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Select Tale.

WON AT LAST.

All my life long have I known Mary Moore. Our mothers were old playmates and first cousins. My first recollection is of a young gentleman in a Turkey red frock and morocco shoes, rocking a cradle, in which reposed a sunny-haired, blue-eyed baby, not quite a year old. The young gentleman was I, myself, Harry Church; the blue-eyed baby was Mary Moore.

Later still I found myself at the little red school house, drawing my painted sled up to the door, and arranging my overcoat upon it, that Mary might ride home. Many a black eye have I gained on such occasions, for other boys liked her besides me, and she, I am afraid was something of a flirt, even in her infancy. How daintily she came tripping down the steps when I called her name! How sweetly her blue eyes looked up to me from the envious folds of her winter hood! How gaily her merry laugh rang out when by dint of superhuman exertion I kept her sled before the rest, and let her stand upon the steps exultingly to see them all go by. The fairy laugh! No one but Mary could let her heart lie up so on her lips! I followed that laugh upon my days of childhood, till I grew an awkward blushing youth; I followed it through the heated noon of manhood; and now when the frosts of age are silvering my hair, and many children climb to my knees and call me "father," I find that the memories of youth are strong, and that, grey hairs and all, I am following that music still.

When I was fifteen, the first great sorrow of my life came upon me. I was sent away to a Western school, and was obliged to part with Mary. We were not to see each other for three long years!—This, to me, was like a sentence of death, for Mary was like life itself to me. But hearts are very tough things after all. I left college in the flush and vigor of my nineteenth year. I was no longer awkward and embarrassed. I had grown into a tall slender stripling, with a very good opinion of myself in general and particular. If I thought of Mary Moore, it was to imagine how I would dazzle and bewilder her with my good looks and wonderful attainments, never thinking that she might dazzle and bewilder me still more. I was a sad puppy, I know, but as youth and good looks have fled, I trust I may be believed when I say that self-conceit has left me also.

An advantageous proposal was made to me at this time, and accepting it, I gave up all ideas of a profession and prepared to go to the Indies. In my hurried visit home, of two days, I saw nothing of Mary Moore. She had gone to a boarding school in Massachusetts, and was not expected home till the next fall. I gave one sigh to the memory of my little blue-eyed playmate, and then called myself a man again.

"In a year," I thought, as the stage whirled away from our door, "in a year, or three years at the most, I will return, and if Mary is as pretty as she used to be—why, then perhaps, I may marry her."

I stroked back my budding moustache with complacency, while I settled the future of a young lady I had not seen for four years. I never thought of the possibility of her refusing me—never dreamed that she would not stoop with grateful tears to pick up the handkerchief whenever I chose to throw it at her feet.

But now I know that had Mary met me then she would have despised me. She was as far above me as the heavens are above the earth. Perhaps in the scented and perfumed student she might have found plenty of sport; but as for loving me or feeling the slightest interest in me, save a regret that I should make such an unmitigated donkey of myself—I know she would not.

India was my salvation, not merely because of the plentiful share of gold I had laid up, but because my earnest labor had contradicted the evil of nature, and made me a better man. And when at the end of three years I prepared to return, I wrote nothing to the dear ones I was about to meet, of the reformations which I knew had taken place. "They loved me as I was," I murmured to myself, "and they shall find for themselves if I am better worth the loving as I am."

I packed up many a token from that land of gold for the friends I was about to meet. The gift for Mary Moore was one I had selected with a beating heart—a ring of rough, virgin gold, with my name and hers engraved inside. That was all, and yet the little toy thrilled me strangely as I balanced it upon the tip of my finger. To the eyes of others it was but a small, plain circlet, suggesting thoughts, perhaps, by its daintiness, of the dainty white hand that was to wear it. But to me—oh me!—how much was embodied there? A loving smile on a beautiful face—low words of welcome—a happy home and a sweet face smiling there—a group of merry children to climb my knee—all these delights were hidden within that ring of gold.

