

A TALE OF THE BAR.

"MARRY in haste and repent at leisure." There is, I daresay, no truer adage, and yet how many lovers are ready to pooh-pooh its warning. Many and many a time has its bitter truth been brought home to a young couple, even as it was to Arthur and Norah Drummond. Drummond was a young barrister with nothing a year of his own, who by dint of hard work, much devilling, and a fair number of briefs from a firm of solicitors, of whom the moneyed partner was a college chum of his, was earning some £200 per annum. One year, when down at Liverpool on circuit, he happened to meet the daughter of a certain half-pay Colonel Forbes, at a dance, and fell violently in love with her. They corresponded, and the next year, when he met her again, he asked her to be his wife, and married her before the fortnight was concluded. She had the not over magnificent fortune of £50 a year of her own, and there was no prospect from the Colonel, her father, who was over head and ears in debt. But there was no question as to the beauty of her handsome face and graceful figure, any more than there was of her undoubted fondness for her husband.

"With £250 a year," said Arthur, "we shall be able to do very well. We shall, of course, have to economise all we can, and have to live in a tiny house or flat in West Kensington; there will be no theatre-going, or anything of that kind, and we shan't be able to entertain, but we shall get on alright. And, you know, I am almost certain to get more work next year, and, after all, if things do get tight, which isn't likely, I have always got my uncle to fall back upon."

Not that Arthur had really any immediate expectations in that direction, for although, now both his cousins were dead, he was actually Lord Eagleston's heir, he knew well enough by experience that the old fellow was terribly close-fisted, and although possessed of plenty of money, he had no fancy for helping his poor relations; and that, moreover, there was a very distinct possibility of his marrying again. Lord Eagleston's chief excitement consisted in gambling on the Stock Exchange, and his experiments were crowned with success, if report ran true; he had also somewhat of a reputation among men about town for his amiable weaknesses for chorus-ladies and ballet-dancers. Arthur had written to acquaint him with his marriage, and after a few weeks in lodgings, when they were settled in their little house at Brook Green, he wrote again to invite him to dinner to meet his wife. To neither letter did the Earl vouchsafe any answer. A week or two afterwards, Arthur happened to meet him in the Strand, and repeated the invitation *circa more*. Lord Eagleston refused point-blank.

"To think," he said, "of you marrying an almost penniless girl—you, with your prospects. You had no right to marry at all

without my consent; and now, you know well enough, you haven't enough to keep a wife, and so you're deuced civil to me, thinking I'm going to finance you. I can assure you you're very much mistaken. Not one penny will you get out of me, my boy, until I'm dead, and that won't be yet awhile. Perhaps you think I'm too old to marry again and cut you out. Well, you wait and see."

Arthur protested vainly that he had no such ideas in his head; but still he felt the interview was a most unsatisfactory one, and so, too, thought his wife when he repeated the conversation to her. The outlook, moreover, happened to be very unpromising. Arthur had given up his circuit work, and now, worst of all, there were rumours that there was something wrong with the firm of solicitors from whom he got three-quarters of his briefs. Suppose they were to dissolve partnership, or collapse, where would he be then? He was working, as it was, harder than he had ever worked before, and yet he could only just pay his way.

Arthur did not repent his marriage, but he could have wished things were different; every penny had to be considered. He knew his wife's existence must be terribly dull; they could not afford to entertain, even if he could have induced his bachelor friends to explore the wilds of Kensington. At last, some three months after his marriage, he returned home with a face of utter despair. The solicitors upon whom he mainly depended were bankrupt, and more than half of his scanty income was gone. They would have to let their house as soon as possible, and move into the cheapest lodgings they could find. Goodness only knew how they would be able to make both ends meet. It was certainly a case of repentance at leisure. A few nights afterwards Norah had some wonderful news for her jaded husband. She had got some work to do. She had been answering advertisements, and after many disappointments had at last succeeded in obtaining an appointment in the City, with a salary of £2 a week. Arthur, who had always a loathing for the City, at first said he would not hear of it, but his wife insisted. It was not the sort of work, she said, that she should have chosen, but after all, "beggars must not be choosers," and if she could make a little money by honest work, why, there was nothing degrading in so doing. Only she didn't want Arthur to bother about what it was, he must be content to trust her. Besides, it was so dull for her to fret at home all alone while he was at work in his chambers, and she was glad to have something to do.

Arthur felt there was reason in what she said, he knew he had only barely enough money in the house to pay the quarter's rent, and so, at last, he consented. He did not worry Norah by making

C. W. HAYWARD & CO.,
Brewers and Bottlers.

XX & XXX ALES AND BROWN STOUT.

Family Orders promptly attended to.

Telephone, 126.

MISS M. TOBIN, Fashionable Dress Maker.

Tailor-made Gowns, Tea Gowns & Evening Dresses.

Fits and Style Guaranteed.

Dress Material and Findings on Premises. All Orders from Country promptly attended to.

15 GRANVILLE STREET

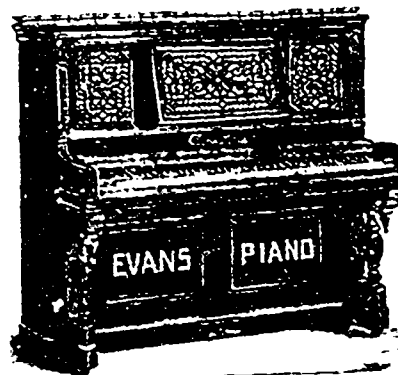
JOHN F. KELLY.

Manufacturer of all grades of **HARNESS** and **COLLARS**.

Horse Boots, Horse Clothing, &c. Importer and Dealer in Saddlery Hardware, Patent and Harness Leathers, Harness Makers' Supplies, &c.

33 and 35 BUCKINGHAM ST., - - HALIFAX, N. S.

Retail at Wholesale Prices



Established 1868.

MILLER BROTHERS

Manufacturers' Agents for the

Pianos, Organs

AND

SEWING MACHINES.

Pianos and Organs Warranted First Class
Sewing Machines Repaired

158 Granville Street, Halifax, N. S.

TELEPHONE 718.

PUTTNER'S
IS THE BEST • TAKE NO OTHER •
EMULSION