

POETRY.

THE FOUNDERED SHIP. (Lake Michigan, Nov., 1884.) The morning broke across the lake Upon a sea so blue and wild; The trembling sun one moment gleamed Upon a kneeling child; His voice is heard in pleading tones Between the clashing thunder's roar, Amid the waves that sweep the deck, His form is bowed in prayer once more: "Wilt thou grant us help in this awful hour, Great God of love and power Divine! And breathe upon our storm-worn crew, A gleam of hope from land of Thine! O Father! grant thy prayers and mine!" The gallant seamen, tired and faint, Had sunk on deck in mind-despair; From all that crew but two remained, One held the helm—one knelt in prayer. The helmsman knew his work was vain, No ship could hold in such a storm, The steplike, in trusty light, Sang: "Praise to God for light, for dawn," His voice, exhausted, strangely wild, Awaits the crew that slumber sleep; All trembling, they half rise and gaze, Then list enrapt to notes so sweet; The timid seamen kiss the waves, And south the grand old king to rest, The sailor sang with the trusting child: "Great God of all who rules supreme, We praise thy power Divine, Who hasten to our helpless cry, And clasped our hands in Thine!"

SELECT STORY.

AN UNBROKEN PROMISE.

A CASTAWAY.

PART I.

CONTINUED.

CHAPTER II.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

THE streets of Wexeter, save during the period set apart for the militia training, or other times of festivity, are left solitary and deserted at a comparatively early period of the evening. The railway omnibuses, bound for the different hotels, roll down the great central thoroughfare, the High-street at stated intervals up to ten o'clock; and about that hour, small parties of pleasure-seekers may be seen here and there wending their way homeward from the theatre, or from the little social gatherings, where they have spent an uneventful quiet evening. By that time, such places as are in the day, are the busiest haunts of traffic, have elapsed into quiet, while in the precincts of the cathedral, in the still aristocratic region of South Hedge, and in the straggling suburb of villas which has grown up thereabout, all symptoms of life have died out much earlier, and the entire neighborhood has long since been hushed into repose.

At half-past nine o'clock on the night when Miss Pierpoint, sitting in her dining, was interrupted by a visit from Gerald Harding, a tall woman issued from the stage door of the Wexeter Theatre, and was suddenly confronted by Mr. Gonnop, the hall-keeper, who was smoking a long clay pipe, and patrolling the mezzanine space, pavement opposite, and to whom she wished "good-night."

"Good-night, Miss Pierpoint," responded the hall-keeper; "it looks amazing thick over there," he added, pointing with his pipe in the direction where a large black cloud was spreading over the city, "and we'll have rain before long, I reckon. Let's hope it'll come down, miss, and get all clear again before next Thursday."

"And why particularly next Thursday, Gonnop?" asked Miss Pierpoint, in a clear voice. "Your benefit night, miss!" said the man, looking up at her in wonder; "can't have forgotten that surely?"

"I had, indeed, for the moment; but now I remember, and thank you for your good wishes."

"Not that for the weather always does," said Gonnop, slowly emitting his smoke and looking steadily at her, "being good for tea gardens, and steamboat excursions, as is by their very nature contrary to theatre. For, look you, when the sun is shining—good-night," said Gonnop, bringing his sentence to a hurried conclusion as the lady moved rapidly away.

When Miss Pierpoint reached the end of the cat-de-sac in which the stage door was situated, she turned to the right, and looking straight before her, she had seen Miss Cave's house, conspicuous by the brightness of its knocker and the shining cleanliness of its door-step, within fifty yards. Their proximity to the theatre was indeed almost a great reason for the popularity of Miss Cave's lodgings, for, looking out from her respectable but on this occasion Miss Pierpoint had no intention of proceeding direct to her residence, and after looking carefully round to see that she was not followed or watched, she turned off at an acute angle, and quickening her footsteps, speedily found herself in the aristocratic quarter of South-Hedge.

listening for approaching footsteps. But she heard nothing, save the first dull rumble of distant thunder which immediately preceded the striking of the cathedral clock. "Only just ten," she said to herself. "I am here before my time, as usual, and, as usual he will be after his. What could have brought him down here, I wonder, now? Not that I need wonder when I know well enough that the want of money, and the idea that I can be of use to him in some scheme for raising it, are the only things now, which induce Philip to break off, for ever, short a time, from the life which exercises such a fascination over him, and to come to me."

