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A Woman's Love.

"But all my pretty dresses and ornaments are in South America," I replied, laughing, "and they would not do to be worn here, if I had them."

"You did not love Arthur Blandford well enough to live happily in a garret with him?" she asked.

"Good heavens, no!" I exclaimed; "fancy Arhur living in a garret!"

"Yet that is the test," she said seriously; "never marry a man unless you could be happy together in a garret or a cellar."

"That is a counsel of perfection, Abby," I replied, smiling to myself. She was thinking of dear old David Palmer.

"But I cannot bear to see you look so dow... she resumed, "while Grace Lambert is so beautifully dressed. You used to look just as well, Phebe. Listen! This is a secret. She is in love with Felix."

"Oh! no, no!" I cried.

"I am sure of it," she went on; "she has neither eyes nor ears for any one else when he is by. Oh! I assure you that is why she is so eager to come down to the East End."

"And Felix?" I said.

"I cannot be so sure," she answered; "she is very attractive, and if those lovely eyes were fixed on me, as she ... s them on him, I should be fascinated, as I fancy he is."

"But they could not marry!" I exclaimed.

"Why not?" asked Abby, who was given to building castles in the air, "suppose Mr. Manning made Felix his heir. He is an exceedingly rich man and excessively fond of Felix. He might insist on Felix taking his name; and all would be smooth then."

Ah! what a possible, but what a commonplace ending to a noble career! I tried to think of Felix as a rich man. Poverty was not what I fancied it must be. It was not squalor and degradation. It was not more sordid and mean than much of the wealth of West London. Human nature was the same here as there. There was as much joy in love and friendship and the ties of fatherhood and motherhood; as much mutual help and sympathy, nay, more, for in these consisted the wealth of the poor. I began to understand more fully the saying, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth."

I could not picture to myself Felix as a rich man, with a fashionable wife. Whatever he might have been if his life had run the usual course, he was now too unconventional, too Bohemian, to submit to the trammels of a society that delighted in etiquette. It was impossible to compare him with Arthur Blandford; or to believe that he would bring his standard of usefulness down to being a dilettante philanthropist, as Grace Lambert was. Yet I feared Abby's eyes had detected the truth.

Christmas came and passed by and Grace was the life and soul of all our entertainments, from the cheerful festivity which made glad the hearts of our cripples, to the great treat given to hundreds in the Gordon Hall. She and Felix seemed to go hand-in-hand through all these scenes, and with a somewhat heavy heart I recognized that Abby was right in her surmises. I wondered if David Palmer saw what was going on under his old eyes.

The last day of the year came, and the morning post brought me a letter from Rebecca, begging me to come down to the Priory at once. Madam was there going about like a thief in the night, said Rebecca. Nobody knew she was Mrs. Lincoln, for she was dressed up like a play-actor; but she had got keys to every lock, and a big black bag.

There was no time for deliberation. Abby was ailing with a severe chill, and the weather was too inclement for her to venture to accompany me. Besides, I felt it quite as well for me to encounter my step-mother alone, and I started off immediately. The short winter's day was quite over before I reached Prior Lee station, which lay in a valley nearly a mile from the little country town. Prior Lee was situated on the point of a ridge some miles long, which formed an outlying spur to a hilly district. It was a very bleak, steep and dark road from the station to the town, and my immature stoicism gave way a little as I trudged along up the ascent, along which a comfortable carriage had hitherto borne me. There are advantages in being rich.

The Priory was a lovely old place, a veritable prior's house, which had stood the wear and tear of centuries. The dwelling alone remained, for adjoining it were the ruins, most beautiful still, of a large church and chapter-house, and other ecclesiastical buildings, some of which were razed to the foundations. These ruins were kept in repair and order by the owner of the Priory, and opened to the public on two days in the week. But a portion of the monastic edifice remained intact, including the ancient refectory, a few cells, and the whole of the Prior's house, which was habitable, and indeed comfortable. The Priory was full of romantic charm for me.

The chief entrance opened into a cloister on the ground floor, above which was a covered gallery, and from this gallery most of the rooms on the second floor opened. A long row of peaked dormer windows ran across the high pitch of the brown old roof, lighting the attics of the third story. It was a wandering old pile, with rooms opening out of one another, and no two on the same level. But the chief charm of all was a secret stair case constructed in the thickness of the wall, from the prior's parlor to his chamber overhead. In this staircase there was a cunningly contrived loophole, with a sliding panel, through which the priors of olden time could overlook their monks, and overhear their conversation in the refractory ...

