

# The Charleston Sentinel

SAMUEL & JAMES WATTS,

Our Queen and Constitution.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1897.

WHOLE NO.—2699.

XLIX.—43.

## Select Tale.

### THE SECOND DANCE.

'Who is that interesting Dr. Stein who was introduced to me before? How do you come to this acquisition, Irene?'

'It is very simple,' replied the latter. 'Dr. Stein is a mineralogist. He has been stopping down in the village for several days to take advantage of our quarry for the purpose of his researches. Papa became acquainted with him, and in consequence of his usual cordiality he has brought this baser mineral among our set of select precious stones.'

'This plebeian pedlar, however, seems to consider himself quite on a par with us. He was artless enough to ask me for a dance, the second quadrille—think of it!—to ask me when I promised the last extra a week ago!'

'Well, it seems he was not discouraged by one refusal. I, too, have just declined his invitation for the second quadrille. Besides, I did not save the dance to give it to this Dr. Stein.'

'A better of young ladies, all in dainty ball gowns, gathered about Irene and Elsie. It transpired to the amusement of them all that Dr. Stein had been refused the same second quadrille by each of them.'

'All declined on the same ground—that they would not squander such a dance on an uninteresting civilian without name or rank.'

'What a deplorable contrast his appearance and that of the illustrious and distinguished officers of the husbands in the ballroom! It would be ridiculous to dance with such a man.'

'I call that loyalty,' said Irene. 'Bravo, girls. Now, my stepmother is the only one left. There she is! I am real curious to know—Lies! Do come here! Did Dr. Stein ask you for the second quadrille?' she asked of the young lady approaching.

'Yes, just a moment ago.'

'And you gave him the dance.'

'Yes—why shouldn't I? Then let me tell you that you accepted after he had been refused by us all for the same dance.'

'So much the better that I still had the quadrille suggested.'

'You are indecisively artless, or at least you pretend to be so.'

'If you purposely offend Dr. Stein, I am glad that I can make some amends. He is papa's guest, and I shall treat him as such,' Irene answered calmly.

'See! said Irene to Elsie, 'he is just as unbearable all the time—so different from us.'

'Irene was the daughter of Count Balfor by his first marriage with a woman of limited means. The second time he married a countess of great wealth and the possessor of many estates.'

'Irene was the only child of this second marriage and the sole heiress of her mother. Irene's prospects of an inheritance became more evident to her with every word, and who, with her intellectual superiority, showed so much modesty and liberality of judgment.'

'They went back to the ballroom, but always met again in the intermission, irresistibly drawn to each other and inexhaustible in their mutual ideas.'

'That is just like Irene,' said Irene again to Elsie, 'to begin a flirtation with Dr. Stein. It is simply shocking!'

'It was shortly before the second quadrille that Dr. Stein asked Irene to be his wife. They were both alone in an adjoining apartment, where they had gone to cool off and refresh themselves from the heat of the ballroom.'

'I hope you will not look upon my proposal as too hasty,' he said. 'I know you as if I had always lived with you. For the last week, once since my arrival at Kumerau I have taken notice of your doings. I will understand very well, however, that you ask for time to consider, as I am as yet a total stranger to you.'

'I need no time to consider,' said Irene, with radiant face. The surroundings among which I have lived up to this time have always remained strange to me, but you seem like an old acquaintance. You are the friend whom I have always sought in vain.'

'And do you not object to a plebeian name? Is the rank of a simple scientist not too low for you?'

'No. There is nothing in a name to me. It is simply the bearer whom I care for,' smiled Irene.

'Almost speechless with happiness, Dr. Stein clasped the young girl in his arms. 'Beloved,' said he, 'pardon this little mystification. Dr. Stein is my pseudonym, with which I sign my scientific articles for publication. In private life I am Prince Yanseloh. I hope you will not object to that title either.'

'Irene looked up in surprise. 'No,' she answered, 'you will always remain the same to me.'

'In the first joy of their union they overheard footsteps at the door. 'Ines!' Countess Balfor called sharply. 'How can you forget yourself to such an extent? What a scandal!'

