."

The Governor and Magistrates convened in General Assembly, are the supreme power, under God, of this independent Dominion.

From the determination of the Assembly no appeal shall be made.

The Governor is amenable to the voice of the people.

The Assembly of the people shall not be dissolved by the Governor, but shall dismiss itself.

Conspiracy against this Dominion shall be punished with death.

No one shall be a freeman or give a vote unless he be converted and a member of one of the churches allowed in the Dominion.

Each freeman shall swear: by the Blessed God to bear true allegiance to this Dominion, and that Jesus is the only King.

No Quaker, or dissenter from the established worship of this Dominion, shall be allowed to give a vote for the electing of Magistrates or any other officer.

No food or lodgings shall be offered to Quaker, Advertiser or heretic.

If any person turns Quaker, he shall be banished and not suffered to return but on pain of death.

No priest shall abide in the Dominion; he shall be banished, and suffer death on his return.

Priests may be seized by any one without a warrant.

No one to cross a river but an authorized ferryman.

No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in his garden or elsewhere, except reverently, to and from meetings.

No one shall travel, cook victuals,

make beds, sweep house, cut hair, or shave on the Sabbath Day.

No woman shall kiss her children on the Sabbath or fasting days.

The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.

To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed theft.

A person accused of trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clears himself by his oath.

When it appears that the accused has confederates, and he refuses to discover them, he may be racked.

None shall buy or sell lands without permission of the selectmen.

A drunkard shall have a master appointed by the selectmen, who are to bar him from the liberty of buying and selling.

Whoever publishes a lie to the prejudice of his neighbors, shall be set in the stocks or be whipped ten stripes.

No minister shall keep a school.

Every ratable person who refuses to pay his proportion to support the minister of the town or parish, shall be fined by the court \$5d. and \$1s. every quarter until he or she pay the rate of the minister.

Men stealers shall suffer death.

Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver or bone above 1s. per yard, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the offender \$300 estate.

A debtor in prison, swearing he has no estate, shall be let out and sold to make satisfaction.

Whoever sets a fire in the woods, and it burns a house, shall suffer death; and persons suspected of this crime shall be imprisoned without benefit of bail.

Whoever brings cards or dice into this Dominion shall pay a fine of 25s.

No one shall read common prayer books, keep Christmas or set days, cat mance pipes, dance or play cards, or play on any instrument of music, except the drum, trumpet and Jew's harp.

No gospel minister shall join people in marriage. The Magistrate only shall join them in marriage, as he may do with less scandal to Christ's Church.

When parents refuse their children convenient marriages, the Magistrate shall determine the point.

The selectmen, on finding children ignorant, may take them away from their parents, and put them in better hands at the expense of their parents.

A man that strikes his wife shall pay a fine of £10.

A woman that strikes her husband, shall be punished as the law directs.

A wife shall be deemed good evidence against her husband.

No man shall court a maid by person or in letter, without having first obtained consent of her parents; £5 penalty for the first offence; £10 for the second; and the third, imprisonment during the pleasure of the court.

Married persons must live together or be imprisoned.

Every male must have his hair cut round according to his cap.

Weighted in the Balance and Found Wanting.

All the signs of the times indicate the coming of a new order of things. The rapidity with which the faithful public men, largely trusted by the people, are being brought to judgment, and their guilt made clear as noonday, is something marvellous. Rings and combinations, organized for no other end than to aggregate power for the more certain work of plunder, are broken up at a single ponderous stroke of some courageous citizen who drags their iniquity to light. Buried wrongs are dug up, and their hideous carcasses shown to the aroused and indignant people. Men long trusted, and regarded by the nation as representatives of the highest integrity, are found to be weakly venal, or deliberately corrupt. Everywhere good and true men are feeling a sense of relief. They see the dawning of a better day; the advent of a new era, when public virtue shall be something more than a name.

Such an era is surely advancing upon us. Evil and corruption are not stronger than goodness and virtue, but essentially weaker. Steadily the people are rising to a higher sense of right. The coming generation will take their places, as the receding ones retire; and the shame and disgrace of those trusted public men who have been weighed in the balance and found wanting, will stand out as a warning to all in whom the people confide.

And the people themselves will be more careful in the selection of those to whom great interests are intrusted. The old school of corrupt politicians—all of whom have a price—will be set aside, and their places be given to men of known integrity. How long we are yet to be in their hands cannot be told; but their power diminishes every day, and the time is not far distant when the people will thrust them aside—and cast off their names as evil.—*Arthur's Home Magazine.*

A Miss Buchanan, once rallying her cousin men officer, or discourage, said "Now, Mr. Harry, do you really mean, to tell me you can walk to a cannon's mouth without fear?" "Yes," was the prompt reply, "or a Buchanan's either." And he did it.

The attention of our store-keepers is directed to the trade sale to be held by Messrs. Alanson & Hilton, of Hamilton, on the 16th inst. The assortment is a large one and combines goods suitable to the season. The terms seem also to be easy, so that there is every inducement for country merchants to attend it. This firm seems to have rapidly built up a very large business, and are very highly spoken of by all who have had dealings with them.

## Scientific Items.

We are told curious things concerning the amusements of great men who lived long ago. Studious minds often take up some oddity to rest their brains in spare moments. Swift went to run up and down the steps of the deanery for exercise and amusement; Dr. Samuel Clarke, the Bible commentator, amused himself by jumping over tables and chairs; Shelley took great pleasure in making paper bats and watching them as they floated on the water; Tycho Brahe amused himself with polishing glasses for spectacles, and Socrates, in playing with children; Potapov, at the end of every second hour of study, used to twirl his chair for five minutes.

