

said Scroby Tatham, drawing a very long face. He was weak, kind, easily led, self-indulgent, yet everlastingly reproaching himself upon the score of his own luxury.

"Then, my dear boy, here is our day's programme. We will call at your lawyer's and get the money; you will hand it to me; and I will give you an I O U for the amount. We will then get rid of the scandalous money by putting ten hundred pound notes into the alms-box of the Hospital for Decayed Governesses, and then we will go home to my place; I will give you your promissory note for the thousand pounds; you shall return me my I O U; and, our business being finished, I will introduce you to my wife, and we will dine, all three *en famille*."

"Very well, if you have quite made up your mind that I must take the money; but I should much prefer to hand it back to the lady, telling her that her anxiety of mind had been sufficient punishment. You see, it seems to me it is like taking the husband's money; and whoever the fellow is, he had nothing to do with her shameful treatment of me."

"Hah! he, though?" said the other. "I consider that he is quite as morally criminal as the other; and he ought equally to suffer."

That ended the colloquy; and Scroby Tatham, reluctantly abandoning his yellow-covered velvet, got himself ready, and the two gentlemen proceeded to the offices of the sufferer's solicitors.

They had been dull and silent for some minutes, when Scroby broke the ominous silence by saying, "And how do you like married life, Ben?"

"Pretty well."

"It is strange I never heard anything about the lady."

"Well, the facts are that our courtship was very short, and that we were married in a great hurry."

"I see; hence, I was not invited to be best man."

"You had just got your quietus from your false one, Scroby, and had run over to Paris. I thought it was a pity to worry you with marriages. In fact, I feared that, in all probability, you would find a wedding rather a sharp operation; so I said nothing until we returned to town, now some three weeks since; but I trust to repair my silence to-day."

"I hope I shall like her."

"One of the best of women, with all the accomplishments."

"And so it was a short courtship?"

"Well, I may admit its length to you—or, rather, its want of length. We only knew each other six weeks before we were married."

"Indeed! Has she heard of me?"

"Well, I am ashamed to say I do not think she has. I have been taxing what brains I have to remember whether or not I have mentioned your name to her. But if I have, no doubt it would have slipped her memory, because, in all probability, she has never seen nor heard of you in the whole course of her life. I met her at a friend's, and, so far, I have never been in her part of England. We are going, in seven weeks, for the shooting."

"She won't be angry, Benet, will she, at your shutting me into the house in this extraordinary way?"

"Not at all; she is a perfectly practical woman. By the way, we had one little bit of fun."

Tatham started.

"And is this why I am asked down to-day?"

The other looked disconcerted as he replied, "No, no, not exactly; yet, at the same time, you are such a perfectly easy-going fellow, you are so old a friend, and you have such a way with you, that I feel you will do wonders in softening this matter between us."

Mr. Scroby Tatham did not seem at all delighted with the part he was about to be called upon to enact. To say the best for it, his would be an ambiguous position in the new household.

He looked out from the hansom at the people running freely about the streets, and found himself quite envying them their liberty.

He came, however, to one conclusion—that, after that day, he and Armsgarth should part company.

He felt that their ways in life were separate. He considered that he had almost been forced to commit an act from which his honor and his manhood equally shrank.

The lawyer's office was reached too rapidly for Tatham's nerves. The man went into the place, feeling like a criminal.

Certainly, he was not received with over-courteousness by the firm.

A very few minutes sufficed for the payment of a check for £1,000, in full of all demands on the part of Mr. James Scroby Tatham.

His friend had remained in the outer office, and, therefore, learned nothing of the particulars of the day's interview, which necessarily involved the lady's name, and the return of her letters.

Had he looked about him, he would have seen the clerks were staring at him now and again, after they had all started upon hearing Tatham say, "I will not be long, Armsgarth."

When the two men heard the roar of what appeared to be irrepressible laughter, after they had left the outer office, but before they had descended the stairs, both thought that the merit was directed at Scroby Tatham.

They were wrong; for it was levelled at Benet Armsgarth.

Within half an hour the lawyer's check had been changed at a given bank; ten one hundred

pound notes had been pushed into the office of the alms-box of the charity named; and the two men were bowling along to the house of the married one.

