

AN ANGEL.

Of course I was an old maid, anybody in Maple Ridge could have told you that, and a good many would have said that I was several years older than the old family Bible affirmed. I felt all of my three-and-thirty years, and knew that the dark little face that looked at me so soberly from the cracked mirror showed them beyond question. But, what of that, I had other things to think of than that I was an old maid, many others.

There was poor Susie, our pet, the youngest of us all, who would marry handsome, reckless Nell Dasher, who, after a wild life, of only a few years, ended it in a drunkard's grave, and left poor Susie and her two babies to me.

Nor was that all, for Fred, our eldest, the pride of my old father and mother's hearts, must marry too—which was well enough—only after one brief year in his city office, he too grew sick and died—but oh, so peacefully, so nobly.

'You'll care for my wife and baby, Mary,' he said, looking at me so pleadingly, and I answered: 'Yes, Fred, always.'

So it isn't much wonder I look old, since only my little dreammaking shop stood between us all and starvation.

Father and mother had become so feeble; they could only sit on either side of the chimney and talk of their trials and sorrows.

Susie took upon herself the care of the large household, and I've shed many a secret tear at night thinking how wan and white she was growing, our beautiful Susie.

What did Fred's wife do? I—that's a sore subject; no one ever said anything, but I've seen Susie shut her lips in a strange way when 'the lady' swept into our simple meals and never offered to soil her white hands even to wash her own dishes or clothes.

'She's never been taught to work, I suppose, I thought; 'poor thing.' Then I bent lower over my sewing and sat up a little later.

Things had gone on in this way for nearly a year, until one night when it was growing very late, Susie came in and shut the door of my shop carefully.

'What is it, my dear?' I said, cheerfully, for there was a look on her face that troubled me.

'Mary,' she said, sinking down at my side and laying her pretty golden head on my knee, 'my poor Mary!' and then she began to sob—but, oh! so pitifully.

I had but little time to spare, for I knew Mrs. Greathouse must have her new dress by the next evening; but I dropped my needle and took her in my arms and whispered: 'What is it, my darling; tell me, won't you?'

'Oh, Mary, so good, so unselfish, I can't bear it. You are working yourself to death for me and mine. I have thought and thought and planned, and there is only one way.'

'I don't understand—how hot your cheeks are. You're going to be sick.'

'I'm going to die. Don't look so startled. I'm very wicked and foolish, but I can't see you kill yourself nor my precious children starve. I'm only—only going to get married.'

Then I felt her whole body shudder.

'Yes, darling, but whom?'

'I'm going to marry Mr. Luffingwell.'

'Susie, you are mad.'

'No; he proposed to-night as I left the store, and I accepted him, that is all; why don't you congratulate me?'

'Because I can't, for I know—oh, my darling, I know you don't love him.'

'Love! I loved once and got a sweet reward. Yes, I'm in love with the old miser's money, that's honest.'

'Hush. Never mind, sleep on it, pet. We'll talk about it to-morrow, I must finish this dress now.'

'Mary, do stop and rest, you unselfish housekeeper. Your burden shall be lightened. I'm not half as miserable as you fancy.'

But I knew what she suffered, and I sighed, for things had come to a very bad state. What with poor father down with rheumatism and Susie's children suffering for shoes, and none of us too warmly clad unless it was 'the lady'—that is what Susie had called Fred's wife to me more than once—but I could only sigh and remember that they were her old gowns.

Nevertheless it did seem hard that she and her baby should have the one spare room and a fire, and coal, so dear. But dear me, I had promised, and such a roebud as that little, cooing baby was! If I had time I'd have cuddled it by the hour, and strange to say, the mother had called it 'Mary.' She never said it was for me, and I often wondered but never asked her—for somehow all of us, simple folks, were a bit afraid of 'the lady.'

A letter. Oh, Mary, who would send you a letter? said Susie.

'The lady' passed a moment in the shadows of the room, and I tore off the envelope, and there fell in my lap a great lot of bank notes.

'Money, cried Susie, 'money! Who—what does it mean? Oh, here's a note. Listen.'

