

THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

She left me a little comforted. I asked her would she not stay? was she not afraid of meeting him in the street?

"Oh, no," she sighed, "he seems to know intuitively my goings out and my comings in. I never see him—never—not even by chance. I can not guess how it happened to-day. How ill he looked!" she added recurring again to what seemed uppermost in her thoughts. "Mrs. Rivers, will you entreat your husband to watch over him—to take care of him? Promise me you will."

I promised her, poor tender thing! and inwardly determined to watch him myself with a closer eye than that of my simple-hearted husband to whom, of course I told the whole matter.

He like me, was now fairly bewildered. "Peggy," he said, "hadin't you better let the thing alone?"

"Let it alone," I cried, "such cruel sorrow, such a flagrant wrong, never!"

"Well," kissing me, "perhaps you are right, Peg, my dear. Happy, folk ought to help the miserable."

I set to work. Woman's wit is keen, and I have had my share of the quality.

We invited Dr. Marchison to our house; he came, at first rarely then frequently. Of course Mrs. Marchison was always inclined in these invitations, and of course, we received duly the formal apology. Gradually this ceased, and he came still. He must have known that she came too, on other days; often he found books and work of hers lying about my table; yet his visits ceased not. He seemed to like to come. He and my husband became staunch friends, but as for me, despite his courtesy, my heart remained angry and sore against him.

Yet I must confess that we found him all his wife fondly believed; a man of keen intellect, high principles, generous and tender-hearted. If I had not known what I did know, I should have avouched, unhesitatingly that the world did not contain a nobler man than Dr. Marchison. Excepting, of course, my James.

For his manners, they were simple, natural, kind; not in any way eccentric or indicative of vice or folly. Among our neighbours his character rose to the highest pitch of estimation; and when at last the sad truth was known (alas! what household misery can ever long be hid, especially in a country place), all sorts of excuses and apologies were made for him.

And cruelly, mournfully—as it always falls on the weaker side—fell the lash of the world's tongue upon his wife.

But I—and one or two more who knew and loved her—stood boldly by Mrs. Marchison through fair report and foul. And I believe, so great was the mingled awe and respect which the Doctor impressed upon all his acquaintance, that no portion of these calumnies against her reached her husband.

Three months slipped by without change, save that Mrs. Marchison's sad lot grew sadder still. Her few acquaintances dropped her; it was so "extremely inconvenient." One lady was on thorns whenever Mrs. Marchison called, lest Dr. Marchison should chance to call likewise; another tried every conceivable diplomacy to bring about their meeting—it would be "so very amusing." Gradually the unfortunate wife could not walk down our village without being pointed at, or crossed aside from, till she rarely went out at all.

Dr. Marchison too, was seldom seen, except by his immediate friends none of whom dared breathe a word to him concerning his domestic affairs save the simple inquiries of courtesy after Mrs. Marchison, to which he invariably answered in the customary form as any other husband would answer. I think in fact I know, that all this time he believed her to be living at peace; perfectly happy in her beautiful house in our cheerful village, and in a small society of her own choosing, of which I was the chief. He once hinted as much to me expressing his great pleasure that Mrs. Marchison and myself were fast friends.

I hardly know what possessed me that I did not then and there burst out upon him with a piece of my mind; say "woman of spirit"—as James sometimes called me—should have done it. What was the matter?

Ay, there was the difficulty. His perfect manliness disarmed one; that quiet dignity of reserve, which I have noticed while women are ready enough to complain of their husbands keeps nine men out of ten from ever saying a word against their wives. Then, too, the silent deprecation of his sickly mien and of the ineffable, careless melancholy which the moment he ceased conversation arose in his dark eyes. What could a tender-hearted woman do? Beginning by hating and despising, I often ended in pitying him, and every time I saw him all my determinations to attack him about this domestic wickedness vanished in air.

But—as James astutely observed—if a wife obstinately persists in blindly obeying her husband, never asking the why and the wherefore of his insane and incomprehensible will and concealing from him that he is wasting away in slow misery, what business has a third party to meddle or even acquaint him of the fact?

Was no other plan to be tried? Yes; accidentally one was forced into my mind.

On a winter's afternoon, when I sat with my baby over our happy Christmas fire, Mrs. Marchison came rushing in.

(To be continued.)

Advertisements.



NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAY.

Commissioner's Office, December 26th, 1864.

NOTICE TO THE PRESS.

This Department will not pay for Advertisement inserted in the different papers unless directly ordered by the Commissioner for the papers so inserting.

AVARD LONGLEY.

CIDER, APPLES, AND SMOKED HERRING.