A tall, bearded, sun-bronzed man, I knocked at the door of my fathers house. The lights in the parlor windows, and the hum of conversation and cheerful laughter showed me that company were assembled there. I hoped my sister Lizzie would come to the door and that I might greet my family when no stranger's eyes were looking curiously on. But no, a servant girl answered my summons; they were too merry in the parlor to heed the long absent one when he asks for admittance. Some such bitter thought was passing through my mind as I heard the sounds from the parlor, and saw the half-suppressed smile upon the servants face.

I hesitated a moment before I made myself known or asked after the family. And while I stood silent, a strange apparition grew up before me. From behind the servant peered out a small, golden head—a tiny, delicate form followed, and a sweet, childish face and blue eyes were lifted up to mine, as like—the one that had brightened my boyhood, that I started back with a sudden feeling of pain.

"What may your name be, little one?" I asked, while the wondering servant held the door. She lifted up her hand as if to shade her eyes—I had seen that very attitude in another in my boyhood, many and many a time—and answered, in a sweet, bird-like voice:

"Mary Moore." "And what else?" I asked. "Mary Moore Chester," lisped the little child. My heart sunk down like lead. Here was an end to all the bright dreams and hopes of my youth and manhood! Frank Chester, my boyish rival, who had tried in vain to usurp my place beside the girl had succeeded at last and won the woman away from me! This was his child—his child and Mary's. And I must go in there and meet her once again, and then go away forever, and die—if God would let me.

I sank, body and soul, beneath this blow, and, hiding my face in my hands, I leaned against the door. The little one gazed at me, grieved and amazed, and put her pretty lips as if about to cry, while the perplexed servant stepped to the parlour, and called my sister out to find out who it could be that conducted himself so strangely.

I heard a light step and pleasant voice saying:—"Do you wish to see my father sir?" I looked up. There stood a pretty, sweet-faced maiden of twenty, not much changed from the dear little sister I loved so well. I looked at her a moment, and then stifling the tumult of my heart by a mighty effort, I opened my arms and said:

"Jennie, don't you know me?" "Harry! Oh, my brother Harry!" she cried, and threw herself upon my breast. She wept as if her heart would break. I could not weep. I drew her gently into the lighted parlor, and stood with her before them all. There was a rush and cry of joy, and then my mother and my father sprang towards me and welcomed me home with heartfelt tears. Oh, strange and passing sweet is such a greeting to the way worn traveller. And as I held my dear old mother to my heart, and grasped my father's hand, while Jennie clung beside me, I felt all was not yet lost, and though another had secured life's choicest blessing many a joy remained for me in this dear sanctuary of home.

There were four others, inmates of the room, who had risen on my sudden entrance. One was the blue-eyed child whom I had already seen, and who now stood by Frank Chester, clinging to his hand. Near by stood Lizzie, Mary Moore's eldest sister, and in a distant corner, where she had hurriedly retreated, when my name was spoken, stood a tall and slender figure, half hidden by the heavy window curtains that fell to the floor.

When the first rapturous greeting was over, Jennie led me forward with a timid grace, and Frank Chester grasped my hand.

"Welcome home, my boy," he said, with the loud, cheerful tones I remembered so well. "You have changed so I would never have known you; but no matter for that—your heart is in the right place, I know."

"How can you say he is changed? said my mother, gently. "To be sure he looks older and graver, and more like a man than when he went away; but his eyes and smile are the same as ever. It is that heavy beard that changes him. He is my boy still."

"Yes, mother," I answered sadly; "I am your boy still." "God help me! at that moment I felt like a boy, and it would have been a blessed relief to have wept upon her bosom, as I had done in my infancy. But I kept down the beating of my heart and the tremor of my lip, and answered quietly, as I looked in his full, handsome face.

"You have changed, too, Frank, but I think for the better."

"Oh, yes—thank you for the compliment. My wife tells me I grow handsomer every day."