I loitered in the large quadrangle, not quite ready to meet my step-mother with the necessary courage. Yet I was extremely anxious to see her, and learn whatever news she might choose to tell me. There was a lingering affection in my heart for the man whom I had always regarded as my father, though the sense of the wrong he had done me, and still persisted in, often filled me with vain anger. As I paced to and fro to keep myself warm, the charm of the place took strong hold of me. The ruins, always beautiful, looked supremely so in the moonlight. A thin snow-shower had outlined every arch and pillar and broken window with a fine silver line, and frosted the ivy leaves with a delicate sprinkling of white. If I had taken possession of the Priory, as Mr. Templeton and Mrs. Blandford had urged, I should have found it almost impossible to give it up.

But there was something weird about the desolate ruins. In the dead silence of my immediate surroundings, I fancied that I could hear the ghostly echoes of the numberless chants and prayers that had resounded through these desolate aisles. It was the last night of the year, and now and then there came to my ears the far-away low chime of church bells in the valley, as if they were calling for an answering peal from the ruined belfry up here. I paused for a few minutes to listen, but then a sudden, unreasoning panic took possession of me, and I flew rather than ran to seek the prosaic presence of Rebecca.

There was a servants' entrance to the Priory, and I hurried there, unwilling to ring the loud and solemn bell at the principal door in the cloisters. One window, and one alone, was lighted up in all the massive pile; and that I knew was in a cell adjoining the low but spacious kitchen, which was called the housekeeper's room. This single display of light restored me to my senses, and I was quite myself again before Rebecca slowly unbarred and opened the heavy nail-studded door, after making sure whom she was admitting.

"Did you see madam at the station, Missy?" she asked excitedly.

"No," I replied, my spirits sinking at the question.

"Then you must ha' just missed her!" she cried, throwing up her arms, "she went off by the train you come in by. Oh! she have been going on! Oh! what a pity! Oh! what a thousand pities!"

It was a pity, an immense disappointment; and I was on the verge of tears. There was so much I wanted to find out. So much probably which I might have hindered. I followed Rebecca into the cosy little room, and sank down on a chair vexed and dejected.

"Madam only come the day before yesterday," said Rebecca, "she come by this very train, and I wrote as soon as I could."

"But why did you not telegraph?" I asked.

"There now!" she cried, "I never sent a telegraph in my life, and I never thought of it. I thought all day there was something. Well, I am vexed I were so stupid."

"Tell me what Mrs. Lincoln has been doing," I said.

"All yesterday she were ransacking up and down," replied Rebecca, "and I see her rummage here and there and everywhere, specially in the factory. Through that little peephole in the narrow staircase I watch all she do. She found a pile o' papers in that stone table you call a halter. There's a cunning iron door that slides, for there isn't width enough behind it and the wall for a proper door. A safe hiding-place it is, and nobody knew of it, I'll be bound."

(To be continued.)

Fearing the interruption of their wedding ceremony, an eloping couple in Kentucky locked themselves, the officiating magistrate and two witnesses in the safety vault of a government building until the knot had been tied.

If mothers would cast aside foolish prudery, and impart to their daughters the knowledge that they, themselves, have acquired by years of suffering, they would be forced to spend fewer hours of anxious attendance at the bedsides of sick daughters.

A woman who suffers from weakness, disease, or derangement of the distinctly feminine organs is an incomplete woman. She is unfitted for woman's highest and best duty—motherhood. She cannot be a happy wife or the mistress of a happy home. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the only proprietary medicine ever devised by an expert skilled specialist in woman's diseases for the one purpose of curing these troubles in the privacy of the home. It makes a woman strong and healthy in a womanly way, and can be relied upon to relieve motherhood of all peril and almost all pain. It insures healthy, robust children. It transforms weak, sickly, nervous invalids into healthy, happy wives and mothers.

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Canadian Home Circles.

Twelfth Annual Session of the Supreme Body.

List of Officers and Delegates in Attendance.

Opening Sessions—Address of Welcome by Mayor Wilson—Hon. R. Harcourt, Provincial Treasurer, Present.

