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LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY

....Of Toronto....

200 Phillips, Pres.
V. Rolin, Treas.
E. Hart, Supervisor

THE OBJECT OF THE
York County Loan and
Savings Co. is

1st.—To help all who become members to secure
their own homes free of encumbrance.

2nd.—To afford a safe and profitable investment of
capital.

3rd.—To help all who become members to secure
their own homes free of encumbrance.

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TO A BOY POET OF THE DECADENCE.

But, my good little man, you have made a mis-
take

If you really are pleased to suppose
That the Thames is slight with the lyrics you
make

We could all do the same if we chose.

From Solomon down, we may read, as we run,
Of the ways of a man and a maid.

There's nothing that's new to us under the
sun,

And certainly not in the shade.

The erotic affairs that you fiddle about
Are as vulgar as coin of the mint,

And you merely distinguish yourself from the
crowd

By the fact that you put 'em in print.

You're a pretence, my boy, in the primitive
stage.

And you itch, like a boy, to confess,
When you know a bit more of the arts of the
age.

You will probably talk a bit less.

For your dull little verses we don't care a fig.
It is this that we deeply deplore—
You were cast for a common or usual pig.

But you play the inevitable bore,
—Omen Seaman in New York Tribune.

MAE'S SACRIFICE.

If any shadow of unhappiness or jeal-
ousy spoiled the brightness of Mae Lisbon's
life, not one of the gay group of which she
was a member seemed to know it, for she
was not a girl to "wear her heart upon
her sleeve."

And yet, among all that merry party
just setting out for a prolonged horse-
ride among the surrounding steep, moun-
tainous hills, on that beautiful autumn
afternoon, there was not another heart so
crushed and hopeless and despairing as
that which beat under pretty Mae Lisbon's
dark blue riding habit.

But she laughed brightly as she reined
her prancing horse to one side to make
room for Paul Bessford to pass with Miss
Elise Turley, whom he had just assisted
to her saddle with an air of tender emotion
that wrung Mae's very heartstrings.

"I'm expending every day to hear their
engagement announced," said Joe St.
Giles, Mae's escort, with a significant
glance and smile toward the handsome
pair. "It's a clear case of mutual fascina-
tion. Don't you think so, Miss Lisbon?"

"It does look that way," she returned
quietly.

So they rode on, talking, laughing, jest-
ing, sometimes the whole party keeping
together awhile, the scattering in cou-
ples to explore the picturesque scenery of
the valleys or the winding roads that went
twisting boldly and sometimes danger-
ously, around the rugged hillside slopes.

Gay as Mae Lisbon's bright face and
sweet, ringing laughter declared her to be,
her heart was heavy with the weight of
woe, and she stole away from the others
for a time that she might lay aside the
mask of happiness which, while in their
presence, pride compelled her to wear.

After riding along for awhile alone came
to a sort of gulch or dry creek bed, deep
and narrow, which she unobtrusively
made her horse leap over, for Mae was a
fine and fearless equestrian.

Going some distance further, she dis-
mounted, and throwing the reins over her
arm, went on to explore a deserted mining
cabin which nestled picturesquely among
some rocks a little way beyond.

Here she sat down, and before she knew
it, she was in the labyrinth of her own
intensely painful thoughts.

She knew that St. Giles' words were
true, though they had been spoken half in
jest, and that it could not be long ere an
engagement between Paul Bessford and
Elise Turley would be formally announced.

And how she, Mae, loved him!

But, thank heaven, he had never guessed
it, and now he never would.

She would cheerfully have given years
of her life to be loved by him. But he had
passed both her love and her love-liness
by with unseeing eyes to lay his heart at
the feet of that fair, dazzling blond beauty
who would soon be his bride.

"What a grim old sphinx fate is!" she
cried out at last, a half sob in her break-
ing voice. "I would die for his love. Yet
all I can do to hide the truth from him,
all I can do to keep him in my eyes and
soul, is to smile when I come near him,
while another woman holds that
precious love of his in the hollow of her
dainty hand without an effort, and will
doubtless pass her whole life at his side
without even knowing or half appreciat-
ing the precious blessing that it is. Oh,
if I could!"

She stopped abruptly, shocked, horri-
fied, by a terrific crash of thunder which
seemed to rend the very rocks apart.

