

And this same breeze played among the blonde curls of my pretty cousin and caressed her straying locks.

I thought I should never find the subject of a romance.

"Well, cousin!"

"Well, cousin!"

"I can't find anything!"

"Neither can I, unless you want to use this one. The subject is worn threadbare, but if we rejuvenate it with all our youth"—

"Well, what is it?"

"Why, it's a very simple love story—a young man and a young girl who adore each other—and the obstacles!"

It was instantly decided upon. Lise took kindly to it, and we commenced to draw our characters.

"Say, cousin, how would you like to have our hero?"

"I should like him," said Lise, closing down her eyes, "to be dark, with caressing glances, ambitious—that goes without saying—and poor in order that he may possess more merit."

"Octave Feuillet's young man?"

"The very same. And the heroine? Now it's your turn."

"I should like her a blonde, very slight and slender, a bit of a coquette, with a heart full of tenderness and a sweet little voice which should sound like the music of love whenever she said to the poor young man, 'Good day, cousin.' No, 'Good day, monsieur,' I mean."

Lise turned very red and said quickly, without lifting her eyes:

"The obstacles—let us raise the obstacles."

"You will find them better than I can, Lise, and I leave to you the task of pointing them out."

"Well, in the first place, the pair are too young, a great deal too young, and their parents, who are a very farsighted people, distrust their passion—that of the young man especially, they say that he can wait."

"No, Lise, we must find something better than that! His love is serious, very serious, he suffers on account of it, he is exceedingly unhappy. But he is poor and the young girl's parents say to him, 'Work, my lad; make a situation for yourself, then if our daughter still entertains the same feeling for you—that's the way the parents talk—well, young man, we will give her to you!'"

"That's it," said Lise: "that's it exactly!"

Then she was silent. She plucked a small flower beside her, looked at it for an instant and then threw it away. Afterward with the tip of her finger she removed a speck of dust from her dress. Readjusting its folds she gazed at the sky and the tall trees, and her reverie seemed to bear her far, very far away.

"Now, listen closely to me, cousin, the situation is all marked out, and the events are at hand."

Lise glanced at me.

"They have two ways to take. There is the Sir Walter Scott solution and the Leon de Tinseau solution. I speak only by way of note of the Zola solution, which was not made for us. First solution—the young man says to the young girl, 'You love me, do you not?' And the young girl answers 'With all my soul.' 'Well,' resumes the young man, 'since your cruel parents refuse to sanction our happiness, let us fly together; this evening at 10 o'clock I will be beneath your window; at the signal agreed upon you will come down without noise!' That's the solution of abduction; does it suit you?"

"No," said Lise, very positively, "no. They would suffer too much afterward!"

"Second solution—hopeless, comprehending that his dream will never be realized, the young man departs forever and goes to seek afar off upon some unknown land oblivion and the quieting of his heart!"

Lise was ghastly pale; she arose.

"Is not that what should be done?"

"No," said she.

And her voice was firm, despite the emotion, which made her lips tremble slightly.

"He would not be worthy of being loved if he allowed himself to be discouraged, if he abandoned the young girl. He must remain!"

"He shall remain, Lise, but the romance will be very long."

"Why? Who says that the parents will not yield if he should make another effort? They are uneasy those parents. They dearly love their daughter—their little flower, as they call her. They see her growing paler day by day, they see her wasting away, and her trouble makes them reflect."

"So you believe!"

"Yes, I believe it!" answered Lise, with a smile that was almost gay. "Accept my idea and my collaboration will perhaps be useful."

And as she felt the cold which was penetrating beneath her mantle, we started to walk back to the house.

Upon the threshold when about quitting me she said:

"We must finish our romance this evening."

I promised.

She had spoken truly. Hand in hand we that evening finished the last page.

"You composed the first chapter all alone, do you remember?" she asked me.

And instantly with a kiss, she added:

"But I have found the denouement."

That denouement, it is needless to say, was our marriage.

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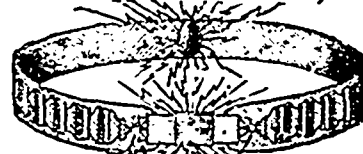
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Artists are invited to submit models, 2 ft. 3 in. in height, which must be accompanied with proposals for the bronze statue complete.

A premium of five hundred dollars will be paid the artist whose model and proposal are accepted. \$300.00 will be paid for the model considered next in order of merit, and \$200.00 for the 3rd successful model.

The models must be delivered to the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, on or before the 1st day of November next, and the premium models will remain the property of the Department. The others will be returned to the artists, if they so express their desire when submitting them.

Copies of the conditions, &c., may be obtained on application at the office of the High Commissioner of Canada, No. 10 Victoria Chambers, London, S. W., England; Hon Hector Fabre, 10 Rue de Rome, Paris. Direction generale des Beaux Arts, Department of the Interior, Brussels, and to the Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, Canada.

E. F. E. ROY,
Secretary

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, April 17th, 1893.

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