

The Unknown Bridegroom.

These misfortunes culminated in his own death, resulting from a shock of apoplexy, upon discovering that a large cargo of uninsured wool had been destroyed by fire, and the man knew that this heavy loss would have depended upon the sale of this wool to meet some heavy obligations that would shortly become due.

What served to make these circumstances all the more and was the fact that his son, in whom all his hopes were centered, lay low with a virulent fever at that time, the physicians having positively asserted that his case was hopeless, so that he could not possibly rally.

A few months later, and about six previous to the opening of our story, Mr. Robert Seaver, of New York, was surprised one day to receive the card of Walter Leighton, with a few lines penciled upon it, requesting an interview with him.

He instructed the boy to show his visitor into his office, and presently a handsome, finely-formed young man of some twenty-five years presented himself before him.

At first the lawyer was favorably impressed with him.

He appeared to be very intelligent, and well read, was courteous and affable—nay, more, peculiarly fascinating in his manner.

Upon learning the young man's story, that his father, after a series of misfortunes, which culminated in the loss of most of his fortune, had died, that his mother, who was left with a few lines penciled upon it, requesting an interview with him.

Mr. Seaver knew, of the compact which the parents of the two young people had entered into, years before; but it had slipped from his mind, and was not recalled until the mischief was done, and it became evident that young Leighton intended to press his suit and secure the wealthy bride that had been selected for him.

He bitterly regretted that he had not foreseen this result, and guarded his ward more carefully, especially when it became apparent to him that, in spite of what ever virtues the young man might possess, he had very grave faults as well; that he was addicted to the habit of intemperance, while, now and then, there was an evil, grumpy and gloomy, and of other people's rights and opinions that betrayed an underlying selfishness that would make the gentle and sensitive girl wretched if she became his wife.

But Florence had fallen under his charm; and he, making the most of his opportunities, continued to weave the web of his fascinations about her, until she grew to believe that her happiness lay only in his keeping; while, too, she felt that she was also carrying out the wishes of her father, whom she idolized, and for whom alone she would have sacrificed herself, even had her own heart not responded to them.

Consequently, when Walter Leighton told her of his love, and formally asked her to be his wife, she unhesitatingly pledged herself to him.

Mr. Seaver decidedly disapproved the engagement. In fact, he refused to regard them as lovers, saying that Florence was far too young, and had seen too little of the world, to bind herself by any promises, and he should not give his consent to such an arrangement until she had had at least one season in society, and was more competent to judge for herself.

Florence, however, fully trusted her guardian, had her interests at heart, would have cheerfully submitted to his wishes, and this attitude on her part created the first disagreement, and the ice, once broken, the young man often made her wretched for days by his jealousy and caprice.

He began to be less courteous and careful of her feelings, in many ways betraying his innate selfishness; and, upon two or three occasions, had appeared in her guardian's drawing-room, decidedly under the influence of liquor.

One day Mr. Seaver had a long and confidential talk with her about it. "Floy," he said, with great tenderness, as he came upon her weeping from anxiety and mortification, "if you are unhappy in your relations with Walter—and I think you have cause to be—I advise you to break them at once. I am sure he is unworthy of your regard, or he would be more considerate of your feelings."

"But I really am fond of him, Uncle Robert, and I should miss him so, to give him up, and, besides, papa wanted me to marry him, you know," Florence replied, wiping the tears from her cheeks, and trying to smile away her trouble.

"Mr. Seaver, your father never would have wished you to be influenced by his desire if he could have foreseen these conditions," was the grave reply. "Believe me, dear, he would have wanted me to marry him, you know," Florence replied, wiping the tears from her cheeks, and trying to smile away her trouble.

"Oh, but Walter says that he is no slave to drink—at he has perfect command of himself, and—when why does he not prove his statement, dear?" Mr. Seaver interposed; "why does he allow wine to get the better of him? If I am

not mistaken, he has been here a good many times, when it would have been more to his credit to have remained away, to claim it as an insult to any young lady—to say nothing about her friends—to present himself before her with the taint of liquor in his breath. That is getting to be a common occurrence with Leighton, not to mention his unkind treatment of you, at such times. Floy, I wish you would break with him altogether."

"Oh, I couldn't do that," Uncle Robert, sighed the girl, with a look of trouble in her eyes that went to his heart. "Walter says he couldn't live without me, and perhaps he will be different when he has a home, and interests of his own. I hope my influence over him will win him by and by, and—when I feel safe if I must do as papa wishes, and try to save the son of his dearest friend."

Mr. Seaver smiled, sadly, at this sophistry.

