

A FATEFUL...DIAMOND

Wine and cigars were brought in, which were offered to Louis, as well as the others; but our young friend, having been influenced by his faithful teacher to always shun them, declined, and sat quietly while the others chatted, smoked, and drank.

After an hour was passed thus he was shown to an elegant apartment for the night, and when he found himself alone it all appeared so strange and unreal that it seemed like a dream.

He was so excited that it was a long while before he could go to sleep; but the drowsy god captured him at last, and held him in thrall so completely that it was long past his usual hour of rising when he at last awoke.

The bells on some churches near were chiming seven, and he sprang out of bed in haste and was nearly dressed when there came a light tap at his door.

"Up, Louis!" queried a genial voice outside.

"Yes, sir," he instantly unlocked, and opened the door, and Mr. Murray stepped in, attired in a handsome dressing-gown, slippers and smoking cap.

"Well, how does it seem to live like sensible people?" he answered, in an easy, off-hand way.

Everything is so new to me that I can hardly realize that I am myself; but this certainly is very comfortable and nice," Louis replied glancing about the richly-appointed room.

"Well, breakfast is ready, and we'll go down and have it hot," returned Mr. Murray, and, turning, he led the way down stairs, through a richly carpeted hall to a bright, sunny dining-room on the east of the house.

The table was laid for two, and its snowy cloth, polished silver, and gleaming cut-glass, made such a picture as Louis Dunbar had never looked on before.

A smart colored waiter came at the call of the bell, bearing a tray on which was arranged a steaming and tempting breakfast, to which ample justice was done by those for whom it had been prepared.

After the meal was over, Mr. Murray led Louis to a room on the front of the house, which appeared to be a sort of sitting or reading-room, for papers and periodicals of various kinds lay upon the table.

Mr. Murray lighted a cigar, took up a morning paper, and, telling Louis to help himself to whatever he liked, was soon deeply interested in the morning news.

Louis felt uneasy. He had led such a busy, active life, that he was entirely out of his element to sit thus idly down to amuse himself; but he felt he would seem ungrateful to show any dissatisfaction with his new position, thus early, so taking up the latest magazine, he soon forgot himself in an interesting article on "Ancient and Modern Architecture."

After a while Mr. Murray arose, saying: "I am obliged to go out for a couple of hours; Louis, but if anyone comes in, just tell him I'll be back about 10."

Several gentlemen came in during the forenoon, talking in a friendly and inquisitive way, and Louis, who had been inquired for by his father, upon being told he was out, they amazed him still further by coolly walking through the room and ascending a flight of stairs, which until then he had known nothing about.

One or two even sat down to read the news with as much freedom as if they had been masters there, and our young friend, though his father must live a wonderfully free-and-easy life, to allow his acquaintances to roam thus at will over his residence.

Some of these people he did not like the appearance of at all, and they regarded him with keenness and inquisitiveness that was far from agreeable.

Mr. Murray did not return until noon, when they dined together in a social manner, after which he remarked that Louis could occupy his time as he chose until evening, as he had a business engagement that would employ him most of the afternoon.

CHAPTER X.

A couple of weeks passed, during which Mr. Murray was as kind and genial toward Louis as at first, giving him plenty of leisure and liberty, and often asking him to some place of amusement, while he was supplied with every comfort and luxury which an apparently full purse could procure.

But after a time, the novelty having worn off, Mr. Murray began to ask him to do little services about the house, such as attending the kitchen, and the gentlemen who were in the habit of coming there so much, carrying drinks and cigars to them as they lounged about a room in the second story, which seemed to be set apart for this purpose.

Louis wondered at so many people coming and going, and secretly rebelled against serving liquors to them. He abhorred intoxicating drinks of all kinds, and he felt himself degraded by dealing them out to other people.

Upon two or three occasions he had seen his father somewhat the worse for drink, and his respect for him had diminished considerably; yet he felt himself too much of a stranger as yet to expostulate with him, and so bore his mortification in silence.

He went every day to rectify to Mr. Allen, but that gentleman began to notice a change in his pupil. He saw

that he was growing very grave and thoughtful, while his interest in his studies seemed to diminish, and his resolutions were often poor and unsatisfactory.

One morning the boy came to him, looking very pale and greatly distressed.

Mr. Allen wondered what the cause could be, but did not like to question him, feeling sure that if he wished to confide in him he would do so unsolicited.

He could not refrain from remarking, however, as Louis passed him his open book:

"I am afraid you are not as well as usual today, Louis; pray do not feel obliged to rectify if you are not able."

Louis lifted his heavy eyes to the friendly gaze of his teacher for an instant, then dropped them half-guiltily, and grew a burning crimson.

All at once he burst out, desperately: "Mr. Allen, I am perfectly wretched."

"Why, my boy, what can have occurred to make you so? I thought your life was opening very brightly before you," returned his friend, in astonishment.

"I know it did seem very promising when I first left you; but everything has changed, and I cannot live so any longer."

"Live how?" queried Mr. Allen, more and more surprised.

