

would love him in return. It was long past midnight when these two strong men parted. They clasped each other's hands, looked tenderly into each other's faces, and saw the love-light glistening in each other's eyes. Then with a husky "Good-night" they separated—one to go into his lonely dwelling, but never more to feel alone, for with him went love. The other walked away, feeling more alone than he had ever done before, yet bearing with him a sense of heroic happiness.

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One night, in the following March, John Drummond and Alice Gray were

married. To-day they have one of the finest farms in the county. The log house and barn have given place to more modern and commodious structures. John and Alice are honored and respected by all who know them; and, not looking upon riches as the supreme good in life, they are happy as the day is long. Their noble friend, Bob Stewart, often drops in of an evening to have a romp with the children. Bob is still unmarried, although he frequently says that he is by no means a confirmed old bachelor, and that, perhaps, he will some day find a good woman who will reciprocate his love.

*Robert Hopkin.*

## CURRENT COMMENT.

### EDITORIAL.

**THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.** From all reports the plague in India shows no signs of abating. The number of deaths in Bombay alone average over 100 daily, while in Poona and Karachi, the death-rate is increasing. The disease has got as far as Bangalore in the south and Turkestan in the north, and has reached the cities of Delhi and Kandahar. The *British Medical Journal* says that it is not yet time to look for an abatement, and that any improvement cannot be expected before the end of this month, when it is expected that the disease will have worn itself out somewhat in Bombay, though this does not mean any diminution of virulence in the other infected districts where the disease was late in taking hold. "Plague cannot be stayed by any known sanitary measures when once it has got hold of a locality; its subsistence is dependent upon the abatement of its virulence in the due course of its evolution. With that, and with that only, comes a remission, an intermission, or the disappearance of the epidemic," says the *Journal*.

In view of such a definite statement from so high an authority upon all medical matters the hysterical demand

of the foreign press for an immediate "stamping out" of the disease will seem absurd. Plague when once firmly established can no more be stamped out or controlled than can a conflagration; with the people of Bombay, panic-stricken and dispersing in all directions, it was to be expected that the disease would spread to other districts. The idea of establishing a cordon around Bombay would have been a good one had it been mooted in time, but to do so now would be ridiculous. The disease now infests a district 2,000 miles long, from north to south, by 1,000 miles in breadth; to isolate such a district is impossible. The only way is to fight the disease in its separate *foci* by skilled medical treatment, and endeavor to prevent its spread to uninfected districts by adopting precautionary measures of sanitation in the way that has been pursued by the Indian government from the outset. The reports that reach us from Bombay, speak in a highly eulogistic way of the efforts of that government to cope with the disease; and those who know anything about the methods of the Indian Government generally, will find no difficulty in accepting these reports. Notice has been drawn par-