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HIS BEST DEFENSE.

The accommodation train from Stowell was filled to overflowing when a young man burst out of a group on the platform at the handsome little station (the bell had rung twice), waved a hand to a young gentleman standing at a little distance with a young lady, and saying, "Back on the ten-twenty, Parker," leaped on the platform of the last car and disappeared in the car.

"Is he always so impulsive?" The gentleman addressed as Parker smiled. "Indeed, I have not had time to form an opinion." His companion lifted her eyebrows, then bethought herself in time.

"At least he makes himself very agreeable. And I have no patience with disagreeable people. We met him last summer at Mount Nebo. Clara—you know she is a model of propriety. Dear Clara—I am too severe on her. But, then, it is such a relief to get away from the tiresome, stupid forms that remind me of my grand-aunt's way of making patterns for her quilts and patches. The patches were all alike, but she clipped every one separate. She almost dropped when I said: 'Aunt, why don't you fold your cloth six or eight times? You could cut that many at once and they would be exactly alike.' Our conventions remind me of a quilt; they make a very good covering—but I like the pattern varied, don't you?"

The gentleman smiled again at this audacious speech, but whether it was the independence expressed or the archness of the attitude and glances of the speaker that amused him most it is doubtful if he could have told at that moment. As they strolled away from the station he reminded her of a remark she made when the coming of the train interrupted her.

"Oh, yes. I was just coming to the droll part. You see, Clara is so painfully correct. And when the lady's son came to Rose Center——"

"Pardon me. I haven't got the connection clear," said the gentleman.

"Haven't you?" Her deep-gray eyes grew round with wonder. "I thought I told you that his mother was seized suddenly with an unaccountable illness. It alarmed them all. The only doctor about had gone away. Clara behaved just like a major-general. I told her—at least she called one of the servants to help her place the lady in bed. Then, as there was no doctor nearer than nine miles, she sent me to bed about 11 and remained with the strange lady all night. She was with

SUCCEEDS IN SURPRISING HER. her until the doctor managed to secure a nurse that evening. And the next morning her son, who was out west somewhere, came home and hurried out to Rose Center. I never met him. Uncle had made arrangements to meet us at the lake, so Clara and I left before I had time to see the young gentleman."

"That was hardly fair. Naturally you were curious to see him."

"Why?" demanded the young lady, looking at him calmly with her large gray eyes—very searching eyes they were at that moment. "Not in the least. It was what followed that excited my curiosity. We were at the lake about a week when a small packet came to Clara. There was a very nicely worded note with it. Although it was meant for Clara—sent to her—I captured it. I insisted that 'in reality it was intended for me.'"

"How?" queried the gentleman. "I confess I am stupid this evening. I hope you won't infer that it is my normal condition."

"Why, that is the point of my story. Although the note was addressed to Clara, the contents of the mysterious package were designed for me. It contained a handsome gold pencil case, with a diamond head. And there was my name engraved on it. I laugh every time I recall the look that settled on Clara's face as she held it in her hand. She looked just too stupid for anything—and she prides herself on her quickness. 'Why, Hester,' she said at last, after re-reading the note with exasperating calmness—that's Clara's way. I'd had it committed to memory by that time. 'Why, Hester, Mr. Courtney has made such a queer mistake. He has had your name engraved on it.' Well, when I saw my name, it was so whimsical—and Clara looked so stupid—that I laughed until I had to sit down. Clara laughed with me. We sat there laughing like two fools. You know how people will laugh over a trifle."

The gentleman made a grimace at one point; he remembered himself in time, however. Fancy he was able to express an intimate knowledge of the trifles that provoked merriment.

"Then I insisted that Clara, as usual, was ruling me with a high hand. Plainly, I argued, the young gentleman was enthralled by my surpassing beauty. He was doubtless advised of the means she employed to keep me in duress, so adopted the only means within his reach to convey the present to the proper person."

"If you had lived in feudal times you would have absorbed an entire kingdom. Certainly you had some reason on your side."

"Thank you. Anyhow, I accomplished as much as the old-time lords—I refused to give up the note. I keep it to this day, although now and then Clara threatens to destroy it."

"Of course she retains the present."

"The gray eyes flashed almost an angry look at him.

"Clara! Much you know about Clara. Why, she wouldn't keep the finest diamond in the world in her room if it had a setting with another person's initials in it—and there was my full name: 'Hester M. Morford.'"