"I suppose I might as well make a clean breast of everything to you," he said, "for you can help me out of my trouble if anyone can."

Things have seemed very queer to me," Louis continued, after a moment's pause, "ever since I went away from here. Mr. Murray was very kind to me at first, though I could not understand his having such a stream of company all the time, nor the way the house was managed. But my eyes have gradually been opened, and last night I overheard a conversation which made me resolve that I would not live in that way any longer."

"Last night?" Mr. Allen was not feeling as well as usual. There had been a perfect stream of people in during the evening—men coming and going all the time, and some of them pretty hard-looking men, and I don't know how many classes of men, and voices, and so many that I grew positively sick with the smell of it. At last I stole away, thinking I would go to bed, and get away from the smoke and noise, and I must have been very absent-minded, though, for I went up two flights of stairs instead of one, and did not discover the mistake until I tried the handle of the door of my room, as I supposed. I was astonished to find it locked, but what added to my surprise was that a small panel was set in one side as I stood there, and somebody's face appeared at the opening. I was asked what I wanted, and then the person within, seeming to recognize me, said: 'Oh, it's you, is it, youngster? Guess you've made a slight mistake; you'd better go down another flight.'"

"The panel was then slipped into place again, but a moment later I heard a low laugh from several voices within the room, accompanied by the jingling of money and then I began to have an idea of what was going on."

"I grew cold all over with the terrible thought that suddenly came to me—I was in a gambling house, and my father, I felt sure, was the proprietor, or at least the manager of the concern, and everything which had so puzzled me before was now explained."

"My impulse was to walk instantly out of the place, run away from the city, and hide myself from everybody. Then I thought of you and all my plans for study, and I hadn't the courage to go."

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PHENOMENAL IS THE GROWTH

In the Trade of the Dominion
During the Past Year.

Department of Agriculture Encouraging the Poultry Industry—Experimental Stations Being Established in Connection With the Same.

[From Our Ottawa Correspondent.]

Ottawa, July 28.—A peaceful calm has settled on Parliament Hill, and after six months of weary talking our legislators have scattered to the four quarters of the earth, and the longest session since 1885 is a matter of history. The ministers have hastened to follow the rank and file, and the majority have left the capital for more or less extended periods; while, following them, the citizens generally, as far as they are able, are getting out of town, and the city has already taken on its regulation out-of-session aspect.

Even the live and vital question of the date of the general elections fails to arouse any sustained excitement.

The figures given by Hon. Mr. Patterson in his speech the day before yesterday show an enormous increase in our trade, and are entitled to the attention of everyone interested in Canada's trade development.

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THE COINS OF CHINA

Each of the Provinces in the Empire
Has Its Own Mint System.

In all provincial governments there is a provincial mint turning out coinage according to the "tael" standard of the district, and Lord Charles Beresford suggests a uniform coinage as one of his cures for the sick man of the far east. When the mandarin gives up his "squeeze," then there may be a uniform coinage, but not before.

It is unnecessary to demonstrate how it is a harvest is provided for the subordinate official by the operations of the mint, akin to the old clippings and debasing tricks of the Stuart kings. At Nankin, which is the city of another viceregal administration, there was a delightful arrangement.

Until recently the Nankin mint was entirely in the hands of the natives, and in order to increase and equalize the "squeeze" as much as possible, the master refused to order any improved machines, and by adhering to the old principle of hand labor, the amount allowed for wages out of the provincial exchequer was kept at its original figure. For stamping the copper "cash," which is the current small coin of China, none but the simplest appliances were used. The metal was put under a punch worked by a strap, and to every strap there was a workman.

Unfortunately, in order to make up the official salary it was found impossible to engage more than a quarter of the men returned as employed in milling, so that when the annual inspection by a high-placed mandarin took place it was necessary to search out some of the coolies of the district in order to make a decent show.

At the exact moment when the mandarin entered every coolie pulled his strap, and all the copper was instantaneously stamped. To look at the output would have been beneath the dignity of the inspector, so he went away happy, the pay was drawn, and it was only the coin that suffered from being punched in so many unaccustomed spots. There is now an English assayer as "boss," and this gentleman has to be on his guard against the perverted ingenuity with which the coins are lightened and adulterated. As with Nankin, so with other provincial exchequers. The coinage of China is a magnificent perquisite of the mandarins against the loss of which they would struggle with far greater obstinacy than against the loss of the dynasty.—London Telegraph.

FACTS ABOUT WEDDING RINGS.

Few people know the origin of the wedding ring. Fewer yet know of the numerous legends and superstitions attached to the simple gold band. There are many quaint customs connected with the betrothal and wedding ring which will be most interesting at the present time, when the call of friends to witness the ceremony of "I take thee" is so very frequent.

Many believe that the loss of a wedding ring means that the husband's love will be lost in turn. If the ring is broken, the husband will soon die. In Ireland it is a general belief that to rub a sore with a golden wedding ring will cause it to speedily heal. The wedding ring is supposed never to tarnish, and if it does become dim, "his said to be a warning that love also is tarnished and dim."