"Heaven, how foolish I have been not
to notice this before!" she exclaimed, her
pretty uplifted face paling with consterna-
tion. "But such a lovely day as it was,
when we started. Who could have dream-
ed of such a change as this? What will
think has become of me, I wonder? Oh, I
must hurry or I shall miss them all, and
have to find my way alone through this
blinding storm. I wonder if St. Giles is
alarmed about me?" a little smile, despite
the grave situation, flickered around her
charming lips—"no, I think not, as he
knows what a reckless rider I often am."

All this time she was leading her horse
down the uneven slope to the road below,
where she mounted and went flying, as
swiftly as the storm would allow, in the
direction whence she had come.

Reaching the narrow gulch, however,
which such a short time before she had
crossed so easily, Mae found it now a rush-
ing torrent, from which her horse drew
back with quivering nostrils and unwill-
ing feet.

"Good gracious! What am I going to
do?" she thought impatiently. "Oh, here
is my bugle. Perhaps I can at least let
some of them know my whereabouts."

And lifting the little silver bugle, which
she carried to her lips, she blew one long,
shrill, clear blast, then paused, listening
intently for some response.

It came sooner than she expected.

There was an answering call, and a mo-
ment later Paul Bessford came into view
around a little promontory a hundred
yards away.

Mae drew back as he approached, too
amazed to utter a sound.

"Why, Miss Lisbon!" he cried, coming
up to her. "Good heavens, are you lost
too? I—I somehow got separated from
Miss Turley after crossing this creek to
find some particular specimens of autumn
flowers for her, and now it seems out of
the question to recross it. I never saw
anything like this before," he added
glancing at the hurricane which was clouded
with the most perplexed anxiety.

"Oh, we must recross it! We must get
back to our party, Mr. Bessford!" ex-
claimed Mae as a sudden realization of
their position flashed upon her. "Surely
we can find some point where our horses
can make the leap. Come, let us hasten!
Every moment makes it worse!"

Paul shook his head with a hopeless
smile. Still he obeyed her, and almost
frantically they rode up and down the

banks of the swollen stream searching
vainly for some point where they might
cross.

"No use," said Paul at last. "We could
not even cross without almost
certainly losing our lives. No, we must
simply make the best of a bad matter, Miss
Lisbon, and put up with our unpleasant
situation as philosophically as we can."

Then thoughtfully he murmured: "Can't
we find a shelter of some kind, do you
think? It will kill you to be exposed to
this chilling storm all night."

"All night!" Mae echoed in a low, tense
whisper. Yet not so low but that Bess-
ford caught it, as well as the little gasp-
ing break in the breath that uttered it.

"There is an empty miner's cabin, not
very far from here," she said very quietly
aloud. "If I had not been so foolish as to
linger to explore it, I should have not been
caught in this awkward dilemma."

"Let us go there, then," he answered
gently. "It will be some slight protection
for you at least, and for me!"

His voice died into silence, and in
silence they went on until the little,
empty, desolate cabin was reached.

Fortunately Paul had some matches in
his pocket, and equally so Mae remembered
having seen a quantity of dry logs scat-
tered about the hut. So it was but a few
minutes until a bright fire was blazing
upon the neglected hearth, and the un-
happy darkness was dispelled by its cheery
light.

Having thus made her so comfortable as
he could, Paul rose to his feet and hastily
began buttoning his coat close about his
chin.

For an instant Mae watched him in-
tently, a strange softness veiling the lustre
of her hazel eyes. Then:

"No, Mr. Bessford," she said, with
gentle firmness, laying one little hand
upon his sleeve, "you must not—shall not—go
outside and spend all this long, dreary
night in the pitiless storm. You have as
much right as I to the shelter of this roof,
and the comfort of this cheery fire. Do
not leave them and go out into the storm
until you wish to make me more unhappy
than I am."

He turned and looked curiously at her
for a good half minute.

Then, seeing in her clear, honest, hazel
eyes that she meant just what she said, he
answered simply:

"Then I will stay here, Miss Lisbon."

And throwing himself down upon the
opposite side of the glowing hearth, the
two talked or fell into troubled silence as
their moods inclined them.

The morning sun was bringing out all
the golden glints in Mae's pretty chestnut
hair by the time they found it possible to
cross the treacherous gulch.

As they rode homeward both were
strangely silent, and Paul's face was white
and tense with the bitterness of some in-
ward struggle.

After a little he turned to her abruptly
and said in husky tones: