

## FORTUNE'S ODD FREAKS.

ALLUREMENTS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THE FICKLE DAME.

Verifications of the Old Adage that There's Many a Slip 'Twixt Cup and Lip—Cases where Wealth Came Too Late to Be of Avail to the Needy One.

To most men fortune comes not at all. Only to a few does she appear in her full radiance; but to many her visit, long expected and long deferred, is at last a mockery. Hundreds of instances prove the assertion. There is, for example, the pitiful story of a poor architect named Snell, in coming to whom prosperity dallied so long that when it came he was beyond caring for it. Designs had been invited for the new Genevieve Ward wing of the Maternity Hospital in Melbourne, and a premium of £100 had been offered for the best.

"Isolation" was the suggestive word which marked the design sent in by Mr. Snell; but the drawing was more hopeful than the title. The judges awarded him the prize, but fortune was too late. The poor fellow committed suicide in Heidelberg two days before the decision was made known, the cause being his hopeless destitution.

Over twenty years ago a Cuban refugee found an asylum in a New York boarding-house. Antoine Martinez was his name; he knew no English; he was miserably poor and ill-clad; and would scarce have survived the privations of the winter but for the help of a few fellow countrymen. He made a scanty income by artistic work; but his life was a very wretched and painful one, and at last he hanged himself on a nail in his attic. Among his effects was found a ticket in the Havana lottery. The result of the drawing has just been published, and his friends were amazed to find that the poor suicide's ticket had won no less than \$5,000 dollars. He had obtained the ticket as his recompense for singing a Spanish song at a party. It was the passport to fortune, had he known it, but the jade was too fickle for him.

Some time ago a story, very seriously vouched for, was told of a Deptford incident. Last year a middle-aged man and a girl of eighteen went to live in a part of a dingy house in a still more dingy alley out of High street. The man was ill and out of work, and his daughter's trifling earnings as a shirt maker formed the only support of the little household.

At the end of the year the girl caught influenza and died. The man was left alone, with influenza added to his other bodily ills, and starvation hovering outside the door. Just then a very well-dressed woman entered the place, and for some days and nights nursed the sick man so devotedly that he began to mend. As he grew better, however, the woman became ill, and a few days later died of pneumonia.

She was his wife. They were married twenty years before, when the man was a tradesman of Hammersmith. The woman eloped with another man, who went with her to America. Trying his luck on the lower Californian gold-fields he used a big fortune, and when he died he left the woman \$65,000. She then traced her husband, and having nursed him back to life, she gave practical effect to her repentance. The man, left alone in the world, had £50,000 by way of consolation; but surely, in his case too, fortune was but a mockery.

Inventors are proverbially the sport of fortune. A poor fellow of this class, named Jobson, was once a boarder in a house on Washington Place, New York. He had invented a lot of clever things which were of no use to anybody, and he was very hard up. The landlady was a kindly soul, but at last his debt was so large, and his hope of paying it so small, that he vanished from the house. Two months later, in the middle of winter, the man reappeared, and begged shelter for the night. At that very moment an advertisement appeared in a paper calling on Jobson by name to go West and claim his share of a relative's great fortune!

Many a peasant mother has dreamed in her moment of pride that her son would marry an heiress, deeming that to be the highest fortune. Thomas Murphy, the son of an Irish peasant, realized the dream. A handsome and clever young musician, he fell in love with Lady Blanche Noel, the daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, and more than twenty years ago he married her secretly. But Murphy's fortune simply mocked at him. The Earl disowned his daughter, and the young couple sought a living in America. Murphy taught music, and Lady Blanche wrote for the magazines. Thus they managed to eke out a scanty existence. But Murphy became an invalid, and his devoted wife had to earn the money for the support of their little home in New Hampshire. Ten years ago Lady Blanche Murphy died, and some seven or eight years later her husband, in the deepest poverty and distress, followed her. The poor fellow's "brilliant" marriage had but a momentary radiance.

Take another American example. William Krueger, an ingenious fellow, had spent many years on the study of the principles upon which a flying machine should be made. He had patented an idea of the kind, and he hoped to have a government pension for his services as a soldier to enable him to make practical use of it. For years he waited in vain. No money came; no one took up his invention. In 1882 he committed suicide, and as he lay dead in his house a letter arrived there announcing that the pension, which he based all his hopes, had been granted.

