

A Fair Invalid

"Moderately so. I drove over to River House three days ago, and requested to see Miss Vane. I was somewhat startled by the aspect of the house, which is Oriental in its magnificence. I was shown into the library—the room that looks over the river on the west. I cannot tell you what strange fancies came into my mind as I sat there waiting. Presently the sound of the steps started me, and I noticed that I expected to see, or what my idea of Miss Vane was, but when the door opened I felt a thrill of disappointment. There entered a stout, comely, shrewd woman, with keen bright eyes—eyes that seemed to look me through. I bowed and murmured something about Miss Vane.

"I am not Miss Vane," she said, quietly. "I am her maid."

"I look for the pleasure of seeing Miss Vane," I observed.

"It is impossible, sir," she said. "My mistress receives no visitors."

"My good woman I do not come as a visitor, but as one interested in the souls of all under his charge. Go back to Miss Vane and tell her from me that it is not as a visitor, but as the rector of the parish in which she resides that I wish to see her."

"I will go," she said, doubtfully, "but I tell you candidly, sir, I do not think it will be of the least use."

"I looked very stern, and she hastened away, only to return in a few minutes looking brighter and more determined than ever."

"My mistress, sir, wishes me to say that if she could break through her rule for anyone she would do it for you—but she cannot. She regrets that you have had the trouble of coming, and regrets also that Mrs. Neville's agent did not make her wishes on the matter known."

"So I came away without seeing your tenant, Mrs. Neville. I felt annoyed, but I managed to say that if Miss Vane ever found herself ill or in distress I was at her service."

"That was very good of you, doctor. She is a strange person."

"I only hope, and trust, that it may be all right, and that you may not regret of having taken such a tenant."

CHAPTER II.

Three years had passed since my silent and mysterious tenant had taken up her abode at the River House, and during that time the silence that surrounded her had not been disturbed. At first she had proved a marvel in the neighborhood, and as there was generally round Daintree a dearth of topics for gossip, this gave new life to our social meetings. Who was the lady? Why did she choose to live in that peculiar way? What was the mystery surrounding her? These problems continued to be discussed until time showed the utter futility of doing so. All inquiries and curiosity were baffled.

Every week the confidential maid, Jane Lewis, would come to my door and give her orders. They were such liberal ones as to prove that, whatever else might be deficient at the River House, there was plenty of money there. From the time she came, I had received orders, it was gleaned that besides Jane Lewis, or rather under her, there were two other servants, and there was a gray-headed butler.

From the servants no information could be derived, they knew nothing, except that their mistress was an invalid and declined all society. The servants appeared at church, the mistress never—indeed, Miss Vane herself might have been a member of the church, I could have understood her desire for retirement. What could it all mean?

"Never mind. You are regretting what you said, but you need not do so—there is no cause. I shall not repeat it. I am desirous of helping, not of injuring you."

"Thank you, Mrs. Neville," she said. "You are, indeed, kind. I ought not to have said that. My mistress would not like it, I am sure."

"Then we will consider it unsaid, and if I can really be of no use to you, I will not detain you."

"So I went away, having learned nothing, and I returned to the River House again—it seemed perfectly useless—and I heard no more for some time of Miss Vane. I concluded that she had recovered. Surely Mrs. Lewis would have told me if anything had gone wrong. Just then a certain circumstance happened in the parish of Daintree. Dr. Rawson called on me one morning, his manner more than usually excited.

"My dear Mrs. Neville, such a strange thing has happened. You remember, perhaps, last Sunday, in my sermon, I said something about my earnest wish to restore the eastern window of the church; at the same time I said that I did not wish to divert from the poor the money usually given in charity."

"I remember it perfectly well, Doctor Rawson."

"This morning I received an envelope, directed to myself, containing four bank-notes for fifty pounds each. The envelope contained only these words: 'For the poor, one hundred pounds; toward the eastern window fund, one hundred pounds.' Who can my unknown benefactor be, Mrs. Neville?"

