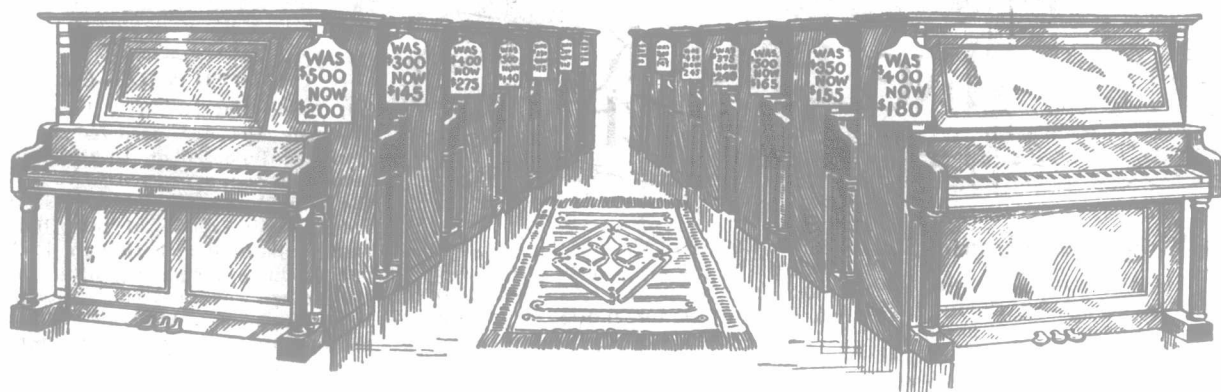




SPECIAL MAY SALE OF PIANOS

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Gerhard Heintzman	7½ Octave Upright Piano, in handsome walnut case, with full length plain panels and music desk, ivory and ebony keys, etc., height 4 feet 6 inches. Manufacturer's Price, \$375. Sale Price.....	\$254
Nordheimer	7½ Octave Upright Piano, in dark mahogany, with full length music desk, three pedals, ivory and ebony keys, in fine order. Manufacturer's Price, \$375. Sale Price.....	\$259
Gerhard Heintzman	7½ Octave Boudoir Grand Upright Piano, walnut case, full length music desk, three pedals, ivory and ebony keys, etc.; very little used. Manufacturer's Price, \$400. Sale Price.....	\$274
Mendelssohn	7½ Octave Cabinet Grand Piano, in very handsome walnut case, a new piano, but a special instrument in different design of case from regular stock. Manufacturer's Price, \$375. Sale Price.....	\$285
Gerhard Heintzman	7½ Octave Upright Piano, in walnut case, full length panels carved in relief, Boston fall board, three pedals, etc.; just like new. Manufacturer's Price, \$425. Sale Price.....	\$293
Gerhard Heintzman	7½ Octave Upright Piano, large cabinet grand size, new design, contains every patent contained in any piano of this make, used less than six months. Manufacturer's Price, \$500. Sale Price.....	\$325
Knabe	A 7½ Octave Cabinet Grand Piano by this celebrated maker, used by us for concert purposes and now offered at about half-price, after being polished and adjusted. "A Peerless Knabe." Manufacturer's Price, \$675. Sale Price.....	\$365

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stood awaiting him at the head of the stairs.

"Well?" he whispered, "have you seen her?"

"Yes," I returned bitterly, "I have seen her."

He hurriedly mounted to my side.

"And she has confessed?"

"Come," I said, "and see for yourself!" And leading him to the little room I had just left, I pointed to the silent form lying within. "You told me I should find Hannah here; but you did not tell me I should find her thus."

"Great heaven!" he cried with a start, "not dead?"

"Yes," I said, "dead."

The sight seemed to convince him. Calming down, he stood gazing at her with a very strange expression upon his face. Suddenly he moved and began quietly turning over the clothes that were lying on the floor.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"What are you looking for?"

"I am looking for the bit of paper from which I saw her take what I supposed to be a dose of medicine last night. Oh, here it is," he cried, lifting a morsel of paper.

"Let me see!" I anxiously exclaimed.

He handed me the paper, on the inner surface of which I could dimly discern the traces of an impalpable white powder.

"This is important," I declared, carefully folding the paper together. "If there is enough of this powder remaining to show that the contents of this paper were poisonous, a case of deliberate suicide is made evident."

"I am not so sure of that," he retorted. "If I am any judge of countenances, this girl had no more idea she was taking poison than I had. She looked not only bright, but gay. If Mrs. Belden gave her that dose to take, telling her it was medicine—"

"That is something which yet remains to be learned, also whether the dose, as you call it, was poison or not. It may be she died of heart disease."

He simply shrugged his shoulders and pointed first at the plate of breakfast left on the chair, and secondly at the broken-down door.

"Yes," I said, "Mrs. Belden has been in here this morning, and Mrs. Belden locked the door when she went out, but that proves nothing beyond her belief in the girl's hearty condition."

"A belief which that white face on its tumbled pillow did not seem to shake?"

"Perhaps in her haste she may not have looked at the girl."

"I don't want to suspect anything wrong, but it is a coincidence!"

"Well," said I, "there is no use in our standing here busying ourselves with conjectures."

"What are you going to do?" asked he. "If this girl did come to her death by some foul play, it is our business to find it out."

"That must be left for the coroner to do. It has now passed out of our hands."

"I know; but we can at least take full note of the room before throwing the affair into the hands of strangers."

"I have looked at the room. I am only afraid I can never forget it."

"And the body? Have you noticed its position? the lay of the bedclothes around it? the lack there if of all signs of struggle or fear? the repose of the countenance? the easy fall of the hands? Then the clothes hanging on the wall? Do you see? a calico dress, a shawl—not the one in which she was believed to have run away, but an old black one, probably Mrs. Belden's. Then this chest, containing a few underclothes marked with the name of the lady of the house, but smaller than any she ever wore; made for Hannah, you observe, and marked with her own name. And then these other clothes lying on the floor, all new, all marked in the same way. Then this—Hullo! look here."

Going over to where he stood, a wash-bowl half full of burned paper met my eye.

"Can it be that it was a suicide after all? She has evidently destroyed something here which she didn't wish anyone to see. Who knows but what that was a confession! Mr. Gryce will never forgive me for it—never. He will say I ought to have known that it was a suspicious circumstance, this taking of a dose of medicine at the very moment detection stood at her back."

(To be continued.)

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