'Dear Mary—Accept a little present from a loving FRIEND.'

'That was all; we looked at each other stupidly.

'Who could have sent it? O, Susie, it's a mistake,' I gasped.

'No, it's not; the letter is to you. I'm so glad!'

I kept the money. I needed it so sorely, and they all said it really was mine; but I felt uneasy all the time, and wondered and wondered, for we hadn't a rich relation in the world.

But even that would not last for ever, and by-and-by I saw Susie looking over her old things and trying to make up her mind that the time had come when she could tell her betrothed husband that she was ready. Poor little Susie!

'I've set the day at last,' she said. 'It's to be next Tuesday,' then she began to sob.

Once more 'the lady' entered and dropped in my lap another letter and a book. This letter was not so bulky, but when I opened it I found that it contained money.

'What—who?' I began vaguely as before, when once more 'the lady' bent over Susie and I, and winding her white arms around our necks fell into a violent fit of weeping.

'O my sisters,' she sobbed, when she could speak. 'Do you think me blind as well as heartless? Do you think you are to do all the work and me none? Dear, patient fingers?' and to our astonishment she kissed first my needle-pricked hand and then Susie's chapped and toll-marked.

'There's the book,' she continued, 'read it when you can; I began it when my husband was first taken ill. I fancied I could get it done in time to help him, but I couldn't. Yet he knows—he must know, how glad I am to be able to help those so dear to him.'

'Florence,' I said in wonder, 'what are you talking about?'

'Why, my book; there it is in your lap, as well as the money for it—a portion of it. I always scribbled more or less, but in a careless way, until I saw the great need, and then I found I could write even better than rage of your faithfulness, your noble life, and the answer came (oh, the wait is not very far away) I'm coming.'

I dared hope. I never told you because I wanted to surprise you. Susie, little sister, don't dream of that distasteful marriage. I was so afraid it wouldn't come in time to save you. And Mary, gentle one, I've something for you even better than gold. I—forgive me! I found out all about your sad love story, and the quarrel long ago, and the lover in the west, and I sent a little bird with a message.'

I wondered why Susie, with such a face of peace and joy as I had not seen her wear for years, should look startled and step back, while 'the lady'—oh, such a lady—stood between me and the door. Suddenly she bent and kissed my hot cheek and deftly snatching the comb that held my curls so primly—as I deemed most becoming a staid old maid—she fled with Susie into the next room and closed the door.

I knew then why she held herself so persistently before me, for, standing on the threshold of the outside door stood a tall man, tanned and bearded. I could not speak. I would have fled too, but I could not move.

The tall man smiled and approached me, took me in his arms and whispered, 'Is it my own little Mary?'

And somehow in his whispering arms I found my tongue and answered boldly, 'Yes, Tom.'

We call her 'the lady' still sometimes, for she is famous now and rich, and Susie and her children live with her.

The old folks have found a better home with Fred, and I cannot help but think they told him how we love his wife and all the happiness she brought us.

That was, we looked at each other stupidly.—Catholic Citizen.

BRANCH 2, C. M. B. A., QUEBEC.

The installation of officers of Branch 2, C. M. B. A., took place at the annual meeting which was held in St. Ann's Hall on Tuesday Jan. 4th. The annual reports made by the secretary and treasurer showed the branch to be in a satisfactory state. After the transaction of business, Supreme Deputy P. Flannery, assisted by Grand Deputy Meek, installed the following officers for the ensuing year: Spiritual adviser, E. Strubbe, C. S. R.; medical adviser, Dr. Kennedy; president, Bro. E. McElroy; first vice-president, Bro. M. Shea; second vice-president, Bro. L. Rossiter; recording secretary, Bro. W. Howlette; assistant secretary, Bro. P. Marnell; financial secretary, Bro. F. Curran; treasurer, M. J. Ryan; marshal, Bro. E. Anderson; guard, Bro. P. Donnelly; trustees, Bros. L. McDonnell, R. Doran, and John Kiloran.