"I could not tell him. Another singular circumstance happened. Outside Daintree stood a small cottage, inhabited by a landless widow, with a family of six children. How it happened no one seemed to know, but one summer night the cottage was burned to the ground. We proposed a subscription for her; but, before anything was even decided upon, the rector came over to Mrs. Neville's house. 'This parish of mine must be blessed with some unknown saint,' he said; 'look at these, Mrs. Neville.'"

He showed me an envelope containing bank-notes to the amount of three hundred pounds, the sender merely requesting that they might be used to supply the poor woman's loss.

In the month of September I was at Neville's Cross alone, without any visitors. I had indulged in the purchase of a light boat, for I was passionately fond of rowing on the river. One evening the idea came to me to row up the stream and let the boat float back with the tide. I should pass the River House, and perhaps in the gathering gloom I might see something of its strange occupant.

So, in my little boat, feeling happy and completely at my ease, I watched the sun set and great floods of crimson light die over the waters, and then, when the crimson had become grey, I let the boat drift idly down the stream.

It was quite dark when I reached the River House. I rested opposite the smooth, green lawn, and then I saw something at last.

A tall, slender, graceful figure moved swiftly and gently between the trees, and then sunk at the foot of one with a tired, weary look. I could distinguish only the graceful outline and the black, flowing garment, but lying listlessly on the black dress were the whitest and most beautiful hands I had ever seen in my life—white as polished ivory—perfect as though carved by the most skillful sculptor.

I sat looking at them in silence. The face and head of the owner were hidden by a veil worn in the Spanish fashion—but the hands were exquisite enough. They were moved; they were neither clasped in thought, nor folded in patience, nor wrung in despair; but they lay listless and motionless, as the hands of a dead woman might.

The shades of night were falling quickly; it was time to go. The faint sound of the oars in the water did not reach my neighbor, and I hastened away.

It never struck me that in thus watching my mysterious neighbor I was doing anything in the least degree unlaudable or dishonorable. There could be no doubt but that at last I had seen Miss Vane. She was young and graceful, and had hands of marvellous whiteness and beauty. I knew no more.

I think from that evening a spell was laid upon me. I could never forget her. What was she doing, young and fair, alone in that solitary house? I passed and repassed, but never saw her again.

Sometimes I went to the long ramble in Daintree Woods. There is no more night in the wide world so beautiful as the woods in autumn, with their variety of foliage, and splendor of autumn coloring. I took a great liberty and went into the pine woods, saying to myself that even should I meet anyone from the River House, it would be very easy to hide.

While walking slowly along, very busy gathering a peculiar kind of berry, ripe in September, I saw the same graceful figure, with the long, trailing, black garments, and the white marvellous hands; I stood quite still, and in a few minutes she sat down in the same attitude as before, at the foot of a tall tree, her head leaning against the huge trunk, the white restless hands lying on her black dress.

I looked at her in silence. I would have given the world for courage to speak to her, but I dared not intrude—indeed, hurried behind the clump of trees when I saw Lewis advancing to see me. After all, my being there was an accident, and she would have thought I was spying. She came up to Miss Vane and stood at a respectful distance from her.

"I hope you will not think me tiresome, Miss Vane," she said; "but I thought you were coming to sit in this hour. You would be quite content to sit here until the sun has set, but I cannot allow it, Miss Vane. You may be angry if you will—remember what Sir John said."

From under the veil came a low, sweet musical sound. It was not a laugh—indeed, it was not a laugh—nothing that could possibly be called a laugh.

"I am quite indifferent, Lewis, to all that Sir John may say."

"Well, Miss, that is an old subject of dispute between us. Whether it is right to be utterly indifferent to Eric is another matter. I must do my duty, and that is to take care of you."

"You do take care of me," said the same sweet voice.

It was certainly Miss Vane speaking, but all attempts at describing her appearance would be vain. It was low and soft, and there was something clear and vibrating, yet hopeless in it. It produced a strange impression on me, making me think of many things sweet and sad.

"You sat on the lawn until past midnight, not long ago, Miss Vane—that was bad enough; but this wood must be damp. The autumn mist will soon rise from the river and pass over it and then you will take cold and be in danger again."