The twelfth annual session of the Supreme Circle, Canadian Order of Home Circles, assembled in Castle Hall here yesterday at 2 p.m. The supreme leader, Rev. E. B. Stevenson, B.A., of Freeman, presided, and Supreme Secretary J. M. Foster, Toronto, in that capacity. Hon. R. Harcourt, provincial treasurer, who is a past supreme leader in the order, was present.

At 3 o'clock Mayor Wilson, who was received with hearty cheers, addressed the supreme session. He said he was pleased to welcome such an influential deputation to the city of London, and glad to know that their work was in the line of assisting to solve the great problem of caring for the widows and orphans, a work calculated to make fewer applications to the city council for aid. He was especially glad to know that the Home Circle admitted ladies to participate in the benefits and deliberations. He cordially invited the delegates to take a good look around London; it was largely a city of homes, many of them paid for through the advantages of just such societies as this. He hoped the next time this society met in London, he could welcome them in the city hall.

Supreme Leader Stevenson acknowledged the kindly words and welcome of the mayor. He was sure the members of the supreme circle would remember this their first visit to the Forest City with pleasure, and go away with a desire to come again.

His worship then retired, the circle joining in singing "He's a Jolly Good Fellow" as a parting salute.

SUPREME LEADER'S REPORT.

The supreme leader's report dealt with the difficulties that had been met and surmounted during the past year. The general fund, which had been overdrawn to over $5,000, is now on a sound basis, with a credit balance of over $1,600 at the end of 1897; the life expectancy fund had been increased during the year by $18,000, making that fund now amount to $76,695, drawing interest. In the current beneficiary fund there is a surplus of over $25,000. Owing to the unsettled state of the expectancy feature of the order the work of the organizers had been hindered. The leader eulogized the faithful services of the supreme secretary, supreme treasurer and Organizer P. M. Pattison. During the past year 91 members have passed to the other world, and the sum of $151,910 had been paid to their beneficiaries, necessitating one special assessment. With reference to the expectancy feature of the order a compromise with the propositions of the registrar of friendly societies had been arrived at, which he believed would be acceptable to the members of the order.

OTHER REPORTS.

The reports of the supreme secretary, treasurer, medical examiner and trustees dealt with their departments in detail, the medical examiner drawing attention to the fact that the order has since its inception distributed over $1,000,000 to beneficiaries, and that of the 91 deaths of the past year three were from suicide, four by drowning, and the remaining from other causes.

The supreme leader appointed the following committees: On credentials, Bros. Rodger and Potter; on mileage and per diem, J. P. Brown, James Allen and J. McPherson; on new business, Jas. B. Secord, C. N. Stevenson and F. R. Harper; press committee, Bros. Gale, Gummer and Sidey.

Owing to the crowded condition of the hall, Bros. Croden and Fessenden were appointed a committee to wait upon the mayor and ask for the use of the city hall, and the request was granted.

Tuesday Evening.

The evening meeting was therefore held in the city hall. The chair was taken by the supreme leader at 7:50, and after routine business, the question of the representation of the circles in the Maritime Provinces was disposed of by allowing the representatives from those provinces to have a vote for each circle represented. A report of the finances committee containing the estimated statement of the receipts and expenditures for the current year was adopted.

When the committee appointed last year to forward an address of congratulation to her majesty on the occasion of her jubilee reported, stating that the address had been acknowledged, etc., the assembly arose and sang "God Save the Queen." The officers' reports were considered clause by clause, and with a few amendments were adopted. The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock.

Seven supreme officers and one hundred and ninety delegates were present at the opening of the session.

Following is a list of the officers for 1897-98: Supreme leader, Rev. E. B. Stevenson, B.A., Freeman; supreme vice-leader, J. S. Dench, Trenton; supreme secretary, J. M. Foster, 32 Adelaide street east, Toronto; supreme treasurer, D. R. Foster, Waterford; supreme chaplain, S. Cunningham, Waterford; supreme marshal, W. F. Vandusen, Napanee; supreme warden, A. E. Healey, St. Thomas; supreme guard, B. A. Stamers, St. John, N. B.; supreme sentinel, John Wilson, Alliston; supreme solicitor, W. A. Dowler, Tilsonburg; supreme medical examiner, A.T. Hobbs, London; supreme trustees, G. Y. Smith, Whitby, T. R. Young, Toronto, and J. G. Cumming, St. Catharines.