After the installation addresses were made by Grand Deputy Meek, Supreme Deputy Flannery and Bros. White and Lappin.

HERE RESTS YOUR HOPE.

New remedies come, and new remedies go; but Scott's Emulsion is the great rock foundation on which hope of recovery from weak throats and lungs must rest. It is The Standard of the World.

PUT IT IN TWO AND IT RAINED.

'Here, my dear,' said the far-sighted husband, 'put this money in the stocking for a rainy day.' So she bought a pair, and they really looked lovely on Chestnut street, yesterday.

MERIT is what has given Hood's Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world and enables it to accomplish thousands of wonderful CURES.

COLONIAL HOUSE,

PHILLIPS SQUARE.

GREAT ANNUAL DISCOUNT SALE!

SPECIAL OFFERS For Two Days Only.

CHINA DEPARTMENT.

For FRIDAY and SATURDAY we will have a special sale of all expensive lines of DINNER SETS, TEA SETS, BREAKFAST SETS and CHAMBER SETS.

Some rare bargains to be had on the Cheap Tables.

CORSETS, CAPS, BLOUSES, ETC., ETC.

A special line of Summer Corsets at 50c per pair. Odd lines in Tweed Caps at 25c and 50c. 20 dozen Mob Caps at 5c each. Cambric and Muslin Shirt Waists at half price. Silk Waists and Blouses at 33c. Balance of Trimmings Millinery at nominal prices. A Table of Straw Hats at 25c. All Furs at 20 per cent. discount. Ladies' Cotton Underwear at 20 per cent. discount.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Special Tables of Boots, Shoes and Slippers at big discounts FOR TWO DAYS ONLY. Odd lines at very low prices.

JACKETS FOR \$2.00 EACH.

MANTLE DEPARTMENT.

Special Tables.

The balance of our \$3.00 Jackets left from last week's sale. Choice for this week \$2.00. Also Ladies' and Misses' Ulsters.....Half Price. Ladies' Spring Costumes (few left).....Half Price. Ladies' Winter Costumes.....33c off. Ladies' Fur Trimmings.....Half Price. Ladies' and Misses' Tweed Jackets.....Half Price. Ladies' and Misses' Cloth Jackets.....33c p.c. off. Ladies' Velvet Jackets and Capes.....33c p.c. off. Children's Mantles.....33c p.c. off. Ladies' Fur and Silk Lined Cloaks.....25 p.c. off. Ladies' Morning Wrappers.....20 p.c. off. Ladies' Dressing Jackets.....33c p.c. off. Ladies' Skirts.....25 p.c. off. Ladies' Knitted Skirts.....33c p.c. off.

KITCHEN UTENSILS.

In Basement.

Special Tables at Popular Prices, containing every variety of Kitchen Requisites, reduced for Friday and Saturday only.

OPTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Many beautiful Fancy Opera Glasses still to select from. Pearl, Gilt and Aluminum mounts, Fancy Plush and Velvet Cases. The discount 20 per cent. lasts during this month. Tortoiseshell Spectacles, 20 p.c. off. A few Primary and Technical School Cases of Drawing Instruments in wood and pocket cases 25 p.c. off. Scientific Testing and Fitting Free, Inserting and matching artificial Eyes a Specialty.

CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Special 33c and 50 per cent. discount for 2 days. We have placed on separate tables in the department, odd and broken lines in Youth's Suits. 33 to 37 inches chest measurement, at above discounts. All other tweed suits in these sizes with long pants will be offered 20 per cent. off.

LAMPS AND SILVERWARE.

For two days only. All Lines of Lamps and Silk Shades at 25 per cent. discount.

GLOBES! GLOBES!

A Traveller's Samples, fine goods, 33c per cent. discount. 1 Table of Silverware at Half Price.

All other discounts as advertised continue in force during this month.

HENRY MORGAN & CO,

MONTREAL.

'98 SHOE SALE.

