

AN UNEXPECTED RESPONSE.

It was growing late. The tide of humanity that earlier in the evening had ebbed and flowed through the streets of the great city had swept onward, leaving the strange and almost appalling sense of desolation that comes when the noises of the town are hushed. The electric lights flared unnoticed on the corners; the street cars passed at further intervals; now and then a night worker hurried by, his footsteps ringing out loud and clear in the stillness. In front of a saloon whose lights shone out bright and ruddy across the pavement, stood a tramp, unshorn, ragged, dirty, disgusting. He watched with anxious eyes the men who passed in and out through the swinging doors, and then he turned his eyes toward two young fellows in evening dress who were coming down the street toward him. They had been drinking deeply and they stopped before the saloon and looked curiously at the tramp.

'By jove,' said one, 'think of having a thirst like that and not the price of an extinguisher in your pocket! Beats old Tantalus all to pieces, eh? Liquor, liquor, everywhere and not a drop to drink.'

He ran his hand into his pocket and proffered the tramp a dime, but before it could be accepted the other young fellow interposed.

'Say,' he said, 'let's do the Samaritan and set Hobo up to a good drink.'

The other hilariously consented, and the tramp slouched into the saloon at the heels of the gilded youths. The barkeeper set before them glasses and liquors, and with a hand that shook, the tramp poured out a brimming glass and raised it to his lips.

'Stop,' cried one of the young men drunkenly, 'make us a speech. It is poor liquor that doesn't loosen a man's tongue.'

The man hastily swallowed the drink and as the rich liquor coursed through his blood he straightened himself and stood before them with a grace and dignity that all his rags and dirt could not obscure.

Gentlemen,' he said, 'I look tonight at you and myself, and it seems to me that I look at the picture of my lost manhood. This bloated face was once as young and handsome as yours. This shambling figure once walked as proudly as yours, a man in the world of men. I, too, once had a home, and friends, and position. I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream, and I dropped the priceless pearl of her honor and respect in the wine cup, and, Cleopatra-like, saw it dissolve, and quaffed it down in the brimming draught. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring, and I saw them fade and die under the blighting curse of a drunken father. I had a home where love lit the flame upon the altar and ministered before it, and I put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation reigned in its stead. I had aspirations and ambitions as high as the morning star, and I broke and braised their wings, and, at last, strangled them that I might be strangled with their cries no more. Today I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a tramp with no home to call his own, a man in

whom every good impulse is dead. All, all swallowed up in the maelstrom of drink.'

The tramp ceased speaking. The glass fell from his nerveless fingers and shivered into a thousand fragments on the floor. The swinging doors pushed open and shut to again, and when the little group about the bar looked up the tramp was gone.

SENSE AND NONSENSE.

Mistress—(to servant) Did you tell those ladies at the door that I was not at home?

Servant—Yis, mum.

Mistress—What did they say?

Servant—How fortinit.

Home made Graham flour at Keith & Plummer's.

Miss Kate—I like a man with a past He is always interesting.

Miss Duplicate—I like a man with a present, and the more expensive the present, the more interest I take in it.

R. P. & Co. are headquarters for wood (green and dry) 16 in, 18 in, 2 ft, and 4 ft, prices right.

'How do you manage, doctor, to make yourself so popular with all your patients?'

'That's very simple. I assure those who only imagine they are ill, that they really are ill, while those who are really ill I assure they are quite well.'

Keith & Plummer offers Carleton County pure leaf lard in 5 lb. and 20 lb. packages.

'Davie,' said Edith, 'what makes grandma talk so much?'

'Can't you see?' replied the boy; she's got a double chin!'

Look at our "Royal Canadian Wringers" at \$3.50, it is a beauty and so easily attached to the tub; we have cheaper wringers too. Shaw & Dibblee.

Husband—How do you like the view?
Wife—(with ecstasy)—Oh, I am speechless.

Husband—Well, if that be so, I think I had better stay here and build a house.

Whole Buckwheat, Mashed Feed and Buckwheat Bran for sale at Carr's

'What did you stop that clock in your room for, Jane?'

'Because, mum, the plaguery thing has some sort of a fit every mornin' mum, just when I wants to sleep.'

Bring your own bottles to the Drug Store and have them filled with essence perfumes, oils, &c. When buying small quantities you get twice the quantity for the money. Estey & Curtis.

Siddy—I wonder if we should find any babies, Katie, if we dug up these gooseberry bushes?

Katie—Babies don't come out of gooseberry bushes, Siddy.

Siddy—Well, where do they come from, then?

Katie—Why, from the big shops, of course. Haven't you seen printed over some of them, "Families supplied?"

Pratt's Astral Oil is the best illuminating oil, you can tell by trying it. Buy it of Shaw & Dibblee.

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