

profit; realised indeed quite a nice sum by the transaction. He also sold the purchaser of the agency, the mine having given out."

"The purchaser might have known that when rats abandon a ship it is all over," growled the old Doctor.

"He sued Dr Bruno," continued the nurse, "but it was proven to be a genuine and proper transfer, with the consent of both parties, so the purchaser could only grin and bear it, and pay costs of prosecution in addition. However, he was at liberty to form his own opinions, which to a large extent were those of the initiated public. Dr Bruno thereafter sold out the academy to a lady in whose hands it is prospering finely; and the Doctor opened another of the same in San Francisco with quite a number of young lady pupils."

"But, dear me! Miss Stobie, I understood this person Bruno was a widower when Natalie left. Has he any sister who acts as matron?" asked Mrs Macintosh, with some anxiety.

"Oh! he took a wife with him," explained the nurse.

"Dr Bruno married again!" exclaimed Natalie.

"Yes, married again!" echoed Miss Stobie, dryly.

"And poor Mrs Tranent?" continued Mrs Arbuckle.

"I always feel sorry for her."

"Well, you needn't. There is no longer any such person."

"Oh, Miss Stobie! not dead, surely!" cried Mrs Arbuckle, and her husband, smitten with compunction, also uttered a regretful exclamation. Miss Stobie laughed.

"Dead? not she! She is 'Dr Bruno's Wife.'"

THE END.

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