"I am right glad the woman is punished!" said Armsgarth; "and I hope she will remember the lesson."

"Ah!—and her husband?" said Scroby.

"He has got the lady, and let us hope she may be able to console him."

Upon entering the house, Armsgarth found Bayle in the hall.

"A letter, sir, from Mrs. Armsgarth," said the man, looking ominously.

Armsgarth tore it open, utterly without ceremony. It ran:

"DEAR BEN,—I have not the courage to come to the door to meet you, or even to remain in the drawing-room. I am in my little pink room, where first you brought me when we came home. I have paid away the thousand pounds. All is over, and my heart is as light as a feather, because I know you will forgive me when you know all, because you are guilty as I am, as you will admit! Come."

"ALMA."

He looked up, and said, "Bayle, show this gentleman into the drawing-room. Scroby, I will be with you in a minute; my wife wants to see me privately. I will bring her down in half a minute."

He did not hear the rustling of satin on the stairs.

She had put on her wedding-dress, that she might the more effectively appeal to his love.

She had come to meet him.

Suddenly, a loud cry from the staircase. This was followed by a shout from Tatham, who was standing so that his eyes were upon the stairs.

"What is it?" demanded the bridegroom.

"Alma!" cried Scroby Tatham. "And you, Armsgarth!"

He never said another word in that house, or to that man.

The cab was not yet gone from the door, and he left the place, stepped into the cab, and, for the first time in connection with the whole affair, he was heartily glad that he made the lady pay damages.

The reader, of course, sees the catastrophe.

The explanation of the hurried courtship was the fact of the lady's previous engagement.

If all be far in love, then Armsgarth must be pardoned his treachery. But is cost him a fair thousand pounds, by which a charity benefited, added to the thousand pounds he had lent Scroby with which to carry on his love-making.

He had been sorely punished. He had perished his own wife for the very act by which he gained her hand.

His humiliation was one good lesson, and his wife's ready forgiveness a second.

Neither was she free from fault. Their excuse was this,—that they loved each other.

It has been said that Scroby Tatham was rather an unbalanced man. But he was very determined upon one point.

He would never see or write to Benet Armsgarth again.

Yes; the couple were happy, because they really loved. But they might have become man and wife under more fortuitous circumstances.

### THE GLEANER.

THE late King Victor Emmanuel left debts to the amount of no less than £700,000.

THE Prince of Wales has been re-elected Grand Master of English Freemasons.

THE centenary of Rousseau's death is to be celebrated at Geneva at the end of June.

By a legislative enactment, St. Patrick's Day is henceforth to be a holiday in Ireland.

A PRIVATE gambling club is to be opened on the 1st of May at Hamburg under Imperial authority.

A COMMITTEE has been formed at Aosta to erect a monument to King Victor Emmanuel as a sportsman.

TINY baskets, filled with natural flowers, suspended by ribbon from the right side, are worn with ball costumes.

It is said that Her Majesty is about to confer the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George upon the King of Siam.

According to the London Directory there are three persons of the name of Julius Caesar living at the present time in the metropolis.

It is asserted that English hair merchants have been collecting male and female hair in Bulgaria, and that the teeth merchants have also been active.

MARSHAL CANROBERT has sent Lord Napier a telegram of congratulation in English on his selection to command any expeditionary force in the event of war.

THE marriage is spoken of the Duke of Genoa, King Humbert's cousin, and Princess Christine, daughter of the Duc de Montpensier, and one of the eldest sisters of the Queen of Spain.

THE frequency of accidents upon the Paris tramways has led to the adoption of metal guards, as in railway engines, to throw aside any object falling upon the lines.

THE British Archaeological Association is expected to visit Wisbeach in the summer, and the Prince of Wales will probably be the President on the occasion.

THE Italian exploring expedition, which attempted to penetrate into the interior of Africa, has been attacked by the King of Shoa, and compelled to return to the coast.

DR. FARR, of the British Board of Health, promises to render all possible assistance to the Montreal Health Authorities in the collection of statistics for the furtherance of vital science.

THE street lamps at the end of Waterloo-place have been fitted with the apparatus for an experiment as to the practicability of instantaneously lighting and extinguishing the gas lights in the streets.

