ONLY A LADY'S MAID.

BY MARTIN J. GRIFFIN.

"You're not in earnest, Mr. Theodore?"

"Of course, I'm in earnest, Della. You're the prettiest little piece of roses and dimples I ever saw. Don't your glass tell you the same thing? Ten o'clock! Why, where on earth has the time slipped to? I ought to have been down town half an hour ago. It's all your fault, Della."

And Mr. Theodore St. Volens hurried off, chucking Della Stephens under the chin as he went by.

"I wonder," thought Della. "If he really loves me. I wonder—"

"Della! Della! what are you loitering about?" cried a shrill, high-pitched voice. "Ten o'clock, and the poodle not washed, the canaries neglected, and the drawing-room not dusted! Really, Della, I don't know what's come to you of late."

"I—I was detained. I'm just through here, ma'am," faltered Della, flushing crimson up to the very roots of her hair as she hurried out of the room.

Della Stephens was Mrs. St. Volens' parlor maid and especial attendant. She had been a milliner's apprentice before the rich lady saw and took a fancy to her, when she—Mrs. St. Volens—was dictating as to the trimming of a fall hat.

"How much do you get here?" said Mrs. St. Volens, and Della answered, meekly:

"Only my board, ma'am."

"I'll give you ten dollars a month," said Mrs. St. Volens.

And Della Stephens abandoned her trade, and came to live with the rich lady.

She was a farmer's daughter from a little inland village, and now that she had obtained this fine situation, as it seemed to her, she wrote home a letter of triumph.

"I might have stayed there in the wilderness all my days," wrote Della, "and never earn anything more than my board."

It was half an hour or so afterward, and Della was busy fluting some wide Valenciennes lace for her mistress, when Mrs. St. Volens' shrill voice summoned her upstairs. And Della knew from the very accent that something was wrong.

Mrs. St. Volens stood in the middle of the room as Della entered it, a red spot on either cheek, and a bit of cardboard in her hand.

"Look here, Della Stephens," said she. "The housekeeper has just brought this to me—a photograph of my nephew, Theodore. She says she found it in your room!"

Della turned scarlet, and felt instinctively in her bosom.

"I—I must have dropped it," said she, scarce considering her words.

"Then it is yours?"

"Yes," faltered Della.

"How came you by it?" sternly catechised Mrs. St. Volens.

"He gave it to me."

"He? Who?"

"Mr. Theodore."

Mrs. St. Volen's face grew grim and hard as adamant. "You are discharged," said she, turning on her heel.

And Della, stunned and bewildered, went up to her room to pack her few belongings, and think what she should do next.

Mr. Theodore St. Volens was considerably surprised that afternoon to see his aunt's maid walk into the down town office.

"Little Della," cried he, clapping a pair of eye glasses to his eyes. "It isn't possible!"

"Yes," said Della, "it is I. Oh, Mr. Theodore, what am I to do? Your aunt has dismissed me."

"Dismissed you? And why?" demanded the young man.

"She—she found your picture in my possession," faltered Della, beginning to cry.

"And a precious fool you must have been to let her find it," said he impatiently. "What else could you expect, Della?"

"And what am I to do now?" she questioned, piteously.

"Do?" repeated Mr. St. Volens. "Why, get another situation, to be sure."

"How can I, with no references? And ——?"

"Now, look here," said Theodore, irritably, "all this is no business of mine. I don't see why you should come here bothering me!"

"No business of yours," vaguely repeated Della.

"Not at all."

"But it was your fault that I lost the place."

"My fault!" echoed Mr. Theodore, with a strident laugh. "My fault, because I just told you what a pretty little thing you are, and Aunt Anastasia got mad with jealousy and spite. Come, that is a little too good."

"But—but—," hesitated Della, with a deadly chill setting around her heart, "didn't you mean anything all the time?"

"Mean! No; what should I mean? Really, Della, this is becoming annoying. Now you are crying again! Oh, confound it all!"

"You need not go, Mr. St. Volens," said Della with what dignity she could command. "I shall rid you of my presence at once. Excuse me for making such a mistake as to suppose you were an honorable gentleman."

Mr. St. Volens winced a little under the cutting irony of her words as she walked out of the office and went to Mademoiselle Ferromiere, the milliner.

"Perhaps," thought Della, "she will take me on again. For I can't starve."

But Mrs. St. Volens, as she discovered to her grief, had been beforehand with her. Mademoiselle Ferromiere rolled up her eyes.

"She was sorry for Miss Stephens—but really it was a very improper thing to be making eyes at her mistress' nephew. And she couldn't afford to lose a customer like Madame St. Volens—and besides she had the characters of her young women to look to, and—"

But Della, who was as innocent of any guilty thought or deed as a white dove, turned away with a shudder.

"Do—do they think I have done anything wrong?" she asked herself. "Oh, has it come to this!"

Della went home to the little brown farm-house in the country—but even there a letter from the indignant Mrs. St. Volens had preceded her. Her father met her with cold, averted eyes—her mother burst into tears.

"Oh, Della, to think that you should come home so! And we all thought your fortune was made!"

