

would bless her life hourly and daily, for ever and ever?

'Ralph, if I have you I want nothing else.'

'Is that really true, Gertrude?'

'As God is my judge!'

He said not a word, but his face was enough; and Gertrude knew what was in his heart.

'What was the date of the will that made Claud Wilton heir to the Erle property?' he asked in a few minutes.

'January 12, 1843,' she replied at once.

The date was engraved on her mind; for her gaze had mechanically gone over it again and again while Claud held it in his hand.

Ralph took up a document and examined it.

'And this is dated March 5, 1844. I revoke my former will, and give and bequeath all my money and lands to my nephew, John Erle; and at his disease to the heirs of his body,' &c. So, Gertrude, you will be rich once more,' he said, with an unmistakable regret in his voice.

'Rich in my husband!' Gertrude whispered; and putting aside reserve, she crept into his arms; those arms closed round her, and Ralph's face, bright and happy once more, looked into her own.

'I am sorry for this,' she exclaimed. Her hands were firmly clasped in Ralph's, and money and lands seemed to her very secondary objects in existence.

'Sorry for Claud?' with a tinge of reproach in the tone.

'No, not for Claud, but for Alice.'

'Alice! Why, what concern has she in the matter?'

'Ralph, you have been engrossed in me so long, that you have been blind to everything else, I believe,' she laughed; but he stopped the laugh in a way that sent the red blood to her cheeks. 'Alice and Claud have been pledged to one another for more than two years.'

'But Claud was engaged to you six months ago.'

'That fact counted for nothing to him.'

'The scoundrel!'

'Don't say that, Ralph! I forgive him, for if he had been what my foolish fancy painted him, I should never have been here; and she laid her head down on his shoulder lovingly.'

'I am afraid Claud will never marry her now; he might have done so, if he had remained wealthy; and poor little Alice will break her heart for him.'

'As she is doing now at his silence and negligence! This accounts for her ill looks,' Ralph said anxiously, as he remembered how fragile Alice had grown, and the delicacy of her face.

It was true what he surmised. Claud's inhuman silence and neglect had broken her heart, and Alice was dying with forced smiles on her lips. Claud had bid her keep their secret from her brother, and she had obeyed him, but at the cost of her life.

It was a bitter day for Claud when he was told that the wealth he revelled and gloried in was not his after all; but it was not so bitter as that on which he bent over Alice to take a last farewell.

The two were alone: the sick girl had willed it so.

'Do not speak harshly to him, Ralph, for my sake, and let me see him alone,' and Ralph, with tears that he could not keep back, had promised to mind her words.

Claud knelt by the bed, clasping two white wasted hands closely, in his, and Alice did not say much; but her blue eyes rested tenderly, yearningly on his face.

'You will not quite forget me, Claud? You will think sometimes of the dear old lane and the seat under the large boughs, and of the quiet grave where I shall lie with my heart cold to you—cold for the first time, Claud!' she murmured in low fluttering accents; but to Claud each word was a blow.

'Your hand has touched this so often, don't let it be hidden quite away from you; keep a little piece in memory of the old time,' she whispered, holding out a tress of fair hair towards him.

He could not speak, but he seized the lock eagerly—it looked like burnished gold in his grasp—and he rained down hot kisses upon it.

'You forgot to be Lord of Burleigh after all, Claud!' she said with a faint smile.

'Then her countenance all over
Pale again as death did grow,
But he clasped her like a lover,
And he cheered her soul with love;
So she strove against her weakness.'

'Alice, I would have come. I never loved any one but you in my life,' he cried passionately.

She believed him. And the knowledge that his heart had been true, though his lips had been false, was dear solace to her now.

'Claud, how happy we were once!' she murmured, closing her eyes; and a beatific look crossed her wan face as memory brought back the past—the old country lane, the drooping larches, the rustic seat; but the look soon passed, and her cheek grew white and forgot to blush rosy red, as it was wont to do when Claud's kisses fell upon it.

Mortal's kisses had lost their power on the soul that was striving to soar heavenward, where there is no marriage or giving in marriage. A few days later, Alice slept under the sod, and all that remained of her on earth was the golden curl that lay on Claud Wilton's breast.

THE GLEANER.

THE *chef de cuisine* of the Serapis was cook to the Emperor Maximilian during that monarch's fatal sojourn in Mexico.

IT is said that the French postal authorities are seriously entertaining the idea of providing all the Paris postmen with bicycles.

MORE than five thousand dead babes are annually found in New York city, thrown into the streets, into the rivers, and into out-of-the-way places.

QUADRUPLIX telegraphy (that is, the art of sending four messages, two in each direction, simultaneously by one wire) has been accomplished in London.

