

MY LITTLE WIFE.

I had pulled off my boots, put on my slippers, drawn my chair near the fire, and the table whereon was my simple and solitary tea, after a long and wearying round of visits to poor and not very profitable patients, resolving to make up for it by a cosy evening, when the surgeon bell rang, and my servant, entering, announced: "It's the old captain's niece, Mr Fermagh; she wants to see you particular."

Although Captain Carew seemed scarcely an amiable character. So some months had passed, and I had got accustomed to look for pretty Nora Carew each morning as I passed, when on this one she had failed to appear, and now in the evening she stood before me, pale and excited. "Oh, Dr. Fermagh!" she said, putting her rough little hands together, "will you help me? Uncle has said he'll never have a doctor in the house, and he is so ill I don't know what to do!"

And she began sobbing bitterly. I tried to soothe her, more touched than I confessed. Suddenly taking my hand, she kissed it fervently, saying: "Oh! Dr. Fermagh, but for your kindness I think I should die; and what would it matter to anyone now if I did? There is at times something electrical in the touch of a woman's lips. A thrill passed through my frame, and I began to look on Nora Carew as I had not before. I had a craving to be her friend indeed. I tried in every way to comfort her before nervously she ran back to the cottage, fearful of being seen. I went home, well aware why they were rummaging the cottage. It was to find the will. "When they do," I thought, "may it burn their fingers."

thing in it; why should your uncle say those words on his death bed?" I ran for a spade, removed the stones, and began to dig. Not two inches down I struck something hard; two minutes later, Nora and I were staring at an old cash-box lying on the grass; I had just heaved it out of the hole. On it were the initials, H. C. (Harold Carew.) Taking it up, we carried it to a solicitor, a friend, and telling him the story, bade him open it. He did so, it was full of papers. The first had written on it, "My last will and testament, Harold Carew." The others were stock receipts in the Three Per Cents, and other safe investments. I need not go into detail; suffice that Captain Carew had left Nora everything, with what pleased my darling as much, fond expressions of affection, owning he had saved and hoarded money for her sake.

An Ohio amateur says: "I have never seen an honest picture of a mignonette blossom. Generally you see a round spike of flowers as big around as an inkstand. Now, everybody knows that it begins to seed directly. There is a little bunch of flowers at the end of the stalk and a long row of seed pods below, like little sleigh-bells. It seems to me when the artist gets ready to make a drawing of this wonderful flower he pulls off the seed pods and works in blossoms in their places."

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"I wish you success, Dr. Fermagh," he said, grimly, "though that isn't kind to my neighbors, while I can't promise you a shilling of my money towards it. I've never had a doctor, other than the army surgeon, and never intend that I mean to be rude, but I don't put faith in doctors' stuff. Luckily for you, however, other folks do, and I wish you success."

He was in half sleep, half stupor; I did what I could, then took my place at his side; I could not leave this young child alone with a dying man. I thought it best to tell her the truth, and then she burst into passionate weeping. "He is your only friend—this your only home—is it not so?" I said, compassionately. "Yes, but it is not that; it is the loving him. He has strange ways, but he has been very—very good to me."

She bowed her head and burst into tears. Finally she was able to tell me that she was going to stay with an old woman who had been a servant to the captain before Nora came. She lived in a town six miles distant, but had walked over to pay her last respects to her old master, and had offered the poor girl shelter till she could find something to do.

When she ended her mournful tale, I walked in silence from her to the window, and stood there awhile. Then I came back, took her poor cold hands in mine, and said: "Nora, will you accept my home for your home? Will you be my little wife?"

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"THE SIGNAL"

NORTH-ST., GODERICH.

By this my uncle meant, did I wed an heiress, and have no great need of his money, he would readily supply me with cheques. This is a powerful temptation to make mercenary a young man, whose battle in life promises to be a hard one; and I do not mean to say it would not have had weight with me, had I come across any marriageable, well-dowered lady.

Two hours later old Captain Carew showed signs of consciousness. I knew the end was very near, and summoned Nora. Just then his eyes opened and rested on her; they were dim, but an anxious, strained expression was in them—his lips moved.

