

inheriting a miser's wealth, when she is far past an age at which she could alter her mode of life."

Suddenly he saw a smile, even more terrible than the woman's usual expression, still further cross her wrinkled face.

"But I don't think she will get anything," she said, for you know how he loves money, and she tells him she despises it. It isn't likely he will leave his vast wealth to a child of a girl who will think nothing of it."

"When you say he," said the doctor, gravely, "I suppose you mean Mr. Hainer?"

"Yes," she replied, "I mean Mr. Abimelech Hainer. But bless thee, doctor, he's the only one for me, for there seems to be nobody in the world but him."

"You know, Mrs. Bleacham, I warned you three years since, when first I came to know you, that it frequently happens such men as your master are very treacherous with regard to their promises. I suggested to you that he might die without making a will."

"Don't 'ee say so!" she said, in an insinuating tone. "Don't 'ee say so, or I shall take something bad for me, I know I shall! Why, haven't I learned it? Forty years, doctor—forty years!"

She rocked herself in sheer mental pain as she spoke.

However, as he watched the woman, once more a sense of hope caused the housekeeper to repeat her detestable smile, and she said, "He must leave me his money, for he knows I should take care of it. Oh," she continued, hugging herself, "I wouldn't spend a shining coin of it—I love it so dearly!"

"Meanwhile," continued the doctor, "our patient is waiting; what is the matter?"

"This time, I think he is going, doctor! Doctor,"—here her voice fell—"keep him to his word—only hold him to his word, and I will not forget you; no, no—the old woman will not forget you?"

"And this comes of the love of money!" he thought.

Never once, during the transit from the doctor's house to that occupied by Mr. Hainer—a man of immense wealth, who, the most miserable of men, tied himself down to sixpence as his daily expenditure—never once did the wretched housekeeper cease from urging upon the surgeon the necessity of keeping Mr. Hainer to his word.

He enters the large, neglected, pinched and starved-looking house; he mounts the threadbare carpeted staircase, and then in a moment he sees her once again.

"Miss Errington!"

She started and looked up.

"Doctor Dorlech!"

Then she shrank as she heard a voice calling "Dorlech, Dorlech, mind I haven't sent for you; it is that wasteful woman, Bleacham, who has called you in! Come here—come here, now you have got inside the house!"

She puts a finger on her lips, then pointed to the inner room, whence the fretful voice came.

He obeyed.

It was such a change!

He had seen her last in the midst of luxurious wealth. Now she was steeped in poverty.

Her worn and even patched dress, her roughened hands, the shapeless common boots—he saw all these in an instant.

Tears were falling over his cheeks as he turned and entered the miserable miser's room.

Their cause was of a mixed character. He wept for joy at seeing her again, and for sorrow that her surroundings were so changed.

Life had altered for Dr. Ishmael Dorlech in that one moment, and not for the worse.

Now, once again, he saw her every day.

The old man might rage at the cost of a medical man presenting himself daily at the house, but, nevertheless, he saw the surgeon.

Every day a few words passed between Ishmael and Lucy.

She was quite gentle, resigned and humble. In her heart she really accepted her father's warning against poverty. She hated her dependent bread; yet what could she do—whither go?

Again the still, small voice of conscience told her that she was of use in that miserable house, and that she fairly gained her bread.

The old man was gradually sinking, despite the medical man's endeavours to raise his vitality by a more generous diet than that to which he had been accustomed.

But upon one day he came from the sick-room looking strangely white and guilty.

For about a week previously every morning there had been a long consultation in the sick-room, from which Lucy was excluded, and at which Mrs. Bleacham assisted the master and the doctor.

Upon that particular day the housekeeper (following the surgeon, and carrying the old man's dinner tray) looked exceptionally calm and serene.

The couple passed through the outer room without speaking to Miss Errington, who seemed buried in thought as she sat near the window.

The satisfied and serene housekeeper, for whom the doctor opened the door, continued her way down stairs.

The doctor remained hesitating on the threshold, and looking back at the desolate girl.

He made up his mind at last.

He closed the door softly and went towards the hall.

There he found the housekeeper.