"Pardon; you said it was addressed to your sister. How did it happen that your name was engraved upon a present addressed to your sister?"

"Oh, dear! Don't you see? It was addressed to 'Miss Morford.'"

"Why, what on earth could the man have been thinking of?" said the gentleman as he gazed steadfastly in his companion's face.

"That was what Clara said—once only. She never referred to him again in that tone. I fancy my bantering was at the bottom of her silence. Anyhow, I have only to remind her that all her care does not suffice to keep me in the shade to make her affectionate. She reminds me at least once a month that if I am ever unhappy she will never forgive herself. But, I declare, we are almost at the hotel. And there is Clara now, standing beside that large woman with the lovely white hair."

But the gentleman saw only a young lady with a face that reminded him of an old-time portrait. These was an air of repose, a beauty of expression surpassing any mere outline, a gentleness that appealed to the most chivalrous instincts.

Hester was on the point of introducing her companion of the day when something in Mrs. Hammersly's manner apprised her that she knew him. That lady with her regal air advanced with outspread hand as she said in her distinct tones:

"This is a very unexpected pleasure, Mr. Courtney."

"Courtney?"

Hester felt the blood surge to her temples, but she controlled her voice admirably as she said something about the heat and withdrew, leaving Mr. Courtney with her slater and Mrs. Hammersly.

Two days elapsed before Mr. Courtney succeeded in surprising her alone.

"Why have you avoided me so persistently?" he said, as he turned and walked with her.

"Although I do not admit your right to question my actions, do you not think they are based on a sense of propriety?"

"I will admit anything if you will only allow me ten minutes—well, then, five—only five minutes' talk, Miss Morford."

"To what purpose? My error was less than yours. You could have set me right. You did not. You did not. How was I to know that your name was Courtney, with people addressing you by your baptismal name? You should have set me right."

"If you will only give me two minutes, then."

"No!" She was passing on, when Courtney reached out a hand.

"The greatest criminal is not denied the privilege of a defense. I knew you had no idea who I was when Stark and his sister introduced me in that unconventional way. It was Jack Stark's blunder. And I was very anxious to see you. The circumstances were altogether rare—exceptional."

"Very," said Hester dryly, as she gazed at the hotel, looming up in the distance.

"I was wrong. I ought to have corrected Stark at the time; but think of the temptation."

"This is again very vague, Mr. Courtney, but it is also becoming a trifle too whimsical."

The look that accompanied this was absolutely freezing. But from time immemorial ardent wooers have refused to be frozen by looks.

"When you know the truth you will not say it is whimsical. You may call me a fool."

"Say, rather, that I will not permit you to play upon my credulity. You saw my sister; you sent her a present as an evidence of your appreciation of her kindness to your mother. That was permissible. My sister certainly displayed a degree of interest unusual in your mother. But why you assume a right to address me as you have done I leave you to explain to yourself. It is a matter that does not interest me in the least now."

"Now I claim the right to vindicate myself." He spoke firmly. "I never saw Miss Morford until I came here. When I inquired for Miss Morford at Rose Center a servant pointed you out to me."

"?"

She stared at him, then suddenly cast her eyes down.

"Yes. I repeat, you were pointed out. You were standing on the south porch. I saw you as plainly as I see you now. The moment I saw you I——"

"Please permit me to go in."

It was said in a very low tone. He stood aside on the instant.

A week later she wore another ring. It was from her accepted lover, Albert Parker Courtney. And Clara Morford jestingly warned him now that he had found the right person to be careful when he gave the jeweler instructions concerning the monogram for the plate.

Little Syrians Baptized.

In a rough, unpainted house at Appleton, Wis., recently crosses and candlesticks of solid gold were set up and two little Syrian children were baptized into the Greek Catholic church. The ceremony was performed by the archimandrite of the Greek church in America, who came from New York for the purpose. It consisted of the celebration of the mass in the morning and the baptismal service in the evening. The officiating priest was once a teacher of Nicholas II, the czar of all the Russias. He wore a four-inch gold cross studded with diamonds, which was given him by the czar in recognition of his services as a teacher of languages. Relatives of the families interested from as far as Boston were present to attend the baptismal service.

A Remedy for Bad Language.

From the London Tit-Bits: An ocean going captain was so much given to using bad language that his first mate made a bet with him that he could not do without swearing for a week. It went on all right for the first two or three days until a bit of a squall came on, and the sailors were up aloft doing their different duties. But their captain was displeased with their work. He stood it as long as he could and then he threw his cap on the deck in a towering rage, jumped on it, and shaking his fist up at the men with an angry scowl, he hissed: "Bless you, my dears; you know what I mean."

