

"And what matter if she does tell your age, Claribel?" asked Mr. Berkeley, looking in surprise at the flushed angry face of his eldest daughter. "Are you not still young?"

"Young at twenty-seven?" observed Mark, spitefully. "Why, pa, what antediluvian notions you have! Girls are old maids—quite antiquated at twenty-seven, now-a-days."

"You talk like a silly boy, which you still are!" broke from Mr. Berkeley, provoked out of his usually placid manner. "When I married your mother she was—let me see—she could not have been less than—"

"You need not publish my age," interrupted Mrs. Berkeley in angry tones.

"Bless me, Fanny! and what does it matter now if I do tell your children your age when we were married?"

"Let us change the subject, if you please. Ladies' ages are never alluded to in good society."

"Well, I am sure I do not care who knows my age."

"But you are not a lady, pa," laughed Therese.

"Well, I never thought women were so silly, women of a certain age especially," said Mr. Berkeley, with a sly glance at his wife.

"At what age does vanity cease to affect the female mind, I wonder?" he added mentally, as he rose to leave the room after looking at the clock, the hour hand of which pointed to half-past eleven.

"Are you going to the station?" asked Mark.

"Yes, the train must be in soon."

"The night is unpleasant, allow me to go instead of you. I can take care of *la belle cousine*," Mark was fond of using the few French phrases he knew.

"I must go myself. Your cousin will probably recognize me from my likeness to her father, Fanny," he added, addressing his wife, "give directions to have some hot coffee ready when I return. Hilda will find it refreshing after her journey."

"One would think she was one of his own children, instead of a poor relation," chimed in Claribel, to whom the arrival of a pretty cousin younger than herself was not pleasant.

"What! envious already, Bel? how will it be when *la belle cousine* goes into society and eclipses Miss Berkeley?" and Mark broke into a provoking laugh.

"That she can never do," remarked Mrs. Berkeley decidedly. "She may be prettier than Claribel, but she has not her style, and that is everything in fashionable society."

"And how do you know she has not?" asked Mark quietly.

"Because she has been brought up in poverty, and has lived among an inferior class of people all her life."

"But her mother was a lady; would she not teach her daughter refinement even in the poorest circumstances? And allow me to tell you, *ma chère mère*, that there are many girls in this city who are not in what you call society, and who yet look more lady-like than Claribel herself. I do not say they are stylish looking, for that requires the aid of French millinery, which they cannot afford, but they have that appearance of a lady which no amount of dress or fashion can bestow."

"You are thinking of Blanche Osbourne, the pretty sister of papa's confidential clerk, I suppose, Mark," said Therese, with an arch smile. "She goes to the cathedral on Sunday evenings; and now that accounts for your sudden fit of devotion. Well, I do admire your taste, Blanche is certainly very elegant looking, and no doubt ma would like her for her daughter-in-law. But I suppose the wedding will not come off until that obstinate moustache allows itself to be seen."

Mark made no reply, contenting himself with darting a menacing look at his young tormentor.

"Is it not annoying that papa should insist on receiving that girl into his family?" Claribel continued, "brought up among low people, she must be vulgar and unrefined."

"What a sensation the Berkeley's country cousin will produce in our circle," said Mark.

"She will live in retirement for some time," remarked Mrs. Berkeley. "Her deep mourning will oblige her to do that."

"And during that time you can teach her the usages of society, and polish her rusticity," added Mark with a mocking laugh.

"Why did cousin Hilda live with low people? was not her papa our papa's brother?" asked Therese.

"But he was the poor brother, simpleton, can't you understand?" replied Mark. "Every rich man has poor relations. Uncle Paul didn't happen to meet with a wealthy old merchant to help him to make his fortune. Papa is the lucky one of the Tremaynes. According to all accounts they didn't hold their heads so high in the old country."

"Who has been giving you this information, Mark?" asked his mother with a startled look.

"An old man called Banks, a porter in the counting-house, who knew papa years ago when he was not the wealthy Mr. Berkeley."

"Where did he know him? was it in England?" The tones betrayed great anxiety, and a look very much like fear grew into Mrs. Berkeley's still comely face.

"No, in Quebec. Banks was also in the

employment of Berkeley and Co. when pa was taken into the firm."

"And does papa retain in his service a man who can be impertinent?" asked Claribel, haughtily.

"No; old Banks was dismissed for drunkenness, and it was to revenge himself he abused the Tremaynes. Those who rise in the world have sometimes to listen to unpleasant truths. For my part, I do not see why we should be so proud, and look down on others as good as ourselves for no other reason than because they are poorer." Mark, on account of his penchant for pretty Blanche Osbourne, felt quite disgusted with the airs his family gave themselves.

