

## THE VEILED HAND

BY FREDERICK WICKS.

Muriel had a companion as she looked from the French window across the broad and busy river—a woman not much older than herself, and almost as pretty, but of a different type. It was Mrs. Romley, a fair and graceful little widow, with the sweetest smile Muriel thought she had ever seen. She was an older sister in five minutes, and almost a confidante, but not quite.

Mrs. Romley had known Geoffrey Delfoy as an occasional visitor, and when he brought Muriel to her and asked her to take care of her for a few days, she said she would and did. She wondered a little, and framed a question or two which she never put, and came to the wise conclusion that it was her duty to do her duty as far as her own responsibilities were concerned, and not to commence the business of conscience-keeper for her visitors, or become the self-appointed censor of their acts. How much of worldly wisdom, delicacy of feeling, or gentleness and timidity entered into and controlled this conclusion it would be difficult to say, and perhaps all these several influences weighed; but whatever the motives, Mrs. Romley, with the sweetest of manners, took Muriel in hand, and made her feel in every sense at ease.

Geoffrey was not a resident himself at Romley's Hotel on this occasion. He proposed to stay at his chambers, and he was absent on a mission of the greatest importance as Muriel looked from the French window, wondering how long he would be.

He had a great many things to do. He had, in the first place, so he told Mrs. Romley, to get Miss Balmmain's baggage, and before they had time to inspect the river it came in the shape of a large portmanteau and a lady's dressing-bag. Actuated by the same caution and respect for her making Mrs. Romley a confidante, she treated the arrival of the luggage as a matter of course, and related over the contents in private.

Besides the whole series of the trapped, scented bottles and ivory-handled brushes, two dozen pairs of gloves, and a whole series of silk handkerchiefs of various designs and utility, and a small trinket which the uninitiated might have supposed from its appearance had been in Miss Balmmain's possession, and which she valued though she had never seen it before, was filled with a complete bride's trousseau of the most perfect description, and excited in her the liveliest satisfaction. Following this came two or three parcels of wraps, and about a dozen pairs of slippers. Geoffrey himself rushed into the room in desperate haste with a ridiculously small piece of paper, and a few minutes later, in a flash, he was gone, leaving Muriel alone.

They then went out shopping for two hours, and by the time they returned to Romley's, Muriel was conscious of being in need of anything she had left behind her at The Beeches, and was altogether in the most jaded of spirits, trying on and packing, and in desperate haste for fear the bugle call, as Geoffrey had said, should sound before she was quite ready.

The bugle call, however, was not sounded for three or four days. Sunday necessary arrangements had to be made, the Horse Guards had to be notified, the army agents to be arranged with in the matter of letters of introduction, and all these points could, in ordinary circumstances, be disposed of in a few hours. Muriel's experience was limited, and Geoffrey's assertion was quite sufficient for her.

But on the third day Trinder arrived in Surin street with his master's carriage, a cab, at seven o'clock in the morning, added Muriel's to it, and went off to the railway station for the last time. He didn't complain of anything; he didn't use bad language; he didn't drop his end of a large trunk, and nearly dislocated Trinder's arm; he scarcely spoke a word, and what he said was in proceedings beyond the absolutely necessary; and when he did make a remark it came out of the left hand of a soldier, and as if putting his lips were a waste of energy. The Romley boots wondered whether he was in training for solitary confinement, and what might be his particular fancy in the way of crime. Muriel had a decided aversion to him, and she expressed it; she even rebuked herself for a want of amiability when she shrank on his approach.

Shortly after Trinder had left Surin street there arrived a smart brougham, driven by a smart coachman, who circled round the lamp-post at the bottom of the street, peering at the houses, and wondering which was his destination. He landed in a letter at No. 11, and remounted his box. The letter was for Muriel, and from Geoffrey Delfoy.

"Drive as fast as you can, dear Muriel," he wrote, "to the gateway of the Horse Guards. I shall be there, and there's not a moment to lose."

It was a case of hurry and bustle, without hesitation or reflection. But what could Geoffrey Delfoy be doing? And yet what could Muriel know of the habits of the Commander-in-Chief, of the habits of the officer about to leave on a month's tour? She made all haste; Mrs. Romley saw her off, and smiled at her as she went, and she closed her eyes and looked very, very sad.

Geoffrey was waiting for her, looking very nice, she thought, with a light coat on his arm and a flower in his button-hole. "To the Green Man," said he to the coachman, "fast as you can go," and they were off.

"The Green Man?" said Muriel, amazed. "What's that?"

"A public-house, the only place he knows. The church is not far from there."

He spoke with suppressed excitement, she felt his hand trembling as he held hers between them, and he seemed to have become suddenly pale.