Committee on Finance—W. N. Hossie, Brantford; J. L. Buck, Port Rowan; C. H. Denton, Tilsonburg.

Committee on Laws—T. Paradine, Hamilton; F. N. Raines, Uxbridge; J. Small, Toronto.

Committee on Appeals—Miss Shirley, Napanee; M. Y. Keating, St. Catharines; Mrs. A. E. Cameron, Toronto.

Board of Past Supreme Leaders—Hon. Richard Harcourt, Welland; F. N. Raines, Uxbridge; Rev. James Mooney, Bartonville.

The delegates present were: A. R. Ewing, Waterford; Peter Moore, Bealton; James Gale, Bowmanville; J. W. Smith, Port Hope; Wm. Mitchell, Toronto; R. E. Stanton, Millbrook; G. Hartley, Parkdale; W. White, Oshawa; Thomas Slean, Toronto; A. R. Thompson, Merritton; R. H. Kemp, Grimsby; John Small, Arthur; C. E. Riggins, Beamsville; Mrs. E. Renwick, Hamilton; C. N. Stevenson, Thorold; G. W. Read, Port Dalhousie; John Crawford, Aylmer; R. H. Appleyard, Humberstone; J. A. Scholfield, Dunnville; Wm. Fairley, Norwich; Thomas Haddow, Simcoe; A. Rodgers, Jarvis; —. Simmons, Newcastle; Bertha Dymond, Toronto; W. King, Sparta; D. Ormiston, Whitby; A. Williamson, York; R. McAuley, Lindsay; Wm. Kerr, Cobourg; John Trickey, Selkirk; W. Starke, Toronto; Wm. Peares, Carlton West; R. B. Smith, Woodstock; Wm. Harrison, Hagersville; Wm. Forrest, Dundas; W. T. Anthony, Cayuga; E. Longman, Trenton; F. W. Young, Caledonia; C. A. Lapp, Brighton; W. Z. Wattls, Tilsonburg; —. Wilson, Galt; John H. Cope, St. Williams; Richard Sixe, Ingersoll; H. L. Stratton, Delhi; Lawrence Skey, Port Dover; R. J. McClintock, Streetsville; J. T. Dyson, Toronto; N. Brewster, Ridgeway; Jessie Perry, Brampton; R. D. Warren, Georgetown; H. Worthing, Toronto; W. G. Maybee, St. Kitts; James Near, Erin; James R. Scott, Inglewood; Mrs. Ida Francis, Acton; Wm. Pettit, Caledon East; D.M. Williams, Tottenham; J. A. Dairymple, Wellandport; John Agnin, Alliston; Charles Wilson, Milton; Wm. Wismer, South Cayuga; Wm. Hill, Canboro; Jas. Holmes, Cartwright; Wm. Root, Stromness; Thomas Creeper, Tyrone; D. Sutherland, Ailsa Craig; W. W. McPherson, St. Anns; E. Morrison, Stratfordville; James Allen, Burlington; R. P. Hopper, Claremnt; J. Lehman, Markham; J. P. Brown, Niagara Falls; A. Stewart, Port Perry; H. A. Crosby, Uxbridge; W. G. Fletcher, Binbrook; J. B. Secord, Niagara; James Hagen, Cainsville; E. J. March, New Durham; C. Edgeworth, Teeterville; James E. Jull, Burford; G. Allen, Vandecar; W. J. Norman, Shedden; R. R. Cranston, Lawrence; Wm. Hoggan, Toronto; Peter Smith, Winger; W. S. Fry, Toronto; J. M. McPherson, Stoney Creek; Jackson Moore, Sheffield; G. E. Hopkirk, Kingston; L. Vanblaricom, Napanee; J. M. F. Arens, Orillia; J. A. McDonald, Barrie; J. H. Emerick, Clinton; Rev. H. Prosser, Ridgetown; —. Watson, West McGillivray; J. H. Dinwoody, Cookstown; Milton Lang, Bond Head; Wm. Scaife, Port Credit; H. Fryer, Wilsonville; J. Moffatt, Hamilton; J. McKnight, Victoria; C. Hetherington, Lynedoch; J. C. Foster, Clear Creek; —. Brogers, Fenelon Falls; Mrs. Chamberlain, Wheatley; David Papple, Onondaga; Fred Goulding, North Toronto; John