

POETRY.

LITTLE AH SID.

Little Ah Sid
Was a Christian kid—
A cute little cuss, you declare,

SELECT STORY.

AN UNBROKEN PROMISE.

A CASTAWAY.

PART I.

CHAPTER VI.

A MEETING BY DAYLIGHT.

Her husband! The mere sound of the word sent her thoughts into a different current. Philip Vane was still the principal figure, not as she had just seen him; cold, sneering, practical and hard—but ardent, romantic and impassioned.

fields being the only human creatures within view.

Eleven o'clock rang out from the cathedral as she arrived within sight of her destination; and on hearing the sound she quickened her pace; and when she turned into the little lane, her heart was beating fast, and her face was all aglow.

"My London luxuries—while you struggle on here! Is that what you mean to convey?" said Philip Vane, looking at her sharply.

"No, indeed, I did not mean to convey anything of the kind," said Madge quietly. "I meant no sneer. And, indeed," she added, with a desperate effort at cheerfulness, "I do not intend to enjoy those luxuries, if luxuries they be, much longer by myself. I intend to come up and share them with you."

"What is the result of your deliberation?" "I will tell you, Philip; but before I tell you let me say one word about myself, about ourselves. I have been thinking a great deal, not merely about this one proposition, but about our lives altogether; and it strikes me that, for the last few months, there has been a sort of division between us; not expressed, indeed, but nevertheless existing, which should not be. Our interests are one, and our great point in life should be to carry them out by working together loyally, and in union. Do you follow me Philip?"

"Oh, I follow you!" he said; "it isn't time for me to speak just yet, while you are dealing in generalities. I am waiting for you to get to the point, before I have my little say."

distinctly refuse to accept this offer which you have made me."

"Oh, you do, do you?" said the Major slowly, giving his legs one vicious kick; "don't let me have any mistake about it this time; let me understand you quite clearly. You refuse?"

"I don't believe it," said Madge, bitterly; "but you cannot carry it out. There," said the Major, giving his leg a few nervous taps, "there we differ. I rather think I can. You are my wife—understand, I admit that at once. If, to speak after the pleasant fashion which you have adopted—if you had been another style of woman, I might have been more reserved, I might have introduced a little innocent deception into the matter; have told you, as they do in novels, that our marriage isn't a legal one, either because the person was a postman in disguise, or that I was a Quaker, while you were a Protestant, or some ingenious stratagem of that kind. But with you I do nothing of the sort; I fully admit the legality of our marriage; while at the same time I bid you a respectful farewell!"

"What do you mean?" "Simply this, that by a method more speedy, more efficacious, and less expensive than any known to your friend the law, I dissolve this marriage between us. And I will be generous enough to let you into my plan, which is as simple as it is excellent. From this day forth you will never look upon me again. I disengage myself, as the French say. Don't ask me how, because I scarcely know myself. I may emigrate; go abroad; or join Wolf's company as the Bounding Brother or something of the kind. I don't know what I shall do, but I do know this, that you will never see me again. Listen now, Madge Pierrepont; said he, suddenly changing his tone; for Madge Pierrepont is one again; I have been talking in a light tone; but I have meant every word I said—every syllable, by George!"

"Our marriage is known to no one but ourselves; and when we decide upon ignoring it, it is just as though it had never happened. I will never interfere with your plans and projects. I swear that. But on your part you must leave me free. I need say nothing about that, however; for you will have no choice in the matter."

He wheeled round, and walked rapidly away without turning his head. Had he looked round, possibly he might have felt some touch of compunction or compassion; for he would have seen his wife lying senseless on the ground.

accost every passer-by, and did not even look after her until she was going through the gate, and some distance on the road to the town.

"Suppose it were!" she echoed; "well then, I tell you plainly, I would frustrate it. Do you hear? There is a devil I have in me, which, once roused, renders me a match for you, long-headed and crafty as you are."

"I have been thinking of you, and of the responsibility which you have placed upon me, apparently for a time only, but really for ever?" "Well, and suppose it were?" he said quietly.

"I don't believe it," said Madge, bitterly; "but you cannot carry it out. There," said the Major, giving his leg a few nervous taps, "there we differ. I rather think I can. You are my wife—understand, I admit that at once. If, to speak after the pleasant fashion which you have adopted—if you had been another style of woman, I might have been more reserved, I might have introduced a little innocent deception into the matter; have told you, as they do in novels, that our marriage isn't a legal one, either because the person was a postman in disguise, or that I was a Quaker, while you were a Protestant, or some ingenious stratagem of that kind. But with you I do nothing of the sort; I fully admit the legality of our marriage; while at the same time I bid you a respectful farewell!"

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Do you like golf? asked the Philadelphia girl. I'm really not sure whether I've ever tasted any, gurgled the Chicago girl.