AN OLD MAN'S DARLING.

How a Young Wife Fell in Love With Her Husband.

Mabel Marsden's fortune was made; so she congratulated herself as she gazed exultantly upon the diamond ring which Colonel Holbeck had placed upon her finger. His words of love still vibrated in her ear, but, strange to say, there was no responsive melody in her young heart, although her lips had promised that she would become his wife.

She was a young girl and not yet out of her teens—poor, beautiful and ambitious.

Colonel Holbeck was 50—hale, gentlemanly and rich.

The wedding was a quiet one. St. Alban's had never seen a lovelier bride nor a happier groom; and when, after a month's travel, the couple took possession of their luxuriant home, Mabel again congratulated herself upon the brilliancy of her fortune. Her brightest dreams were meeting with fulfilment. She entered into her new life with all the zest of her fresh young spirit, gloryiug in the beauty that had purchased her pleasures, and leaving nothing undone that could enhance her loveliness.

Colonel Holbeck accompanied her everywhere she wished to go.

"She is too young, too inexperienced for me to allow her her freedom," he said, caressingly. "She will doubtless tire of this frivolity after awhile, and then we will settle down in that happy home I have so often pictured."

But time wore on, and not even the shadow of such a weariness appeared to cloud the young wife's spirits. No gayety was proposed which did not tempt her participation, and no temptation met with resistance.

After three years of patient waiting the frivolities in which she indulged so freely became so utterly distasteful to her husband that he could no longer restrain his impatience.

"We have been married almost three years, Mabel," he said to her one evening in the course of an interview, "and in all that time I have been but a slave at your bidding. It is true I am more than twice your age, but I became your husband, fondly believing that in your love my heart would regain its youthfulness, and that you would find comfort and happiness in being an old man's darling. That I have been disappointed I freely acknowledge; that you have been I can but infer. I realize now the vanity of the hope which led me to unite old age with youth, since our tastes are so dissimilar. What I have to say to you, however, is this—that I desire you to relinquish, in a measure, those frivolities which are separating us so surely and so utterly!"

Mabel looked for a moment into his face and said: "Suppose I do not desire to renounce those pleasures which you seem to condemn so heartily?"

"Then I shall resort to that authority which, as your husband, is vested in me!"

"And if I do not choose to submit to that authority?"

"That is not a question to be discussed between us!" he exclaimed, emphatically, now thoroughly aroused and irate. "I am master of this house, as you will find to your cost! That you have never cared for me, except as the representative of the wealth which purchases your pleasures, is too plain a case to admit of argument. But there is one thing of which you may rest assured. While you bear my name it must remain as unsullied as when you received it! I do not wish you to regard me as a brute nor yet as a tyrant, but this continual dissipation must cease! I am too old to be dragged from one scene of gayety to another, tied, as it were, to the wheels of your carriage; and since I cannot attend you, you must confine yourself more at home. You may retire now if you please, but remember that I expect your compliance with my wishes!"

"Thank you for the privilege!" she returned, sarcastically. "I shall not retire, however, until this question is definitely settled!"

Her eyes glowed like midnight stars, and upon her white forehead the bends of perturbation sparkled like diamonds in the full blaze of the chandelier beneath which she stood.

"That I do not love you, Colonel Holbeck, seem to be well aware. I married you since I was dazzled by those visions of splendor which you placed before my eyes, and I sighed for them as those who travel in sandy deserts thirst for water. Fashion and society are my idols. I shall not give them up without a struggle, you may rest assured, but the victory is not always to the strong. Good night!" she added, turning from him and leaving the room with the air of an empress.

Colonel Holbeck, stunned by her confession, buried his face in his hands.

"She shall have her own way!" he suddenly stoically resolved. "If she married me, as she says, for my wealth, she shall not be cheated in the bargain. She shall enjoy her freedom unmolested while I live, and my wishes shall thereafter remain untold."

Four years passed away, and then the end of it all came. Mabel was sitting alone in her elegant drawing-room, whence a hundred guests had just departed, when Colonel Holbeck entered hastily and drew a chair to her side. She gathered her trailing robes of amber satin more closely about her, as if fearing contamination. He noticed the movement, and exclaimed apologetically:

"I vowed years ago, Mabel, that I never would again, by word or look, detract from your happiness, and faithfully, until now, have I kept that vow. This, however, is a perilous moment for both of us, and must account for this intrusion. I have a communication to make which will startle you, but you must hear it. Are you listening? I am a bankrupt, Mabel, a bankrupt!"

