

POETRY.

PICTURES IN THE FIRE.

Have you noticed, little children, When the fire is burning low, As the embers flash and darken, How the pictures come and go?

Strange the shapes, and strange the fancies, As beyond the bars you gaze, Bringing back some olden memories, Thoughts of half-forgotten days!

There's the church across the meadows, shadow'd by the spreading yew, There's the quaint, curven pulpit, And the olden casket too, Changed the scene, and on the ocean Sails a ship amid the spray;

'Tis the one you watched departing, When some loved one went away! Yes! and there are faces plenty, Faces dear, both old and young, And they cause you to remember, Words their lips of old or sung.

Fancy even brings the voices, That they may be far away; Only pictures, only fancies, Yes! but very sweet are they!

Little children, let me tell you 'Tis yourselves who shape the scene! In your minds a memory lingers, And it peeps the bars between! If you doubt me, choose a subject, Any one you may desire, And you will by dint of looking, Find its picture in the fire.

SELECT STORY.

COUNT OF MONTE-CRISTO.

OR THE REVENGE OF EDMUND DANTES.

CHAPTER XV.

THE ENQUIRY.

"Doubtless, and we are not now enquiring into his creed, but his actions; in the name of the prefect of police, I demand what do you know of him?"

"He passes for a very charitable man. Our holy father, the Pope, has made him a knight of Christ for the services he rendered to the Christians in the east; he has five or six rings as testimonials from eastern monarchs of his services."

"Does he wear them?" "No, but he is proud of them; he is better pleased with the medals given to the benefactors of man than to his destroyers."

"He is a Quaker then?" "Exactly, he is a Quaker, with the exception of the peculiar dress."

"Has any friends?" "Yes, everyone who knows him is his friend."

"But has he any enemies?" "Lord Wilmore," "Where is he?" "He is in Paris just now."

"Can he give me any particulars?" "Important ones; he was in India with Zaccane."

"Do you know his abode?" "It is somewhere in the Chaussee d'Antin; but I know neither the street nor the number."

"Are you at odds with the Englishman?" "I like Zaccane, and he hates him; we are consequently not friends."

"Do you think the Count of Monte-Cristo had ever been in France before he made the visit to Paris?"

"To that question I can answer positively; no, sir, he had never been, because he applied to me six months since for the particulars he required; and as I knew not when I might again come to Paris, I recommended M. Cavalcanti to him."

"Andreas?" "No, Bartolomeo, his father."

"Now, sir, I have but one question more to ask, and I charge you in the name of honor, humanity, and of religion, to answer me candidly."

"What is it, sir?" "Do you know with what design M. de Monte-Cristo purchased a house at Anteuil?"

"Certainly, for he told me." "What is it, sir?" "To make a lunatic asylum of it, similar to that founded by the Count of Fieschi at Palermo. It is a magnificent institution." Having said this, the abbe bowed to imply that he wished to pursue his studies. The visitor either understood the abbe's meaning, or had no more questions to ask; he rose, and the priest accompanied him to the door.

"You are a great almsgiver," said the visitor, "and although you are said to be rich, I will venture to offer you something for your poor people; will you accept my offering?"

"I thank you, sir; I am only jealous of one thing, namely, that the relief I give should be entirely from my own resources."

"However—" "My resolution, sir, is unchangeable; however, you have only to search for yourself, and you will find, alas! but too many objects upon whom to exercise your benevolence." The abbe once more bowed as he opened the door, the stranger bowed and took his leave; and the carriage conducted him straight to the house of M. de Villefort. An hour afterwards the carriage was again ordered, and this time it went to the Rue Fontaine St. George, and stopped at No. 5, where Lord Wilmore lived. The stranger had written to Lord Wilmore, requesting an interview which the latter had fixed for ten o'clock. As the envoy of the prefect of police arrived ten minutes before ten, he was told that Lord Wilmore, who was precise and punctuality personified, was not yet come in, but that he would be sure to return as the clock struck. The visitor was introduced into the drawing-room, which was like all other furnished drawing-rooms. After ten minutes' expectation the clock struck ten; at the fifth stroke the door opened, and Lord Wilmore appeared. He was rather above the middle height, with thin reddish whiskers, light complexion and light hair, turning rather gray. He was dressed with all the English peculiarity, namely, in a blue coat with gilt buttons and a high collar, in an old-fashioned, white kerseymer waistcoat, and nankeen pantaloons, three inches too short, but which were prevented by straps from slipping up to the knees. His first remark on entering was—"You know, sir, that I do not speak French."

"I know you do not like to converse in our language," replied the envoy. "But you may use it," replied Lord Wilmore. "I understand it."

"And I!" replied the visitor, changing his idiom, "know enough of English to keep up the conversation. Do not put yourself to the slightest inconvenience."

"Oh, dear, no," said Lord Wilmore, "with that cool tone only known to natives of Great Britain."