20 bbls. CIDER, 30 bbls. APPLES, 200 boxes HIGBY HERRING,—landing from Annapolis. For sale by LORREY & STIMSON.

1864.

1865.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

At the Army and Navy Book and Stationery Depot,

151, HOLLIS STREET.

This Stock is now replenished with a choice and varied assortment of articles suitable for a CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS, selected with great care in LONDON, PARIS, NEW YORK and BOSTON Markets this Autumn.

SELECT WORKS by all the celebrated Authors of the day, in every variety of binding, style, and price, forming a large majority of those works which formed and popular taste has stamped with its approval.

ANNUALS, GIFT and JUVENILE BOOKS, this collection embraces a large variety.

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CESSEMIN; BAY RAGMONT BOARDS, INKSTANDS in Glass, Frosted Glass, & Ivory, a great variety of toyland prices.

FABER'S Celebrated KNIVES and SCISSORS

of every description, and worthy of inspection stamp free of charge.

The above Stock is one of the best and largest assortment ever offered in this market, and buyers are requested to examine the same before making their purchases.



Notice to the Public

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ARRANGEMENT.

MONEY ORDER INTERCHANGE is to be extended, commencing 1st Jan. 1865, to the various Money Order Offices of Newfoundland and to Charlottetown Prince Edward Island.

The extension of Money Order Interchange with Nova Scotia, therefore, will include from aforesaid date, the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island.

For particulars, see Notices, at the various Money Order Offices of the Province. By direction of Post Master General,

J. S. THOMPSON,

Superintendent.

M. O. Office, Halifax.

Italian Warehouse.

W. M. HARRINGTON & Co. have just received per Mail Steamer from

England, the following—

TURKEY TULLED EGGS, very choice, in small boxes, PATE DE FOIES

GRAS, in this, STRONGHOLD BUTTER MEATS, Saffron, 4 lbs. weight, and North

Wiltshire Cheese, Scotch CONFEDERATE, in 12 lb. tins, assorted, Dupes

Marmalade, Jams, &c. Gruvande's Descriptive MILK, Sarsine HILL, (Philip & Co.) and 4 cans, 4 cream Rinks, and Boney Friends, 20 lbs. ALBERT

GEM BISCUITS, to be supplied to customers at reasonable prices.

Halifax, December 16th, 1864. rec'd chm sun exp rep to Jan 1st.

W. M. HARRINGTON & Co.

For Christmas and New Year.

For sale at the ITALIAN WAREHOUSE, an assortment of choice

CORDIALS, &c.

20 cases, assorted, (Peter F. Herings), CHERRY BRANDY, genuine,

10 cases, "HERBY CORDIAL, cheap quality, 12 doz. Best CREAM

quarts and pints, 2 doz. 4 models of VANILLE, very fine, 4 doz. MA

ASSETT, 6 doz. pints, 3 doz. VANILLE, 2 doz. CREME

DE ABSYNTHIE, 4 doz. assorted French LIQUORS.

Dec. 16th, 1864. W. M. HARRINGTON & Co.

rec'd chm sun exp rep to Jan 1st

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DIETRICHSEN & HANNA'S SALMAGY FOR 1865.

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All the Latest Magazines and Newspapers.

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CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

AT TEMPERANCE HALL.

ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, EVENINGS,

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By the LITERARY and MUSICAL ASSOCIATION,

2nd Batt., 17th Regiment.

Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Sir Richard

and Lady Mac Donnell, Major General C. Hastings Doyle, and the

Officers of the Garrison.

The entertainment will comprise A VISION OF CHRISTMAS! Being an original adaptation of Charles Dickens's Story, entitled a Christmas Carol, (in Prose) with new scenery, dresses, and appointments.

A MUSICAL OLEO, Vocal and Instrumental.

An Original Anthem of Nova Scotia, entitled, the MAYFLOWER For the first time in Public. By particular desire will be repeated, Locke's celebrated Music to MARETH! (Wishes in Character), and forming an opening to a bird-eye view of A CHRISTMAS PANTHOMINE! The Music under the direction of Mr. J. Holt.

The net proceeds will be devoted to charitable purposes.

Prices—Reserved Seats 75 cts; Gallery 50 cts; Parquette 25 cts. Plan of Reserved Seats will be at Mr. R. T. Muir's, 125 Granville street, after 12 o'clock noon, on Thursday, 22nd inst.

Tickets at Mr. R. T. Muir's, and at Mr. Z. S. Hall's, Army and Navy Book Store, Hollis-st., and on Monday, 26th inst., at the Ticket Office, Temperance Hall. Librettes of the words to be had gratis with the Ticket. Doors open at 7—commence at 8 P. M.

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