IT is rumored that Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, has become engaged to the Archduchess Elizabeth of Austria, daughter of the late Archduke Ferdinand.

IT is worthy of note that the Holy See has at last sent to Cardinal Manning a brief, giving the Papal blessing to the teetotal movement headed by his Eminence in England, and also to the heads of the same movement in North America.

ANNE BREWSTER, the authoress, had a narrow escape from death during a recent Alpine excursion. Her foot slipped on a shelf of a rock, and below her lay a glacier and death, when she was luckily caught just in time by one of the guides.

THE subterranean gallery of the new St. Gotthard tunnel will be 15,000 metres long. It is not expected that the opening will take place before 1880, as the drift advances but seven metres per day, and only 4,500 metres have been excavated so far.

CHARLOTTE CRAMPTON, the late actress, rendered great service as a *vivandière* in a Maryland regiment during the civil war, being indefatigable in her attentions to the sick and wounded. Miss Crampton was once also a lecturer on the evils of intemperance.

MRS. BLACK, the "Maid of Athens," has an unmarried daughter who is described as "lovely and of exquisite manners." Here is a chance for emulators of Lord Byron to follow his example, and though they "fly to Istanbul," let Athens hold their heart and soul.

M. BLIN, a well-known French swimmer, proposes to outdo Captain Boyton or Captain Webb. He has announced his intention of swimming from Paris to Rouen on the Seine. He will be accompanied by several boats, and will be provided with a stock of hard-boiled eggs and rum.

AN intelligent French engineer has discovered the means of suddenly arresting the progress of an invading army by means of an electric process. The gentleman refuses to give any particulars, as he has forwarded his invention to the War Ministry, where it is to remain a State secret.

IT turns out that the phantom ship which lured the Vanguard to her doom, instead of being Flying Dutchman, commanded by Vanderdecken, was a Norwegian barque, commanded by Captain Vick, and that this worthy got into port congratulating himself on having escaped the fate which so shortly afterwards befell the Vanguard.

A chess match has been arranged between Mr. Blackburne, the great blindfold player, and Herr Steinitz, the winner of the first prize at the Vienna International Tournament in 1873. The stakes are £60 a side, and the match will be played at the City of London Chess Club, in Knight-riding-street, commencing early in the ensuing winter.

WORTH has invented a new bodice. It fits the figure closely, and is in form like one of the hunting jackets worn in the reign of Louis XIV., the Frondeuse jackets, as they were called. It is open in front, where is a *fouillis* of either black or white lace; there are large pockets on the long front basques, and a deep sash round the waist, with or without ends, according to taste.

IT is thought possible that a fifth marshal of France will soon be nominated. The four officers who at present fill this post are MacMahon, Canrobert, Leboeuf, and Baraguay d'Hilliers, who was appointed to replace Bazaine. Each of these gentlemen is paid 30,000 francs per year. As the sum of 150,000 francs for marshals' emoluments have been inscribed in the Budget for 1876, it is believed that the fifth marshal will be shortly appointed.

THE soundings for the submarine tunnel between England and France are being carried on actively. They are at this moment directed to the part of the straits near the English coast, at a few miles from the shore. Each evening the vessel which carries the commission returns to Dover, Calais, or Boulogne, and work is recommenced the next day. The engineers, MM. Larousse and Lavalée, are perfectly satisfied with the results obtained, and so far nothing has occurred to destroy their provisions relative to the depths.

ON the subject of sea-sickness, Col. Knox, who is a great traveler, has this useful hint to offer: To those who contemplate going to sea I have a piece of advice to offer that may save them the pangs of the marine malady. The night you are to sail, take a blue pill—teagrain—just before going to bed, and when you get up in the morning, take the first thing, a dose of citrate of magnesia. Then eat your breakfast and go on board, and I will wager four to one that you will not be sea-sick a moment, though the water may be as rough as an Arkansas traveler's manners.

FOOT NOTES.

NONE but the wealthy suffer from overwork. If a poor fellow gets sick it is because he smokes too much, or neglects his business to run about in the evenings.

The question of the right of Nonconformist ministers to the title of "Reverend" is being tried before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of England. The case is near its close.

DURING one week recently the London health authorities seized and destroyed two tons and twelve hundred weight of meat as unfit for human food that had been exposed for sale in the markets.

No news having been received for some time from Lieut. Cameron of the African Research Expedition, the Royal Geographical Society of England, it is stated, have grown uneasy as to his safety.

MASSACHUSETTS is putting-in claims for both orator and poet at the Centennial exhibition. The choice for orator will fall upon Charles Francis Adams, and that for poet on Mr. Longfellow or Mr. Lowell.

