

Victor Hugo and "Love's Young Dream."

(John O'London's Weekly.)

"Receive this, my inviolable promise, that I will have no other wife but thee. . . . They may possibly separate us, but I am thine—thine eternally." Such was the vow made by the eighteen-year-old Victor Hugo to his girl-sweetheart, Adele Foucher, at a time when their young dream of love seemed to be hopelessly shattered, and life that had been so full of golden promise was "plunged in abysmal gloom."

Whatever one may think of Victor Hugo's disloyal passion of later years for Juliette Drouet, there is no story in the history of love more idyllic in its sweetness and purity than that of his wooing of the girl who became his wife. It is a romance which held its first delights in the days when the two little children used to toddle hand-in-hand in the old-world garden of the Hugos' house, Victor proudly playing the role of cavalier to his baby-companion with "her large bright eyes, abundant locks, her golden-brown complexion, her red lips and pink cheeks."

Idyllic Days.

Those were indeed idyllic days. "Our mothers," Hugo tells us, "used to tell us to run and play together. We used to take walks instead. We were told to play, but we preferred to talk." Like most lovers, the two "babes" had their quarrels, which are "love's renewal." "I took from her once the biggest apple in the orchard," Victor confesses; "and I slapped her when she would not let me have a bird's nest." "The time came when she walked leaning on my arm, and I was proud, and experienced some new emotions. We walked slowly; we spoke softly. She dropped her handkerchief; I picked it up. Our hands touched and trembled. We talked innocently of commonplace

things; yet we both blushed, for the little girl had grown into a woman!"

Thus happily the years passed for the young lovers, each forging fresh bonds in the golden chain that bound their lives together, until one day came the great revelation and confession. "I am sure you have secrets, Victor," said Adele, glancing up mischievously at her silent companion, as they paced to and fro in the Hugos' garden. "Come, what is your greatest secret? Tell me—and I will tell you mine." "I love you!" came the swift, blunt answer. "And I love you, Victor!" echoed Adele, no less promptly and decisively. The next moment Victor's arm was round her waist, and he was pressing hot kisses on her lips and cheeks, her eyes and hair. The days of silent adoration were over, and a new world of glory opened for the young lovers.

A "Fresh Glimpse of Heaven."

But, they mutually agreed, they must not publish their love. Their parents would call it childish folly, and frown on it. They must keep it a precious and jealously-guarded secret. That their delights must be stolen, however, made them all the sweeter; and every hour they spent together in the garden of the Hotel de Toulouse, in their secret country rambles, or even in their joint marketing excursions, was a "fresh glimpse of Heaven." Each day, too, they exchanged letters, which each devoured again and again with an insatiable hunger and an unwearied delight.

"What can I tell you," wrote Victor, "that I have not told you a thousand times? To tell you that I love you better than my life would be a small matter; for you know I care very little for life. I dream that, in spite of all obstacles, I may be permitted to be your husband, even though it be only for one day. One day of such happiness is worth more than a life of sorrow."

A Rude Awakening.

But these blissful days of hidden love could not last forever; and a rude awakening came when Mme. Foucher eyes were at last opened, and she forced a confession from her daughter. Madame professed to be horrified; but at least she would discuss the matter with her husband, and let Adele know their decision. But when Adele's parents called on the Hugos one April day in 1820, with a view to arranging a betrothal, Madame gave them a very rigid reception. The whole affair, she declared, was "too absurd." Her son was a mere child who did not know his mind. He would doubtless marry some day, but never a penniless girl, such as Adele. And, moreover, it was really too ridiculous that the son of General Hugo should ever contemplate an alliance with the daughter of an obscure Government clerk!

After such an insulting rejection of their overtures, M. and Mme. Foucher had only one course open to them. They forbade their daughter ever to see her lover again, or to hold any communication with him; and the young people were left desolate—Victor, to seek solace if not forgetfulness in work; Adele, to carry a breaking heart through a round of dances, theatres, and parties, with which her parents sought to distract her.

"Thine Eternally."

But, black as his sky was, Victor refused to despair. He flung himself furiously into work, determined to win his independence.

Thus, waiting, working, and hoping, another year passed before Victor's sky cleared and the sun of a great happiness shone on his love again. His mother's death, his father's tardy approval, and his growing success with his pen, at last made his way clear to the altar; and on the eve of his wedding-day he wrote

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Even in these places dogs have been introduced by men who came from countries where they abounded. In making the above statement, the word "dog" is taken to be equivalent to the more scientific term of Canidae, which genus includes not merely the domestic dogs of various races, but wolves, foxes, jackals, and

Shipping Notes.

The Coban sailed last evening in ballast for North Sydney.

The Alconda left Heart's Content yesterday morning for Botwood to English loading for England.

Schooner Esther Hankinson, Capt. T. James, arrived yesterday after a run of 28 days from Cadiz with a cargo of salt consigned to A. S. Rendell & Co.

wild dogs, which all belong to the same great family. There is, indeed, no doubt that our canine pets are actually descended from the same common ancestors as the wild creatures just mentioned. Rats and mice are found almost everywhere on the earth's surface, except in the central portions of the African and Australian continents, and in the cold regions of the extreme North and South. Bats, too, are very widely distributed, and are, indeed, found everywhere in the tropical and temperate portions of the world.

Stafford's Drug Store, Theatre Hill, is open every night till 9.30. apr 23, 11

Household Notes.

Set potted begonias in larger pots and fill the space between the pots with sand kept moist.

Immerse lace in water before sewing on a round centerpiece. The centerpiece will always lie flat.

Hang a pencil and pad-calendar near the phone. Write down numbers called and check with bill at end of month.

After freezing ice cream, place two folds of clean wax paper on top of can. This keeps contents firm, as paper keeps out air.

Cut piece of oilcloth the size of a small centerpiece and place under the centerpiece on which your plant stands. The water dripping from plant cannot then mar your table.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their real names, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. In future no correspondence will be considered unless this rule is adhered to. It is also requested that all letters "For Publication" be so marked on the envelope.

MUTT AND JEFF.

THE LITTLE FELLOW MIGHT DEVELOP INTO A GOOD COMIC ARTIST.

By Bud Fisher.