Real Estate Exchange

Of Whitehead & Mitchell, at the Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

LIST No. 2.

No. 23.

Feed Mill at Rose, Mich. Four lots, 3-story and basement mill with 20-horse power and steam engine. Ypsilanti feed roller process. Building alone worth $1,000, to say nothing of the lots. Good farming country, no competition. Well established business with excellent run of custom. Satisfactory reasons for selling made known to customer.

No. 24.

House and two lots, Nos. 58 and 59, Merrill Plat, Birmingham, on north side of Merrill St. Comfortable, cozy little home for some one who cannot afford a brown stone front on Fifth Avenue, but is willing to take solid comfort at a moderate price. Place is owned by Chas. G. Hunt, who has removed from this locality and wants to dispose of this place. The price shows that he is in earnest about selling, for he will take 1,200, and the terms will be all right.

No. 25.

The Toynton place, a nice little farm of 70 acres, with four acres of good orchard and buildings as good as anybody's. One mile west of Bloomfield Centre (Circle postoffice). Five minute's walk from Long Lake, basement barn which cost nearly $1,000. House has seven rooms and woodshed, cellar, cistern, well, tool house, chicken house, pig pens, corn crib. A never failing stream runs through the farm. This farm is on the line of the proposed Bloomfield and Orchard Lake Electric Railway, from Bloomfield Centre to Orchard Lake. The price which was $60 per acre before the new electric road was thought of, remains the same, although all the farms in the neighborhood have gone "kiting."

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STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. Notice is
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, } hereby given, that by an order of the Probate Court for the county of Oakland, made on the 11th day of September, 1899, six months from that date were allowed for creditors to present their claims against the estate of MARIA J. YOUNG, late of said county, deceased, and that all creditors of said deceased are required to present their claims to said Probate Court, at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, for examination and allowance, on or before the 12th day of March next, and that such claims will be heard before said Court, on Monday, the 12th day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Dated, September 11, A. D. 1899.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON,
Sep 15-Oct13 Judge of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. At a session of
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, } the Probate Court for said county of Oakland, held at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, on the 18th day of September, in the year one thousand, eight hundred and ninety-nine.

Present, Thomas L. Patterson, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of JAMES GRINES, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Almeron Whitehead, the administrator, praying for license to sell the real estate of said deceased for the purpose of distribution.

It is ordered that Thursday, the 19th day of October, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, be said Probate Office, be appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear at the time and place aforesaid and show cause, if any exists, why said petition should not be granted; and it is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Oakland.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON,
Sep 22-Oct13 Judge of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, } ss. At a session of
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, } the Probate Court for said county of Oakland, held at the Probate office, in the city of Pontiac, on the 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

Present, Thomas L. Patterson, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of HENRY J. RAYMOND, deceased.

On application of Charles J. Reynolds, administrator for the examination and allowance of his final account and the distribution of the estate.

It is ordered that Tuesday, the 31st day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate office, be appointed for hearing said application and the examination and allowance of said final account, and it is further ordered that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Oakland.

THOMAS L. PATTERSON,
October 6-20. Judge of Probate.

MORTGAGE SALE.—Default having been made in the payment of the money secured by a mortgage dated the 7th day of January, 1895, executed by Joseph Sikora, Jr., and Rosa Sikora, his wife, of Royal Oak, Michigan, and William Schwas, of Troy, Michigan, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of the county of Oakland in Liber 72 of Mortgages on page 410 on the 9th day of January, 1895. And whereas, the amount claimed to be due on said mortgage at the date of this notice is the sum of one hundred six hundred and twenty-eight and 70-100 dollars ($628.70) of principal and interest and the further sum of thirty-five dollars ($35) as an attorney fee stipulated for in said mortgage and allowed by law together with the costs of foreclosure, and which is the whole amount claimed to be unpaid on said mortgage, and no suit or proceeding having been instituted at law to recover the debt now remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, whereby the power of sale contained in said mortgage has become operative. Notice is hereby given that by virtue of said power of sale and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the front door of the Court House in the city of Pontiac in said county of Oakland, (that being the building wherein the Circuit Court for said county is held) on **Thursday, the 11th day of January, A. D. 1900,** at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day; which said premises are described in said mortgage substantially as follows, to-wit: All that piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Royal Oak, county of Oakland and state of Michigan, described as the east half of the southwest quarter of section twenty-four (24) in town one (1) north of range eleven (11) east, Michigan.