The stage offers many instances of a mocking fortune. One little known will suffice. Mr. Braton Robins, an old actor, whose recollections of half a century on the stage were published in part some time ago, had the one great chance of his life when he was in the very dire straits. He had been a super, and had advanced into the more dignified rank of the recognized actor. For some days he had been living on bread and water, and he was weak and ill.

Then news came to him that Mr. Betty had declined his part at Drury Lane. Mr. Robins was sent for. The play was *Richieu*, and he had never appeared in it.

Shylock was his favorite character, and he begged that the play might be changed. But this could not be done, and in twenty-four hours the unknown actor had to learn the enormous part. He sat up all night, and next morning he was letter-perfect, but he had eaten nothing, and his excitement would not allow him to sleep.

When the curtain went up for the opportunity which gave him chance of renown, his privations told their tale. His voice deserted him, the performance was a failure; and at the close he was taken away to bed and a long period of sickness. Thus, in the very moment of his success Dame Fortune showed how fickle she could be.—*Tid Bits.*

## ABOUT PRECIOUS STONES.

The Ruby is More Valuable than the Diamond in Many Cases.

In addition to being the most sought for, the diamond is generally supposed to be the most precious of the jewels of the earth. This, however, is not so. The ruby at the present time, is far more valuable. Large rubies of perfect color being very rare, their value increases in even greater proportion than in the case of diamonds. Thus, a perfect ruby of five carats weight will be worth ten times as much as a diamond of the same weight.

The finest diamonds used to be those obtained at the mines of Golconda, in India, but they have been exhausted for many years. The majority of our diamonds now come from South Africa and Brazil. Some of the Brazilian stones are so small as to be almost imperceptible to the eye of an adult, for which reason children are employed to wash the sand in which they are found. This washing process has to be repeated several times.

The two richest diamond mines in the world are the De Beers and Kimberley, in South Africa. It was in one of these mines that the largest cut diamond in the world was discovered. It was christened the "Imperial," and weighs 182 carats. The jewel known as the African Koh-i-noor was found in 1869. Its value is estimated at £30,000.

Cape diamonds are found in different shades of yellow, ranging from deep orange to light straw color and merging into white. Diamonds are occasionally found which have lovely rose or green tints, and, if perfect, this greatly enhances both their beauty and commercial value.

A most remarkable diamond has recently been found in one of the Australian mines. It is said to be of a delicate pink, and to weigh 13½ carats.

Diamonds occasionally split, or to use the most technical expression, they "burst." Certain glossy stones which have a tinge of brown in them are most liable. Though the stone may be perfectly clear when first taken from the mine, yet perhaps in an hour a little feather or fracture points to the centre. This increases in size, until finally the stone falls to pieces and is worthless. The diamond is the hardest substance known. Its hardness is represented by 10.

In the crown of England there are 1,363 brilliant diamonds, 1,273 rose diamonds, and 147 table diamonds, beside other gems. The ruby, originally came from Asia Minor, but was afterwards obtained from Pegu. Of late years, however, nearly all our rubies have come from Burmah, where there are large mines. The scarcity coupled with the small size of rubies (compared with the diamond) make this stone very valuable. A ruby of one carat weight is worth from £14 to £20, according to the purity of the stone. But a ruby weighing four carats is worth from £400 to £450. A perfect stone of a greater weight than four carats is a great rarity.

Among the imperial crown, jewels of Russia is the supposed largest ruby known. It was brought from China. The largest ever brought to England weighed over 47 carats, and was sold for £20,000.

The emerald is a green stone and occurs chiefly in the south of Asia and Mexico, those from the latter place being often of a better color and superior to the Asiatic ones. The emerald is extremely liable to flaws, so that a really perfect stone is rare, and on that account much prized. There are eleven emeralds in the English crown, and the Czarina of Russia has a necklace consisting of forty magnificent emeralds. The finest and most numerous collection of this jewel is said to be that belonging to the Spanish crown. They are of American origin. The Duke of Devonshire is the possessor of the largest emerald in the world. It is two inches in diameter, weighs nearly nine ounces, and is of the finest color. In consequence of the large increase in the value of emeralds of late years (owing to the scarcity) the Devonshire emerald, as it is called, must be worth a fabulous amount.

