FATE AND CUPID.

"Maddy! you haven't refused him?"

"Yes I have," said Madeline Creswick.

Her cousin, a staid, quiet spinster of 40, looked at her with undisguised astonishment.

"But, Madeline, you love him!"

"I know it," acknowledged Maddy, "and that is the very reason, Clara. Do you suppose I would fetter him with the cares and expenses that must inevitably follow a marriage with a portionless girl like me, when—when Alice Haight would be glad to marry him—Alice, with her wealth and all that gold can bring?"

Clara Powers held up her thin, bony hands in astonishment.

"I never heard anything like it in all my life!" she ejaculated. "It is Quixotism with a vengeance; self-sacrifice that amounts simply to nonsense! Do you suppose Walter Gordon would have asked you to marry him if he had not loved you?"

"No," Maddy answered, shyly.

"And do you believe that he will turn his heart to Miss Haight, simply because you have said he may? Truly, Madeline, you give the poor fellow credit for but little knowledge of his own mind!"

"Not at first, I think not; I hope not, Clara," Madeline responded. "But after a while, when he has had time to reconsider the whole matter, he will see that—that a portionless wife would be but an incumbrance to him all his life long. And, dear Clara, I love him too well to let myself be that incumbrance!"

And all Miss Powers' remonstrances were in vain to move Madeline Creswick from her settled purpose.

But there was one thing lacking to complete Madeline's plans. Dr. Gordon chanced to have a very decided opinion of his own on the subject—nor did all the fascinations of Alice Haight's blond beauty, set off as they were by the adornment of wealth, avail to move him.

"The provoking fellow," said Miss Alice, biting her cherry lip and giving the spiral gold of her luxuriant hair a toss. "One would think he was made of wood, or cast iron at the very least."

And Clara Powers, watching the course of events, said, half laughingly, to her young cousin:

"There, Maddy! what do all your high heroics amount to, after all? He has no more idea of marrying Alice Haight than I have."

"I have done my duty, at all events!" Madeline made answer quietly.

And she went about the business of her daily life. For Madeline Creswick taught French, Italian and the piano in a large private academy near by, working six hours a day for a pittance that barely supported her.

"Miss Creswick? Miss Madeline Wright Creswick?"

"Yes, said Maddy, bowing a return to the servile salutations of a little, plump old man, with a shining bald head like a polished apple, and secretly hoping that somebody was going to engage her for another school.

"I am Mr. House, ma'am, of the firm of House & Hatterly, Attorneys and Counselors at Law," went on the little man, continuing to bow as if he were set on springs; and I have called on behalf of Pounder & Magee, our Loudon agents. Your cousin, three times removed, Mrs. Dorcas Creswick of Nottingham, England, has departed this life at the good old age of 96 years, 9 months and 16 days, and I have the pleasure of announcing to you that you are the sole legatee."

Madeline looked blankly at the little lawyer.

"It means, my dear young lady—pray—pray do not get excited—that you are the heiress to some fifty thousand dollars after all current expenses are liquidated!"

Madeline's blue eyes dilated.

"But—but it's not possible," she cried, breathlessly.

"It is not only possible, Miss Cheswick, but it is a fact—a fact which my partner, Mr. Hatterly, and myself hope to have the pleasure of proving to you after the most agreeable fashion," said Mr. House jocosely. And Clara Powers coming in at that moment, Maddy threw herself sobbing into her arms.

"Oh, Clara!" she sobbed, "if it only is not a dream!"

"Now, Maddy," laughed Clara Powers, "if you had accepted Dr. Gordon, he, too, would have been a rich man—and you confessed yourself that you loved him all the time!"

"If!" Maddy's cheeks crimsoned and her eyes dilated, but she did not answer. Her mind was made up. Walter Gordon had been almost the only one among her friends and acquaintances who had not come to congratulate her—and Madeline knew why.

"He is too proud," she thought, "but I—I have to put all my pride aside. I see how it is. I must go to him!"