ALL the female inhabitants of the Vatican are to vacate their apartments, which are henceforth to be used for offices. The Pope is said to have dismissed Mustafa and all soprano singers from the Papal choir.

GALLIPOLI was the first town occupied by the Turks in Europe. It was captured in 1356 by Orkhan, the son and successor of Othman or Ottoman, who is usually regarded as the founder of the Turkish Empire.

IN digging on the Field House Estate, Eastbourne, a curious archaeological discovery has been made, a Roman villa having been brought to light. It is not settled what will be the rent of the villa for the season.

THE only wreath laid upon Victor Emmanuel's coffin, when it was walled up in the Tribune of the Pantheon, was that sent by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The others were hung round the walls of the chamber.

EVERY editor of a paper in Madrid has received the grand cross or commandery of Isabella the Catholic, and among other recipients of favour commemorative of the royal marriage are a music critic, a painter, and a large body of professors and inspectors of schools.

SIR PATRICK L. MACDONELL, the English General who, in the event of an Anglo-Russian war, is to command in Canada and send 10,000 Canadians home to serve, has already served in the Dominion, being Adjutant-General of Militia here about eight years since.

IN his recent visit to the Paris Exhibition, the Prince of Wales expressed a desire that Canada should figure prominently in the livestock exhibition, as it would be interesting to see the improved breed of cattle so successfully shown, as he was informed, in America.

THE late Pope once said, apropos of the difference in belief or at least of religious expression, between the Latin nations of Southern Europe and the people of the North: "Folk who live in bleak countries fear the devil; those who dwell in summer lands love God."

THERE has been a good deal of discussion in military circles whether, in the event of war with Russia, it would be advisable to employ a native Indian force, recruited from the warlike tribes of the country. Lord Napier is reported to have engaged to raise a force of 150,000 men if required.

IT has been announced that England, Austria, Italy, Holland and Sweden are to send detachments of police to Paris to watch their sections during the Exhibition. It is now further decided that these are to be supplemented by a contingent of detectives of all nations, who know their own pickpockets by their faces.

WE read in an English paper that the "pistol pocket" is the latest safeguard for American ladies against thieves. These pocketbooks, when carried in the hand, look exactly like an ordinary purse, but should an unwary person make a station at them, the owner has only to press a spring, and the thief is shot through the heart, provided the aim is good.

A PARIS society has applied to the Lord Mayor of London for permission to open an establishment in London for the preparation and sale of horse-flesh as food. The Lord Mayor responded that no permission was necessary. The promoters of the new industry rely upon the foreigners in London to make it successful. There are now sixty-one horse-flesh markets open in Paris.

IT may be remembered that the balloon of the Paris Exhibition of 1867 was one of the attractions of the Champ-de-Mars. It had a volume of 5,000 cubic metres, and could ascend with fifteen persons to a height of 300 metres. A balloon is at present being constructed for the Exhibition of the present year, capable of carrying fifty persons to an altitude of more than 500 metres.

FRUIT culture is the latest Western industry, and is being systematically carried on in Minnesota. It is a simple process, consisting chiefly in the protection of eggs and tadpoles from birds and other enemies by means of wire screens. The product thus far reported amounts to 3,000 dozen eggs, of which two-thirds have been shipped to St. Louis, where they bring an average of twenty cents per dozen.

A WONDERFUL feat in engine building was recently accomplished at the Michigan Central Railroad shops at Jackson. Two gangs of fourteen men each began at seven o'clock upon two separate locomotives, the parts of which had been previously laid to hand, and "set up" the two machines, each employing thousands of pieces, and started them out of the yard under steam in exactly two hours and fifty-five minutes.

IT has been resolved to devote the Government grant hitherto accorded to the Theatre Lyrique to the encouragement of young authors.

THE Opera Comique is to receive an additional sum, which, however, will be £4,000 a year under its losses. The reason for the extra subsidy is the desire to support a class of work "eminently French." The fact that what new music succeeds belongs to the bouffe style shows that the French audiences are not "eminently French" in taste. The total grants to the theatres by the State is £80,000.