Reaman, Woodbridge; —. Watson, Kleinburg; S. E. Wallace, Tyrell; J. Hoffman, Scotland; R. W. Hawkins, Brownsville; C. H. Patterson, Houghton; Isaac Kellam, Lynville; —. James, Delaware; Mrs. Annie Campbell, Goderich; Thomas O. Neff, Corinth; Walter Rollings, Walsh; —. Fannlie, St. Davids; J. Belfry, St. Thomas; D. K. Shaw, Bloomsburg; George Ronson, Courtland; Wm. M. Bell, Springford; C. W. Cartwright, Calton; Henry Jull, Hawtrey; Mrs. S. Frayn, Forest; G. C. Ryerse, Victor; Leonard Goold, Vanessa; A. Freeman, Kelvin; Joseph Elgie, Dawn Mills; George Dafoe, Avon; J. C. Stoneman, Hensall; R. S. Phillips, Brougham; Rby. Scruton, Vienna; B. E. Kimmage, Nixon; J. W. Howell, Ancaster; Miss S. L. Hodgson, Sandhill; —. Amos, Strawsburg; Albert Ruthig, Newton; J. Harris, Falkland; E. D. Croden, London; H. C. Boulton, Strathroy; A. S. Harkness, Brigden; Dr. Falaugh, Toronto; Wm. Stevens, Londesboro; W. Spankie, M.D., Wolfe Island; R. R. Mowbray, Kinsdale; J. E. Roxxel, Smithville; Isaac Haight, Princetown; R. L. Grain, Ottawa; A. E. Cameron, Toronto; Miss McCammon, Paris; Chas. Taylor, Drumbo; A. J. McLarren, Melrose; Clark Lane, Rosedene; S. B. Chase, Frankford; George Church, Carlisle; F. Coulson, Lowville; H. Gummer, Guelph; J. A. Kannawin, Shelbourne; Hiram Laws, Upper; N. Windecker, Gypsum Mines; Mrs. T. A. House, Bookton; John A. Clarke, Glanford; Mrs. I. Paul, Otterville; G. Braithwaite, St. George; G.W. Thompson, Toronto; J. S. Boody, Toronto; G. Sawyer, Lyons; Andrew Tisdale, New Sarum; M. B. Hugill, Mount Elgin; Mrs. E. Naegle, Auburn; Ella Moore, Newark; P. Morningstar, Netherby; Geo. Potter, Toronto; —. Ellis, Toronto; Geo. Angus, Pottersburg; Joseph Garfat, Sweaburg; T. A. Nervin, Zion; J. H. McCann, Dorchester; Mrs. Groon, Toronto; Margaret Manning, Comber; D. M. Roddy, Windsor; H. A. Hagen, Berlin; J. H. Butler, Wiggins; R. A. Chatterson, Mount Pleasant; S. Dickey, Allandale; J. Osterhout, Norwood; Stewart Tate, Grand Valley; S. T. Jackson, Walsingham; Dr. Clouse, Toronto; —. Yerx, Little Britain; R. F. Carter, Brantford; D. Gould, M.D., Penetang; F. Latch, Centerville; W. J. Gibson, Seagrave; Colin Wigle, Amherstburg; Wm. P. Fessenden, Toronto; Alex. Mitchell, Westmoreland, N. B.; Rev. S. A. Morrill, St. Johns, N. B.; Rev. Dr. A. Marven, Albert; Rev. S. N. McCully, Northumberland; Rev. Dr. W. I. Cates, Restigouche; Rev. W. C. H. Grimmer, Charlotte; Rev. V. E. Harris, Cumberland; Hon. R. Harcourt, Toronto; Rev. J. Mooney, Bartonville; T. Boles, Delaware; J. J. Sidey, Welland; Rev. J. H. Mundy, Rainham; David Dunlop, Toronto; P. M. Pattison, Toronto; Rev. J. R. Roaj, Toronto; Rev. L. Becker, Waterford; Rev. John Kay, Oakville.

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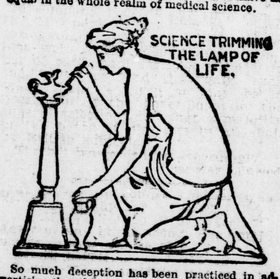

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Navigation and Railways

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A. H. HARRIS, General Traffic Manager, Board of Trade Building, Montreal.
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Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., May 21, 1897.

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