Dr. Walter Gordon, a patientless young doctor, was sitting in his office all alone, by the light of a coal fire, just at that bewitching hour when dusk and daylight intermingle their uncertain beams, when there sounded a soft, hesitating knock at the door.

"Come in," Dr. Gordon called out, and then started from his seat.

"Miss Creswick!"

"Yes," said Maddy, blushing and faltering; "it is, Walter."

He stood rather constrainedly, waiting for her to speak further.

"The real estate agent tells me you intend to give up this office!" she went on, after a moment's silence.

"If he thinks the rent is too high," he answered. "I must look out some less pretentious place."

"Will you let me pay it, Walter? I have got money more than I can use."

"What is that to me?" he asked, coldly.

"Walter, I have made it all over to you by a deed of gift. You will receive it from the lawyer's to-morrow. And there is but one incumbrance."

"And that is——"

"Myself, Walter! You have got to take me with it," faltered Maddy. "It is Leap Year, Walter—you can take me, or refuse me, as you will! But the money is yours, past all redemption."

"Maddy, my darling! my noble, true-hearted girl!" he murmured, clasping her to his heart. "I have always said I never would marry an heiress, but in this case Fate and Cupid have both conspired against me!"

And so Walter Gordon married rich, after all—but the bride was not Alice Haight.

—Man's inhumanity to woman makes countless thousands mourn, would be an applicable rendering of Pope's line, in view of the indignities she has suffered and pains undergone at the hands of unskilful physicians and quacks. Naturally modest she suffers on until forced to consult a physician regarding some female difficulty which she well knows is sapping her strength. All this embarrassment can be avoided and a cure effected by purchasing Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" of your druggist, and taking as directed. Prices reduced to one dollar.

—No article takes hold of blood diseases like Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery. It works like magic. Miss G. Toronto, writes: "I have to thank you for what Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery has done for me. I had a sore on my knee as large as the palm of my hand and could get nothing to do any good until I used the Discovery. Four bottles completely cured it." d

Another Great Tributary of the Congo.

From the Vossische Zeitung.

Another great navigable tributary of the Congo, which it joins on the right bank at a point between the Obango and the Licona, has been discovered. It is called the Sekoli, and was discovered by an expedition that, starting from Madiville on the Ogowe, proceeding in a north-northeasterly direction for four weeks, journeyed with the greatest difficulty through thick forests and jungle. In latitude 1° 30 N. they came on a river which the natives called Sekoli, at a point, as they afterward learned, about one degree south of its source. Proceeding further, they came into the district of the Jambia, who showed themselves so hostile that the explorers considered it safer to return. They again struck the Sekoli, which they determined to descend; but the natives refused to sell them boats, so they had to make some small boats for themselves. The voyage down the river occupied six weeks. The river they found is known by different names in different parts of its course. It flows at first in a direction from west to east, and then bends southward. About the equator it receives on its right bank a considerable tributary, the Ambili. The water is brackish at this point; indeed, the soil all round is impregnated with salt, which is gathered by the natives and forms an article of trade for them. The country abounds in large game, wild oxen, antelopes, elephants, hippopotami, etc. Below the equator the southerly direction becomes more decided. The river is between 300 and 600 metres broad, and has many islands. In the lower portion of its course it flows through immense grass plains, which feed vast numbers of wild cattle, antelopes and elephants. But the navigation is impeded by the hippopotami. The human population is very thin. At last the expedition reached the Conge. At the confluence there is a great delta almost opposite the former station of Lukolela. The discovery of the Sekoli has added about 600 kilometres to the navigable network of the Upper Congo waters.

A Favorable Time.