"She listened again, but after a minute resumed her pacing to and fro. "I wonder how ever it will end? Whether in the easy-going current of his life, the idea ever comes across his mind, the idea ever comes across his mind of the position I occupy, not merely by his tacit consent, but by his express desire? If he ever does think of it, he must be a very different man from Philip Vane, of two years ago, to allow it to continue, or to bear it calmly. Why then, the mere notion would—What a fool I am to trouble myself with such memories! Whatever may be the change in him, it cannot be greater than it is with me; and all I have to do is to accept the present state of things, and to make the best of it. This must be at last!"

"She turned swiftly round as she caught sight of a man's figure coming round by the toll-house. The next minute a tall man joined her, and after a hasty glance around, put his arms around her, and bending down kissed her cheek. "You need not have looked, Philip, to make sure that we are unobserved," she said, with a short laugh. "There was no one near to see you take the unwarrantable liberty of kissing your wife. You are generally prudent enough to select as our place of meeting some spot where there would be no chance of interruption."

"As he heard these words, and marked the tone in which they were spoken, a dark savage look crossed the man's face. It was gone in an instant, and his big black eyes were laughing merrily and his white teeth were gleaming brightly between his smiling lips, as he said: "Savage, to-night, old lady! Upset, eh, Madge? Don't like to be kept cooling her pretty heels in this particularly cut-throat looking lane waiting for me, is that it?" And once again he placed his arms about her and kissed her cheek.

"No," she said, "that isn't it particularly. I don't know that I am savage, and I do know that I am accustomed to wait my lord's convenience." "Well, there, don't say any more about it," the man said, in a sharper tone. "I could not get away before, and that's enough. You got my telegram all right?" "Of course, or I should not be here."

"How confoundedly sharp you are to-night, Madge; down upon every word I say! Nothing good, has there? How's the looking for the benefit?" "Very good, indeed; the house will be more than full, I think." "That's right; the money will just come in handy. I made rather a mess of it at Taunton yesterday."

"Have their been races at Taunton?" "Yes, of course; that's why I came on to see you. Shouldn't have been in the neighborhood for some time to come, and therefore thought I had better take advantage of the chance."

"Then it was really to see me that you came this time, Philip?" said the girl, nestling towards him, and looking up into his face. "Of course it was, my dear!" he replied. "What did you think it was—not business? There is no information to be got, no money to be made out of you?"

"Isn't there?" she said quietly; "I thought there was." "You know what I mean," he said. "By-the-way, don't forget to send me that benefit money as soon as you get hold of it. You could send it to the club, you know. What do you think the figure is likely to be?"

"The 'figger'?" "Yes, the amount, the sum total. Heavens on earth, Madge, how slow you are!" "Yes," said the girl quietly; "I am thoroughly provincial; you see I have not had the chance of having my wits sharpened recently, by contact with the smart set in London. You want to know the sum to be realized by the benefit? I should say forty-two or forty-three pounds."

Philip Vane gave a low whistle. "That's a very mill amount," he said; "I was looking for something much higher than that! By George, Madge, this will never do! Three pounds a week and a benefit producing under fifty pounds; those are starvation prices! I must take you up to London. I suppose you would do there, though it is a confoundedly high rate for a girl of your rank."

"Yes," said the girl bitterly, "I have her qualifications, the absence of which, in his wife, every man ought to regret." He looked up at her under his eyebrows, but it was too dark for him to catch the expression of her face. There was, however, no mistaking the sneer conveyed in the tone of her voice. It was the second time during their interview that she had thus offended him.

"What ails you to-night?" he said. "What do you mean?" she cried. "I will tell you plainly what I mean—I mean that I am sick of the manner in which you treat me! You think that I am dull and stupid, but I am neither so stupid nor so dull that I cannot see plainly enough the value you put upon me, with all the necessity for your insulting me by explaining it in words. I am your wife, which means your drudge, your bread-winner. Be it so; I don't repine, I did expect to be made a fine lady, or to live in blissful ease after you married me; but I did expect that you would be content with me and my talents, such as they were, and would not complain while I worked my hardest, even if my earnings might be small."

