Select Story.

Plain John Smith.

(Continued.)

'TO think of things coming to such a pass as this!' my mother went on, dolefully shaking her head, as she dropped the sugar into the cups. 'Dear, dear, the ups and downs of this world!'

'By George, mother, look out, or you'll have the tea over!' cried I irritably, as my mother nearly brought about such a castrophe in handing me my cup.

'Goodness, John! why don't you take hold of it, then! I declare I'm that put out!' exclaimed my mother, with an emphasis on the 'that' which seemed to hint that, under the circumstances, any little irregularities were perfectly excusable.

'Why, what's the row?' said I, vulgarly and ungraciously, thinking that perhaps it would be better to hear the whole story at once, and get it over, knowing well that I must hear it some time. 'Has Mary broken another window, or some of the best dinner service, or—'

'No, no—it's nothing to do with Mary, John. It's something I read in the paper this morning.'

'Indeed!' said I, with a resigned sigh, as I broke the shell of my egg, 'is there to be a potato famine? have coals gone up again? or—'

'Do be quiet, John, and don't worry one so,' my mother broke in; 'you'd never guess, not if you were to try from now till Christmas. I don't believe you ever heard the gentleman's name even.'

This enigmatical m de of speaking did not surprise me; I was accustomed to it, being as it was, a peculiarity of my mother's; so I answered calmly:

'Then I certainly shall not attempt to guess it. Do you propose enlightening me, though?'

'Oh, you can read for yourself; its there in the paper.'

My mother was evidently annoyed at my lack of interest, so, rousing myself, trying to throw off the evil humour that clung to me this morning; I said.

'What's the man been doing, mother? and how does it affect you?'

'It doesn't affect me,' replied she, a little molified; 'only I once knew him—in a way, that is—for, of course, the Major moved in a much higher circle than such as we. Eh, dear! such pleasant ways he had with him, when he came to see your father about the farm—bless me! that's sixteen years and more back.'

'Then it must have been before we left Thornton,' said I, carelessly. What's his name?'

'I don't suppose you'll remember anything about him, John, you were too young; but you'll recollect Hetty, maybe—a stout, lusty young womon with red hair—stayed with us a good bit, and a nicer, handier girl I wouldn't wish for. Well, she came to me straight from the Grange, and that's where Major Douglas used to live. He owned a deal of land about; your poor father's farm belonged to him too.'

'And what's wrong with him? Has he run through the property?'

'Worse than that,' said my mother solemnly. 'There were queer tales flying about here even in our time. You see he'd been twice married, had Major Douglas, and the son he had by the first wife was a wild, harum-scarum sort of lad always. I've heard it said his father was forever paying his debts. Goodness, John! I couldn't tell you the heaps and heaps of money I was told that boy cost the poor Major.' My mother paused, and looked at me across the teapot, as if expecting me to make a remark; but as I only looked at her, stirred my tea, and said nothing, she went on.

'Well, the last I heard from Thornton was that he'd sold the estate, and left the Grange. Your Aunt Jane did say it was all along of his son. It's all in the papers about him now. I suppose,' she concluded, shaking her head mournfully, 'I suppose he was fast for some ready money, and so he signed a name he hadn't ought to.'

'Then it was a forgery,' said I, and suddenly I thought of my lean prisioner. 'What sort of a man was he?' I asked eagerly.

'A thorough gentleman from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot,' answered my mother promptly. 'What made him do it passes me altogether. It was trust money he had in keeping for some one else; as far as I can understand, he intended to put it back, poor fellow! before it could be missed. The papers say he never touched it, mind you—it was found out too soon; but for all that he's got penal servitude for five years.'

'But what was he like—personally, I mean? Was he tall and thin, with gray hair and moustache, finely-cut features, dark eyes—?'