"Lewis," said the young voice, "you pretend to be very fond of me."

(To be Continued.)

TIMES PATTERNS.



A Stylish Suit for the Little Man.

No. 5937.—The little suit here illustrated is one of the most smart and the new designs for boys. Deep tucks in front and back are a feature of the mode. The are stitched as far down as the belt and pressed to the lower edge of the skirt. The front laps in double-breasted style and fastens with large pearl buttons. A broad sailor collar adds considerably to the smart effect. A removable shield finished by a standing band is included in the pattern. The little trousers made of the same material accompany the frock. They are gathered in at the knee, and fulness being adjusted by an elastic. Broadcloth, serge, flannel, gingham and pique are all suitable for reproduction. The 4 year size will require 2 1/2 yards of 54-inch material for the making. Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5 years.

A pattern of this illustration will be mailed to any address upon receipt of 10 cents in stamps and silver.

Address, "Pattern Department," Times Office, Hamilton.

It will take several days before you can get patterns.

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Siberian Itch Ointment—three applications completely cures itch. Price 50c jar.

Nits—Two applications completely destroys nits, etc., in children's heads. Price 25c bottle.

Lightning Bug Poison instantly kills bed bugs. Price 25c bottle.

Sold only at Geo's drug store, 32 James street north.

An amendment has been introduced in the United States Senate to the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, providing for a graduated income tax.

AT R. MCKAY & CO'S., FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1909

WATCH FOR THE CLOVER LEAF PRICE CARDS Friday, the Second Day of Our Great Clover Sale

Come to-morrow the 2nd day of the great sale and secure your share of the great bargains. Store crowded all day to-day. To-morrow will be another hummer; the following list only conveys to you a few of the many bargains that await you. Look for the Clover Leaf price tickets, they will denote to you the greatest values ever offered to the women of Hamilton. Be on time to-morrow.

Clover Day Sale of Women's Hosiery 19c pr. Regularly up to \$2.50; Sale Price 35c. Sale Price

15 dozen Women's Hosiery, guaranteed fast color, on sale in tan and black, spliced heels and toes, and full fashioned, the seamless kind. Buy your summer supply to-morrow and save. Out your good; worth regularly 35c; sale price 19c pr.

Swell New Dress Trimmings; Worth Regularly up to \$2.50; Sale Price 49c yd.

By all odds the greatest bargain ever offered in Hamilton in high class Dress Trimmings. In fancy appliques, straight braiding and insertions, in color effects to match almost any suit or gown. Take advantage of this great sale event to-morrow. Worth regularly up to \$2.50; sale price 49c yd.

Regular 40c Chiffon Taffeta Ribbon, Clover Day Sale Price 25d yd. 6 inches wide, good quality Taffeta Ribbons, on sale in every color, and in all widths, for sashes, 25c yd. millinery, hair bows, etc., Clover Day Sale price

Cushion Tops, for Regular 25c Tapestry 15c ea. Friday for Cushion Covers. Take advantage of this grand special for Friday.

Remnants of Dress Goods Half Price--A Great Clover Day Sale Here

Hundreds of ends of all our best this season's regular selling materials, in lengths of 1 1/2 yards up to 4 yards, consisting of every color, and in the lot you will find ends of suitings, Serges, Bronzes, cloths, Venetians, Serges, Cashmeres, Panamas, Lustres, Voiles, etc. It's your chance to secure children's good quality dress lengths, coats, etc. On sale to-morrow morning sharp at 8.30, half price.

Clover Day Sale of Fine Chiffon, Regular Value 50c, Sale Price 25c yd. Lovely 44-inch chiffon, on sale in all colors, just the kind for dress trimming, millinery, etc. On sale to-morrow at one-half regular. Be on time.

Remnants of Lining, Worth up to 25c Yard, Sale Price 5c yd. To-morrow is remnant day at the lining counter. Hundreds of ends of newest linings, skirt linings, inter linings, satens, etc., all colors in the lot, almost giving them away; ends of 1/2 yard up to 2 yards; on sale at the above ridiculous price.