She raised her head; and oh! the joy, the gladness in her beautiful eyes! "Dr. Fermagh!" she ejaculated, faintly. Then all was concluded. She bowed her face and added: "How good you are! but no—this is pity you would repent!"

The small bulbs, about the size of peas, which form at the base of the new bulb of the gladiolus, are mere apt to grow, it is said, if kept over until the second spring. They will then be about 18 months old, and if they have been carefully kept from first, will be pretty certain to grow. New sorts are raised from the small dull seed formed on the flower spike, which should be planted the following spring. It takes them three years to grow to be of flowering size.

Old Captain Carew's eyes were turned quickly on me irritably, the white lips twitched. I bent my head to them. "Speak," I said; "I listen."

The voice failed, a quivering gasp, and old Captain Carew had marched as a soldier into eternity. Raising poor Nora, I carried her from the room and summoned my servant; then I did all I could.

It was a great blow to my family, "my mad marriage," as they called it. My uncle threw me over. I did not mind; I was strong in happiness; I could continue working uphill all my life with Nora by my side, and not regret. So we were quietly wedded, and a year of real bliss passed by. My health was no longer desolate; my little wife's bright smile was ever ready to banish all weariness when I returned home. My practice, however, increased, and I was going uphill rapidly.

Never inquire of the editor for news, for behold it is his business to give it to thee at the appointed time without asking for it. It is not right that thou shouldst ask him who is the author of an article, for it is his duty to keep such things to himself. When thou dost enter his office take heed unto thyself that thou dost not look at what may concern thee not, for that is not meet in the sight of good breeding.

Naturally she won my compassion and interest, and whenever I had an opportunity I stopped to exchange a few cheerful words; for old Captain Carew never asked anyone within his doors, and making no friends, did not permit his niece to do so.

The next day, no doubt, the relations would arrive, and I should be needed no longer. I wished Nora to go to my house and I would remain at the cottage but she would not leave her uncle, so I left my servant with her and went home alone. But I got little rest. All night I tossed from side to side, feeling anxious about Nora; hoping the captain, rich or poor, had made it all right for her. Often thinking of those last words, how the soldier had been strong in the old man to the last.

When thou dost enter his office take heed unto thyself that thou dost not look at what may concern thee not, for that is not meet in the sight of good breeding. Neither examine thou the proof-sheet, for it is not ready to meet thine eye, thou mayest understand. Never send an article for publication without giving the editor thy name, for thy name oftentimes secures publication to worthless articles. Thou shouldst not rap at the door of a printing office; for he that answereth the rap saeceth in his sleeve and loseth time.

When thou dost enter his office take heed unto thyself that thou dost not look at what may concern thee not, for that is not meet in the sight of good breeding. Never do thou loaf about nor knock down the type, for the boys will love thee as they do the shade trees—when thou loavest. Thou shouldst never read the copy on the printer's case or the sharp and hooked container thereof, for he may knock thee down. Prefer thine own local paper to any other and subscribe for it immediately. Pay for it in advance and it shall be well with thee and thine.

Often after that, when I engaged the garden, Nora would be paged in some work there, or at one of the windows, and look up and smile as I went by, so that I knew the poor child was glad of even this little break in her monotonous life. When I spoke of her to her uncle, he would rejoice: "She's a good girl; she has her faults, what girl has not? I think she's grateful—she ought to be. I'm the only friend she has—this the only home. I took her out of charity, and," with an amused chuckle, "do not my relations hate her? They have decided that I am rich, and a miser, so are jealous she will get it all."

All day I saw nothing of Nora Carew, though purposely I passed the garden frequently. I told myself it was compassion I had made me so anxious. After dusk, however, as I was returning home, she came quickly across the garden towards the fence, having evidently been watching for me. "Oh, they are so cruel, so unkind," she answered, in reply to my interrogations, "they suspect everybody. They are turning out all the drawers—they have no respect for him—poor—poor do—!"

Could there have been a meaning in those words? "Nora," I said, "let me follow out the instructions—there's no harm." Placing myself, I started left—right—a dozen—half wheel. Doing so, I found myself facing an old sun-dial; there was nothing in that. Yered at failure, I put my hand upon it, when I found it loose. What possessed me I do not know, but I heaved it from its place, when beneath I found a lot of stones carefully arranged. "Nora," I cried, "there must be some-

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