'That's just him,' my mother interrupted; 'though, when I saw him last, his hair was near as brown as yours. Well' well, to think of him then! a gayer kinder-hearted man did'nt live. It's quite upset me, it has; and worse than all, they had his daughter up to give evidence aganst him. The poor girl fainted afterward, and they had to carry her from the court. The paper says it was mostly through what she said he was convicted. Poor child! she can't be much more than fourteen or fifteen. Let's see; she was born twelve months before—'

The rest of my mother's reminiscences were lost upon me; for, having finished my breakfast, I picked up the paper and read the story for myself. There it was in black and white, much as my mother had narrated it. It did not say in so many words that the son's extravagance had ruined the father; but, having given my imagination the reins, having fallen into that reverie, and heard that pale faced girl's pitiful wail, my fancy supplied all the rest.

I put the paper down, saying to myself as I prepared to strat for the office. "There's no doubt about it; the poor man's more sinned against than sinning."

Thus ended the first act in the romance of my life.

* * * * * * *

Seven years passed away. Seven years; during which time the most startling event that happened was the death of my poor mother. I will say nothing more about this; it has nothing to do with the story, and I loved her dearly.

I had left the little house next to Miss Sweetlove's; most of the furniture was sold. I occupied appartments in a dismally respectable terrace in the town, and very lonely I found them sometimes.

I was head-salesman in our office now, getting a pretty good salary. Long ago I had abandoned in dispair the fruitless attempt to raise whiskers; and really, I think the scant supply I possessed thrived better, left to their own devices, than they did with all the care I used to lavish apon them.

I can't say with truth that in these years I had never felt any touch of the "tender passion," for I have distinct recollections of a strange flutter in the region of the heart befalling me on that Sunday when the Miss Robinsons appeared in new blue bonnets; but those bonnets grew dirty, and the flutter died away. I also remember a certain Fanny Price, whom I met at Miss Sweetlove's carpet dance; I forgot how many times I danced with her. I took her down to supper, pulled crackers with her, attended with solicitude to all her little wants, and looked, or tried to look, unutterable things the while; she apparently smiled ditto back to me. But, oh, false, deceiving Fanny Price! that day fortnight I heard from Miss Sweetlove's own malicious lips that Fanny Price was no more, and that Fanny Grundy reigned in her stead.

It was my twenty-seventh birthday. This fact brought me no pleasure. I knew no one who would make me any presents, and I suppose that's what birthdays are generally welcome for. I, at least, saw nothing to rejoice at in having marched one step nearer the grave—one year nearer the solution of the terrible mystery—a span, perhaps, on the road to that "undiscovered bourne" which most mortals contemplate, doubtless on account of its obscurity, and the knowledge that all must perforce travel thither.

The church bells were ringing loudly on that June morning; for it was Sunday, and the people in the street below were hurrying to their different places of worship. I could hear the subdued clatter of their footsteps plainly as I sat at my solitary breakfast.

Suddenly I formed a resolution. I would go to the parish church and hear the anthem; they had capital music there. In this way I would celebrate my natal day. I soon dressed myself, and made one of the stream of people wending their way to church and chapel.

I had some distance to walk, and by the time I reached St. Mary's the congregation were singing the "Venite." "Put me anywhere," I whispered to the verger. Accordingly, when I had put down my hat, and found my place, I became aware that the other end of the pew was already occupied by a young lady. Another look, and I saw that she was dressed in black, or something very dark. Another, and I noticed that she wore a thick veil. Then a lot of promiscuous glances, for I couldn't keep my eyes off her. There was I, instead of listening to the music I had come to hear, twisting and screwing my eyes into the most painful positions. If I could but pierce that veil, and see the face beneath! What lovely golden hair! What a pretty hand! What a graceful figure! There was such a nameless air of quiet sadness hanging about her. Had she lost her father, or mother, or—no, she was too young to have had a lover; no, she didn't look like that sort of thing, &c. Thus I ruminated, while the object of my speculation seemed unaware even of my presence. Glad am I that she did not observe my rude and vulgar staring; there she sat or stood, absorbed apparently in her devotions.