THE trade mottoes of some of the London associations are curious. The blacksmiths, for instance, have "By hammer and hand all arts do stand;" the distillers, "Drop as rain, distil as dew;" the founders, "God the only founder;" the innholders, "Come, ye blessed; when I was harbourless ye lodged me;" the joiners, "Join loyalty and liberty;" the saddlers, "Hold fast; sit sure;" the weavers, "Weave truth with trust," and the needle-makers, "They sewed leaves together and made themselves aprons."

### HUMOROUS.

A PHOTOGRAPHER may be described as one who makes his living by all manner of means.

"EVERY cloud has a silver lining," and many a man wishes his pocket-book was a good sized, healthy cloud.

A TEETOTALER says the drop curtain of a theatre is so called because the gentlemen go out for a drop while it is down.

JOSH BILLINGS says he don't care how much a man talks if he says it in a few words. Good idea for those who write to newspapers.

A MISSISSIPPI doctor has found a substitute for quinine. He finds a lump of ice on the patient's spine, and the shakes let go and start for Arkansas.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN is narrowing himself down to a pint of skimmed milk a day, and doubtless he feels stronger than ever, he can now lift five pounds with ease.

AN Englishman, who is clever at anagrams, has amused himself by transposing the names of "Disraeli" and "Gladstone," which somewhat appositely resolve themselves into "I lead, sir," and "G. leads not."

At a law society's dinner the president called upon the senior attorney to give as a toast the person whom he considered the best friend of the profession. "Certainly," was the response. "The man who makes his own will."

A FOREIGN-LOOKING American said: "I've tried everything I could turn my hand to, but couldn't make anything answer; and now I'm going up among the rocks, where they say there's a wonderful echo, to see if I can make that answer."

ASTRONOMERS have discovered that the moon is drawing gradually nearer to the earth, by about an inch every year. They have also discovered that the day is about one hundredth of a second longer now than it was two thousand years ago.

THE growing custom of putting the choir at the pulpit of the church has the very serious drawback that it prevents a man from turning round and looking up at the organ in a critical manner just before the contribution plate approaches his pew.

THE due de Morny's definition of a polite man is the hardest to realize of any ever given. "A polite man," said he, "is one who listens with interest to things he knows all about when they are told by a person who knows nothing about them."

WAITER: "What would you be pleased to order, sir? We have postage printers' à la Jullienne; friandises de venaison; requêtes à la pommade de terre; rissoles de bœuf—" Milesian: "Well, give us a plateful of whichever of them's nearest to an Irish stew!"

SHERIDAN, being on a Parliamentary Committee, one day entered the room as all the members were seated and ready for business. Finding no empty seat, he bowed, and looking round the table, said, with a droil expression of countenance, "Will any gentleman move that I may take the chair?"

A YOUNG man, who wants all the poet's corner to himself, who has been listening to the music of the zither, says: "I carried me back to the old Babylon days when Theodorus and the nightingales sang in the orange groves." We don't like to doubt his word, but regret it was more an imaginative statement than a fact.

### ARTISTIC.

THE exhibition of Dutch masters, now being organized at the Burlington Fine Arts Club, promises to be attractive.

FORBES' picture of Lord Dufferin will likely be purchased by admirers of the Governor-General. He is now engaged on a portrait of Dr. Tupper.

A PROPOSAL has been made to get up a "testimonial" to George Cruikshank, in the form of a Cruikshank Gallery, for the exhibition and sale of the artist's works.

A PICTURE by Mr. Long, A.R.A., entered for the Royal Academy, is simply a gem of its kind—a number of beautiful Egyptian women making the gods for the benefit of the worshippers of that haughty land. The figures are all nearly life size, the tone is excellent, and the grouping perfect.

A VERY beautiful statue in white marble, representing a woman larger than life, and in a perfect state of preservation, has been dug up at Djiboutah (Algeria). This work of art, which it is said, will bear a comparison with the best Greek sculptures, is believed to represent the Empress Julia Domna.

MR. MILLAIS contributes to the Royal Academy the Sons of Edward IV. in the Tower descending a staircase; also Lucy Ashton and Edgar of Ravenswood advancing, half embraced, through a mountain glen. A third contribution is a Scotch landscape, apparently representing the head of a lake, the foreground being composed of a mass of dark, richly-toned rock, from which trickles a thin stream of water.

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