THERE is in Paris just now an Alsatian peasant woman who carries her hair on her arm like a train, as she may well do, for it is seven feet and a-half in length. She is fifty-two years of age, but her hair still grows.

THE burial question is to be brought up again in Prussia at the opening of the next Parliament. The Liberals desire to make the cemeteries the property of the political communes, and to have them undenominational.

IT is reported from Vienna that the Pope has directed the Roman Catholic bishops of Turkey to use their influence in quieting the Christian population, and to aid as much as in their power in the pacification of Herzegovina.

WORTH, the man-dressmaker, drives out every day in the Bois de Boulogne. He wears kid gloves of a peculiar lilac hue and always takes care to put one foot up on the front seat so as to disclose silk hose of the same delicate shade as his gloves.

MR. PLIMSOLL'S war upon the owners and agents of rotten sailing vessels has produced one good effect at least. The German Consuls at all the British ports have received orders to prevent unseaworthy vessels flying the German flag from putting out.

MICO LIUBIRITCH, the leader of the Herzegovinian insurgents, is a brave, resolute man. When a student he took part in a revolutionary movement against the Turks. He is about 30 years of age, and is deemed well qualified for the position he has attained.

MR. JOHN W. F. HOBBS of Northampton, Mass., has given \$10,000 for a school house in that town. It is said of Mr. Hobbs that now a great many years ago he borrowed money to start a line of omnibuses in Boston, driving one of them himself, and that now he is worth a million dollars.

A WOMAN in Minneapolis recently astonished a crowd who were trying to start a balky horse by thrusting a handful of dust and sand into the animal's mouth, exclaiming, "There, he'll go now." To the surprise of every one, the horse started immediately without showing the least stubbornness or excitement.

BOSTON has a "Society to Encourage Study at Home," the function of which is to educate persons without requiring attendance at recitations. Members are given a programme of study, and are allowed to select any or all the branches mentioned in it; and they may at any time apply to one of the managers for instruction. Once a year there is an examination, when diplomas are given to those who merit them. The society is three years old and prosperous.

THE Vatican contains only 537 persons. The Pope, Cardinal Antonelli, the Major-Domo, Grand Almoner, and other officers, number 14; the Secretary of State's establishment numbers 29; that of the Palace administration, 15; and the secret printing office, 8. The Pope has one valet and six servants. The Apostolic antechamber has a Dean, 23 couriers, three servants, and three orderlies. The Swiss Guard and Pontifical Gendarmerie muster 200, of whom 23 are married.

'How do you get up your sermons?' asked some one of Mr. Moody. His reply was: "For a number of years, I have kept large envelopes marked, say, 'Blood,' 'Heaven,' 'Faith,' &c., and everything I hear or meet with on any of these subjects I make a note of it in these envelopes. After some time I have material enough in one of these envelopes for three or four sermons. People sometimes speak of me taking four or five months to prepare a sermon; it takes me four or five years."

A bird of great docility, intelligence, and spirit has been found in Iceland, which flies at a meteor-like speed of 150 miles an hour, and is able to find its home over sea and land, from any part of the habitable world. A pair of these birds, a few days ago, brought despatches from Paris to a lonely spot, congenial to their nature, in a wild and rocky part of Kent, within 10 miles of London, in 1½ hours. Press carrier pigeons took the despatches on to the City, the whole distance from Paris to London, by actual parcel mode of conveyance, being done within 1½ hours! If the experiment at present being made in training and educating them continue successful, it is hoped by next summer to establish a daily miniature ocean mail between America and Europe, the whole distance to be traversed between sunrise in one hemisphere and sunset in the other.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

M. FAURE has been at death's door with inflammation of the lungs.

AGNES ETHEL is the wife of a millionaire—Mr. Tracy, of Buffalo.

MR. FECHTER has resumed his engagements, appearing in Toronto as *Hamlet*.

"AIDA" is to be brought out, after seven months' rehearsal, at the Salle Ventadour, Paris, next April.

MME. JANASCHKE has been acting in Melbourne, where Mme. Ristori has concluded a highly satisfactory engagement.

MISS NEILSON is still in France, and latest reports state that her health is considerably improved, although she is still far from well.

MME. ILMA DE MURSKA has been enthusiastically received in Melbourne, where there was recently a grand torchlight procession in her honor.

BLANCHE BARETTA is now the leading ingénue on the Parisian stage. Her success in the "Philosophe sans le savoir" at the Français has been enormous.

A Boston actress is told by the *Advertiser* that among the rudiments which she has yet to learn is the fact that her nose is too pretty to be talked through.

LA SCHNEIDER has won her suit with the manager of the Variétés. She got only five thousand francs damages, however, instead of the fifty thousand which she claimed.