"Bless 'ee!" said the woman, "I've got will locked up in my box; and don't 'ee—don't 'ee let him change his poor mind! Think on it—for forty years his slave!"

"You will still be a slave to his wealth, after you are freed by death from him, my poor creature!" said Dorlech.

Two weeks afterwards the old man died. He had left all his money to his housekeeper. Not a shilling was left to his grand-niece.

The will had been made some time before he knew of Miss Errington's existence.

Once again she was cast upon the world. Her poor box was packed, and she was going out on the face of the wide earth, when, on the threshold of that miserable home, she met Dr. Dorlech.

"Good day, doctor," she said gently.

"Where are you going, Miss Errington?"

"To my aunt, Mrs. Kandor, for a short time, until I can see my way in life a little clear."

"Lucy," he said, "you know how I hate riches?"

"Yes," she answered.

"We are both poor enough—are we not?"

"Very poor," she replied.

"But you would have been rich to-day only for me."

"Indeed, Mr. Dorlech!"

"Yes; your grand-uncle would have altered his will in your favour; but, by my advice, he left the old one as it was. I told him you would waste his money."

She looked at him calmly—not at all angry.

"I quite forgive you!" she said.

His face flushed.

"Why do you forgive me?"

"That is my secret," she replied, trying to speak coldly.

"Is it—because you love me?"

She looked at him. It was sufficient answer.

He took both her hands.

"You are not afraid of poverty?"

"No," she said; when you were angry, and went away, before papa died, as you were leaving the room, I said, 'Come back!'

"For life!" he interposed, "together for both our happy lives!"

So they went out into the world, leaving the heiress desolate in her inherited home. Home!

* * * * *

At the end of six placid months, a letter came to the peaceful husband and wife from the heiress.

She described herself as wretched, asked to live with them, promising, in return, all her wealth at her death.

When she was refused, the desolate woman, who had wasted her life in pursuit of wealth that, once possessed, crushed her, begged that she might see them now and then.

Oh, they granted her that boon, from very pity!

Gradually, very gradually, the rich old woman is becoming human. She is most so when Lucy's two children are playing about her, and bawling "Granny!"

She has been taken into the house now, and the wealthy spinster begins to look bright. But it is hard work to rub away forty years' rust.

However, there is some good metal even in Mrs. Bleacham; and the poor woman declares that she is now truly happy for the first time in her life.

Dr. Dorlech may possibly be very rich some day; but his wealth will be a blessing, because he has learned the great lesson afforded by poverty.

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

FRENCH ENGINEERS—A PARTHIAN SHAFT FROM COL. RHODES—MONTMORENCY FALLS—LEGISLATION—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—MISCELLANEOUS.

The session is fast drawing to a close, the Private Bills have gradually decreased till but one or two remain on the Orders of the Day, and the majority of those will be gone this afternoon. A few public Bills, a few Government measures to be taken through their final stages, and this time next week will find the third Session of the second Parliament of the Province of Quebec ended, its halls and corridors will be once more silent, the furniture will be once more covered, the permanent employees will renew their arduous labours of reading the morning papers and having a pipe, and the hum-drum quiet life of a Government office will prevail and last till next Session, the last of this Parliament.

I find Mr. Bazerque, whom I mentioned in a previous letter, a more important individual than I at first learned. He was engaged in the Principality of Satsecumah, in Japan, as engineer, and was also employed in teaching the natives military evolutions, and was made a Brigadier-General. He is now engaged as a travelling correspondent and agent of the Encyclopedia of the XIXth Century, several copies of which, numbering some eighty odd volumes, he has placed here. He has been joined here by two engineers, Messrs. de La Mothe and Marchand, sent from l'Ecole Centrale of Paris, to make an official exploration of our mines and write a report thereon.

The Railway question has brought forth a series of letters in the local press here, on the advantage of the different routes, among which have been several from Col. Rhodes. This gentleman has lately left for California, but before going left a letter which has been published. I clip the following extract which is interesting as a parting shot from an old citizen:

"Let every man look into his own family to read the history of the future: what does mine teach me? I have five sons, men who were not afraid to go into the workshops of the land and learn the use of their hands as well as of their heads; they have all gone from the Province of Quebec, and I am left to vegetate and grow flowers to decorate the grave of the dying Quebecers or travel West, like the old Indian, in search of the happy hunting grounds. The great mistake of my life was settling in Quebec, but this I am not repeating in the second generation, as a man may pay too dear for beautiful scenery."