"What's the matter?" she asked. He shuddered, then set his teeth and shook himself together. He tried to smile as he said:

"I'm overstrained, I think. I've done a great deal during these last three days, and now it's over, and we are here on the road, dear Muriel, I collapse."

The Horse Guards had been worrying him, she was sure, so she comforted him, and congratulated him on being free from further anxieties, and the timidity and weakness which had formerly characterized him, and yet playing. She became seriously alarmed, and said:

"Geoffrey, you are ill. Look, there's a chemist opening his shop—cannot he give you something?"

It was on the south side of Westminster Bridge, and the brougham was stopped. He ran back and entered the shop. An untidy-looking man with weak eyes and an unwelcome complexion came out of a back room, wondering what such a customer could want at such an hour.

"What I want," said Geoffrey, "is a brandy. Call it Bismarck, and give me a shilling's worth."

The chemist didn't trouble to call it anything, but took the shilling.

"A little child or a fright, I suppose," said he in an insinuating manner. "Nothing serious, I hope. Yes, yes, we'll soon put you right."

He put something with the brandy for form's sake, and handed it to his customer in a glass that one might find any day in a superior hotel or club smoking-room, and the contents also for the matter of that. It was, in fact, quite a commonplace medicine. Geoffrey Delfoy felt decidedly better when he had swallowed the draught. He was well set up, and walked back to the brougham with a firm purpose, with no misgivings as to his nerves or anything else whatever. He became talkative as regards their future, and the timidity and weakness which had formerly characterized his manner wholly disappeared. He vowed quite unnecessarily that people should not interfere with him and his purposes in life, and inferentially conveyed the impression that his weakness had been occasioned by some desperate opposition he had encountered in his undertaking the journey on which he was bent.

To be continued.

## NUTRITIOUS. APPETIZING. FRAGRANT.



CEYLON TEA

LEAD PACKETS ONLY. 25, 40, 50 and 60. FOR SALE BY ALL GROCERS.

## THE CITY COUNCIL.

Continued from Fifth Page.

the time when the work should be commenced. He said a number of the contractors had protested that they had figured on the price of old brick. New brick could be had \$1 or \$2 cheaper in June. Harding & Leathorne had inserted a provision in their contract that they did not think much work would be done in the winter, and they had tendered on that basis. If allowed \$300 additional for the whole contract, they would guarantee to finish the work in seven months.

Ald. Parnell moved that the tender of Harding & Leathorne of \$6,149 for Section 2 be accepted, being the lowest, and that their tender for Section 1, \$13,999, be referred back to No. 2 Committee for further consideration and report.

In reply to Ald. Taylor, Ald. Parnell said where the sewer was laid upon one side of a street it was the intention to carry in the connection, and to charge the whole under the by-law.

Ald. Cooper moved in amendment that both the contractors be citizens and responsible men.

Ald. O'Meara said the object in letting the contracts now was to provide work for the idle men. If this work was not gone on with, where was the use in letting the contracts now?

Ald. Carrothers understood they did propose to start one section right away.

Ald. Parnell's motion to refer the one contract back for consideration was adopted.

**COLLECTION OF TAXES.** Ald. Nutkins' motion to have the city taxes paid into the City Treasurer's office came up on a recommendation of No. 1 Committee that no action be taken.

Ald. Rumball moved to send the matter back to committee.

Ald. Winnett said the City Treasurer stated he would require three assistants to do the work in his office. He criticized the bringing up of these motions continually.

Ald. Parnell suggested that the Assessment Commissioner and two assessors might do the work.

Ald. Taylor asked if it was proposed to have one officer collect the taxes for a week or two while he was not busy, and then give it to another, and so on.

Several Aldermen, among them Ald. Nutkins, complained that the committee had not properly investigated, and the question was sent to the City Engineer.

**SALARIES STAND.** Ald. Cooper's now famous motion to consider a general cut in salaries was introduced almost without preface.

The Aldermen merely said there were men about the City Hall who acted as auditors for loan and trust companies, while other men were walking the streets with nothing to do.

Ald. Carrothers doubted if this could be proven.

Ald. Cooper—I am prepared to prove it.

When the vote was called for, a number of the aldermen left the Chamber. The motion was lost on a vote of eight to five, those voting for it being Ald. O'Meara, Cooper, Hunt, Gerry and Nutkins.

**THE MARKET BAZAAR.** Ald. Dreaney gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move that the market bazaar be done away with.

Ald. Winnett secured a reference of the question of using Portland cement to the No. 2 Committee.

Ald. McCallum moved, and it was agreed, that tenders be called for the supply of relief wood, all contractors to be asked except those whose contracts had been cancelled.