"A bankrupt!" she exclaimed, hoarsely. "Are you in earnest?"

"Yes; in terrible earnest, as to-morrow's proceedings will show! For your sake I regret it. You worship wealth and position, you told me once, and I have never forgotten it. God knows I pity you!"

"What are we to do?" she asked, brokenly; for, try as she might, the tears would not be repressed.

"I do not know," he answered, vaguely. "The tidings reached me but a few hours ago, and since then I have thought of nothing but how I should tell you of it without breaking your heart. I am not too old to work for you, Mabel; but how will you endure our misfortunes? You will doubtless reproach me for not having provided against this contingency when we were married; but I did not know then that you sold yourself to me! I thought that you loved me a little, notwithstanding the disparity of years between us."

He ceased speaking, and abruptly left the room. For a moment Mabel's heart softened toward him; but the next she rose up and sweeping her eyes over the magnificent apartment, said bitterly: "No, no; I cannot do without them!"

She ascended to her chamber, where her maid was awaiting her coming. She wearily submitted herself to her skilful hands, and having substituted a morning wrapper for the rich robes, she dismissed her sleepy attendant and sank into an easy-chair which stood before the fire. She folded her white, jeweled hands in her lap and thought over the events of the past few years.

"What a vain, profitless life I have lived!" she murmured, regretfully. "Who has been benefited by it? Not even myself. And with the abundant means I have wasted how much I might have done! Have I, indeed, been happier than I was when I sat in my little chamber, the only ornaments I possessed a white rose for my hair and my mother's old-fashioned wedding-ring for my finger?"

And with her mother's memory came back a tenderness, a softness to the heart of Mabel Holbeck which had not visited it for years.

"It is not too late to retrieve myself, and I will," she added, resolutely. "I cannot recall the past, but I can at least prove to my husband that I am not dead to all sense of honor or shame."

Mabel descended to the breakfast-room a different person. The elements of true womanhood had so long slumbered in her breast that only the rudest shock could have aroused them. With their awakening came the conviction of her unworthiness and a determination to regain the esteem she had lost.

Colonel Holbeck was not present at the table, and to the servant who waited upon him he said, "Excuse me to your mistress, and bring me a cup of coffee. I wish nothing else."

"I will carry it to him myself," said Mabel, when she received the message; and a few moments later she entered the library where he was sitting. "Can I not assist you?" she said, softly, as she deposited the unique silver breakfast service at his side.

He had not noticed her presence before. He glanced hastily into her face and the tears stood in his eyes.

"I do not know whether you can or not," he replied, almost wildly. "My brain is in a whirl. These papers"—pointing to the heaps upon his either hand—"represent all I possessed. I have been here all night, Mabel, and my conviction, after a thorough investigation, is that we are almost beggars!"

"You must rest now, at any rate," she said, gently; "and when you have drank your coffee we will talk our misfortune over."

Whilst he partook of his breakfast she busied herself in arranging the disordered apartment. She turned off the gas, which still burned brilliantly, and throwing aside the heavy curtain admitted the sunlight into the room.

Not until then did she observe the change that had taken place in her husband's appearance. He was worn and haggard, and his whole frame trembled as with an ague. Mabel sat down near him, and leaning her arms upon the table, looked into his face.

"You are too easily discouraged!" she exclaimed with emotion.

"I comprehend our situation much more fully than you do," he replied, gloomily.

"Of the business details I am, of course, ignorant," she answered; "but they do not alter nor affect the fact which so intimately concerns us."

"You realize it all, then, and yet your heart is not broken!" he gasped, rather than asked.

"You refer to a conversation that passed between us years ago?" she inquired, the red flush mantling her cheek and the tears gathering in her eyes.

"Yes, you told me that you would not care to live if bereft of society and wealth! That remembrance has been the bitterest drop in this bitter, bitter cup!"

"Forget it!" she exclaimed, passionately. "Forget that I was ever so unwomanly, so ungrateful! Our married life so far has proven a failure, but there is time enough to redeem it."

Colonel Holbeck could scarcely believe that he had heard aright.

"You are not jesting with me, Mabel?"

"Indeed, indeed I am not!" she exclaimed, earnestly. "Although I have proved recreant to the trust you once reposed in me, I am worthier to-day to be your wife than I was upon our bridal morning. If you will only esteem me again as you once did you shall never have cause to regret it!"

Colonel Holbeck gathered her to his heart and pressed his lips to her forehead.

There were but a few thousands left of all the Colonel's vast estates, but that was enough to enable them to live in ease and retirement, and Mabel was only too pleased to show by her future conduct that, after all, she was not so heartless and selfish as she had pretended, or even imagined.