I paid a visit to Montmorency Falls last Sunday and had the pleasure of showing them to two gentlemen born in Quebec, who have lived here the major part of their lives and yet have never seen them before. The cones are small but well formed and afford splendid sliding grounds. I was lucky enough to witness the fall of a mass of ice weighing some tons which became detached and fell with the water into the hole beneath causing a tremendous roar and raising a curtain of spray which almost hid the scenery behind. On returning we came by the river road which was hardened on each side with heaps of ice caused by recent shoves and afforded a pleasant variety from the white waste beyond.

An amusing incident in the House, the other afternoon, is worthy of mention. When the House goes into Committee of the Whole, the Speaker calls upon any member to preside and then leaves the chair, the member presiding always sitting in the place of the clerk immediately below the Speaker's throne. Mr. Price being called on quietly stepped up the dais and took the Speaker's chair amidst yells of "order" from all parts of the House. Last Session Mr. McGauvran caused a similar explosion by doing the same thing.

The Private Bills Committee have completed their labours, and here let me remark that the English members have been very remiss in their attendance at this, one of the most important if not the most important, committee in the House. Out of 37 members, 10 are English and of the 10 only 2 are regular attendants, namely the Hon. Mr. Robertson and Mr. McGauvran, and of those two Mr. Robertson deserves the most credit for the manner in which he has watched the private legislation, and very often with the result of preventing the passage of measures which were not only unjust but illegal. Of the other eight members those who have special bills look after them, and so soon as they are finished, away goes the member. This is a mistake; the English minority in this Province depend upon the English members to watch over their interests which are often affected by private measures and which cannot be properly attended to by one or two.

I have mentioned in several of my letters that lively times were expected over the Quebec Charter amendments. The Bill was fixed for Tuesday and the committee were obliged to adjourn to their largest room, and that could not accommodate the crowd that wished to be present. The Corporation Bill asked for power to borrow more money, the citizens' amendments looked for the abolition of the Council and the appointment of Commissioners, but like the Kilkenny cats they destroyed one another, as on it being found the Corporation had forgotten to put a preamble to their Bill, it was dismissed by the committee and with it went the citizens' amendments. So Quebec is left in financial difficulties and without the power of getting out of them.

Another question of privilege has arisen, but this time it was settled in one afternoon. It was raised by Mr. Bellingham who charged the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, the Provincial Secretary, with acting as Director on the Board of the Laurentian Railway Company, his only qualification being stock transferred to him without consideration by the contractor. He attempted to introduce a copy of an affidavit made by the contractor, but was prevented on a point of order being raised by Mr. Angers. Mr. Bellingham then resting his charges on his declaration, moved for a special committee to enquire into them. A point of order was raised on this motion, which was reserved but subsequently withdrawn. In the meantime Mr. Chapleau made a personal explanation in which, while acknowledging having been qualified by the contractor, he gave a full history of the road and his dealings therewith, showing that it was a private matter and in way conflicted with his position as a Cabinet Minister, or as a member of the House. After dinner the whole question was settled by the adoption of an amendment proposed by Mr. Robertson to the effect that the charges made by Mr. Bellingham did not reflect upon the honor and dignity of the House or amount to a breach of its privileges.

A special committee has been appointed to take into consideration the present system of Municipal Taxation which exists in the Province of Quebec, with instructions to enquire into the best measures to take to remedy the injustice and unfairness which attend the levying of municipal taxes, as at present practised, with power to report from time to time by bill or otherwise.

A motion made seriously, but treated as a joke, was one to move the seat of Government to Three Rivers, made by Mr. Turcotte, member for that city. His principal argument was that, in view of the late disturbances, Three Rivers would be quieter, and a place where they might deliberate

without risk of being interfered with or intimidated. The motion was declared out of order, as necessitating the expenditure of public monies, which should be introduced by a message from the Lieutenant Governor.

