

"Would Hamilton leave the Army if he could get anything to do at home?" asked Frank, after a few moments' thought. "I owe the fellow a grudge for being the cause of my making such a fool of myself; so I must have my revenge. Would he like to be agent to the Hilliers Court estate, do you think?"

"Oh, Frank!" exclaimed Nora gleefully.

"Don't say, 'O Frank!' That is no answer. I shall want an agent. My uncle used to give his man five hundred pounds a year; so, if Hamilton likes the post, there it is if he will take it—and there is very little to do."

Nora pressed his arm fondly; she knew the kind heart that dictated the act, she knew how he had tried in every way to make up for the pain he had unwittingly caused her, and her happiness was almost too great for her to bear.

"My wild Irish rose is like herself again!" he said, smiling. "Darling, I always reproach myself for those pale cheeks you had when I met you at the post office. You have forgiven me; but I have not forgiven myself yet."

Nora's cheeks were bright enough now. His tone was so full of love and tenderness! Her ideal was a true hero after all, and there was not a cloud on the horizon of the future.

Nora was filling sheet after sheet of foreign note-paper, which she was going to send to Nelly. Frank was sitting beside her, watching her pen travelling swiftly over the paper.

"And, Nora," said Colonel Despard, "I have been thinking this house will be a great deal too large for me and little Daisy; so tell Nelly she must make this her home, and she and Jack will have to take care of me in my old age."

"Oh, papa, how delightful! We shall all be together again!"

Frank, who had been reading what Nora had written, now burst out laughing.

"Mrs. Hamilton will be rather mystified," he said. "Listen, Colonel! 'Frank thought you were me, and that I had married Jack, and——'"

"Stop—you mustn't!" interposed Nora, laughing and trying to rescue her letter.

"Oh, yes, I must though! It is just like the last chapter in a novel—every one turns out to be somebody else. I only hope we shall keep to what we are now."

"And, like a novel," chimed in the Colonel, "it all comes right in the end."

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