I am ashamed to say that I have a very imperfect recollection of that service, the music of which I have every reason to suppose was good. I believe they were somewhere in the middle of the anthem, but what that anthem was I haven't the ghost of an idea; I only know that it chimed in very pleasantly with my meditations concerning my interesting companion.

Well, they were in the midst of the anthem when I was startled by hearing a faint sigh, and turning quickly, I was just in time to see the book slip from my fair neighbor's hand, and her arms drop heavily to her side, while she herself sank helpless on to the seat. Here was a nice predicament for a bashful young man!

I was at her side directly, trying to rouse her. An old gentleman from the pew behind came to my assistance, and together we half led, half carried her out.

"She's fainted, poor thing! It's the heat," said the verger, as he hurried off for some water.

We raised her veil. Ah, I was not mistaken! I think I never beheld so lovely a face, all set round in a frame of golden hair; but, oh! so pale and white—not one vestige of color even in the lips.

"Poor thing! poor thing!" murmured the old gentleman, as he chafed her hands, and sprinkled her face with cold water.

Slowly the color came fluttering back to her cheek and lip; slowly she opened her great blue eyes, and looked vaguely at first, then wonderingly; at last, starting up, "where am I?" she asked, looking from one to the other in perplexity.

We told her how she had fainted, and we had carried her out of church.

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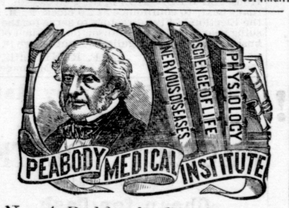

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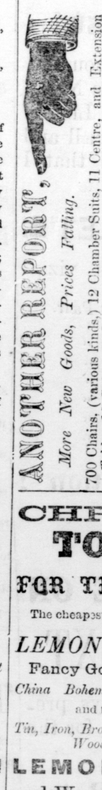

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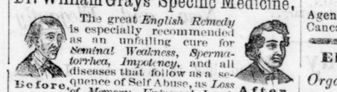

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We faithfully execute all orders for the purchase and sale of stocks on 2 to 5 per cent margins. First Class Stock Privileges negotiated in any amount. We solicit the patronage of parties desirous of obtaining reliable and responsible brokers. Our book on Stock Speculation sent on application. TUMBRIDGE & CO., Bankers and Brokers, 92 Broadway, N. Y.

December 4, 1876.

HUNTER'S and TRAPPERS Illustrated Practical Guide.—Gunning and rifle shooting making an using traps, snares and nets; baits and balting; preserving, stretching, dressing, tanning and dyeing skins and furs, fishing, &c. With fifty engravings. 20 cts. Taxidermist's Manual, 50. Dog training, 25. Humors 15, Ventriloquism, 50. Improvement of Memory, etc Of booksellers by mail. JESSE HANEY & CO., 110 Nassau St., N. Y.

CHROMOS! The largest and finest stock in the world, embracing over 3,000,000 Chromos, Paintings and Choice Prints, at our enlarged ART ROOMS. All the new and popular subjects at rock-bottom prices. The Falls of the Rhine, size 20x28—romantic and grand; Scene on the Susquehanna, one of the hits of the season, size, 19x27; Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, the most beautiful lake in the world; Isola Bella, a charming scene in Northern Italy, companion to the preceding; Off Boston Light, a beautiful marine, size, 14x20, in great demand; Old Oaken Bucket, White Mountains, Niagara Falls, Newport, Saratoga, Gathering Primroses, At the Sea Shore, Paddy in difficulty. Also Virgin Vesta, Snow Storm, American Fruit, and other 20x30 subjects.—Floral Business Cards. Sunday School Cards, Statuary, Mottoes, Black Ground Panels, etc. Also the finest and most complete assortment of 9x11 Chromos, both on white mountains, blue line, and black mountains, gold line. Our stock embraces everything desirable for Dealers, Agents or Premium purposes, and all should test our prices and quality of work. The right parties can realize an independence in every locality by taking an agency for our stretched and framed Chromos. Particulars free. Illustrated Catalogue on receipt of stamp. Send for $3 or $5 outfit. Address. J. LATHAM & CO., 419 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

HUGH McMONAGLE,

Sussex Corner, King's Cou ty,

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Breeder of Ayrshire Cattle, and Leicester Sheep Sept 8 1871

SAMUEL B. BELDING

Hampton Village, King's Co., N, B

Breeder of Ayrshire

and Manufacturer of Leather.