A lucky speculation on the stock exchange one day made the Colonel richer than ever; but Mabel insisted on their still residing in the country and devoting her leisure hours to doing good to the poorer community around her. To the indigent she was known as "The Angel of Charity," and her husband often and often declared she was indeed "The Old Man's Darling."

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Toronto.

THURSDAY EVENING, Oct. 6.

The local stock market was quiet and unsettled this morning. Montreal easier at 231 bid, and Ontario 1 firmer, with buyers at 121½. Toronto offered at 206, without bids, and Merchants' is steady at 130½ bid. Commerce weak; 20 shares sold at 120 seller, and 5 and 30 at 120 seller ten days. Imperial sold at 139½ for 15 shares, and Federal weak at 102 bid; 10 shares was reported as having sold at 103½. Dominion easier at 218 bid, and the best bid for Central was 100. Loan and miscellaneous shares dull. British America 108 bid, and Western sold at 145 for 25 shares. Consumers' Gas 178½ bid, and Dominion Telegraph 78½ bid. Northwest Land lower at 44 bid. Union Loan 120 bid and Building and Loan unchanged, at 108 bid. People's offered at 118, without bids, and Ontario Loan wanted at 119, with sellers asking 128. Ontario and Industrial higher at 99 bid, and other stocks unchanged. In the afternoon the market was quiet, with little change in quotations. Montreal unchanged at 231 bid, and Ontario sold at 121½ for 10 and at 122 for 2 shares. Toronto 204 bid, and Commerce easy, with a sale of 100 shares at 119½. Federal wanted at 102, and Central at 101½, an advance for the latter. British America easier at 107 bid, and Gas 1 lower at 178. Farmers' Loan sold at 119, buyer seven days, and the new stock at 111½. The balance of the list is unchanged.

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Orders received for Purchase or Sale of Grain, Flour and Provisions on Board of Trade, Chicago, or same carried on margin by ed

IRWIN, GREEN & Co., Chicago

The receipts of grain on the street to-day were fair and prices firm. About 600 bushels of wheat offered and sold at 77c to 78c for spring and fall, and at 67c to 68c for goose. Barley active and firmer, there being sales of 3000 bushels at 50c to 71c. Oats unchanged, with sales of 200 bushels at 35½c to 36½c. Peas nominal at 60c to 61c. Hay in moderate supply, and prices firm; 20 loads sold at $13 to $16.50 a ton. Straw sold at $9 to $12 a ton. Dressed hogs steady at $6.50 to $7. Beef is still quoted at $3 to $4.50 for forequarters, and $5.50 to $7 for hindquarters. Mutton at $6.50 to $7.50; lambs at $8.50 to $9.50, and veal at $6.50 to $7.75 per 100 lbs.

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St. Lawrence Market was quiet to-day and prices steady. We quote: Beef, 12c to 14c, sirloin steak at 12c to 14c, round steak 10c to 11c. Mutton—Legs and chops 12c to 13c, inferior cuts 8c to 10c. Lamb—8c to 10c for front and 12c to 14c for hindquarters. Veal—Best joints 12c to 13c, inferior cuts 6c to 8c. Pork—Chops and roasts 10c to 11c. Butter—Pound rolls 24c to 26c, large rolls 19c to 21c, inferior 15c to 18c. Lard—Tubs 10c to 12c. Cheese 14c to 16c. Bacon 10c to 12c. Eggs 18c to 20c. Turkeys 75c to $1.30. Chickens per pair 40c to 50c. Geese 90c to $1. Ducks 50c to 70c. Potatoes, new, per bag, 95c to $1. Apples per barrel 75c to $1.50. Beets per doz. 15c to 20c. Onions doz. 10c to 20c, do. bag $1.25. Cabbage doz. 15. Carrots doz. 15.

Prices in the fruit market were as follows: Pears, Flemish Beauties, 65c and 70c; peaches, Crawfords, $1 to $1.25; plums, 50c; apples, 25c to 35c by basket and $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel; grapes, Concord, 2½c to 3c; Rogers and Delawares, 3½c to 4c; Niagara, 4c per lb.; quinces, 60c to 75c by basket and $3.75 to $4.25 per barrel.