The opal is superlatively supposed to bring bad luck to its owner. The cause of this superstition is rather obscure. It may be due to the nature of the stone itself. The opal is covered with an infinite number of small cracks in the surface, and sometimes these enlarge, splitting the stone in pieces. Thus a very valuable jewel may, in a short time, become absolutely worthless—certainly a stroke of bad luck for the possessor of the jewel.

The stone is milky-white or yellowish-white in color, and is found in various localities—Arabia, Ceylon, Mexico, Hungary, America and others. One of the finest opals ever discovered is that worn in the cap of the Chinese Minister at Washington. It is as large as a pigeon's egg.

## The Chemist and the Explorer.

When Stanley returned from his last expedition to Africa he told the world that he had found an inexhaustible supply of rubber trees in the interior of that dark continent. This at the time was intensely interesting but it has lost very much of its interest since Riggby, the chemist, has made it possible for us to have tweeds, worsteds and any of the various wool materials from which our clothing is made, rendered perfectly waterproof, without changing either their appearance or the porous nature of the cloth in the slightest degree. Ladies or gentlemen may now have an outer garment made from material to their taste, which will keep out the rain without their experiencing any of the discomforts produced by a rubber coat.

## What Became of the Pretty Girl.

At Brighton—"Why, Fred, my boy, what's become of that pretty girl you used to be about with so much? I never see you together now!" "What's become of her? Why, she's my wife!"

## A MIDLAND MIRACLE.

NARRATIVE OF FACTS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE OF MRS. F. A. CHASE.

A Sufferer for Over Ten Years—Treated by the Best Doctors in the Place. Only to Grow Worse—The Particulars of Her Recovery as Investigated by a Reporter of the "News-Letter."

(Orilla News Letter.)

What wonderful progress the closing half of the nineteenth century has witnessed! Men still young have witnessed discoveries and inventions, which, while they have fairly revolutionized the methods of human life, are taken almost as a matter of course. New and wonderful discoveries are made almost daily; we quickly adapt ourselves to the changed condition, and even wonder that the inventive genius of man had not long ago penetrated the secrets of nature, daily being brought to our aid.

While in all directions great advances have been made, perhaps in none have the strides been greater, than in the science of medicine. Old methods have entirely disappeared, the days of big nauseous doses, cupping and bleeding, have passed away. New methods formerly held to be incurable now speedily yield to the treatment of advanced medical science. For more than a year past there have appeared in the columns of the "News-Letter," from time to time, the particulars of cures that have been the wonder of all who were acquainted with the persons restored. Perhaps the most striking of these was the case of Mr. John Marshall, of Hamilton, who was firmly fastened in the public mind, for the reason that he had been paid a total disability claim of \$1,000, only after having been pronounced incurable by a score or more of men, who are leaders in the medical profession. As publisher of the "Canadian-Workman" the writer has a knowledge of the proceedings under which a disability claim is paid and when it is understood that all such claims have to pass the scrutiny of an investigating committee, the Local Medical Examiner, the Grand Medical Examiner, the Finance Committee and the Grand Lodge Officers, it will be seen that in none but a genuine case of disability could a claim be paid.

That the case of Mr. Marshall was no exception to this stringent scrutiny was made evident by his total disability; that he was afterwards made a well man was due entirely to a treatment of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills—probably the most remarkable case was but the first of a series of cures equally remarkable, due to the same grand agency, each of which has been verified by the most trustworthy testimony. The "News-Letter" in common with many others, has taken a deep interest in nothing more noble than the case of Mr. Marshall, given in behalf of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, hence when the cure of Mrs. F. A. Chase, was reported from midland recently, we decided to interview the lady and verify the truth of the report; with this end in view, Midland was visited, and Mrs. Chase found a looking well and happy after long years of suffering, before she learned of the efficacy of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mrs. Chase herself admitted the reporter, who found her a lady of superior intelligence, willing to give her candid testimony in favor of Pink Pills, for the benefit of other afflicted persons. To the reporter Mrs. Chase said that up to her sixteenth year, she had been a healthy girl, but at that period sickness overtook her, and for the ensuing ten years her life was one of almost constant misery. In January, 1891, she grew worse, and finally had to take to her bed and was reduced by suffering to the point of death. All the time she was under the treatment of leading doctors. After weary months Mrs. Chase longed for some change and in October asked her doctor if he would consent to her taking a trip to her mother's, who lives near Port Hope. This was finally agreed to and on Oct. 3 last she set out for that place. On the way, a lady, a stranger to her, noticing her weak condition, strongly urged her to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and again on her arrival at her destination her friends urged her to try this wonderful remedy. On October 10, she consented to give the Pink Pills a trial, and soon found such beneficial effects that it needed no persuasion to continue the treatment. In less than three months she was fully restored, and on January 15, her friends were rejoiced and gratified at the wonderful change which Pink Pills had wrought in her health and appearance. Mrs. Chase has since continued to enjoy good health, and says that she cannot too highly praise Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which have rescued her from debility after many years of almost hopeless suffering. Her husband also expresses his thankfulness and unlimited pleasure with which he received his wife on her return, looking so well and happy, which was as he truly described it, "like receiving one from the dead." He said that his wife's condition had been such that in going only a few yards she would be obliged to rest, or obtain help, and before her restoration she had been unequal to the slightest exertion.

