

POETRY.

THE FELLOW WHO MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.

There is one whom you ever may trust, As you travel o'er life's varied ways, Who will strive to be honest and just— He's the fellow who means what he says.

SELECT STORY.

COUNT OF MONTE-CRISTO;

REVENGE OF EDMOND DANTES.

CONTINUED. CHAPTER LXII. THE FIFTH OF OCTOBER.

"Yes; you see I am as exact as you are. But you are dripping, my dear fellow; you must change your clothes, as Calypso said to Telemachus. Come, I have a habitation prepared for you in which you will soon forget fatigue and cold."

"Oh, yes," said the count, "you are looking for the same?" "Yes, I said nothing, and yet they are gone."

"Never mind that, Maximilian," said Monte-Cristo, smiling. "I have made an agreement with the navy, that the access to my island shall be free of all charge. I have made a bargain."

"How so?" "Here you laugh." The count's brow became clouded.

"You are right to recall me to myself, Maximilian," he said; "I was delighted to see you again and forgot for the moment that all happiness is fleeting."

"Oh, no, no count," cried Maximilian, seizing the count's hands, "pray laugh; be happy and prove to me, by your indifference, that life is indurable to sufferers. Oh! how charitable, kind and good you are; you affect this gaiety to inspire me with courage."

"You are wrong, Morrel; I was really happy." "Then you forget me; so much the better."

"Yes; for as the gladiator said to the emperor, when he entered the arena, 'He who is going to die salutes you.'"

"Then you are not consoled?" asked the count, surprised.

"Oh," exclaimed Morrel, "with a glance full of bitter reproach, 'listen to me, as to a man whose thoughts are raised to heaven, though he remains on earth; I come to die in the arms of a friend. Certainly, there are people who love me. I love my sister Julie—I love her husband, Emmanuel; but I require a strong mind to smile on my last moments; my sister would be bathed in tears and fainting; I could not bear to see her suffer; Emmanuel would turn his weapon from my hand, and alarm the house with his cries. You, count, who are mortal, will, I am sure, lead me to death by a pleasant path, will you not? Oh! count, I shall sleep calmly, deliciously in the arms of death.'"

Morrel pronounced these words with an energy which made the count shudder. "My friend," continued Morrel, "you named the fifth of October as the term of the delay you asked—to-day is the fifth of October," he took out his watch; "it is now nine o'clock—I have yet three hours to live."

four bending figures, similar to the Caryatides, the forms of women, symbols of the angels aspiring to heaven. He placed the casket on the table; then opening it, took out a little golden box, the top of which flew open when touched by a secret spring. This box contained an unctuous substance partly solid, of which it was impossible to discover the color, owing to the reflection of the polished gold, sapphires, rubies, emeralds, which ornamented the box. It was a mixed mass of blue and gold. The count took out a small quantity of this with a gilt spoon and offered it to Morrel, fixing a long steadfast glance upon him. It was then observable that the substance was greenish. "This is what you asked for," he said, and what I promised to give you."

"I thank you from the depths of my heart," said the young man, taking the spoon from the hands of Monte-Cristo. The count took another spoon, and again dipped it into the golden box. "What do you intend to do, my friend?" asked Morrel, arresting his hand.

"Morrel, I was thinking that I, too, am weary of life, and since an opportunity presents itself—"

"Stay!" said the young man. "You who love, and are being loved; you who have faith and hope—oh! do not follow my example; in your case it would be a crime. Adieu, my noble and generous friend; adieu! I will go and tell Valentine what you have done for me."

And slowly, without any hesitation, only waiting to press the count's hand fervently, he swallowed the mysterious substance offered by Monte-Cristo. They were both silent. All mute and attentive, brought the pipes and coffee and disappeared. By degrees the lamps gradually faded in the hands of the marble statues which held them, and the perfumes appeared less powerful to Morrel.

Seated opposite to him, Monte-Cristo watched him in the shadow, and Morrel saw nothing but the bright eyes of the count. An overpowering sadness took possession of the young man; his hands relaxed their hold; the objects in the room gradually lost their form and color; and his disturbed vision seemed to perceive doors and curtains open in the wall.