"His wife! Could I hear that name and keep silent still?" "And have you seen my little girl?" he added, lifting the infant in his arms and kissing her crimson cheek. "I tell you, Harry there is not another like her in the United States—Don't you think she looks very much like her mother used to?"

Very much I faltered. "Hullo!" said Frank, with a suddenness that made me start violently; "I had forgotten to introduce you to my wife. I believe you and she used to be playmates in your young days. Eh, Harry?" and he slapped me on the back.

"For the sake of old times, and because you were not at the wedding, I will give you leave to kiss her once; but mind, old fellow don't repeat the ceremony. Come, here she is, and for once I will manage those ferocious moustaches of yours in the operation."

I pushed Lizzie, laughing and blushing towards me. A gleam of light and hope, almost too dazzling to bear, came over me, and I cried out before I thought:—"Not Mary!"

I must have betrayed my secret to every one in the room, but nothing was said; even Frank was this time silent. I kissed the fair cheek of the young wife, and hurried to the silent figure looking out of the window.

"Mary—Moore," said I, in a low voice, "have you alone no welcome to give the wanderer?" She turned and laid her hand in mine, and murmured hurriedly:

"I am glad to see you here, Harry."

Simple words—and yet how blessed they made me! I would not have yielded them up then for an emperor's crown. There was the happy home group, and the home fire-side, and there sweet Mary Moore! The eyes I had dreamed of by night and by day, were falling before the ardent gaze of mine, and the sweet face I had so long prayed to see, was there before me—more beautiful than before. I never knew till that moment the meaning of real happiness.

Many years have passed since that happy night, and the hair that was dark and glossy then, is fast turning grey. I am growing to be an old man, and can look back to a long, happy and well spent life. And yet, sweet as it has been, I would not recall a single day, for the love that made my manhood so bright shines also upon me in my white hairs. An old man? Can this be so? At heart I am as young as ever. And Mary, with her bright hair parted smoothly from a brow that has a slight furrow in it, is still Mary of my early days. To me she can never grow old or change. The heart that held her infancy, and sheltered her piously in the flush and beauty of womanhood can never cast her out till life shall cease to warm it, nor even then, for love still lives in heaven.

THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

The correspondent of the New York Tribune gives the following graphic account of the fight at Williamsburg:

Between 8 and 8 o'clock Hooker gave through the down-pouring rain the order to drive in the enemy's pickets. The battle began. The enemy were met in great force. Our utmost numbers were 8000. All of these were exhausted with a twelve-mile march through the most atrocious mud-roads that can disgrace the barbarism of even a slave State—with a twenty-four hours' rain from which they had no shelter—with a want of food for which official negligence cannot justly be imputed. But they went to work with characteristic Northern resolution, and sent the rebel pickets flying. But reinforcements from Williamsburg began to come in immediately—the rain and mud were not the only obstacles. At 9 the enemy grew thicker and more aggressive. Hooker's second and third brigade went in, and were soon followed by Emory's cavalry and Benson's battery. The fight now became furious. The great superiority of the rebel army was their carefully cultivated contempt of the courage of Northern men, impelled them upon our regiments with audacity and the characteristic rage of their civilization. The steadiness and pluck of the Northerners were what saved us from disaster. Our musketry was not equal to the rapid and solid character, and said that they had never seen it equalled. It, however, began to exhaust the cartridge boxes. Soon the equilibrium of the fight was lost, and the result to Heintzelman's experienced eye, when he arrived on the field at 12, was a doubtful loss. He instantly sent to Kearney for reinforcements—then hurried an orderly to Gen. Sumner to represent the instant necessity of his reinforcing him with more troops, or by a diversion to be made by an attack on his part on the enemy's centre. To Kearney, in his reply, full eight miles off, he sent staff officers to hurry him to extraordinary efforts to come up.