He realized, as many another has done, that continued opposition only serves to arouse antagonism, and, the more he argued against her lover, the more strongly set she was in her determination to stand by him. But he could not resist one parting admonition.

"My dear girl," he said, "don't flatter yourself that, if your influence fails to accomplish what you desire, you will be able to do it by your own hands, if you will achieve it when you have sacrificed your liberty to one who, in your own estimation, is a tyrant to you in the future."

He left her then, but with the secret resolution to spare no effort to prevent a marriage which, for some weeks, would prove most disastrous to the happiness of this lovely girl, who had become very dear to him during the year and a half that she had been under his care.

His own children—all save his youngest son, who was finishing a long course at Heidelberg, Germany—were married, and living in homes of their own, and the young man, which, otherwise, would have been dull and lonely.

He resolved, then, on the completion of her studies—she would graduate that summer from the high school—he would take her abroad, where she would be utterly free from the influence of her lover, and would, perchance, meet others who would give her different ideas of life, and perhaps open her eyes to the glaring faults and unworthiness of the young man.

When June opened, he had matured and announced his plans, whereupon young Leighton, suspecting their object, had at once begun to urge Florence to consent to a secret marriage.

"For a long time," he said, "I have been thinking of you, and, as we have seen, his passionate appeals proved irresistible; they had swept all barriers away, and won her reluctant consent. For some weeks previous he had appeared to mend his course, and conducted himself with great circumspection, when he visited her; at the same time, however, he was master, until the fair girl flattered herself that her influence was having the desired effect, and she grew proportionately light-hearted and happy."

They parted, as related, in the summer-house—where he had appointed a secret meeting, for he was determined they should be subjected to no interruption. He returned to his home in a half-dazed frame of mind; so to go to arrange for the ceremony that would make him the unworthy husband of a beautiful and innocent girl, and the master of a half-million of money.

He chuckled, with secret triumph, as he vaulted lightly over the hedge, back of the summer-house, and walked briskly along the high wall to catch the train for town.

"Now, I shall have everything fixed just to my mind," he muttered, showing his white teeth in an evil smile. "Let them take her abroad, and give her a taste of the world, for a few months, then I will appear upon the scene to claim my bride, and the handsome fortune I have won. He, my enemy, old lawyer, future master of the world, will have played the most sagacious game; then, when I explode my bomb, I'll go in for a high old time on the other side of the pond, with my pretty little wife."

For Florence went straight to her own room, where she confided to her maid what she had promised to do. The girl was already in the pay of young Leighton, and readily lent herself to the plot, cheering her fair mistress, and painting the future in such bright colors for her that, ere long, Florence began to look forward to her approaching nuptials with more of serenity, if not with positive joy.

The remainder of the day passed swiftly, in packing and making ready for the morrow's departure, and, when the dinner hour arrived, everybody professed to be so weary it was arranged that they should retire very early, to get needed rest for their contemplated voyage.

It was barely eight o'clock when Mrs. Seaver and Florence bade Mr. Seaver good-night, and repaired to their rooms.

Mr. Seaver had a couple of letters to write, and went to the library for that purpose.

At a quarter to five, Florence and her maid, who were sitting in absolute silence and darkness, heard him ascend the stairs and enter his own apartment.

Ten minutes later the two trembling girls stole softly down a back staircase and out of a rear door.

During the last hour, the night had grown intensely dark; heavy clouds had rolled up from the south and west, while an occasional flash of lightning and the distant mutter of thunder portended an approaching storm.

Looking the door, and taking the key with them, they sped toward the gate before mentioned, and, upon

reaching it, found the promised carriage awaiting them.

"Miss Richardson?" came the inquiry, in a low, cautious tone, from one of the two figures sitting upon the driver's box.

"Yes," was the trembling response from Florence.

The man sprang to the ground and opened the carriage door.

"I am Mr. Leighton's friend, whom he has sent to conduct you to the Rosedale chapel," he said, in a reassuring voice. "I think we must make haste, however, or we shall be caught in a storm."

A sharper flash of lightning and a louder roll of thunder seemed to corroborate his statement, and caused the girls to spring quickly inside the vehicle, and in another moment they were speeding swiftly on their way.

"Oh, I am afraid! I wish I had not come!" panted the trembling bride-elect, while she clung convulsively to her companion.

"Nonsense, Floy! We are perfectly safe, and there is just romance enough about this affair to make it exciting," flippantly replied the girl, who was just unprincipled enough to enjoy such a party.

"Oh, I couldn't do that," Uncle Robert, sighed the girl, with a look of trouble in her eyes that went to his heart. "Walter says he couldn't live without me, and perhaps he will be different when he has a home, and interests of his own. I hope my influence over him will win him by and by, and—when I feel safe if I must do as papa wishes, and try to save the son of his dearest friend."