"Friends," he cried, "I feel that I am dying; thanks! He made a last effort to extend his hand, but it fell powerless beside him. Then it appeared to him that Monte-Cristo smiled, not with the strange and fearful expression which had sometimes revealed to him the secrets of his heart, but with the benevolent kindness of a father for an infant. At the same time the count appeared to increase in stature; his form, nearly double its usual height, stood out in relief against the red tapestry, his black hair was thrown back, and he stood in the attitude of a menacing angel. Morrel, overpowered, turned round in the arm-chair; a delicious torpor was insinuated into every vein; a change of ideas presented themselves to his brain, like a new design on the kaleidoscope; enervated, prostrate, and breathless, he became unconscious of outward objects, he seemed to be entering that vague delirium preceding death. He wished once again to press the count's hand; but his own was unmovable; he wished to articulate a last farewell, but his tongue lay motionless and heavy in his throat, like a stone at the mouth of a sepulchre. Involuntary his languid eyes closed; and all through his eyelashes a well known form seemed to move amid the obscurity with which he was gently gliding into his last sleep. Then he saw a woman of marvellous beauty appear on the threshold of the door separating the two rooms. Pale and sweetly smiling, she looked like an angel of mercy conveying the angel of vengeance. "Is it here that opens before me?" thought the dying man; "that angel resembled the one I have lost. Monte-Cristo pointed Morrel to the young woman, who advanced towards him with clasped hands and a smile upon her lips."

"Valentine! Valentine!" he mentally ejaculated; but his lips uttered no sound; and, as though all his strength were centred in that eternal emotion, he sighed through his eyelashes a well known word towards him; his lips again moved.

"He is calling you," said the count; "he to whom you have confided your destiny—him from whom death would have separated you, calls you to him. Happily, I vanquished death. Henceforth, my friend, you will never again be separated on earth; since he has rushed into death to find you. Without me you would both have died. May God accept my atonement of these two existences!"

"Valentine seized the count's hand, and in her irresistible impulse of joy, carried it to her lips."

"Oh! thank me again!" said the count; "tell me until you are weary that I have restored you to happiness; you do not know how much I require this assurance!"

"Oh! yes, yes, I thank you with all my heart," said Valentine; "and if you doubt the sincerity of my gratitude, oh, then ask Haydee! Ask my beloved sister Haydee, who, ever since our departure from France, has caused me to wait patiently for this happy day, while talking to me of you."

"You then love Haydee?" asked Monte-Cristo, with an emotion he in vain endeavored to dissimulate.

"Oh, yes! with all my soul." "Well, then! listen, Valentine," said the count; "I have a favor to ask of you." "Of me! Oh, an I happy enough for that?"

"I mean that one word from you has enlightened me more than twenty years of slow experience; I have but you in the world, Haydee; through you I again connect myself with life, through you I shall suffer, through you rejoice."

"Do you hear me, Valentine?" exclaimed Haydee; "he says that through me he will suffer—through me, who would yield my life for his!"

The count withdrew for a moment. "Have I discovered the truth?" he said; "but whether it be for recompense or punishment, I accept my fate. Come, Haydee, come!" and throwing his arm round the young girl's waist, he pressed the hand of Valentine and disappeared.

An hour had nearly passed, during which Valentine, breathless and motionless, watched steadfastly over Morrel. At length she felt his heart beat, a faint breath played upon his lips, a slight shudder, announcing the return of life, passed through the young man's frame. At length his eyes opened, but they were at first fixed on expressions; then sight returned, and with it, feeling and grief. "Oh!" he cried, in an accent of despair, "the count has deceived me; I am yet living;" and extending his hand towards the table he seized a knife.

"Dearest," exclaimed Valentine, with her adorable smile, "awake, and look on my side." Morrel uttered a loud exclamation, and frantic, doubtful, dazzled, as though by a celestial vision, he fell upon his knees.

"The next morning, at daybreak, Valentine and Morrel were walking arm-in-arm on the sea-shore, Valentine relating how Monte-Cristo had appeared in her room; but he had unveiled everything; how he had revealed the crime; and finally, how he had saved her life by allowing her to seem dead. He pointed him out to Valentine. "Ah, it is Jacopo," she said, "the captain of the yacht;" and she beckoned him towards them.

"Do you wish to speak to us?" asked Morrel.

"I have a letter to give you from the count."

"From the count!" murmured the two young people.

"Yes; read it!" Morrel opened the letter and read: "My DEAR MAXIMILIAN: There is a felucca for you at anchor. Jacopo will conduct you to Leghorn; where M. Notizie awaits his granddaughter, whom he wishes to bless before you lead her to the altar. All this is in this motto, my friend, my house in the Champe-Elysees, and my Chateau at Treport, are the marriage gifts bestowed by Edmond Dantes upon the son of his old master, Morrel. Mademoiselle de Villefort will share them with you; for I entreat her to give to the poor the immense fortune reverting to her from her father, now a madman, and her brother, who died last September. The carpet, as common, Tell the angel who will watch over your future destiny, Morrel, to pray sometimes for a man, who, like Satan, thought himself for a moment equal to God; but who now acknowledges, with Christian humility, that God alone possesses supreme power and infinite wisdom. Perhaps those prayers may soften the remorse he feels in his heart. As for you, Morrel, this is the secret of my conduct towards you. There is neither happiness nor misery in this world; there is only the comparison of one's lot with another's; nothing more. He who has felt the deepest grief is best able to experience supreme happiness. We must have felt what it is to die, Morrel, that we may appreciate the enjoyments of life."