While in Midland the writer called upon Dr. McCartney, druggist, who reports large sales of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, with the most decided benefits to those using them. From many of our exchanges we have noticed with interest the reports of the great benefit derived from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and the case of Mrs. Chase goes to confirm the claim that they are a wonderful discovery in the interests of humanity, restoring vitality to the broken down system, and giving new life to Mrs. Chase had suffered ten years, and last October was looked upon as being at the point of death, there must be something of an almost miraculous virtue in the remedy which has raised her to her present condition of health, after she had spent hundreds of dollars in doctoring, and for other so-called remedies of various kinds. In fact Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are recognized as one of the greatest modern medicines—a perfect blood builder and nerve restorer—curing such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, nervous prostration and the tired feeling resulting therefrom, diseases depending upon a humor in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, the after effects of la grippe, etc. Pink Pills restore pale

and sallow complexions to the glow of health, and are a specific for all the troubles peculiar to the female sex, while in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork of excesses of whatever nature.

These Pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing our trade mark and wrapper, as 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in either address. The price at which these pills are sold make a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment.—A.

## THINGS OF VALUE.

There is no such thing as having much of a good thing in grace as long as we insist on keeping our hands in our pockets.

When you decide to be cured of Dyspepsia try the Greatest Known Cure, K. D. C. Free sample. K. D. C. Co., New Glasgow, N. S.

There isn't much lifting power in your religion if it doesn't make you do your best to pay 100 cents on the dollar.

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Think twice before you speak once, and then keep your mouth shut until you reconsider it.

PELEE ISLAND CLARET for Dyspepsia is the same Grape Cure so famous in Europe. GLASGOW, 17th December, 1891. FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 1891 ON ROBERT BROWN'S "FOUR CROWN" BLEND OF SCOTCH WHISKY.

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JOHN CLARK, Ph. D., F.C.S., F.I.C. Agent, E. G. SCOVILL, Teas and Wine, St. John, N. B.

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Letters from Rev. W. A. Mason, Georgetown, P. E. I.

(1st Letter).—"I have used one package of your K. D. C. and have derived great benefit from it. My case is very severe—complicated with other troubles. (2nd Letter).—"I had been troubled with a constant pain in my stomach. I was afraid it was cancer. After using your medicine it entirely disappeared and has not returned. We do not claim that K. D. C. will cure all ills, but we do guarantee that it will cure Dyspepsia or Indigestion the parent of nine-tenths of all diseases. K. D. C. Co., New Glasgow, N. S.

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C. C. RICHARDS & CO. Gents.—My daughter was suffering terribly with neuralgia. I purchased a bottle of MINARD'S LINIMENT, and rubbed her face thoroughly. The pain left her and she slept well till morning. Next night another attack, another application resulted as previously, with no return since. Grateful feelings determined me to express myself publicly. I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT in the house at any cost. J. H. BAILEY. Parkdale, Ont.

It is never too late to mend, nor are some rich widows ever too old to marry a second or third time.

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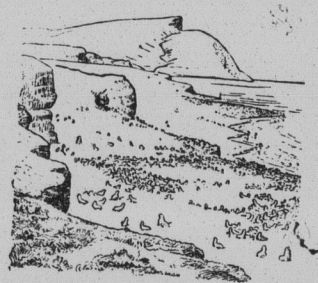
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