J. CARLETON ALLEN,

BARRISTER & ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

OFFICE--Hatheway's Building,

CORNER QUEEN & REGENT ST. FREDERICTON.

ly10,78

Professional Co-partnership

THE undersigned have this day entered into a professional Co-partnership as Barristers and Attorneys, under the name and style of

Botsford & Lugrin,

OFFICE--Over Electric Telegraph Office Queen Street, Fredericton.

F'ton, 30th October, A. D. 1874.

GEO. BOTSFORD. CHAS. H. LUGRIN

J. CHALONER

Corner King and Germain Streets, St. John. N B

Dealer in

Medicines, Brushes,

DYE STUFFS, PERFUMERY, GARDEN SEEDS, &c., &c.

Agent for Dow's Sturgeon Oil Liniment, Rogers Cancer and Scrofula Remedy.

EDWARD CADWALLADER,

Organist Christ Church Cathedral.

TEACHER OF THE

Organ, Pianoforte, Cabinet Organ and Vocal Music.

Pianos and Organs Tuned and repaired.

Agent for the best Reed Organs.

J. L. TURNER

AUCTIONEER,

Conveyancing and Collecting Agent.

BILLS PROMPTLY COLLECTED,

QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON.

May 8, 1876.

LONG'S HOTEL,

Corner of King and York Streets,

THE Subscriber having leased the above well known premises, begs to intimate that he is now prepared to receive and accommodate transient and permanent boarders.

The house has been recently painted, papered, and cleaned throughout, and every room newly furnished. He will spare no pains to make Long's Hotel a home to all who may be pleased to visit it.

TERMS $1 00 per day.

The best Stabling in the City, with an experienced Hostler always in attendance.

GEO. HUME, Proprietor.

Fredericton, May 22.

MRS. BEEK

THANKFUL for past patronage, con inues to give Lessons in Singing, and will give Instructions on the Piano.

For terms apply to Mrs. Beek, Charlotte St. F'ton, Oct. 6, 1876.

BIBLE SOCIETY

DEPOSITARY,

AT

Hall's Rook Store,

FREDERICTON.

The Society now have a very full stock of Bibles and Testaments, which are disposed of at the usual low prices. No one need be without either.

M. S. HALL,

Opposite City Hall.

E. N. FRESHMAN & BROS.,

Advertising Agents,

186 *W. Fourth St., CINCINNATI, O.,*

Are authorized to contract for advertising in this paper.

Estimates furnished free. Send for a Circular.

Cooking Raisins.

7 cents per lb. for good Cooking Raisins.

693. GEO HATT & SONS.

BECKWITH & SEELY,

Attorneys-at-Law, Notaries Public &c.,

Office in

CITY HALL, FREDERICTON.

Attend at Oromocto and Fredericton Junction, alternate Saturdays.

Accounts Collected, and Loans Negotiated.

F'ton, November 16, 1874.

THE PLACE TO BUY THE

BEST & CHEAPEST

GROCERIES,

—THE BEST—

TEA, MOLLASSES, TEA, TOBACCO, FISH, &c.,

the cheapest in town I know. So try and you will be pleased, at

E. Vincent Hunt's,

PHŒNIX SQUARE.

FREDERICTON.

Dissolution Notice.

THE co-partnership heretofore existing between the undersighed, under the name and style of LUGRIN & SON, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent. The Printing and Publishing business of the late firm will be carried on under the name and style as heretofore, by Mr. Geo. K. Lugrin, to whom all debts due to the late firm must be paid, and by whom the debts of the late firm will be discharged.