"Live then, and be happy, beloved children of my heart; never forget until the day when God will deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is contained in these two words—Wait and hope!"

"Your friend, Edmond Dantes." "Count of Monte-Cristo." During the perusal of this letter, which informed Valentine, for the first time, of the madness of her father and the death of her brother, she became pale, a heavy sigh escaped from her bosom, and tears, not the less painful because they were silent, ran down her cheeks; her nervous cost her very dear. Morrel looked round uneasily. "But," he said, "the count's generosity is too overwhelming; Valentine will be satisfied with my humble fortune. Where is the count, friend? Lead me to him." Jacopo pointed towards the horizon.

"What do you mean?" asked Valentine. "Where is the count?—Where is Haydee?"

"Look!" said Jacopo. The eyes of both were fixed on the speck pointed out by the sailor, and they perceived on the deep blue bank separating the Mediterranean from the sky, a white sail no larger than a gull's wing.

"Gone!" ejaculated Morrel, "gone! God be with you, friend and second father?"

"Gone," echoed Valentine. "Are there well, my sister?"

HOW TO BE HEALTHY

Spring Work for Health, in and About the Home.

Spring is by common consent, the season for house cleaning, and for clearing up back yards, front yards and streets. It is also the time for beginning the campaign against ill health, sickness and premature death, which will have their best innings from spring till food.

Cholera Infantum—a specific disease of the bowels in children—will begin its attack with energy in June, attain enormous prevalence in July and August, and a very rapid fall in September. The cause of this disease is closely related to filth of soil, foul air and water, in which with the high temperature of summer, it finds a congenial hot-bed for a prolific and malignant growth. Children under five years of age are by far the greatest sufferers, and the dreadful fact that this poison finds them in their homes, makes the discovery of its mode of attack and destruction a matter of vital importance, particularly to every mother.

44.9 per cent. of all deaths in Minnesota in the average of four years, are of children under five years of age, 31.6 per cent. are children under one year of age. What better evidence that the cause of death, find them in their homes?

The hot season is the one for rapid growth, maturity, and decay in the vegetable kingdom, to which most of the specific causes of disease belong. Decay is at this season still more rapid, offensive and dangerous. In the natural order of things decay is the natural helper of the growth of all forms of vegetable life on the condition that the dead thing is properly buried or buried, a condition difficult to secure, in the case of the human population, just in proportion as they are crowded, and the simple sanitary precautions to be mentioned, are neglected.

The sanitary duties in and about the home from now to winter may be summed up under the term disinfection, to be largely the supply of those conditions whereby dead organic matter may be excluded from the air breathed in, water drunk in, and the house occupied by every home of our population.

But how? The natural question. As the mother has the proper health officer of the home, what is to follow, will be addressed to her, but with the distinct understanding that it concerns the father of the family as well, and that it applies as much to the isolated farm house as to the houses of cities, for the problem is the same. How to prevent the occurrence of ill health, sickness or premature death in the family.

In beginning anything, it is best to know first what needs to be done, and in this case the first thing is a careful inspection of the house and everything in it from top to bottom, with all its belongings, outbuildings and lot to find out every cause which may foul the air or water supply, or be a breeding place for the germs of disease, or a lodging for preventable nuisances.

Begin with the cellar which, in winter and cool weather, is as a rule, the lungs of the house. It should be light and dry and all summer long have a free thorough and thorough ventilation. See that no decaying vegetable or animal matters are allowed to rot. Keep potatoes and other vegetables in boxes or barrels small enough to be moved readily. Have no fixtures there, but have closets, milk safes and the like readily movable, and keep them away from the walls. It pays to have a cement, or better, an asphalt floor. If well made it can be thoroughly washed. It helps to keep out moisture, ground air and vermin, and can be cleaned as readily as stone, and better than wood. Stone or hard brick in cement or asphalt will not rot. It should be light and dry, and all summer long have a free thorough and thorough ventilation. See that no decaying vegetable or animal matters are allowed to rot. Keep potatoes and other vegetables in boxes or barrels small enough to be moved readily. 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