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MILL FEEDS

Leading Cereals and By-Products—Their Use and Value.

A leading Nova Scotia farmer points out that the average man buys the different kinds of mill feeds without knowing the grade he is buying, the value of each, or the kind of the stock to which it should be fed. Some brief notes on the more common feeds are all that a newspaper article will allow.

Wheat.—Wheat is a suitable feed for all kinds of live stock, if fed with judgment. Shrunken and damaged wheat can be fed to advantage, as it may be nearly or quite equal to the best grain for this purpose. For fattening stock, wheat is considered worth about 10 per cent. less than corn. The by-products of wheat in common use are bran, shorts, middlings and low grade flour. Bran is recognized as one of the very best feeds for dairy cows and sheep, and for horses or young pigs. The amount of its coarse and fibrous nature, it is admirably adapted for mixing with corn, peas, and other highly concentrated feeds, but for the same reason it is not suited for feeding in large quantities to hard-working horses or young pigs. The distinction between shorts and middlings is not always clearly marked, although the former is supposed to be re-ground bran, and the latter the finer particles of bran with some flour included. The poorer grades of shorts often contain the sweepings and dirt of the mill, and are not satisfactory for feeding. Middlings are especially useful for feeding pigs, along with skim milk or corn.

The lowest grade of flour, frequently known as "red dog," usually contains the germs of the wheat, and on account of its high protein and fat contents is a valuable feed for cows, hard-working horses and growing pigs. The better sorts of low grade flour are similar in composition to the best grades and cannot be fed at a profit.

Corn.—Corn is the best of all the cereals for fattening stock. It is used very largely in the manufacture of starch, glucose, beer, spirits, etc., and consequently has a long list of by-products. In the processes of manufacture the starch is removed, and the remainder of the grain is sold under the name of gluten feed, which is well suited for dairy cows and fattening stock. Gluten meal is glutin feed without the hulls and germs of the corn, and is very rich in protein and fat. It is a capital feed for dairy cows, but on account of its concentrated nature, should be mixed with bran or oats. Corn germ is very rich in protein and oil. The hulls are pressed out the residue is known as corn oil meal or corn cake, also a valuable feed. Corn bran is relatively low in feeding value. There are numerous other "corn feeds" on the market, but they vary greatly in composition, and should be bought only under a guaranteed analysis.

Oats.—The feeding value of oats is well known. Oat hulls, oat dust, and oat feed or shorts are the chief by-products of oat feed, but as often mixed with corn meal, etc., and the mixture sold as ground oats. Oat dust consists chiefly of the minute hairs removed from the kernel in the preparation of oatmeal.

It has a fair feeding value, especially if broken kernels are present, and there is not too much mill sweepings. Oat shorts or oat food varies greatly in composition, although the better grades show a feeding value similar to that of oatmeal.

Barley.—Barley is a first class feed for pigs and dairy cows. The by-products, brewers' grains and malt sprouts, are largely fed in some sections. Brewers' grains are simply barley from which the dextrin and sugar have been extracted. The wet grains are not desirable for general use, but the dried grains are easily kept and are rich in protein and fat, ranking with bran and oil meal as a feed for dairy cows. Malt sprouts are a cheap and excellent feed for cows, but they are not greatly relished, and only two or three pounds a day can be fed.

Peas.—Peas are very rich in protein, and are among the best feeds for growing animals, dairy cows and pigs. Pea meal is too concentrated to be fed alone. There are no by-products in general use. The hulls are pressed out the residue is known as pea meal or pea cake, a by-product of the manufacture of linseed oil. It is a very rich and healthful feed, particularly for fattening cattle and sheep. Its high protein contents makes it valuable for feeding "moderate quantities" to dairy cows, along with corn silage.

Cottonseed Meal.—Cottonseed meal is a by-product in making cottonseed oil. It is richest of all the concentrates, but varies greatly in quality. It is not suitable for feeding to dairy cows. Good cottonseed meal, which is a bright lemon-yellow color and has a fresh, pleasant taste, may be profitably fed in reasonable quantity, if combined with other feeds. Not more than three or four pounds daily should be fed to dairy cows. Yours very truly, W. A. Clemons, Publication Clerk.

FATTENING CHICKENS.

Feeding in Crates — The Best Rations.

In order to have the chickens plump and well fitted for market when they are at the most profitable age, they should be placed in the fattening crates when they are three months old. It is not meant by this that chickens cannot be fattened profitably when they are more than three months old. Any age will market chickens of any age will show gains in the crates. In selecting chickens for fattening, those should be fattened that have a good constitution, a healthy appetite, a wide between the eyes, lively appearance and that are of medium size, and are of a broad square shape, with short, straight legs set well apart.