Fredericton, September 1st, A. D. 1876.

CHAS. S. LUGRIN, GEO. K. LUGRIN.

WANTED.

WE WANT reliable, energetic canvassing agents in every town in the Dominion for the new "Illustrated History of the Dominion of Canada." This work is truly magnificient, containing over 2,000 double column quarto pages, and over 300 superb full page engravings. The work is published in Parts, on a plan which insures its welcome to every English reading family. To energetic young men or ladies, who are willing to work, we will guarantee a permanent position for two years, and GOOD PAY! Don't fail to write for our private terms, sample pages, etc. This is a grand opportunity for school teachers to make more than double their salaries without interfering with their professional duties. The work is being manufactured at a cost of over $20,000 for the literary, artistic and mechanical work of producing the plates, by the old well-known, reliable Lovell Printing and Publishing Co., of Montreal. All letters from agents must be addressed to the Publishers general agents, as follows:

HAZEN B. RIGNEY & CO., 28 *and* 40 *St. Francis Xavier Street,* MONTREAL, QUE.

681,

JUST RECIVED.

THE Fashion Plate for October.

oct 9 THOS. W. SMITH.

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A HISTORY OF CANADA.

FROM its earliest settlement by the French to the consummation of Confederation, by ANDREW ARCHER, prescribed by the the Board of Education for New Brunswick, illustrated by maps and plans, 12 mo., 476 pages. Price 75c.

This valuable book will be found to meet a long experienced want both as a School Book and as a concise and reliable History of Canadd for the general reader.

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☞ Price 75c.

For Sale by all Booksellers, in New Brunlwick.

CARDING MACHINES.

The subscribers are now manufacturing Carding Machines in the latest and most approved style and workmanship.

Double and single Frames, 4 workers and 4 strippers to each Cylinder. Iron Arches &c. Also Wool Pickers, all suitable for country work.

Supply Machine Cards, Crank plats Cleaners, &c.

All orders punctually attended to. Address W. & J. Morice, Sackville, County of Westmorland N B., or Messrs James Harris & Co., St. John N. B.

Feb. 5. W. & J. MORICE.

CARD!

GENTLEMEN'—

Our new Stock of Fall and Winter Cloths has arrived and are now in stock.

Scotch and Canadian Tweeds, all kinds

Several pieces of very nice Blk. and Blue Basket Coatings.

Blk, Blue and Brown Beavers (in all makes)

Blk. and Blue Pilots.

Blk., Blue and Grey Elysians.

Irish Frieze.

Give us a call if you wish, have a "GOOD FITTING" garment at as low a price as any house in the trade.

Complete line of gentlemen's Furnishing Goods always on hand.

SCULLY & COLLINS.

F'ton, Sept. 18, 1876.

THE EXCHANGE.

THIS HOTEL, situated on the Eastern side of Queen Street, near Westmorland Street, is now fitted up in **First-Class Style,** and affords excellent accommodation to both transient and permanent boarders.

The proprietor will spare no pains in making this a first-rate Boarding House, and trusts by prompt attention to the comforts and convenience of the travelling public to merit a fair share of public patronage.

An excellent Stable, with careful hostlers, will be found in connection with the Hotel.

WILLIAM HAWTHORNE.

NEW CITY HALL DEBENTURES FOR SALE.

$16,000.00 CITY of Fredericton New City Hall Debentures, issued under Act of Assembly of last Session, $7,000.00 have been disposed of in advance leaving $9,000.00 in my hands for sale.

A sure investment free from taxation, issued in amounts of $100.00 to $1000.00 to purchasers, interest 6 per cent. per annum, paid half yearly at the City Treasurer's Office, Fredericton, on presentment of Coupons.

Address personally or by letter.

July 24-tf JOHN EDWARDS, City Treas.

CARD

From the old St