

THE POETS' CORNER

Prayer. It is not prayer. This clamour of our eager wants. That fills the air with yearning, selfish plaints. It is not faith. To belch out all gifts as ours—

Heave-hearted. "I suffered with neuralgia and obtained no relief until I used Hagyard's Yellow Oil. Since then I have also found it invaluable remedy for all painful burns and cuts, rheumatism and sore throat."

The Romance of Adele Hugo

TRUTH MORE THRILLING THAN FICTION.

Mr Robert Motton, the stipendiary magistrate of Halifax, was for a long time a prominent lawyer in active practice in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was chiefly distinguished as a criminal lawyer, and many stirring incidents of real life have marked his long professional career.

One morning in the year 1836 Mr Motton was seated in his law office as usual, when his clerk announced a visitor waiting to see him. On being shown in, Mr Motton observed a tall lady, apparently young and closely veiled.

After a little preliminary conversation Mr Motton discovered that his interesting client had called to consult him professionally upon a matter of considerable delicacy. Halifax, as is generally known, is a garrison town—now the only garrison town in Canada.

Before proceeding with the object of her visit, it may be well to make the reader acquainted with the young lady. She gave her name as Miss Lewly, and that was the name by which she was known in Halifax.

The story of her residence in Halifax is a very sad one. She remained three or four years, during which she was chiefly engaged in dogging her lover by night and by day, but without success.

Her employment was writing; her handwriting was most beautiful—like copper-plate impressions. She soon had great masses of manuscript. Mr Motton mentions that she used to bring large bundles of beautifully written manuscript to his office, and offered it to him, saying:—"Publish this some time, and you will create a great sensation and make a fortune."

Mr Motton had not much interest in literary matters at that time, and feeling, no doubt, that his fair client's mind was not well balanced, did not accept the offer.

While her family were living at Brussels during the exile, a wealthy English family was residing there named Pinese. The Hugo and Pinese families became acquainted, and after a time intimately and sufficiently intimate, at all events, for a love affair to spring up between young Pinese and Mademoiselle Adele.

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in the world, and money is never left out of the account.

The exact date of this courtship cannot now be ascertained, but it was probably about 1830-31. There is a strong presumption of mutual attachment. Mademoiselle Hugo was handsome, of accomplished manners, unusual talents and fiery temperament.

The matter is not of great importance. It is sufficient to know that Pinese left Brussels for England, and on leaving his lady-love he promised, with every token of sincerity and honor, that she should join him in England, and that the marriage, which had been secret in Brussels, should be publicly celebrated in an English church. Just at this point—probably December, 1831—his regiment was ordered to Halifax, and Lieutenant Pinese wrote to Mademoiselle Hugo informing her of this fact, and asking her to join him in London, where their marriage was to be celebrated.

When this proposition was received, it was duly discussed in the Hugo family circle. Victor Hugo would not entertain the idea. He demanded that Lieutenant Pinese should come to Brussels and marry his daughter there.

On their arrival they found, to their mortification and chagrin, that Lieutenant Pinese had sailed with his regiment for Halifax, and without leaving any message or satisfactory explanation; indeed, the circumstances gave indubitable evidence of desertion.

But the unhappy girl was madly in love; she belonged to that class of intense natures which are led away by passion, and she could not rest content apart from her lover. Clenching she left Brussels and took passage on board a steamer, said to be the Great Eastern, for New York.

On her arrival there she started for Halifax, where she assumed the name of Miss Lewly. Alas! for her fond dreams of a happy re-union with the man in whom all her ardent and unrequited affections were centered.

Another of the letters is as follows:— My DEAR MRS SAUNDERS,—I am indeed exceedingly thankful to you for your kind note. Your information has been most welcome.

It will now be easy to understand the purpose of Miss Lewly's visit to Mr Pinese's office. Worn out with a fruitless pursuit of her faithless and callous lover, and finding the time approaching when his regiment would be ordered away to another station, as a last resort she went to consult a lawyer to see, perchance, if there was any remedy in the law.

But really nothing of any consequence could be done by Mr Motton. The suit for breach of promise would have been an unsatisfactory remedy, and no legal evidence of a marriage which would be recognized in the courts in Nova Scotia was available.

This writing, from day to day, in her room, with an occasional visit from Pinese during the first year or two, was the sole occupation of Adele Hugo for the three years or more that she lived in Halifax. She took no care of her room and utterly neglected her person and clothing.

A word may be devoted to Lieutenant Pinese. Several persons remember him well. He was never distinguished from the ordinary subaltern in a British regiment, except, perhaps, that he appears to have been rather more of a dandy. He was of average height, rather handsome and decidedly stylish in appearance.

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After the long time the Saunders family were entirely ignorant of the history of their strange lodger. She was a profound mystery to them, and all attempts to ascertain the true story of her life were fruitless. She received many letters and sent many, but they were written in French, and the addresses were quite unfamiliar to the good people with whom she was staying.

After this Mrs Saunders was able to obtain the true story of her lodger, and she was informed that the man was her father who would not care to have his daughter living comparatively destitute of the ordinary comforts of life.

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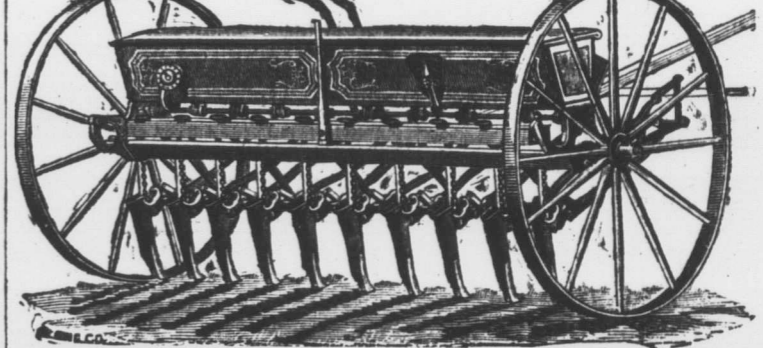
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Respectfully, Dr. T. A. SLOCUM, 37 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.