'Countess,' the prince quickly interrupted, 'you surprised two happy people. We ask your blessing. I have only to state that besides my life as scientist, under which I live in public, I have also the private name Yanseloh, with which I believe, the countess is acquainted.'

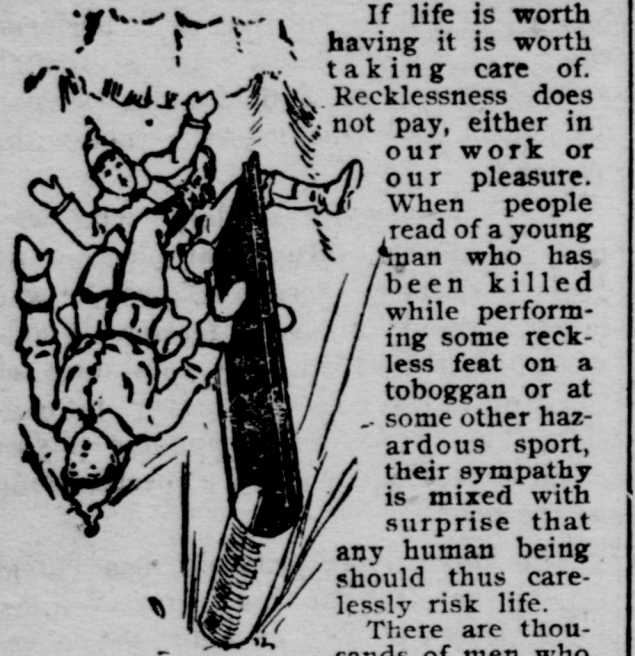
'I may hope that you are not averse to our union, as you kindly gave your consent to such an arrangement between one of your daughters and myself.'

'The countess nearly fainted away, but there was nothing to do but to compose herself and to congratulate the happy pair.'

'Now we must return quickly to the ballroom so as not to miss the second quadrille,' said the prince after the count, who had been called, had gladly given his paternal blessing.

'The count insisted upon accompanying the betrothed couple into the ballroom, there to publicly proclaim the engagement before the beginning of the quadrille. The news flashed like lightning among the dancers, and there was not one among the young ladies who did not secretly rue the fact that she had refused Dr. Stein the second quadrille, and who would not have given up ten years of her life to stone for the error.'

'Irene was beside herself and could restrain her self-possession with difficulty as she was doomed to dance opposite the happy pair.'



If life is worth having it is worth taking care of. Recklessness does not pay. It is either in our work or in our pleasure. When people read of a young man who has been killed while performing some reckless feat, they say, 'He was a fool.' But at some other hazardous sport, their sympathy is roused, and they say, 'He was a hero.' There are thousands of men who are recklessly risking their lives while they go about their common every-day avocations. They over-work, they do not take sufficient time from business or labor to rest or sleep, or to care for their health. Outraged nature throws out danger signals to which they pay no heed. They suffer from bilious or nervous disorders, from sick headache, giddiness, drowsiness, cold chills, flushings of heat, shortness of breath, blotches on the skin, indigestion, and a host of other ailments. These are the advance symptoms of serious and fatal maladies.

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It has ever been thus. One cannot put a noble horse to the plow. She turned her back on Dr. Stein and joined the ranks of the dancers. 'Are you not dancing, Countess?' Dr. Stein asked of Ines, whom he met finally, after a long, vain search among the servants in the dining hall, where she was giving orders and directing the butler as to the wines for the table.

'I must stop at times to look after things,' was the friendly reply. 'One cannot always depend upon the servants.'

'And you do not shun work?' 'No, indeed. I could not live without it. I am old enough to know the blessings of labor.'

It was not long before the young lady and the scientist had entered upon a conversation which involved the deepest and greatest interests of life. The consciousness that they were of sympathetic dispositions, having the same goal, turned away from the trivialities of life, seeking the grand, the good, the true, the noble, and the beautiful.

For the first time in her life, Irene felt that she was being understood and appreciated in her best pursuits. A deeply felt sympathy attracted her to the unassuming man whose noble, dignified opinions and firmness of character became more evident to her with every word, and who, with his intellectual superiority, showed so much modesty and liberality of judgment.'

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'Ines and the prince were so enraptured

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