—He was an ardent, but economical lover, and had been courting her for three months. "When do you think, dearest," he said, as they sat near the moonlit window one evening, "that the moon appears at its best?" "I think," she replied, "that the moon always looks the loveliest when one's returning home from the opera, and you are smoking a General Middleton or a Brave Boy cigar, the aroma is exquisite. You must promise me, Charlie, that you will use no other." The manufacturer's name is W. E. Dobson, Toronto. 246

He was a nobby young man of blue blood and good financial backing, and as he sat down in the car he pulled out his handkerchief. An odor of perfume was wafted through the car, and a boy sitting beside his mother suddenly called out: "Say, ma, why can't we buy onions which smell as nice as that?"

—You need not cough all night and disturb your friends; there is no occasion for you running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you can get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

The proper equipment for a Washington newspaper reporter consists of integrity, intelligence, a bicycle and an absence of modesty and money.

—A clear head is indicative of good health and regular habits. When the body is languid and the mind works sluggishly Ayer's Cathartic Pills will assist in the recovery of physical buoyancy and mental vigor. d

"When Does a Man Weigh Most?" is the heading of an article in a health journal. That is an easy one. He weighs most when he steps on a fellow's corns.

—Do not delay in getting relief for the little folks. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is pleasant and sure cure. If you love your child why do you let it suffer when a remedy is so near at hand?

"I love to watch the falling snow," sighs a poetess. Well, you wouldn't, dear, if you lived where the horse cars run only every twelve minutes.

—Scrofulous humors, erysipelas, canker, and catarrh, can be cured by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. "I have used this medicine in my family for scrofula, and know if it is taken persistently, it will eradicate this terrible disease."—W. E. Fowler, M.D., Greenville, Tenn. d

"Adam and Eve" has been a failure at the Vaudeville Theatre, Paris. These are the same parties who were failures in the Garden of Eden.

—There are a number of varieties of corns. Holloway's Corn Cure will remove any of them. Call on your druggist and get a bottle at once.

"Does the razor hurt, sir?" asked the barber of Lighthead. "No," replied Lighthead, "the razor doesn't hurt, but my face does awfully."

—Chilblains, frosted feet, and all frost bites cured by a few applications of West World's Wonder or Family Liniment, the magic cure, try it. 25c. and 50c. All druggists.

"Time softens all things" is a common expression, but this rule does not apply to spring chickens or hard-boiled eggs.

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"These cold waves are very trying," said a man to his wife this morning, when she raided him for not building the fire.

—West's Cough Syrup, a certain and speedy cure for coughs, colds and all throat and lung diseases.

A man in Tennessee was blown up the other day trying to thaw a piece of dynamite. He thawed it mun't loaded. Bang!

—D. Sullivan, Malcolm, Ontario, writes: "I have been selling Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for some years, and have no hesitation in saying that it has given better satisfaction than any other medicine I have ever sold. I consider it the only patent medicine that cures more than it is recommended to cure."

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From New York Journal.
There is given with this article a cut of the Hickok Calcium Burner, the greatest invention in a burner for oil lamps that has been made in many years. There have been many improvements and inventions looking to the increased illuminating power of petroleum lamps, but never before has such a stride been made. The Hickok burner is undoubtedly the brightest, from a luminary point of view, invention of the age. The ordinary lamp has a power of about eight candles, and the largest circular burner about twenty-five candle-power, but the Hickok Calcium Burner, which can be fixed on any ordinary lamp, either metal or glass, gives the unprecedented illuminating power of sixty candles. Think of that! The illuminating power of seven ordinary lamps. It is not a complicated machine, either, but one of the most simple burners in existence. It is also very handsome and durable. By a simple automatic arrangement concealed in the body of the burner, the light can be turned down and out, thus doing away with the disagreeable odor which always follows the blowing out of the ordinary kerosene lamp. It burns a seamless round wick, which, by giving the same heat all around, does away with any chance of the glass breaking, this alone being a great advantage. The wick requires no attention, and will last for months. Another great advantage in this burner is the fact of its being self-ventilating, thus making it absolutely safe, there being no fear of an explosion, as the combustion is perfect. 256

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