A wedding ring should fit the finger. If it is too large, it is a sign of shallowness of purpose. If too tight it suggests that the union pinches somewhat. A perfectly fitting ring is symbolic of a perfectly harmonious union.

Every man may select the sentiment to be engraved on his wife's ring. The groom's initials and the bride's initials, followed by the wedding date, are most frequently the inscription. But there are many beautiful sentiments, and individuality and originality in regard to these mottoes are becoming very popular. The date is always engraved in the wedding ring.

If you wish to cure scrofula or salt rheum permanently, take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It expels all impurities from the blood.

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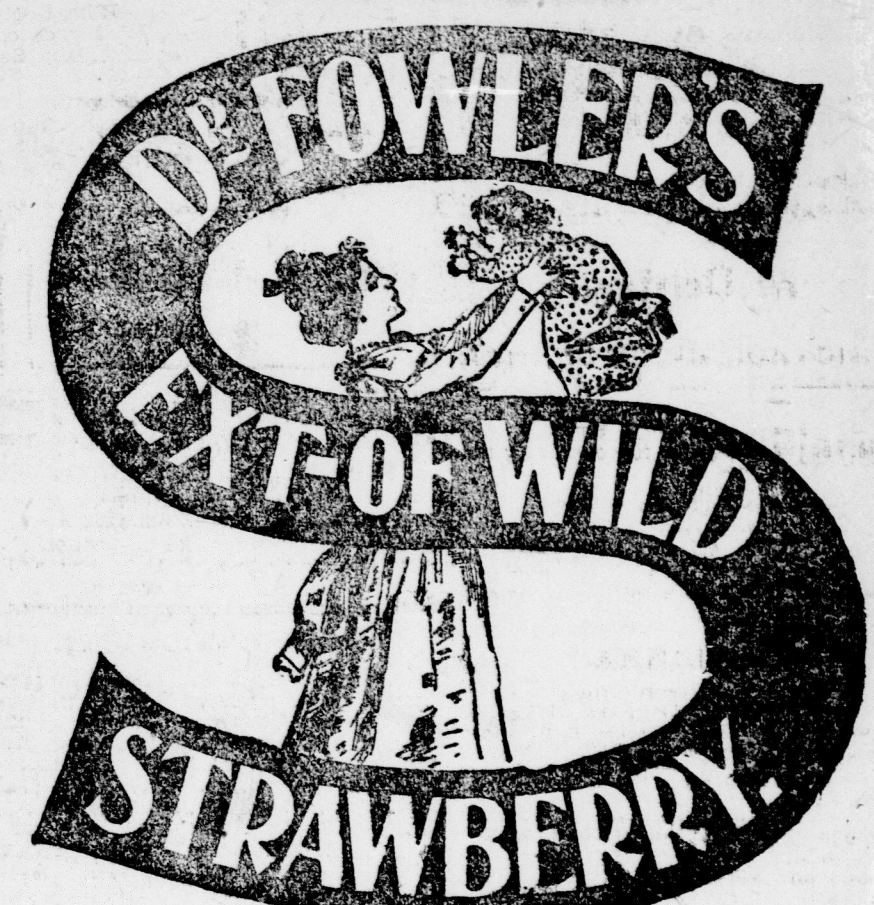
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Mother, Act Promptly,

If your child is suffering from Summer
Complaint or Cholera Infantum,
administer at once.



An Ontario Mother's
Statement.

I wish to state that 13 years ago my little daughter Fanny was so very sick with summer complaint that I thought she was going to die. I hardly knew what to do for her when my sister-in-law, Mrs. J. Kay, of Norland, told me to procure a bottle of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, as her husband always kept it in the house to use himself.

I got a bottle and started giving the medicine to my little girl. I have read of things being "worth their weight in gold," but never did I know of any medicine to which that expression could be truly applied but Dr. Fowler's Extract. It certainly worked wonders, and I often tell people I don't believe Fanny would be alive to-day except for Dr. Fowler's Wild Strawberry and God's help.

I have a little baby, Hugh, five months old, and I always keep a bottle of the Strawberry in the house ready to give him if he should be taken ill with diarrhoea, as I don't consider we should be safe without it.

Mrs. JOHN WARD,
Bolsover, Ont.

Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is the most safe and effectual specific for Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cramps, Colic, Summer Complaint and all bowel complaints of young or old. Refuse substitutes or imitations, many of which are worthless or even dangerous.

Mrs. DANIEL SMITH,
Lunenburg, N.S.

During the past summer my little boy was dangerously ill with diarrhoea. He grew very weak so that he could hardly stand. I noticed Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry advertised so I concluded to try it. He mended immediately after taking so that in a few days he was well as ever. I shall never be without it in my house, as I consider it the most valuable medicine made.

Mrs. CHAS. SMITH,
Shoal Lake, Man.

A Nova Scotia Mother
Speaks.

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*S.S. MAJESTIC.....Aug. 29, Noon
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Via Windsor, Detroit, Cleveland and Toronto, to Montreal, via the