The Council adjourned at 11:30 o'clock.

**A STRONG RESOLUTION.** Passed by the Methodist Ministerial Association.

In regard to the Proposed Ontario Temperance Legislation—All Church Organizations Called Upon to Take Action.

The Methodist Ministerial Association was waited upon at its regular meeting yesterday by Mrs. Gordon Wright and Mrs. May R. Thornley. They represented the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and brought before the clergymen the proposed legislation by the Ontario Government on the temperance question.

The association decided to recommend that the Methodist Committee hold a meeting and discuss the matter, and it also adopted the following resolution:

Moved by Rev. E. B. Lancelley, seconded by Rev. B. C. Lancelley, that the members of the Methodist Ministerial Association of London, in session assembled, hereby express our great surprise and strong disapproval of the amendment License Act of the Ontario Government. We urgently call upon our people to unite with us in expressing our strong protest against this bill, and that all our church organizations be called upon to take such action as will show the Government how united the Methodist Church is in its feeling of regret and disapproval; and that the request of the temperance people of this Province has been so disregarded.

The question of the Indian amine fund was also brought before the association, and it was resolved that contributions from the various churches be forwarded to Dr. Briggs, of Toronto, and through him to the English missionary secretary.

The association also considered arrangements for the annual conference to be held in the Dundas Street Church in June.

There were present:—Revs. George Jackson (President), Lancelley, Russell, Harris, Willmot, Knowles, Natrass, Kennedy, Uren, Clement, Daniel, Hobbs and Middleton.

## IMPROVING THE ROAD.

Grand Trunk Will Build Five New Bridges at Once.

Bridge Inspector Lucas Has the Plans in His Office and Already the Material is Being Gotten Out—Others Likely to Follow.

The Grand Trunk Railway are taking steps to materially improve their roadbed between here and Windsor as soon as finer weather sets in.

Among the improvements to be made will be the rebuilding of a number of bridges. These, it is understood, will in every case, be of iron, with solid masonry abutments.

Bridge Inspector Lucas has the plans for five of the proposed new bridges in his office here, and already is getting the necessary material on the ground. All of these bridges are to be constructed west of Chatham.

The largest of them will be those over Jennette's and Baptiste Creeks, and altogether will cost a sum well up in the thousands of dollars.

## LATEST LIVE STOCK MARKETS

**MONTREAL.** Montreal, March 1.—About 325 cattle, 100 sheep and lambs, and a few small calves were offered for sale at the cattle market here today. Prices were \$3.25 to \$4.00 for heavy packing and shipping lots, \$3.30 to \$3.70 for common to choice mixed, \$3.55 to \$4.00 for choice assorted, \$4.25 to \$4.50 for good butchers', \$4.50 to \$5.00 for extra, \$5.00 to \$5.50 for prime, \$5.50 to \$6.00 for extra prime, \$6.00 to \$6.50 for prime, \$6.50 to \$7.00 for extra prime, \$7.00 to \$7.50 for prime, \$7.50 to \$8.00 for extra prime, \$8.00 to \$8.50 for prime, \$8.50 to \$9.00 for extra prime, \$9.00 to \$9.50 for prime, \$9.50 to \$10.00 for extra prime.

**CHICAGO.** Chicago, Ill., March 1.—Cattle—Receipts, 1,000; steady in the higher; rough stuff, steady; steers, common to good, \$4.45 to \$4.75; choice, \$5.10 to \$5.25; oxen, \$2.25 to \$4.10; bulls, \$2.50 to \$4.20; hogs—Receipts, 40,000; steady; heavy packing and shipping lots, \$3.30 to \$3.70; common to choice mixed, \$3.55 to \$4.00; choice assorted, \$4.25 to \$4.50; good butchers', \$4.50 to \$5.00; extra, \$5.00 to \$5.50; prime, \$5.50 to \$6.00; extra prime, \$6.00 to \$6.50; prime, \$6.50 to \$7.00; extra prime, \$7.00 to \$7.50; prime, \$7.50 to \$8.00; extra prime, \$8.00 to \$8.50; prime, \$8.50 to \$9.00; extra prime, \$9.00 to \$9.50; prime, \$9.50 to \$10.00; extra prime, \$10.00 to \$10.50; prime, \$10.50 to \$11.00; extra prime, \$11.00 to \$11.50; prime, \$11.50 to \$12.00; extra prime, \$12.00 to \$12.50; prime, \$12.50 to \$13.00; extra prime, \$13.00 to \$13.50; prime, \$13.50 to \$14.00; extra prime, \$14.00 to \$14.50; prime, \$14.50 to \$15.00; extra prime, \$15.00 to \$15.50; 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