LITERARY.

THE EXPOSTULATION.

Now, Charley, I ne'er
Would have married you dear,
Had I known of your passion for smoking;
Of that horrible stuff
You've had surely enough—
Put down—you are very provoking!

I've sat by your side
Till I feel quite defied
To speak for the vapour is choking,
But 'tis useless to plead—
You puff! puff! at "the weed,"
As if a man were created for smoking,

Whiff! whiff! in the morn,
Before breakfast, unshorn,
Untidy—you know I'm not joking!—
Then all through the day
You are puffing away,
And care not to me now provoking.

You'll tell me, of course,
'Twas not this made me hoarse,
When taking that journey to Worcing;
Cuba first, and wife next,
'Twould an angel have vexed
To mark your devotion to—smoking

That 'witching old pipe
I'm half tempted to gripe,
And cast in the fire I am poking;
And would, too, but bother,
You'll still find another,
And cleave to the habit of smoking.

Ah, well! I'll give way,
For perhaps, as you say,
No business have wives to be croaking
You wed us "to cherish,"
And, lest we should perish,
Like plants, we must suffer a smoking.

Pride and Jealousey,

Or a Wronged Husband.

Continued.

'I will put your boasted sincerity to the test, 'Sir Everard D'Oyley,' she said? 'Your patience for a few moments.'

The baronet watched her retreating figure from the room, and a gleam of triump shown on his glossy features.

An easier conquest than *I* imagined,' he mussed, and fell into a strain of wily thought..

After the lapse of a few seconds Grace reappeared with the ebony casket in her hand.

I have mislaid the key of this casket, Sir Everard,' she said, placing it before him; 'it contains something of which I stand in great need. Are you skilful enough to take an impression of the lock?

'A strange request!' said the baronet in surprise.

'Women you know have strange fancies at times,' she returned playing sarcasm. 'You hesitate?—is this a specimen of your obedience.

'Oblige me with the casket, madam he said, with an air of resigned complaisance.

He tore a sheet of paper from his note book and after a careful manipulation obtained the required impression and handed it to her, saying. 'You are convinced now of of my docility..

'Scarcely,' replied Grace, as she compared the design with the model; I have a still greater service in reserve for you.'

'Name it, madam,' he said,

'A key;' she continued, 'corresponding with the impression you have taken. Nay,' she added, observing he was about to interrogate her, 'I gave you no right to question me. I exact your proffered proof of devotion, passive obedience to my will.'

'Be it so,' replied Sir Everard, evidently crestfallen; 'I accept my office, since its fulfilment will insure me the pleasure of being near you again.'

'Tomorrow I shall expect you,' she said, in a constrained voice, and with formal courtesy, as she rung the bell to summon a servant.

'You may rely upon me,' said the baronet, vainly striving to conceal his chagrin.

The entrance of the servant brought the interview to an abrupt close, and Sir Everard took his leaf with an apparent sense of humiliation.

When he had left the house, Grace recalled the servant to her presence.

'Did you admit sir everard D'Oyley she inquired.

'Yes madam she replied

'And she introduced into the room?' was her next question.

'Yes, madam. Sir Everard said he had business with Mr. Sherwood and would wait his return,'

'He will call at this hour to-morrow said Grace; remember I am only visible to him,' she added, with a wave of dismissal to the servant.

'Does that smooth, silken fop think that I have nothing to believe in, nothing to venerate, nothing to hope for, but his adulation?' soliloquised Grace. 'No the good is not so utterly dead in me, thank heaven. I use him as I would a stone, to bend me over a muddy stream. Poor fool he knows not he measuring of a virtuous woman's heart. I should indeed be a thing for self-scorn and loathing could be so debased!' She took the casket once more in her hands exclaiming in a tone of triumph,' To-morrow and I shall know its content.' Having returned it to its former place, she ascended her boudoir.

'Oh, dear no!' replied Grace, with a tinge of asperity; my indulgent husband, as you are pleased to call him, has not seen them yet.'

'Not seen them?' said Clemency, with a grave look. 'Did you not purchase them?'

'There was no purchase,' replied Grace; 'but simply a matter of exchange, in which I did not deed it necessary to consult with Mr. Stewart.'

'An exchange!' exclaimed Clemency, incredulously.

'Oh! I have given an acknowledgment for five hundred pounds as well,' was Grace's laughing reply.

'Which your husband has paid?' inquired Clemency.

'Which he must pay,' sasd Grace.

Clemency dropped the gems. as though there was something baneful in their contact, murmering to herself, 'Poor Hugh! another step nearer to the fatal gulf,'

'You do not wear diamonds, I believe, Clemency?' said Grace.

'But surely your husbands position might ensure you that indulgence?' remarked Grace.

'I am not quite sure of that,' said Clemency; 'and perhaps I am happier without them. My husband embarked in business on a borrowed capital which he has been obliged to reimburse much earlier than he expected, I believe that the money which it would cost me to fit out a jewel case would be more wisely expended in extending the comforts of our home. There are jewls more precious than diamonds.'

'Indeed!' exclaimed Grace.

'Yes, dear Grace, content and happiness,' replied Clemency, quietly.

'Well,' said Grace, endeavouring to turn the subject, 'you will, I dope, come to our forthcoming ball,'

'No, dear Grace,' replied Clemency, 'I must declare that favour'

'Why will you be so unsociable! asked Grace.

'To be frank with you,' said Clemency,' your luxurious mode of life has seen a worning to me. I have not failed to mark the hollow fickleness of those who surround you. My estrangement from your glittering circle arises as much from disgust as policy.'

'That,' said Grace, briding with vexation, 'is the convenient cloak with which my hypocritical husband seeks to blind me.'

'Grace,' said Clemency, with fervour 'I am shocked to hear you speak thus of one who is truth itself.'

'A pity I cann t share in so sweet a delusion,' said Grace with cool levity.

An expression of sorrow overspread Clemency's open face as she gravely observed, 'Grace for some time passed Mr. Sherwood's unhappines.——

'Has been intolerable,' interrupted Grace previously.

'He appears wretched,' urged Clemency.

'Is it my fault?' asked Grace.

'Possibly,' replied Clemency,

'You are complimentary truly,' said Grace.

'I am earnest Grace Sherwood,' with startling vehemence. Your husband loves you, truly, nobly. Think then what must be his feeling.'

'I am sorry you should waste your championship in so bad a cause,' interrupted Grace, with stinging sarcasm. You may be right in saying that Mr. Sherwood loves, but not his wife—Oh, no, not his wife.'

'What mean you?' asked Clemency.

'Be patient my dear, patient as I am compelled to be,' replied Grace. His real character will soon be unfolked.

'I would stake my life upon his truth,' said Clemency warmly. Falsehoop never darkened his pure brow. Treachery never lurked in his clear eye. Hear me, Grace. It was but yesterday my husband told me that for some time Mr. Sherwood has been drawing largely on his capital under pretence of speculating with the money. Do you know that those withdrawals have been made of different purpose?'

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