Dated, October 11, 1899.

WILLIAM SCHWAS, Mortgagee.
JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Attorney for Mortgagee,
Business address, Pontiac, Mich.
Oct13-Jan5

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The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Fever Sores, Salt Rheum, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25c per box. For sale by Whitehead & Mitchell.

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In our Silk Dept. we are showing attractive lines of Taffetas, Satin Duchesse, Peau de Soie, Poplins, Satins, Jap Silks, in both black and colors, every new shade being represented. Fancy silks in corded effects and satin stripes in great variety. We have largely increased the stock in this department, and prospective buyers will find a collection of silks from which satisfactory selections can be made.

19 inch Taffeta, 50 shades	50c and 75c
20 inch Silk Poplins, new colorings	$1.00
20 inch Satin Duchess, colors	$1.00
21 inch Satin Peau de Soie, white and cream only	$1.25
19 inch Colored Satins	50c
34 inch Jap Silks, 50 shades	50c
27 inch Jap Silks, extra weight, black and white	65c
Black Corded Silks for yokes	$1.25
Solid Colors Corded Silk, in new Grays, Browns and Mauves	$1.25
Black Stripe Taffeta, corded	$1.00
24 inch Black Taffeta	$1.00 and $1.25
22 inch Black Taffeta	75c and 75c
22 and 24 inch Lyons Taffeta, guaranteed	$1.25 to $1.75
21 inch Peau de Soie, black	$1.00 to $1.75
24 inch Black Satin Duchess	$1.00, $1.00 and $1.25

New line of heavy weight Tailor Suits, Rainy Day Skirts, Golf Capes and Children Jackets. All widths of Velvet Ribbons for Trimmings and Ladies' Ties.

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Carpets, Mattings, Linoleums.

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All choice and popular priced goods. Bleached and Cream Damask Napkins, Towelings, Crashes, Huck and Damask Towels.

Golf Capes, Fur Collars and Collarettes, Winter Underwear.

Ladies' and Gents' Fleece Lined and Wool, Jersey and Plain Garments. Outing Flannels and Bed Comforters.

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ARE YOU? NERVOUS and despondent; weak or debilitated; tired mornings; no ambition—lifeless; memory poor; easily fatigued; excitable and irritable; eyes sunken, red and blurred; pimples on face; dreams and night losses; restless; hideous looking; weak back, bone pains; hair loose; ulcers; sore throat; varicocele; deposits in urine and drains at stool; distrustful; want of confidence; lack of energy and strength. WE CAN CURE YOU OR ASK NO PAY.

CURES GUARANTEED OR NO PAY—CONFIDENTIAL.

SNATCHED FROM THE GRAVE. A Warning from the Living. "I learned a bad habit. Tried four doctors and nerve tonics by the score without benefit; emissions and drains increased. I became a nervous wreck. A friend who had been cured by Drs. Kennedy & Kergan of a similar disease, advised me to try them. I did so and in two months was positively cured. This was eight years ago. I am now married and have two healthy children."—C. W. LEWIS, Saginaw.

VARICOCELE CURED. "Varicocele made life miserable. I was weak and nervous, eyes sunken, bashful in society, hair thin, no ambition. The 'Golden Monitor' opened my eyes. The New Method Treatment of Drs. Kennedy and Kergan cured me in a few weeks."—L. L. PETERSON, Ionia.

EMISSIONS CURED. J. P. EMERSON relates his experience. "I lived on a farm. At school I learned my early habit, which weakened me physically, mentally and morally. Doctors said I was going into decline (consumption.) Finally 'The Golden Monitor' reached my hands. I learned the TRUTH and the CAUSE. Self-abuse had sapped my vitality. I took the New Method Treatment. My friends think I was cured of consumption. I have sent them many patients, all of whom were cured. Their New Method Treatment supplies vigor, vitality and manhood.

SYPHILIS CURED. "This terrible blood disease was in my system for eight years. Had taken mercury for two years, but it came back. The disease returned. Eyes red, pimples and blotches on the skin, ulcers in the mouth and on tongue, bone pains, falling out of hair, weakness, etc. My brother, who had been cured of tight and Stricture by Drs. Kennedy and Kergan, recommended them. They cured me in a few weeks, and I thank God I consulted them. No return of the disease in six years."—W. P. M., Jackson.

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