

HUGH MACNAIR.

A bride who waits at the altar for the bridegroom that never comes is not always an object of pity.

If you do not believe this, read the following story and be converted to my view of the matter.

Doctor Hugh Macnair and his wife dropped, one spring day, into our little European and American colony at Nagasaki as suddenly as if they had fallen from the sky.

The foreign concession at Nagasaki has grown very much, I am told, during the past few years, but in 1882 it did not contain more than twenty-five families, and these were about equally divided among attaches of the consular service, members of missionary boards and merchants.

"What is the fellow's business?" men asked; and the newcomer answered their inquiries by hanging out his shingle:

HUGH MACNAIR, M. D.

"Is she sociable?" the women wondered; and Mrs. Macnair satisfied them that she was uncommonly so by calling on every woman in the concession before half of them got round to call on her.

The ladies met and discussed the matter over Mrs. Greatly's tea-cups. Greatly was British consul, and therefore Mrs. Greatly claimed social precedence as a matter of course.

"Wasn't it bad enough to be running about where she was wanted? But to solicit practice for her husband in every house she went to, just fancy! Call on her, who wants too, but I shan't!"

"I shan't!" "I shan't!" came back a chorus of echoes from every part of the room, and then the court arose.

It was very unfortunate indeed that Mrs. Macnair's zeal to help her husband had so outrun the bounds of discretion. There was just at that time a place for a new doctor in our little colony.

The Macnairs had rented a small bungalow just below my place, on the sloping hillside, and, from my library window, I could see them as they passed in and out of their home.

"Six years ago the present Mrs. Macnair, then Jane Campbell, was living with her cousin, a young woman of about her own age. Jane's parents had died, leaving her a penniless orphan, and had it not been for this cousin who opened her heart and her home to receive her, she would have had a hard struggle to earn a livelihood.

"Oh, gentlemen!" she cried. "Help! Help! Gentlemen, run, save my husband!"

He is trying to kill himself! He is in the field behind the house hanging himself! Oh! Oh! And then she staggered back against the wall with such an unearthly scream that I thought she was going mad.

"Then I saw that she had caught sight of Harry's wife, who had arisen from her seat in the shadow of the window-curtain and had come forward into the light. Oh, such a look of compassionate pity as was that which transfigured the countenance of Agnes Bressel, as she gazed into the haggard, terror-stricken face of the covering and heart-broken creature before her.

"Two days later the foreign concession of Nagasaki was agreeably surprised to hear that the Macnairs had left for parts unknown. Where they went and what became of them remains still a mystery.

"The most prevalent idea of liberty is liberty to interfere with the liberty of other people.—Saturday Review.

"The World Gone Mad!" Wanted.—The world to regain its reason and dyspeptic of the rest of its stomachs by the use of K. D. C.

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"At exhibitions in 1891, K. D. C. has been awarded a Silver Medal and five Diplomas—the highest awards for any medicine.

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"I need scarcely say that this sudden outbreak of my friend greatly astonished me.

"What!" I exclaimed, "you know the Macnairs! How is it possible? What does all this you are saying mean?"

"No, I don't know them," Harry returned, more calmly; "neither do I wish to know them. I never saw either Macnair or his wife until a few days ago, but I have heard of them."

"Then we resumed our walk down the hill, my friend told me the story of the Macnairs. Harry was never addicted to the use of many words, and here is what he said, briefly as he told it to me that May evening:

"Late that evening, as we were seated in my library, the door had opened on the veranda was suddenly flung open, and Mrs. Macnair, pale as a ghost, rushed into the room.

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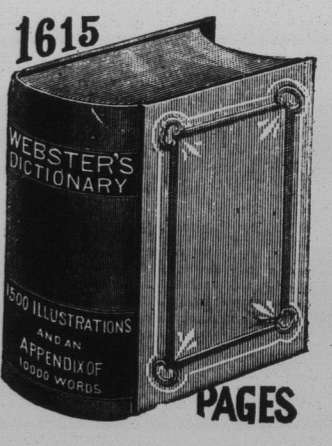
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