Clover Day Bargains for the Men Men's Linen Handkerchiefs, Good Value at 15c, Sale Price 3 for 25c 25 dozen guaranteed pure Irish Linen Handkerchiefs in a great Clover Day sale. Friday's rush out price 10c each, or 3 for 25c. Men's Regular \$1.25 Umbrellas for 98c ea. 3 dozen Men's Umbrellas, with pretty new handles, guaranteed fast black top, steel frame, patent runner, at each 98c.

Clover Day in Blouses THIRD FLOOR \$1.50 Waists for 49c We will put on sale Friday morning at 9 o'clock sharp 4 dozen only Cotton Voile Waists, in black and white, navy and pale blue and white, daintily tucked, director sleeves and collar, worth regularly \$1.50, Clover Day Sale price 49c.

Enormous Housefurnishings Slaughter Lack of space and multiplicity of items prevents detailed descriptions of the various good advertised below, but we assure you that you will find each and everything first class, new and up-to-date. We want this sale to be a hummer. You'll want to make hay while the sun shines when you get in the Housefurnishings Clover Patch.

60c and 75c Art Madras Muslin 14c Yard Beautiful colorings, wide widths, a grand snap.

25c and 30c Art Satteen 19c Yard 35c and 40c Art Satteen 29c Yard Grand for cushions, comforter covers, draperies; all colors.

30c and 35c Art Japanese Crepe Cloth 22c Yard For draperies, kimonos, dressing saques, etc.

18c and 20c Art Silkoline Drapery 12c Yard 36 inches wide, fast colors, art design, large variety.

Sale of Feather Filled Cushion Forms 18 inches square, 50c, for ... 38c 22 inches square, 65c, for ... 47c 24 inches square, 85c, for ... 63c 24 inches square, \$1.00, for ... 78c

\$2.25 Sale of Ready-to-Use Cushion Covers \$1.38 Each Silk brocade top, plain silk backs, small silk cord edges; 75c, cretonne both sides, frilled, splendid, sale ... 98c each 75c, silk art top, plain back, frilled, sale ... 88c each

\$1.15 Lace Curtains 88c Pair \$1.75 Lace Curtains \$1.17 Pair All strong, double thread, good designs, full size.

\$7.00 Lace Curtains \$4.87 Pair High class Swiss point, etc., for parlors, elegant styles.

Great Snaps in Sample Wool Blankets. Mill sample pairs, sent up for comparison; 30 pairs, beautiful goods, splendid bargains, from \$2.98 to \$4.98 pr.

\$1.75 White Bedspreads \$1.18 Pair Largest size, soft finish, grand quality, very durable.

Odd Items at Landslide Prices. 50c Window Shades, all colors, complete, sale ... 35c each 18 and 20c Art Cretonne, variety of colorings, sale ... 9c yard \$1.50 pretty Folding Fireplace Screens, sale ... 68c each \$2.50 and \$3.00 Elegant Small Fire screens, sale ... 98c each Largest Flamelette Blankets, white or grey, sale ... \$1.44 pair

Women's Spring Suits Specially Priced Worth \$22.50, Sale Price \$15 Made of Fancy Chiffon, Panama, Serges and an All Wool Stripe Panama, in tailored and dressy effects. Coats cut in 27 to 34-inch lengths, fancy collar and cuffs; full zored skirt also tailored model. Coat cut in the ne w straight front effect. All colors. Regular \$22.50, very specially priced at \$15.00

Women's Silk Coats \$14.98 Handsome Three-quarter Length Coats, beautifully applied, box and semi-fitting styles. Very dressy garments and worth \$20. on sale at \$14.98

Tailor-made Coats \$5.50 Black and Colored Chiffon Broad cloth, beautifully tailored and trimmed. Coats in box and semi-fitting styles. Regular \$9.95, sale price \$5.50

Children's Reefers \$3.98 A splendid assortment of coats in all the popular and up-to-date styles, nicely trimmed and tailored. Regular \$5.75, very specially priced at \$3.98