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Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Oct. 6.—Cotton steady, uplands 9 7-16c, Gulf 9 9-16c. Flour—Receipts 20,406 pkgs; sales 21,500 brls. Wheat—Receipts 217,000 bush, exports 106,155 bush; sales 6,280,000 bush futures, 328,000 bush spot; options closed firm, slightly lower, cash grades about 1c lower; No. 1 red and No. 1 white 88c, No. 2 red Oct. 81c to 81¾c, Nov. 82c to 82 11-16c, Dec. 83 5 16c to 84 1-16c. Corn—Receipts 45,650 bush, exports 3310 bush; sales 2,210,000 bush futures, 246,000 bush spot, spot 1c to 2c higher, options 1c to 2c lower; No. 2 Oct. 52½c to 53¼c, Nov. 53½c to 53¾c, Dec. 53¾c to 53¾c. Oats—Receipts 75,000 bush, sales 230,000 bush futures, 113,000 bush spot; shade higher; No. 2 Oct. 33½c to 33¾c, Nov. 33c to 33¾c, Dec. 33¼c to 33½c. No. 2 33½c to 33¾c, mixed western 32½c to 34c, white 34c to 38c. Coffee fair; rio firm at 12½c. Sugar quiet, standard "A," 5 11-16c, cut loaf and crushed 6¾c to 6¾c, powdered 6¼c. Eggs quiet at 22c.

CHICAGO, Oct. 6.—Leading futures closed: Wheat—Oct. 69½c, Nov. 71½c, Dec. 72¾c, May 78¾c. Corn—Oct. 42½c, Nov. 42½c, Dec. 42½c, May 45½c. Oats—Oct. 26½c, Nov. 26½c, May 29½c. Pork—Jan. $13.87½. Lard—Oct. $6.45, Nov. $6.52½, Jan. $6.40. Cash quotations: No. 2 spring wheat 69½c, No. 2 red 72½c, No. 2 corn 42½c, No. 2 oats 25½c to 26c, pork $14.50, lard $6.50, short ribs sides $7.40, dry salted shoulders $5.50 to $5.25, short clear sides $7.87½ to $7.85. Receipts—Flour 26,000 bbls, wheat 56,000 bush, corn 385,000 bush, oats 324,000 bush, rye 6000 bush, barley 118,000 bush. Shipments—Flour 38,000 bbls, wheat 29,000 bush, corn 275,000 bush, oats 47,000 bush, barley 56,000 bush.

OCTOBER IS HERE!

DON'T YOU GET LEFT.

Blow ye zephrs from the mountains,
Pile the leaves up brown and sere,
Soon will cease the busy fountains,
Autumn drops her banner here;
Comes the cosy time of grouping
Round about the pleasant fire,
Rosy visions will be trooping,
And all prices will be higher.

Do not let that fact make sadness,
There's a balm for all life's ills;
We have yet great cause for gladness,
One which every flagon fills;
Even the surliest can be happy,
Troubles vanish light as foam;
We have still the genial Walker
Making many a hearth and home.

Never let a sorrow slay you,
Grief will pass, let pleasure reign;
Let no hindrance small delay you,
Turn to earnest toil again;
Here is one will help to brighten
Darkest days that come upon;
Burdens all will aid to lighten,
Give him only time and place.

By instalments, hopes, persistence,
Paying little week by week,
By this *truest friend's* assistance
Rises strong the low and weak.
Winter comes, prepare to meet him,
Housed in warmly, well defended,
They are willing now to greet him
Whom our Walker has befriended.

A nod to the wise is sufficient. Only go in time as there never was such a rush for goods bought by instalments. Never such fine parlor oven stoves as this season. Heavy all-wool Blankets, Comforters, Bed Spreads, etc., etc.

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	Close.	Due.
	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.
G. T. R. East	6.00 6.45	9.20 10.15
G. & G. Ry	7.30 7.45	8.20 9.00
G. T. R. West	6.30 3.00	12.50 7.20
N. & N. W	7.40 4.30	10.00 8.10
T. G. & B	6.00 3.45	11.00 8.30
Midland	6.00 3.30	12.40 9.30
C. V. R	7.00 3.15	9.30 9.20
	a.m.	a.m. p.m.
G. W. R	6.00	2.00
	p.m. p.m.	8.40 4.40
	2.45 9.30	10.30 11.30
	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.
	2.45	8.40 2.00
U. S. N. Y	6.00 9.30	10.30 4.40
		8.30 4.40
U.S. Western States	6.00 6.30	7.20

British mails depart as follows: October 3, 5 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31. Time for closing English mails, 6 p.m. on October 5, 12, 19, 26, and 9 p.m. on all other days. Letters for passengers on incoming, or outgoing Canadian steamers should be specially handed in at the inquiry wicket.

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