The envoy presented his letter of introduction, which the latter read with English coolness; and having finished, said, "I understand, perfectly."

was there Wilmore had first met him and fought against him; in that war Zaccane had been taken prisoner, sent to England, put in the armory, whence he had escaped by swimming. Then began his travels, duels; then came the insurrection in Greece, and he had served in the rebel ranks. While in that service he had discovered a silver mine in the mountains of Thessaly, but he had been careful to conceal it from every one. After the battle of Navarino, when the Greek government was consolidated, he asked of King Otto a mining grant for that district, which was given him. Hence that immense fortune, which might, in Lord Wilmore's opinion, amount to one or two millions per annum, a precarious fortune, which might be momentarily lost by the failure of the mine.

"But," asked the visitor, "do you know why he came to France?" "He is speculating in railways," said Lord Wilmore; "and being a clever theorist, he has discovered a new telegraph, which he is seeking to bring to perfection."

"How much does he spend yearly?" asked the prefect. "Not more than five or six hundred francs," said Lord Wilmore; "he is miser."

Hated evidently inspired the Englishman, who, knowing no other reproach to bring against the count, accused him of avarice. "Do you know his house at Anteuil?" "Do you wish to know why he bought it?" "Yes."

"The count is a speculator, who will certainly ruin himself in experiments. He supposes there is in the neighborhood of the house he has bought a mineral spring. He is going to turn his house into a bath-house, as the Germans term it. He has already dug up all the garden two or three times, to find the famous spring, and, being unsuccessful, he will soon purchase the contiguous houses. Now, as I dislike him, and hope his railway, his electric telegraph, or his search for baths will ruin him, I am watching his discomfiture, which must soon take place."

"What was the cause of your quarrel?" "When in England he eloped with the wife of one of my friends."

"Why do you not seek revenge?" "I have already fought three duels with him," said the Englishman; "and with the pistol, the second with the foil, and the third with the two-handed sword. The first time he broke my arm; the second, he wounded me in the breast; and the third time, he struck this large wound." The Englishman turned down his shirt collar, and showed a scar, whose redness proved to be a recent one. "So that, you see, there is a deadly feud between us."

"But," said the envoy, "you do not go the right way to kill him, if I understand."

"Alack!" said the Englishman, "I practice shooting every day."

This was all the visitor wished to ascertain; or rather, all the Englishman appeared to know. The agent rose, and having bowed to Lord Wilmore, who returned his salutation with stiff politeness, he retired. Lord Wilmore having heard the door close after him, returned to his bedroom, where with one hand he pulled off his light hair, his red whiskers, his false jaw, and his wig, to resume his own black hair, the dark complexion, and the pearly teeth of the Count of Monte-Cristo. It was M. de Villefort, and not the prefect, who returned to the house of Villefort. The proctor felt more at ease, although he had remained sitting really satisfactory, and for the first time since the dinner at Anteuil, he slept soundly.

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an establishment of mineral waters at Anteuil."

"Well! I'm sure," said Morcerf; "this is indeed news! Am I allowed to repeat it?"

"Yes, but cautiously; tell one thing at a time, and do not say I told you, because it is secret just discovered by the police."

"Then the news originated—" "At the prefect's last night. Paris, you can understand, is astonished at the sight of such unusual splendor, and the police have made enquiries."

"Nothing more is wanting than to arrest the count as a vagabond, on the pretext of his being too rich."

"Indeed, this would doubtless have happened if his credentials had not been so favorable."

"Poor count! And he is aware of the danger he has been in?" "I think not."

"Then it will be but charitable to inform him. When he arrives, I will not fail to do so."

Just then, a handsome young man with bright eyes, black hair, and glossy moustache, respectfully bowed to Madame de Villefort. Albert extended his hand.

"Madame," said Albert, "allow me to present to you M. Maximilian Morrel, captain of Saphir, one of our best, and, above all, one of our bravest officers."

"I have already had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman at Anteuil, at the house of the Count of Monte-Cristo," replied Madame de Villefort, turning away with marked coldness of manner. This answer, and above all, the tone in which it was uttered, chilled the heart of poor Morrel. But a recompense was in store for him; turning around, he saw near the door a beautiful fair face, whose large blue eyes were, without any marked expression, fixed upon him, while the bouquet of myosotis was gently raised to her lips.

The salutation was so well understood that Morrel, with the same expression in his eyes, and his moustache to his mouth, and the two living signs of whose hearts beat so violently under their marble aspect, separated from each other by the whole length of the room for the world in their mutual contemplation. Many might have remained much longer lost in one another, without anyone noticing their attraction. The count of Monte-Cristo had just entered. We have already said that there was something in the count that attracted universal attention whenever he appeared. Many men might have remained much longer lost in one another, without anyone noticing their attraction. The count of Monte-Cristo had just entered. We have already said that there was something in the count that attracted universal attention whenever he appeared. Many men might have remained much longer lost in one another, without anyone noticing their attraction. The count of Monte-Cristo had just entered. 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