"KEEP WAR!" Why is this little girl sick? "She took cold at school; the furnace did not work well; the room was cold and damp; the teacher refused to let the scholars wear their oversacks—they would need them more out-of-door—as if the enemy were not more truly in doors on that day. When she came home she was chilly, and wished to stay near the kitchen fire. But she was in the way; felt it, and went off into a cold room! But she isn't 'in the way' now! If it is worth while to live, it is worth while to keep warm."

STAGNANT WATER FOR COWS PRODUCE OF TYPHOID FEVER.—Out of 140 families supplied with milk from a dairy in Islington, England, seventy suffered from typhoid fever. One hundred and sixty-eight individuals, and cases occurred within ten weeks, and thirty died. An investigation showed that the cows drank water from an old underground tank, built of wood, and much decayed. The milk cans were washed in the same water, and in all probability the water was also mixed with the milk. As the fever attacked only such parties in that district as used the milk, water in the rotten tank must have been the cause. This is only more evidence of the danger of using foul water and giving it to animals. It has been shown that stagnant water acts as a slow poison to animals as well as men, and it is a matter of the first importance to all dairymen and stock raisers, as well as families, to use only pure, fresh water.

ECONOMISING FUEL.—Sir William Armstrong's appeal on behalf of greater economy in the use of fuel, combined with the growing scarcity of coals, is giving much impetus to the adoption of all appliances throughout the ironmaking districts to effect this end. Licenses to use acknowledged economies are being applied for freely. A system for intensifying the heat of the heating furnaces employed by the steel making, the tube rolling, and similar manufactures by the introduction of steam into the fire, through a brick chamber, in solid bottomed grates, the invention of a Sheffield man, has in the past few days been adopted throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire and South Staffordshire and London, with an earnestness strikingly indicative of the determination of the manufacturing classes to grapple with the fuel difficulty at once. At the Earl of Dudley's ironworks in Staffordshire a furnace has now begun to be used, by which a saving of fuel to the extent of 10 cwt. to 13 cwt. upon every ton of iron produced is effected. Greater yield and better quality also attend the use of the rotary furnaces.

A PLEA FOR OATMEAL.—To say nothing of experience, Liebig, the great chemist, and greatest authority on such subjects, shows oatmeal to be as much as nutritious as the very best English beef, and that it contains a larger proportion than wheaten bread of the elements that go to form bone and muscle. This was proved by a course of experiments carried on for a series of years by Forbes, an eminent philosopher and the discoverer of the glacier theory, at that time Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Edinburgh University, and afterward Principal of the University of St. Andrews. For twenty years or so he measured the breadth and height and also tested the strength both of the arms and loins of his students, a very numerous class, consisting of different nationalities, drawn to Edinburgh by his fame. These were the results. In respect of height, breadth of chest and shoulders, and strength both of the arms and loins, the bottom of the scale was occupied by Belgians; above them, and but a little higher, stood the French; very much above them stood the English; while the top of the scale was occupied by the Scotch and the Scotch-Irish from Ulster, who, like the natives of Scotland, are fed in their early years with at least one meal a day of good milk and good porridge.—*The Guardian.*

Fere Hyacinthe is in Geneva, Switzerland, preaching to Catholics, who, he says, are "resolved not to abdicate the faith of their fathers either into the hands of Ultramontanists or incredulity."

WHEELER'S COMPOUND ELIXIR OF PHOSPHATES AND CALSAYA.

"DR. WHEELER:—After using your Compound Elixir of Phosphates and Calsaya for over two years in my daily practice, I must give it my unqualified approbation. During a practice of over twenty years I have used many scientifically prepared 'compounds,' made to fulfil the same therapeutic indications as your Elixir, but not one of them has proved with me as valuable as yours. To the medical profession and the public I would especially commend it as the best remedy with which I am acquainted for the successful treatment of that large and constantly increasing class of cases of overworked and nerve-exhausted women."

"Yours truly," "N. WATKINS BULL, M.D."

Children whose brain development is unusually large in comparison with the body, are most frequently singled out for a premature final resting place. Why is this? Simply because the functions of the body are so to supply the waste going on in the brain consequent upon active intelligence.

Fallows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites is so prepared that it imparts the vital principle directly to the brain while it is developing a vigorous and robust body.

To the Editor, Esteemed Friend, I have a Positive Cure for Consumption and all Diseases of the Throat and Lungs, by means of my medicine I have cured thousands, and will give \$1000 for a case it will not cure it. Indeed, so strong is my faith, I will send a sample free to any one suffering from these diseases. Please show this letter to any doctor you may know. Faithfully yours, Dr. T. F. BURT, 20 Broadway, New York. January 21, 73.

## TRADE SALE OF DRY GOODS.

THE ATTENTION OF COUNTRY MERCHANTS is directed to the Trade Sale of Dry Goods, which will be held by Alanson & Hilton, Auctioneers, at their Rooms, No. 58 James street, Hamilton, on Wednesday, 16th April. Catalogues will be ready by 10th April. The goods to be offered will consist in part as follows: 250 pieces prints, 24 pieces brown Holland, 20 pieces brilliantes, 30 pieces white summer flannel, 150 ends blue flannel, about 75 yds. each; 300 pieces dress goods, new and suited to the season; 100 pieces domestic cottons, 200 ends summer tweeds, 10 to 25 yards each; 6 pieces carpets, and an assortment of reasonable dry goods, also 30 pieces striped flannel shirting, slightly damaged. Terms—Under \$100 cash, over \$100 and under \$200, 3 months, over \$200, 4 months. Hamilton, March 29, 1873.

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