As the French clock was striking the hour of midnight, Mr. Berkeley returned from the station accompanied by his niece.

"Vulgar or not, our cousin is a splendid-looking girl," was Mark Berkeley's whispered observation to his mother as they advanced to meet their unwelcome guest.

She had taken off her hat and shawl, and her fine figure and beautiful face were fully revealed by the blaze of light which fell upon her from the crystal gaselier, beneath which she was standing in the entrance-hall. She was dressed in the deepest mourning, but that mourning was of expensive material, and made in the most fashionable style. There was no appearance of poverty to shock the pride of the Berkeley's, and owing to this circumstance their reception of her was more cordial than it otherwise would have been. On entering into conversation with her, she was found to be neither vulgar nor unrefined. Besides, she was well educated and had been a governess, therefore she could superintend Therese's education, and be made useful in that way. On the whole, it would not be quite so unpleasant as it first seemed to have this orphan niece domiciled in their family. So thought worldly-minded Mrs. Berkeley, reconciling herself, like a sensible woman, to an evil that could not be helped, for her husband, whose will was law, had insisted on offering a home to the only child of his deceased brother.

To be continued.

Knees that the Crispins are constantly down on—Chinese.

A gentleman of Oswego, being saved from drowning, the other day, rewarded his preserver with a five cent piece. Probably it was as much as his life was worth.

In the life of every woman there are two grand epochs at which she is willing to tell her age—when she is sixteen and when she is one hundred.

A New Haven editor recently wrote an elaborate article about his *Alma Mater*, but was astounded to find it appear in the paper as "Alum Water."

An Irish sailor visited a city where he said they had copper-bottomed the tops of the houses with sheet lead. Perhaps it was the same who saw a white blackbird sitting on a wooden mile-stone eating a green black-berry.

A good joke is told of two Portsmouth drummers: While passing a house in Virginia, they observed a very peculiar chimney, unfinished, and it attracted their attention. They asked a dozen-haired urchin standing near the house if it "drawed well," whereupon the aforesaid urchin gave them the stinging resort: "Yes, it draws the attention of all the fools that pass this road."

A traveller who demanded his trunk at the Baltimore depot before all others, and was told by the Irish baggage master that he must wait his turn, turned upon the baggage-master with, "You're an impudent dog!" To which he of the trunks replied: "An faith, ye are a monkey, and its a great pity that, when we two were made bastes, ye wasn't made an elephant, so that ye could have yer blasted trunk under yer nose all the time."

A clergyman in a certain town in Massachusetts, having occasion to call in the services of a brother minister, tendered to him at the close of the day the usual fee for preaching, which in those days (it was before the war,) was ten dollars. Such a sum for such work was then thought good pay; but on this occasion the man seemed slow to take it, and finally said, while putting it in his pocket-book: "I talked to the Sunday Schools nearly half an hour, and besides I had some conversation with an impenitent sinner on the steps of the church, and I thought fifty cents more would be about right."

A MIGHTY LEVELLER.—The late Lord H—, a great Yorkshire peer, used to as sert that it did "a swell a world of good to go to London. Here, he would say, it is all "my lord," and "as your lordship pleases," and every one I meet makes me a bow, and so forth, but so soon as I'm in Oxford street the butcher's boy brushes against me, and wants to know why the d—l I don't get out of the way, and the cabman cries out, "Now, you old fool, where are you going to?" if I'm slow in getting over a crossing." London is a mighty leveller.

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Specifications can be seen at this Office, or at the Office of the Canal Superintendent, Cornwall, on and after TUESDAY, the 2nd instant, where printed forms of tender, and other information, can also be obtained.

The names of two solvent and responsible persons, willing to become sureties for the fulfilment of the contract, must be attached to each tender.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,  
**F. BRAUN,**  
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,  
Ottawa, 25th August, 1870. } 10b

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.**

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, endorsed "Tenders for work at Coteau Landing," will be received at this Office until the evening of the 2nd of SEPTEMBER next, for the construction of a Mooring Pier at Coteau Landing.

Plans and specifications can be seen at this Office, or at the Machine Canal Office, Montreal, on and after FRIDAY, the 2nd day of SEPTEMBER, where printed forms of tender and other information can also be obtained.

The signatures of two solvent and responsible persons, willing to become sureties for the due fulfilment of the contract, must be attached to each tender.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

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