"You're welcome to stay for a night or two, Della," said Mr. Stephens, coldly; "but after the way in which you have treated your confiding mistress——"

"Father," burst out Della, "what have they been telling you?"

"Facts speak for themselves," said the old man, grimly.

In the middle of the night Della came to her mother's bedside, looking as white as a ghost.

"Dear me, child," said Mrs. Stephens, half asleep, "what is the matter?"

"Mother," said Della, "where is your laudanum bottle? I've got such a dreadful toothache!"

"It's on the clock-shelf," said Mrs. Stephens, drowsily.

In the morning Della was found dead among her pillows. Dead and cold. And the shocked parents never knew whether it was an overdose of laudanum or a deliberate act of suicide that opened the gates of another world to their stricken child.

However, she was beyond all criticism or carping now, thank heaven!"

Helping the Coroner.

From the Pittsburg Chronicle.

"What is it about?" asked the managing editor as he reached for a club. "Ice cream?"

"No, sir."

"Boss plumbers or baseball?"

"No, sir, it's——"

"Picnic swings, George Washington's lie, book agents, oyster stews, overcoats in pawn, hair bangs, small boys, Dr. Mary Walker—out with it!"

"It's about a cashier going to Cana——"

There was a dull, sickening thud, and then the managing editor was heard calling to the office boy: "Here, pin 'Canada cashier' on the corpse of this 'humorist'; it'll help the coroner."

Prudent.

He was polite, but diffident, and had got entangled in conversation with a couple of young ladies, and was struggling along the best he could.

They were discussing the merits of different actresses.

"Yes," he said, "Mme. B—— is certainly a very clever actress, but I—I think she is one of the plainest women I ever saw. That is," he added politely, under the vague impression that some qualification should be introduced here, "I—er—mean, of course, present company always excepted."

— * * Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, speedily and permanently cured. Consultation free. Book three (3c.) stamps. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

The happiest hit of the season was made by a lady at Waverly the day Governor Rate and Judge Reid spoke there. The judge became very nervous at the crying of a baby, and asked it it could not be made to stop crying. Its mother pacified the child and it was still awhile, but it began crying again and the judge said. "Let that child be taken out; it has no business at a public speaking." The mother promptly said: "Sir, my child is crying to hear Governor Rate speak."

A Valuable Find.

—Mr. Isaac Brown of Bothwell, declares that he found one bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters worth $500 to him. It cured him of Salt Rheum from which he had suffered years after other treatment had failed to relieve. 246

The girl who bangs generally makes a noise in the world—at least it annoys a good many to look upon her.

—D. Sullivan, Malcolm, Ontario, writes: "I have been selling Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for some years, and have no hesitation in saying that it has given better satisfaction than any other medicine I have ever sold. I consider it the only patent medicine that cures more than it is recommended to cure.' Unprincipled persons are selling imitations of Dr. Thomas Eclectric Oil. Do not be deceived.

Q. What is a Scotchman's peculiarity? A. That he keeps the Sabbath—and everything else.

"Woman has twice the nerve of man," shouts a female orator. Woman has a good deal more nerve than that.

Warning.

—The most suddenly fatal diseases of Summer and Fall are the various forms of Bowel Complaints which Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry will promptly remedy. 246

—The people of this country have spoken. They declare by their patronage of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, that they believe it to be an article of genuine merit, adapted to the cure of rheumatism, as well as relieves the pains of fractures and dislocations, external injuries, corns, bunions, piles and other maladies.

So many women are now doing work formerly done by men that the male sex are being driven into matrimony as a means of support.

—One trial of Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator will convince you that it has no equal as a worm medicine. Buy a bottle and see if it does not please you.

Cold cream is said to be excellent for sunburn. For the benefit of the young ladies we will say that this does not refer to ice-cream.

—Mr. T C. Wells, chemist and druggist, Port Colborne, Ont., writes: "Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure sells well and gives the best of satisfaction for all diseases of the blood." It never fails to root out all diseases from the system, cures dyspepsia, liver complaint, etc., purifies the blood and will make you look the picture of health and happiness.

The young lady in love is the person that can always meet a note. In fact she is often at the postoffice before the mail arrives.

—Among the warmest advocates of the use of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure are ladies formerly in delicate health, whose vigor and bodily regularity have been restored by it. Cases of debility of long standing, chronic biliousness, weakness of the back and kidneys, feminine ailments and obstinate types of nervous indigestion, are overcome by it.

When a man is well vested in the art of self defence he is not apt to get the versed of it.

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Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon treatment for catarrh. Out of 2 00 patients treated during the past six months fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefitted, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished, the catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King street west, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—Montreal Star. 26

One of the latest crazes in New York society is for educated parrots. They keep the young ladies company on stormy nights when the dudes do not call.

—Mrs. George Simpson, Toronto, says: "I have suffered severely with corns, and was unable to get relief from treatment of any kind until I was recommended to try Holloway's Corn Cure. After applying it for a few days I was enabled to remove the corn, root and branch—no pain whatever, and no inconvenience in using it. I can heartily recommend it to all suffering from corns."

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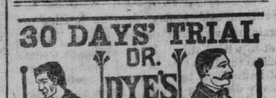

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