PAOLA MARIE, sister of Irma, is to sing one of the leading roles in "La Boulangerie des Ecus," in Paris. Mlle. Aimée is the particular bright star of the production.

MISS EMILY SOLDENE has appeared in Glasgow at the head of her company, which still includes Miss Lizzie Robson, Miss Clara Vesey, and others who were seen here.

DONIZETTI's *Don Sebastian* and *Cimarosa's Rosi* *Thodore*, two operas which are very popular in Italy, will be performed at the Italian Opera, in Paris, during the coming winter.

MR. CAVE has in rehearsal at the Alhambra Shield's famous old English opera, "Rosina," the tuneful melodies of which will form a striking contrast to the airs of modern opera bouffe.

IN "Macbeth," as played at the Lyceum Theatre, London, the music introduced by Davenant is omitted. "In order that the tragedy may have as Shakespearean an aspect as possible."

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* says that Mlle. Torriani sings with such distinctness that every word of her songs can be heard, and is thus already, in one respect, more English than a great number of English singers.

MME. VILDA has been singing in Vienna, where she is known as Frau Wilt. As she adopts the French *criard* school she is popular in that city with the masses, and is said to be altogether more bearable in her own language than in Italian.

JENNY LIND-GOLDSCHMIDT has presented to the Church of the Holy Trinity, Wimbleson Park, an elegant Munich window representing the transfiguration, as a memorial to the late Dr. Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester, England.

THE *Marguerite Gautier* of Mlle. Tallandiera at the Gymnase has not met with much favor from those who are accustomed to the traditional rendering of *La Dame aux Camélias*. She makes *Marguerite* in the earlier scenes a bold and brazen creature who becomes softened and humanized in the play by her real affection for Armand Duval.

IT is said that discontent is growing in all classes of Parisian society with the management of the opera, for the building which bears on its front "National Academy of Music" has become a mere show place for strangers and *bourgeoisie* from the provinces. It has up to the present time, given only five or six operas to the public, and those with no well-known singers, with perhaps four exceptions.

THE death is announced at Edinburgh, from rapid consumption, of the actress, Lady Don, who was well known in this country. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. John Sanders of the Adelphi Theatre, and was known to the playing public as Miss Emily Eliza Sanders. She married in 1857 Sir William Henry Don, seventh baronet of Newtoun, Berwickshire, formerly an officer in the army, who afterward became an actor, and died at Hobart Town in 1862. Lady Don leaves one daughter.

MAPLESON, the London opera manager, advertises in a Milan newspaper a reward equal to \$1,000 for a tenor singer. Competitive examinations will be held in Milan, Bologna, and Florence. The qualifications required, however, will exclude all except exceedingly gifted artists. The accepted man must speak and read pure Italian—not a dialect, must be of good personal appearance, free from deformity, and have a genial and sympathetic physiognomy, must have the manners of a gentleman, and not wear a wig or false teeth, and must have an agreeable voice, free from tremolo, of a plaintive and elastic character.

DOMESTIC.

RICE.—To boil rice as in India proceed as follows: Into a saucepan of two quarts of water, when boiling, throw a tablespoonful of salt, and then put in one pint of rice, previously well washed in cold water. Let it boil twenty minutes, throw into a colander, drain, and put back into the saucepan, which should stand near the fire for several minutes.

THE *Scientific American* says if a bottle of the oil of pennyroyal is left uncorked in a room at night, not a mosquito or any other bloodsucker will be found there in the morning. Mix potash with powdered meal and throw into the rat holes of a cellar, and the rat will depart. If a rat or mouse gets into your pantry, stuff in his hole a rag saturated with a solution of Cayenne pepper, and no rat or mouse will touch the rag for the purpose of opening communication with a depot of supplies.

WARTS.—The treatment of warts is to pare the hard and dry skin from their tops, and then touch them with the smallest drop of strong acetic acid, taking care that the acid does not run off the wart upon the neighbouring skin, for if it does, it will occasion inflammation and much pain. If this practice be continued once or twice daily, with regularity, paring the surface of the wart occasionally when it gets hard and dry, the wart may be soon effectually cured.

HADDOCK WITH TOMATOES.—Soak a dried haddock in plenty of cold water for half a day, drain off the water, and replace it with boiling water; when the haddock has been in this a couple of hours, take it out, carefully remove all the bones and skin, and break the meat into flakes; slice a moderate sized onion, and put it into a saucepan with an ounce of butter; as soon as the onion is soft, add one ripe tomato cut into slices, after a couple of minutes add the flesh of the haddock, a sprinkling of pepper, and some finely-minced parsley; shake the saucepan on the fire until the contents are thoroughly heated, and then draw it aside to be kept warm till the time of serving.