Equipment for Fattening.—In fattening chickens for market, it is advisable to use the fattening crates recommended by the Poultry Division, Ottawa. If only a small number of chickens are to be fattened, packing boxes of suitable dimensions can be adapted for the purpose. The open top of the box should become the bottom of the crate, and one side should be removed from the front. Laths should be nailed up and down the front and also lengthwise of the crate to form the floor. The laths are placed at the same distance apart as recommended in the construction of the fattening crate. A board should be loosened in the top of the crate to remove the chickens from,

and a feed trough arranged in front. A shaping board and shipping boxes are also required.

Fattening Rations. A satisfactory fattening ration is one that is palatable and that will produce a white colored flesh. Ground oats, finely ground or with the white colored flesh. Ground oats, finely ground or with the coarse hulls sifted out, should form the basis of all the grain mixtures. Ground corn fed in excess will result in a yellow colored flesh of inferior quality; ground peas impart a hardness to the flesh that is not desirable. Ground oats, ground buckwheat, ground barley, and low grade flour are the most suitable meals for fattening.

Satisfactory meal mixtures.—

1. Ground oats, coarse hulls removed.

2. Siftings from rolled oats, no hulling dust should be included.

3. Two parts ground oats, two parts ground buckwheat, one part ground corn.

4. Equal parts ground oats, ground barley, and ground buckwheat.

5. Two parts ground barley, two parts low grade flour, one part wheat bran.

The ground meal should be mixed to a thin porridge with sour milk or buttermilk. On the average, 10 pounds of meal require from 15 to 17 pounds of sour skim milk. A small quantity of salt should be added to the mash.

When sufficient skim milk or buttermilk cannot be obtained for mixing, a quantity of animal and raw vegetable food should be added to the fattening ration.

The chickens should remain in the fattening crates for a period of 24 hours, more or less, frequently on the condition of the bird. Before they are placed in the crates they should be well dusted with sulphur to kill the lice. They should be again sulphured three days before they are killed.

The First Week.—It is necessary to feed the chickens lightly the first week they are in the crates. A small quantity of the fattening food should be spread along the troughs, and as this is eaten more food is added, but not as much as the chickens would consume. The food should be given three times a day, and after feeding the troughs should be cleaned and turned over. The chickens should receive fresh water twice a day, and grit two or three times a week while in the crates.

The Second Week.—The chickens should be given twice a day as much food as they will eat. Half an hour after feeding the feed troughs should be cleaned and turned over. The Last Ten Days.—At the commencement of this period one pound of tallow a day should be added to the mash for every seventy chickens. The quantity of tallow should be gradually increased, so that at the latter part of the period one pound of tallow is fed to 50 chickens. The chickens should receive the fattening food twice a day. Yours very truly, W. A. Clemons, Publication Clerk.

VEGETABLES.

Vegetables are necessary. They contain much nutrition. Nuts and olives are fatty vegetables. Starchy vegetables produce heat and energy.

The cabbage family suffer from poor cooking. Tomatoes are most hygienic when uncooked.

The acid of the tomato is sufficient without vinegar. Asparagus (of the lily family) acts upon the kidneys.

Many succulent vegetables are simply bulk, or waste, food, and should be eaten once a day. A host of plants serve for seasoning and flavoring.

All vegetables should be put in boiling water. Add a pinch of salt for the green vegetables.

Many vegetarians are capable of hard labor. As a rule vegetables should be cooked uncovered. Too rapid boiling dissipates flavor and spoils the color.

Rice and macaroni require fast boiling in deep water to separate the particles. The potato should be cooked unpeeled, as the mineral matter is near the skin.

The saliva cannot act upon the fat that clings to the fried potato, the stomach does not, so the poor intestines wrestle in vain.

Though some of the salad plants are cooked for piggy calves, lettuce, chlorey cress, cucumber and the rest are better eaten with a simple French dressing.

It is a fact "that all the elements necessary for body building are found in the vegetable world," a fact which few of us seem to understand.

STUDENT STUMPED PROFESSOR.

The clever Dr. Ritchie, of Edinburgh, met with his match while examining a student.

He said: "And you attended the class for mathematics?"

"How many sides has a circle?"

"Two," said the student.

"What are they?"

What a laugh in the class the student's answer produced when he said: "An inside and an outside."

But this was nothing compared with what followed. The doctor said to the student: "And you attended the moral philosophy class also?"

"Yes."

"Well, you would hear lectures on various subjects. Did you ever hear one on cause and effect?"

"Yes."

"Does an effect ever go before a cause?"

"Yes."