

scenes enjoyed, that I remember perfectly well the various events that transpired at that time. But you surprise me when I hear that she is at present in the city." "I called upon her," he answered, "on the evening of her arrival, and found in the room your friend Danton, who was most eloquently expatiating on the peculiar merits of British and American institutions and passing with all the ease of a practised courtier, and diplomatist from that subject to the rage for postage stamp collecting." "Confound that fellow, say I, and how well he can talk, too; do you believe me, when I tell you, susceptible though he be to the influence of woman's beauty and intelligence, he has studied every phase of her character, and I fear has already become deeply enamoured, and in like manner made a deep impression on her heart." "We shall soon see, however," I replied. "Come with me to the nearest restaurant and have an ice cream, and we will talk this matter over quietly, and then visit Danton. I promised to call and see him before our departure from the city. I cannot but remark to you, Gordon, how very much interested I am in anything which concerns Miss Vernon, and I may here state that I am exceedingly anxious for an *intrigue*, not at all in the criminal sense which that word often implies, but for the purpose of taking my friend Danton down from that ideal stand point from which he views the female character. His susceptible imagination arrays them in a thousand manifold charms; he sees no imperfection in their nature, and to him the altar and the god are one—but to worship and adore. I have forgotten to inform you that some days ago I received a note from my friend inviting me to call and see him. He had previously been introduced to a young lady possessing great beauty and intelligence, the very words I think he used, and with great taste for art, and even the frivolous occupation of postage stamp collecting. On reflection, I am inclined to believe that it is our fair, *ideal* Miss Vernon, who has thus captivated him, and, in all probability, stopping at the same hotel with him. He has invited me to call and be introduced, which I shall certainly do, and would be pleased to have you accompany me. What I want you to do, Gordon, is simply this:—Go with us to R——: you have that *bon hommie* which he lacks; that self-possession and ease so necessary in female society, which few so thoroughly attain except those who have mingled much with the world. Try by your wit, affability, and politeness, to gain her affection and esteem; which, if effected, will be a solemn lesson to Danton, that what is practicable, is, after all, our best philosophy, and that it is vain to expect perfection in any one, no matter how much we may love." "Why I declare, George, what a moralist you are; I shall follow your advice." "Pardon me, when I say that in society your friend is a perfect nonentity; he never could conquer his feelings of aversion to it. Although brilliant in scholarship, he lacks

the manners of a man of the world." "I am pleased at the proposal you have made; he may feel jealous, but for that I do not care. I shall see once more our fair friend, and renew my protestations of love; and now that you are out of the way, I have no doubt I shall succeed. I'll talk in such a manner that will not betray my feelings; there is nothing like stoicism, especially in love; it is so very timid, as Byron says, when new. Postage stamps will be the grand theme. I know her feelings on this question; she is proud of her collection, which is one of the best in the country." "Well, come," I replied, "we will take a turn in the Square, and after enjoying a real Havana, will visit our friend, Romeo that is to be." At this remark Gordon laughed heartily, as we passed through the crowd and the glare of the shop lights, into the quiet seclusion of King's Square.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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