

THE
CANADIAN MONTHLY
AND NATIONAL REVIEW.

VOL. II.]

APRIL, 1877.

[No. 4.

JULIET.*

BY MRS. H. LOVETT-CAMERON.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE TRUTH AT LAST.

COLONEL FLEMING, thus suddenly ushered into the room, made one step forward, and then stopped short in some confusion.

‘My dear Mrs. Travers, you are in trouble—what is the matter? can I help you? or rather I had better leave you—I have come at an inopportune moment.’

Juliet was standing with her face turned away from him, stifling down those bitter sobs which his entrance had interrupted. For a moment, prudence and wisdom counselled her to say, ‘Yes, leave me, I am not well,’ and to let him go. But for one moment, and then the old impetuous nature rose within her, the nature that was weak and uncalculating in its possibly unwise impulses, yet ever true and honest to itself.

She turned quickly towards him, and placed the faded yellow letter in his hands.

‘Not inopportune, Colonel Fleming,’ she said, in a low, trembling voice, as she looked up at him with eyes all heavy with

unshed tears; ‘you never came at a more appropriate moment—look at that!’

Hugh Fleming looked down at the torn paper she had thrust into his hand, and turned it over wonderingly.

‘What is it?’ he said: and then with a sudden flush he recognized his own handwriting, and remembered at once what letter it was that she had given him.

He looked up at her almost angrily, and then walked away to the window, and stood with his back towards her.

What did she mean by showing him this old, disregarded, disdained love-letter, of which for years she had never given the faintest sign or acknowledgment? was it to mock at his love and to insult him?

But no! what then meant her tears and her agitation? and why was the letter all torn and mutilated?

‘What does it mean?’ he asked, coming back close to her as she stood with drooping head supporting herself with both hands against the edge of the table.

‘It means—’ she said, looking at him, whilst a bright flush covered her face—‘it means, that for years I have misunderstood

* Registered in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1875.