

would be better for the young men to be gathered together during their student days in a common hostel where they were free from the temptation of sex.

They were very kind to me. I was a lonely country lad—perhaps more susceptible to kindness than most. And I admired her from the first moment I saw her, an admiration which increased when I saw her unselfishness and devotion to her mother. She was engaged all day at a millinery establishment in the city, but she was up every morning by six o'clock helping with the housework.

"And so you felt as most men feel at some period of their lives, that you were the knight to relieve the damsel in distress?" said the old man, with the gentlest touch of irony, which left no sting. "In other words, you asked her to be the mistress of the manse when it should be yours. Am I right?"

"Yes," answered Hamilton, with a sigh. "And until I went to Lowden Bay the thought filled me with happiness."

"And now?"

"Now I know that of the real love of my life I had no idea. I could lay down my life for the woman of whom I told you first. Tell me what to do."

The old man rose, and, with his thumbs in the armpits of his coat, took three contemplative strides across the floor.

"I am not surprised at what you have told me, Gavin. I could wish it a less common story. What does your conscience bid you do?"

"My conscience bids me marry the woman who has been faithful to me for seven long years. She is alone now. Her mother died five months ago."

"It was a pity you did not take her to Lowden at the beginning. Why did not you?"

Hamilton shook his head.

"I don't know. I had some idea of getting settled first. She has been very patient, never questioning any decision of mine. In some respects she is far too good for me."

The old man paused by the desk and looked straightly into his young colleague's face. He was old, but the understanding of youth had not departed from him, and he could follow the workings of Hamilton's mind as if it had been an open book. He knew what war the natural man was waging there, and how youth and beauty and wealth were luring him from the way of honour.

"I have seen, as you have doubtless seen also, many ill sorted marriages among our brethren, arising out of circumstances somewhat similar. The one partner grows mentally, the other stands still, and there is not between them that unity which alone makes marriage the sacrament it ought to be. But another thing have I seen also, a man go back on the plighted word of his youth, and marry where he thought it would be for his social and professional advancement, and —"

"Well?" asked Hamilton, and his tongue was dry in his mouth.

"I have never seen blessing follow it; nay, I have seen an one in my mind's eye now, whose marriage has set the seal upon his spiritual death. I know nothing of the two women of whom you have told me, but this is what I say. Go to the woman who has been faithful to you all these years. Marry her without delay, and if you faithfully do your duty by her God will do the rest."

About seven o'clock that evening a pale slim girl with a somewhat weary look in her

sweet face, came out by the private door of a fashionable milliner's establishment in the West-end. When she saw and recognised a tall ministerial figure waiting on the kerb, the paleness and the weariness left her face, and she became beautiful, glorified by the halo cast by love.

"Oh, Gavin! I was thinking of you as I came downstairs, not dreaming you were so near! Why are you here to-day."

He drew her hand within his arm, and for a full minute did not speak. An unspeakable tenderness overflowed in his heart, touched by a quick remorse.

"I am here to see you, Mary. I have been long enough alone in Lowden Manse. Let us be married quietly without any delay. It can be no disrespect to your mother's memory now. She knew all about it and was not afraid of me. When will you come?"

Her hand trembled on his arm, and upon her face there was a look impossible to describe.

"I am waiting, Mary," he said quickly.

"If you are so anxious I think I could come now. But only this morning I was calculating that if I had another winter at my music and French I should be surprisingly proficient. I have worked very hard, Gavin. I will never shame you dear in Lowden Manse."

"My darling, he said, and the words were sincere enough. Under his breath he added, "God forgive me."

Before they parted that night everything was arranged, and their next meeting would be the final one before their lives were joined.

Very late that night Gavin Hamilton alighted at Lowden Bay station, and the porter touched his hat.

"The laird de'd this afternoon, sir, quite sudden an' peaceful in his sleep."

"So he need never know," said Hamilton to himself as he turned away, "I am spared one painful task. God has been better to me than I deserve."

And in the years which followed that grateful acknowledgment was often in his heart. His wife sometimes wondered what quality it is in her husband's love which makes it different from others, and why his pride in her should be so high. And though she has never found any answer to these wonderings, she counts herself the most blessed among women.—British Weekly.

### The Rendezvous.

BY HENRY VAN DYKE.

I count that friendship little worth  
Which has not many things untold,  
Great longings that no words can hold,  
And passion secrets waiting birth.

Along the slender wires of speech  
Some message from the heart is sent;  
But who can tell the whole that's meant?  
Our dearest thoughts are out of reach.

I have not seen thee, though mine eyes  
Hold now the image of thy face;  
In vain, through form, I strive to trace  
The soul I love! that deeper lies.

A thousand accidents control  
Our meeting here. Clasp hand in hand  
And swear to meet me in that land  
Where friends hold converse soul to soul.

Dr. Guthrie eloquently urged hundreds of the poorer folk to take subscription cards and fill them up with such sums as they were able, from a sixpence to five shillings; and explained to them how the drops unite in showers, the showers produce the rills, rivers, and the rivers make the sea.

### Good Advice.

"I pray you, O excellent wife, cumber not yourself and me to get a curiously rich dinner for this man or woman who has alighted at our gates, nor a bed-chamber made ready at too great a cost; these things, if they are curious in them, they can get at a few shillings at any village; but rather let the stranger see, if he will, in your looks, accents, and behavior,—your heart and earnestness, your thought and will, which he cannot buy at any price, in any city, and which he may well travel twenty miles, and dine sparingly, and sleep hardly to behold. Let not the emphasis of hospitality lie in bed and board; but let truth and love, and honor, and courtesy flow in all your deeds." —Emerson.

### Healthy Babies.

WATCHFUL MOTHERS CAN KEEP THEIR  
BABIES HEALTHY, ROSY-CHEEKED AND  
HAPPY.

Nothing in the world is such a comfort and joy as a healthy, hearty, rosy-cheeked, happy baby.

Babies can be kept in perfect health only by having at hand and administering when needed some purely vegetable, harmless remedy, and of all this class of medicines Baby's Own Tablets are conceded to be the best.

For constipation, colic, diarrhoea, simple fevers, sour stomachs, teething babies, indigestion and sleeplessness, these tablets are a really wonderful cure. You can give them to the smallest baby without the slightest fear. Dissolved in water, they will be taken readily. They contain absolutely not a particle of opiate or other injurious drugs. They are small, sweet lozenges that any baby will take without objection, and their action is prompt and pleasant. They will tone up the whole system and make the little one as hearty and free from infantile disorders as any mother could wish.

Mrs. Walter Brown, Milby, Que., says: "I have never used any medicine for baby that did him so much good as Baby's Own Tablets. I would not be without them." This is the verdict of all mothers who have used these tablets.

They cost 25 cents a box. All druggists sell them or they may be secured by sending the price direct and the tablets will be forwarded prepaid. The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Dept. T. Brockville, Ont.

Michigan Presbyterian:—Let the despiser of patience try to exercise it, and he will better realize its meaning and worth. It has been described as the only Christian grace which can not be counterfeited. We are either patient or impatient, there can be no deceit or mistake in the matter. And let the patient man show, by his courage and steadfastness, that he possesses a manly virtue, one that makes strong men.

Let me say a word for this Book, the New Testament, which the Apostle of Love brings to a beautiful finish! It is the greatest marvel of the world. It is the grandest single object that has ever existed. As a book, revealing the truth it is a finality. Greece has no masterpiece like it; neither has Rome, neither has Egypt. What has superseded it? Nothing. It contains the greatest ideas that have entered the mind of man. No other book goes down into the depths of human nature as it does.