"She paused and stood confronting him, her head erect, her hands nervously clasped together behind her back. "Have you anything more to say?" he asked in a low voice. "Yes," she continued. "I want to know when there is to be an end to this deception? When you intend to acknowledge me openly as your wife, and take me out of my present position, which is inexpressibly painful to me, and mark my words, infinitely perilous to you? I do not want rest or ease, or luxury. I did not expect what most women are led to expect, that they are to look to their husbands for support. God knows, I am willing to work, and not merely willing, but delighted. I do not know that I should be happy without my work, but I want you to give me my position as your wife, and to be content with what I earn in that position."

"As she ceased speaking, the low rumble of the thunder, this time much nearer, was again audible. There was a pause for a moment as its last faint mutterings died away, then Philip Vane said: "You're right, Madge, in what you say, and I was a brute to grudge, knowing how hard and how cheerfully you work. And you are right, too, about your position. It is hard lines for you

to come out here to meet me on such a night as this is going to be; to have to tramp all along the road after playing—" "It is not that, Philip," interrupted the girl. "I don't mind the hardship; all I hate is the deceit, the having to hide the fact of our marriage even from Rose, the having to nod and smile at the kindly prophecies of the old landlady as to my future, the having to receive attentions from honorable men, which would be naturally gratifying to an unmarried girl, which are degrading to me as your wife."

"Yes," said Philip Vane, "I understand all that of course, and as soon as I can, I will put it right. I cannot do it just now, but I hope in a few months to make that all square. By-the-way, Madge, talking about attentions, what has become of the scene painter—is he still here?" "Yes, he is still with the company." "And still as spongy as ever?" "I don't know about being 'spongy,' I think he is very fond of me, but he is a mere boy, you know, and I don't care."

"Yes, I know! And you have still got that notion that you told me about his being a swell?" "I have no doubt that he is a gentleman by position and education; beyond that I know nothing." "Exactly; that's quite enough! I shouldn't encourage his spongy if I were you, Madge; something may turn up out of it. Don't you fear my being jealous. I can trust you, old woman; and if this man ever came into any money, or was received by his friends, from whom you seem to suppose he has run away, we may make something out of him. He's written you letters, I suppose?"

Madge hesitated for a moment. "Yes, some," she said. "Ah! I don't want to see them, bless you," cried Philip Vane; "I can trust you perfectly, only I think you had better keep them, not tear them up or destroy them in any way; they may be useful one of these days. By Jove! here it comes," he cried, as, after a few thick drops, a heavy peal of thunder broke over their heads. "We had better make a bolt of it at once. I've got a cab waiting the other side of the turnpike, and can set you down where you like. Don't be afraid, Madge; the driver doesn't know me, and I'll take care he won't recognize you."

The storm was sharp while it lasted, but was soon over. Miss Cave, who had sat up for her lodger and "gone round the house," as was her wont, no matter how late the hour, after everybody else had retired to rest, knocked at Miss Pierpoint's door to inform her that the clouds had quite cleared away, and that the moon was shining brightly. "A good omen for Thursday, my dear," added the old lady, as she retired to bed. "I hope so, for then Philip will get his money, that he says he wants. Oh, my God!" cried the girl, as she seated herself on the edge of the bed, "how rapidly the romance is changing! My dear Miss Winslow's 'Soothing Syrup' for children teething. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the bowels, and reduces inflammation. Is pleasant to the taste. The prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians in the United States. Sold by all druggists throughout the world. 25cts per bottle. Be sure and ask for 'Miss Winslow's Soothing Syrup.'

HORSEHIP IN CHURCH.

A furious horse-whipping in church, participated in by ministers' wives, in the middle of the service in the sensation at a country church near Ingalls, Oklahoma, U. S. Some months ago the Rev. Dr. Johnson of Kansas, succeeded the Rev. Dr. Tulley, being called by a faction antagonistic to the latter. The Rev. Mr. Tulley continued with the church in the capacity of deacon. A few Sundays ago the deacons were criticized by the new pastor. Tulley wrote, it is said, to the old home of Dr. Johnson and received some information that reflected on the minister and especially his wife. At the close of the doctor's sermon last Sunday, Tulley read the letter and a great commotion followed. Mrs. Johnson slipped from the church unnoticed and soon returned with a buggy whip. Rushing at the Rev. Mr. Tulley she administered a severe lashing before the astonished parishioners. Tulley was badly beaten. In the general row the deacons were criticized by the new pastor. 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