The now celebrated Government Railway measure has been read a third time and passed by the Assembly. It will meet with a warm reception in the Legislative Council from the Hon. Louis Archambault.

The Committee on Industries have reported to the House a letter from Mr. Prevost, a French mineralogist, who suggests the use of carbonic acid gas as a means of economizing fuel in smelting metals, the heavy cost of fuel making the operation of smelting extremely expensive. Mr. Gauthier, member for Charlevoix, offered to surrender the whole of his large interest in the St. Urbain Mines if Government would adopt the system proposed by Mr. Prevost.

The first Report of the Commissioners appointed to make the classification, revision and consolidation of the General Statutes of the Province of Quebec, has been brought down and ordered to be printed. It is a bulky document and will be found of important interest. It is not yet distributed.

The Treasurer's Tax Resolutions were brought down on Wednesday evening. The tax on transfers of stock and powers of attorney to make such transfers remains unchanged, at 10 cents on the \$100. The other tax is reduced from 25 cents to 15 cents per \$100 or fraction thereof over \$200 on agreements, obligations or contracts. These Resolutions have been adopted and the Bill founded on them has been introduced, but not without opposition, Mr. Joly having made an amendment that they were unnecessary, which was lost on a division, 22 to 39. The Bill will likely be opposed further, but with the same result.

Apropos of the Government Railway Bill, Mr. Shehyn, on Friday, attempted to introduce a Bill to incorporate the Terrebonne and St. Therese Ry. Co. for the construction of a road between those two places. It was, however, too late to introduce a Private Bill, so the matter fell through.

The consideration of the License Bill has commenced, and as for the future the House will sit twice a day till the prorogation on Thursday or Friday next, there is no doubt it will be thoroughly considered, notwithstanding there are nearly one hundred amendments to be dealt with. It is to be hoped the Bill will satisfy nearly everybody when it is passed. The teetotalers, I know, it will not; they want no licenses granted whatever.

On mentioning the prophecy concerning the new Pope, you published editorially in a late number, I was informed of another to the effect that in days gone by a monk had prophesied the number of Popes and had given a motto to each. So far every motto has been fulfilled. That of Pius IX was, "Cross upon crosses;" that of the present Pope is, "Lux in cœlis;" "Light in the Heavens." By the bye some curiosity is felt here as to the meaning of Pœci in regard to your prophecy. Can you enlighten them?

KRISS KRINGLE.

ARTISTIC.

A FRENCHMAN has discovered a process for engraving upon glass by electricity.

THE subscription organized by the *Bien Public* for raising a statue to the late M. Thiers has now reached the sum of £1,500.

THE Louvre has bought a portrait of a man by Ingres, dated 1814, and a beautiful study in pastel by Prud'hon, a bust of a young woman, life size.

ALL the stalls and nearly every dress-circle seat for the 1000th representation of *Our Boys* have been sold. Charing Cross Hospital will benefit greatly by the result of the performance.

M. GUILLAUME has been appointed to execute the memorial statue of M. Thiers, which is to be in white marble, of life size, and to be placed in one of the halls of the Musée Historique at Versailles.

MEISSONIER is painting for the next Paris Salon a picture to form a pendant to the celebrated "Waterloo Charge." It is an early morning scene, and represents cuirassiers in line of battle ready for action.

DETAILLE is at work on a painting for the Paris Exhibition, representing "Napoleon, First Consul, in Egypt." The scene is just after a great victory, with the great General on horseback in the centre, General Kleber and staff, and to the right a group of prisoners in the gorgeous costumes of the East.

MARBLE identical with the famous yellow Italian marble—the Giallo Antico—has been found in California, at Tehacepa, Kern County. The Californian stone is white, with amber-coloured veins, and the discovery is highly prized, as the quarry from which the yellow Italian marble was procured has been unknown for centuries.

NOTICE TO LADIES.

The undersigned begs respectfully to inform the Ladies of the city and country that they will find at his Retail Store, 196 St. Lawrence Main Street, the choicest assortment of Ostrich and Vulture Feathers, of all shades; also Feathers of all descriptions Repaired with the greatest care. Feathers Dyed as per sample, on shortest delay. Gloves Cleaned and Dyed Black only.

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