For a whole hour at a time he was left entirely alone on the field. His impatience, like Napoleon's for the head of Grouchy's column at Waterloo, was so intense, that in 5 minutes after the return of his messengers, he repeatedly sent them back without entreaties to Kearney to move quickly, to save the situation. They did not come, for the rain had utterly ruined the swamp road. The danger grew fast, and began to culminate at 1 1/2 o'clock, when the enemy made a determined charge with the bayonet on Hooker's left with a column of 6,000 fresh troops just up from Williamsburg. They, of course, pushed our new and exhausted men back, and captured our field guns, and drove us to the river. We succeeded in finally retreating off. The nature of the ground was such—covered with thick woods and brush—that we could not use our artillery with full effect; but its fire compelled the shouting captives to abandon their prizes. The loss of these guns was purely the result of the killing of their officers and non-commissioned officers, and the consequent disorganization of the sections, and more especially of the exhaustion of the supply of ammunition by the supporting infantry regiments behind them.

Here now commenced the development of the crisis of the fight. Volleys of ball cartridges cannot long be resisted by the bravest of the brave holding in their grasp only empty gunbarrels. Pressed under and close to the water, the 7th, 8th and 9th New Jersey gave ground, and soon fell into disorder. It was not strange, for their cartridge boxes empty, the men felt themselves to be unarmed. Captain Chauncey McKeever threw himself in their way and endeavored to rally them, without effect. His resolution was promptly taken. He took a squad of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry, deployed them in the woods on each side of the road, and ordered them to fire upon the stragglers and force them back into the fight until the reinforcements should come up. The order was obeyed—The men—who had not shown any symptoms of panic, nor were in any way demoralized by the loss of their arms, but without cartridges at all, commenced. Heintzelman, having no aid within miles of him, took his escort of 3rd Pennsylvanians, commanded by Capt. J. C. White, and persuaded them to return to their ranks and resume their arms. It was heroic of any position of the 8000 men, and 25,000 comparatively fresh troops, pouring in upon them with a force and steady increase. But a Massachusetts regiment—God bless that State, and God bless her people!—greatly assisted this devotion by fixing bayonets on their empty musket barrels and standing still for the coming avalanche.

It is now that death passed fastest through our ranks. Officers fell thickly and men went to earth in heaps. Ten minutes more would have ruined the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. Ten minutes more would have saved the Rebellion and caused the recognition of the rebel States: ten minutes more would have crushed military reputation, and driven a political party out of power—and its administration perhaps out of Maine—wading through the mud and rain at such speed that it actually overtook and passed three other brigades, came in sight. Heintzelman shouted with gratitude. He ran to the nearest bank and ordered it to meet the coming regiments with "Yankee Doodle," and to give them marching time into the field with "The Star Spangled Banner." A wild "hurrah!" went up in the army, and with a yell that was electric three regiments of Berry's brigade went to the front, formed a line nearly half a mile long, and commenced by a volley firing that no troops on earth could stand before—then at the double-quick sent them flying from the field into their earthworks, pursued them into the largest of them, and drove them out behind with the pure steel, and then invited them to retake it. The attempt was repeatedly made, and repeatedly repulsed. The count of the rebel dead in that battery at the close of the fight was 63. They were principally Michigan men who did the work.

The equilibrium of the battle was restored. It was now 4 o'clock, and Jameson and Birney came up with their brigades. They went to the front, and soon the tide of the fight turned backward. But Berry's timely arrival, for which he is entitled to both gratitude and honor, saved the day. At dark they had captured the rest of Heintzelman's force was well placed; and in full front of the enemy's line, while the enemy themselves had withdrawn from the plain to the cover of their works. We were ready for the renewal of the fight on the morrow. They were whipped. Our men lighted their fires and cooked their coffee, and tried to dry their clothes. They were strapping their knapsacks on their shoulders for a flight. They had met the Yankees on an open field, and knew at last they had met their masters. So, through the mists of that rainy night, the Confederate army of the Potomac stole out of the Rebel army, and obeyed the order to retreat. Ball ran was avenged.

