



**E. DWYER GRAY AND ARABI BEY.**

WHICH OF 'EM WAS JUDGE LAWSON'S SENTENCE INTENDED FOR ?

**AILEEN LE STRANG'S VISIT TO MANTOBA.**

When Miss Aileen Le Strang went out to the west She had many good wishes, though the ill-natured guessed That they knew the object that was taking her there, And a "fig for the fiction that 'twas *pour son cher fere.*" Her gowns were perfection, her bonnets divine, She'd the daintiest boots and lace very fine; The garments, I fear, sent an envious pang In the hearts of the friends of Aileen Le Strang.

Now Aileen Le Strang, though possessed of such clothes, One wouldn't compare to a lily or rose; Of beauty so skin deep the maiden had less Than the average amount, but made up in dress What she lacked in good looks, and was thought rather fast. With bank clerks had flirted until twenty-five past, And still wasn't married nor likely to be, Yet she went to the north-west her brother to see.

For she'd written to Thomas and gushingly said They all fretted at home at the lone life he led; So as his kousekeeper to be 'twas the wish of her ma, He'd very soon see her in Manitoba. With a party of others the journey she went, 'Twas somewhere about the beginning of Lent, And though some have met snow-storms Aileen met none, But had on the whole trip some jolly good fun.

While to the land of the future they travelled along, They met a young Englishman tall, handsome and strong; His delicious broad accent made him quite *comme-il-faut*. Broad a—o By Jove, are so "fetching" you know. When in Winnipeg fair our party did get, Mr. Tom hadn't come for the roads were so wet; But with sweet resignation Aileen said she'd wait, While the Englishman vowed he was glad he was late.

While on the bad roads with his oxen Tom tarried, The Englishman "popped" and Aileen got married; With a message for Tom, this couple so green, Went to take up their land which they never had seen; And they counted on farming without any care, The soil proved as rich as the landscape looked rare. They hadn't a doubt if all turned out well, Their fortune 'd be made and they'd be very swell; They made up their minds they'd not very long stop In a short space of time they'd have such a good crop.

The house made of logs with two rooms and mud pot, Was a shock to Aileen and no less to her top; Aileen couldn't cook, no more could Fitzhugh, So when meal times came round they were in a fine stew. They knew nothing of farming, there were no neighbors near,

And they found the experiment cost them quite dear; They lived there for a month, then this faint-hearted pair Left the wild prairie and its health-giving air.

It is hinted indeed that she'll have to come home, While over the prairie poor Fitzhugh must roam In search of a fortune, which he wants without work, A thing some young settlers are most apt to shirk. A word of advice to those going to farm, Though it may do no good, cannot do any harm; Never go to a country that's young and new, If you're any way like the young couple Fitzhugh.

J. LOES.

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