MEN'S

Fancy Plush and Velvet Slippers, worked with Fur and lined with Lax's Wool, regular price \$1.25, for \$1.00. Extra fine Knives and Julliet's Slippers in Chocolate, Tan or Black, regular price \$2.50 and \$2.75, for \$1.98. 200 Samples Men's Black, Tan and Ox Blood, Laced Boots, regular price \$1.98 to \$2.50, for \$1.50. Patent Calf Laced Boots, Handsome Silk Vesting Top, regular price \$4.00, for \$3.00. Rubber and Mercury Soled Laced Boots, Felt Insole, calf lined, regular price \$3.50, for \$2.98.

LADIES'

Fancy German Felt Toilet Slippers, trimmed with Fur and lined with Lax's Wool, regular price \$1.25 to \$1.75, for \$1.00. Dongola Strapped Slippers, with Patent Tip, regular price \$1.50, for \$1.00. Vici Kid Skating Boots, Fleece lined, Kid Tip, regular price \$2.75, for \$1.98. All our Ladies' Extra Fine Dongola Laced and Buttoned Boots, Kid and Patent Tip, hand sewed, regular price \$2.98 to \$3.50, for \$2.98.

E. MANSFIELD, The Shoelist

124 St. Lawrence St., corner of Lagachetiere St.

MAIL ORDERS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION.

CARPET SALE

Next week we will offer special lines of Fine Brussels Carpets at 87c, 95c, \$1.10 per yard.

Wilton Carpets At \$1.25 \$1.47 and \$1.63 per yard.

Axminster Carpets At \$1.15, \$1.35 and \$1.47 per yard.

Spring Carpets New Spring samples forward and orders booked for Spring delivery.

THOMAS LICGET, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

LONDON POLICE STATISTICS.

Some Figures Showing the Methods for Protection Against Crime.

The Commissioner of London Police has just issued his report for 1896. Though late and savoring somewhat of ancient history, the document is replete with interesting statistics dealing with the police work of the year. The authorized establishment was 15,326 men—about 60 per cent. of this force are told off for night duty; the remaining 40 per cent. are detailed for day work, their hours being from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., or 10 hours, as against 8 hours for the night watch. It may be thought the number of men employed is excessive, that it amounts to a small army; but, it must not be forgotten, it polices nearly 700 square miles of territory, and over 4,000,000 people. The total number of offenses reported during the year was 18,536, as compared with 20,024 in 1895, and 20,970 in 1874, thus showing a decrease of 1,488, as compared with the preceding year, and of 2,434 as compared with 1894. And this in spite of the fact that the population has been steadily increasing.

The good work done is seen to even more advantage if one takes the crimes such as are controlled chiefly by police action—namely, crimes against property; for the felonies relating to property numbered 16,285 in 1896, as against 17,765 in 1895, and 18,606 in 1894.

In this case if the increased population be taken into account the proportion of felonies per thousand of the population was 2,601, as against 2,906 in 1895, when the rate was the lowest reached up to that time.

During the year there were only 413 burglaries and 1,363 housebreakings, as compared with 514 and 1,501 in the previous year.

The estimated value of the property stolen in the burglaries was £2,374, of which £406, or about one-sixth, was recovered. In seven cases only did the loss exceed £50.

In the housebreakings the estimated loss of property was £15,634, of which £643, or one-twenty-fourth, was recovered. The estimated loss was over £50 only in twenty-nine cases.

In other words, the net receipts of burglars and housebreakers, if they got full value for the stolen articles, was £17,400, which yields £100 a year for only 174 burglars.

The statistics for the year include twenty-one cases of murder. In eleven of these the homicides were made amenable, resulting in eight convictions and three acquittals. The latter were cases of marital quarrel, in which the juries seem to have taken a lenient view of the facts.

In five cases the murderers committed suicide. In three of the five murders thus remaining to be accounted for medical evidence indicated that death was due to an illegal operation.

In the other two cases the murderers were not found.

The section of the report with reference to public carriages shows that 13,628 licenses to cabmen were issued, 6,648 to stage drivers, and 7,598 to conductors.

As many as 1,344 men were up for examination for licenses during the year, and 69 of these were plucked.