It was not till after sunrise that the last of the Rebel army, composed of cavalry, passed through Williamsburg. They left one large gun in their works, abandoned a splendid brass piece on the road, with two caissons; strewn every rod of their path with muskets, bayonets, knapsacks, &c. This was a harvest for the blacks who had not been driven in coffee by their owners to Richmond. From all parts they alighted upon this abandoned property, much of it new, and fresh from the commissary's store, and left upon the roadside in wagons, only because it impeded flight.

THE FUTURE OF THE PROVINCE.

[Hon. Mr. CHANDLER'S Speech.—continued from our last.]

Now if, instead of continuing the present system we amalgamate the management of our public works with the commissioning of railways, we then have but one office to provide for. The public service will be as sufficiently served, and a saving as before stated of £1350 effected. The appointment of a Postmaster General was a great mistake; we ought very well have done without such an officer, of the establishments which have largely increased our expenditures. I of course do not in making these remarks, reflect upon any government, or either of the several gentlemen who have successively filled the office of P. M. G. It is a little remarkable the vicissitudes which have attended the heads of this Department, of whom there have been four in five years. The expenses of the General P. Office are annually, including salaries, £1900 I propose: a retrograde movement and suggest that we go back to the old system, and place the department under the control of the gentleman who formerly conducted it in such a satisfactory manner, and then whom it would be difficult to find a gentleman better suited, if properly considered an old public servant of experience and strict integrity in connection with the public service is valuable. I would add to the amount now given to the Post Office, St. John £200 for additional clerks: the saving in this way would be £1600. Something must be done to prevent so large a deficiency in the Post Office Department. I would suggest that we should refer to the conclusion to reduce the expenses of the Postal service by cutting off many of the rides. We cannot continue Post Offices in every hole and corner or if we do continue them to the extent they are now, we will have to take more from the rate roads and bridge service. It is very evident that we must continue the existing system. The Legislature should take the subject up and direct the Government to confine its expenditure to a certain limited extent. I shall now make a few observations with reference to our Railway management. The expense connected with this public work is rapidly increasing, and in proportion to its magnitude it becomes extremely difficult to consider how the road can be run with least expense and to show how, by a prudent and economical system of management, the largest saving may be effected—of course whatever saving there is must arise from prudence and economy in connection with running the trains, as we have now all the necessary rolling stock and various establishments on the road. The first suggestion that naturally arises, is whether one train a day is not sufficient to meet all the requirements of the public. Of course it is often times very convenient for individual gentlemen to have two trains a day pass over the road, and when travelling, to do so at a high rate of speed; but as far as the general public is concerned, it is not the whole people who would be answered by one train a day each way; and I likewise think it does not matter very much whether it occupies five hours, or only four, in passing over the line, especially as then sufficient time is allowed for passengers to meet all the various branch connections and to reach their homes, and should receive their mail parcels. If then but one train a day each way, (except in special cases), is necessary, a large saving to the public revenue could be effected; and this saving might be increased, too, by a reduction in the rate of speed. As far as regard as the best paid officials, we have for the expense of maintenance of a railroad depends to a great extent upon the speed at which the trains are run. When two trains are run, there must be two sets of officials, and this item of expense would consequently be saved, and I feel justified in asserting that several thousand pounds might be saved in this manner. The Hon. Mr. Chandler has proposed having under his control such an Administration as I would suggest that some hon. gentlemen, such as one my hon. friend, Mr. Todd, who has large experience and acquaintance with men of the proper stamp, to obtain the service of some person thoroughly acquainted with the workings of railroads, to be paid a salary of £1000 per annum, and a liberal remuneration, to spend a few months upon the road, instructed to do so, with the express object of discovering in what respects the same could be more economically managed, without an undue disregard to public safety and convenience: after he had been sufficiently long on the road to do so, he might make up a report, in which he might state the means of saving, and should receive, as a reward for his services, a salary of £1000 per annum, and a liberal remuneration, to spend a few months upon the road, instructed to do so, with the express object of discovering in what respects the same could be more economically 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