

become a luxurious epicure, or a dissatisfied recluse. Born in the town of F——, he had escaped the temptations and allurements which in large societies invite the followers of pleasure to her temple, feeding them with fruit, which, like the Dead Sea apples, turn to ashes on the lips. I arrived home at a seasonable hour, smoked a cigar, and read a few of the brilliant pages of Eothen, a book that I think has not had many readers, although it is one of the most delightful sketches of foreign travel published in the language. The *dolce far niente* had no charm for me, though the full-moon, shining in a pure and cloudless sky, and the sweet perfume of the midsummer air realized to my mind some pleasurable recollections of a more favoured clime. But I felt wearied, and to a weary man there is no charm so soothing as that of sleep, and no dream like the dream of repose.

On the next day the hotel at which I resided was all bustle and excitement. A great many visitors had arrived in the American boat on the previous evening, and quite a clatter of voices was to be heard in the entry-room. In a few minutes, however, after innumerable trunks and valises had been carried out to the coaches stationed near the door, the guests departed, and the hotel sunk once more into its quiescent state. As I was making my way through the crowd, amid the obsequious voices of the coachmen, and the orders of waiters, the following note was placed into my hand. It ran as follows:—

MON AMI.—Can you find it convenient to pay me a visit this evening. We had some new arrivals last evening, and the house is crowded with fashionable visitors. Apropos. There is an American lady I observed at the breakfast-table this morning, who is quite an authority on all matters relating to what is antique, Medals, gems, and postage stamps have quite an interest in her eyes. Call and see me and he at once introduced. As your purpose visiting F——, we can all go up together. Yours,
LAWRENCE DANTON.

P. S.—I forgot to mention, my dear George, that Miss —— is decidedly youthful, intelligent, and lovely.

I was never more surprised in my life than when I read this singular note, evidently written in a hasty manner, from the carelessness of the style, and when the writer must have been in an excited state of mind. I read it over and over again; each time perplexed and troubled in regard to its contents. A lady—youthful, intelligent, and lovely; with a passion for medals, gems, and postage stamps. What construction was I to place on this? What did it affect me? Nothing at all. I was not a collector of postage stamps, and couldn't tell a Connell stamp from one of Russia. And all this taste for novelty, antiquity, and art, allied with beauty and intelligence. Certainly, if my friend was an adept in these matters, the situation was a charming one.

I saw however, at last, after some reflection that he was again the dupe of that feeling which had so long ruled him, and determined in my mind to visit him that evening. The feelings excited in his mind by the advent of

th's lady, who seems to have made an impression on my friend, fully explained to me the reasons for penning that foolish note. I went to business that morning with strange feelings that I will not attempt to describe; and in my abstracted state, as I walked along, came near knocking down an apple stand which stood near the corner of the street where I attempted to cross. Visions of hope rose before me, of scenes of travel and adventure, love or despair, which my friend and I in part would play. Time alone can tell in this world what the future doth disclose.

(To be continued.)

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