Of the 13,628 "cabbies," 1,128—or about 1 in every thirteen—were convicted of drunkenness. "Cabby" is, however, decidedly getting better in this respect, for there were 1,199 cases of drunkenness in 1895, 1,340 in 1894, 1,202 in 1892, and 1,850 in 1892.

As many as 38,025 articles of property which had been lost had been deposited with the police, and of these, 19,461 were restored to the owners.

No fewer than 17,020 of them consisted of the ubiquitous umbrella.

Evidence of the rigor of magistrates in connection with cycling offenses is seen in the fact that out of 1,810 cases against cyclists only 44 were dismissed, a proportion much smaller than in the majority of the other offenses.

Of the cycling charges, 896 were for furious riding, 555 for riding without a light, 226 for riding or wheeling on the

footway, 23 for not giving audible notice of approach, and 8 for "other offenses." Jack the Ripper, Bill Sykes, and the proverbial pickpockets, have become comparative strangers to "Dow street" and the "Old Bailey" or any of their usual haunts, and seeing that with an increased population, the crime record has fallen 10 per cent. in two years, it would argue that the present force may, and should, be reduced 10 per cent. Should the conduct of the people continue to improve in the ratio given in the report under notice, in 20 years happy London may require no paid guardians of the peace.

Playing for Safety.—'I guess,' said Maud, thoughtfully, 'that I won't play anything but classical music hereafter.' 'But a great many people don't enjoy it,' replied Manie.

'I know it. But they have to say it's good, because they don't know whether I make mistakes or not.'—Washington Star.

Basement Bargains

In First Quality Granite Ware.

'SNAP' PRICES FOR FOUR DAYS ONLY

John Murphy & Co's

ADVERTISEMENT.

We have laid out on three tables in our basement the following lines of SUPER-EXCELLENT GRANITE WARE, and for four days only—the balance of the week—we will offer these at the exceptionally low "SNAP" prices attached:

SPECIAL 15c TABLE.
Milk Pans, Pudding Pans, Ladies' long-handled Dippers, Scoops, Wash Bowls, Saucepans, Milk Turcous, Soup Bowls, Cans and Saucers, Oval Pudding Pans, Cream Pitchers, Jelly Cake Plates, etc., etc. Regular every day price, 25c. Our special price for four days only, 15c.

SPECIAL 25c TABLE.
Tea Pots, Coffee Pots, Wash Basins, Milk Pans, Fry Pans, Pudding Pans, Roast Pans, Dippers, Preserve Kettles, Cake Pans, Copper bottomed Saucepans, Jelly Moulds, etc., etc. Regular every day price, 50c. Our special price for four days, only, 25c.

SPECIAL 50c TABLE.
Toilet Jars, Toilet Jugs, Oval Trays, Core-cake Pans, (2 in sheet), Large Water Jugs, Cuspidors, Preserving Kettles, Rice Boilers, Large Tea and Coffee Pots, Copper-bottomed Saucepans, etc., etc. Regular every day price, 75c to \$1.00. Our special price for four days only, 50c.

As the above articles are sure to sell "at sight," intending purchasers to secure a large choice should visit our basement at once.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

2343 St. Catherine St., CORNER OF METCALFE STREET.

TELEPHONE No. 3533. Terms: CASH.

ST. LAWRENCE WARD.

H. A. EKBERS,

Candidate for Aldermanic Seat No. 2.

COMMITTEE ROOMS:

CENTRAL—434 Bligny Street, Bell Phone 2376.
BRANCHES—104 St. Lawrence Street—1550 St. Catherine Street—155 Rance Street—740 St. Lawrence Street.
All Rooms open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, SUPERIOR COURT, No. 665.

Dame Orise Dagenais of the City of Montreal, in the district of Montreal, wife comonomer to the property of Joseph Piquet, greater of the same place, duly authorized to appear on justice, has instituted an action in separation as to property against her said husband, this day.

Montreal, 13th January 1898.
DEAUDIN CARDINAL, LORANDEE & ST. GERMAIN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.