Clover Day Specials for Friday

Odd Napkins 7/2c 50 dozen Union Napkins, 9/8 size, odd patterns, worth \$1.50 dozen, sale price 72c

Nainsook \$1.50 Piece 60 pieces 39-inch Nainsook, fine smooth finish, worth 18c yard, in ends of 12 yards, sale price \$1.50 piece

Pillow Cotton 16c 42-inch Pillow Cotton, round even thread, splinted weaving quality, worth 20c, sale price 16c

Flannelette 9c Wide width soft finish Flannelette, regular 12 1/2c, sale price 9c

Sheeting 28c Extra quality English Unbleached Twill Sheet, 2 yards wide, worth 35c yard, sale price 28c yard

Towels 17c Pair Fringed Bedroom Towels, good size, firm absorbent weave, worth 25c pair, sale price 17c pair

R. MCKAY & CO.

FOR "SPOONERS."

Church Parlors Thrown Open For Use of Swains and Sweethearts.

St. Paul, Minn., April 21.—Having in mind the barren and unhome-like atmosphere of the average St. Paul boarding house, also the publicity attending the efforts of young women and men to "spoon" in such places, the Rev. Harold Pattison, pastor of the First Baptist Church, yesterday announced that the church parlors would be thrown open to all young people who live in boarding houses.

Cards were distributed in all the big stores inviting young couples to take advantage of the church parlors.

To-day the pastor beamed when asked if his "spooning parlors" was a success. He said: "There are books and up to date literature and games, and those who came enjoyed themselves. It is a great opportunity for the church. We have no ulterior motive, however. The opening of our parlors is not a move to increase our membership, it is simply offering a chance for the working young women of St. Paul to have a cozy and comfortable place to bring their young men friends. We will provide chaprons for them and they will be taken care of."

The Grand Trunk Pacific is said to have determined to build a branch from the American boundary to Hudson's Bay.

LAVERGNE WAS BELLICOSE.

Broke Cane of Senator Choquette After Threat to Thrash Him.

Quebec, April 21.—As Senator Choquette left the committee room at noon Armand Lavergne said, "If you mention my wife in your paper again I will thrash you," raising his hand as he said it.

"I don't want to have anything to do with you; don't speak to me," said the senator. "If you bother me any further I will break my stick across your back," and he raised his stick.

"I will save you that trouble," said Lavergne, who grabbed the cane and broke it over his knee. They were then separated.

PETROLEUM DEPOT BURNED.

Cloud of Smoke Covered City of Paris Like a Pall.

Paris, April 21.—The oil and petroleum depots of the Northern Railroad at St. Ouen caught fire to-day from sparks from a locomotive, and for several hours a cloud of thick black smoke covered Paris like a pall. The warehouses contained over 10,000 tons of inflammable material, all of which was consumed. Many cars in neighboring sheds were also burned. The entire fire department of Paris responded to the call, but was powerless to check the flames, which, at one time, rose to a height of 400 feet.

The Dominion Marine Association has taken steps to meet the American attempts to divert trade from Canadian ports.

RAILWAYS

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

Next Homeseekers' Excursions (All Rail via Chicago.) May 4th (Via Rail and Boat.) Steamer leave Sarnia 2.30 p. m., May 19th. WINNIPEG AND RETURN, \$32.00. EDMONTON AND RETURN, \$42.50. Tickets good for 60 days. Proportionate rates to other points in Western Canada. Secure tickets from Chas. E. Morgan, city ticket agent, W. G. Webster, depot agent.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

GOING WEST?

Take advantage of the Homeseekers' Excursions, by special train from Toronto, April 26, and every second Tuesday until Sept. 21. Tourist Sleepers, 60-day return tickets to principal Northwest points at very low rates. Ask agent for pamphlet.

DURING APRIL ONE WAY SECOND CLASS TICKETS VANCOUVER - \$41.05 VICTORIA - SEATTLE - and other points.

For full information see W. J. Grant, agent, corner James and King streets.

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