

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., March 27, 1891.

WANTED A GIRL.

Wanted—a girl, not a butterfly; gay; gentle and sweet, in a womanly way. No beautiful picture, languid and fair. That always seems labelled, "Please handle with care."
But one in whose heart is hidden true worth and faithfully follows its mission on earth. Hopful and earnest in helping and giving. Finds plenty to do in the life she is living. Faithful in duty and with sweet contentment. Whether adverse or pleasant, just as they're sent.
In the garb of a queen or in homespun arrayed. Whatever her station—is needed that maid.

RESURRECTION.

Each night we seek a temporary death, And are unhappy if it fails to come, And morning dawns with life in every breath, And the tongue speaks, that for a time was dumb.
And when the longer death that none escape, Conquers our seventy years, or less or more, Is it not sleep that takes another shape? And shall we not awaken ere the morn?

—Charles Mackay.

The New Road Law as Passed by the Senate.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that in every township of this Commonwealth the qualified voters thereof shall on the third Tuesday of February one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, elect one person to serve one year, one person to serve two years and one person to serve three years, who shall be styled supervisors, and at each township election thereafter they shall elect one person to serve three years, and in case of death, resignation or removal from township, or from any other cause, a vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the court of quarter sessions of the proper county; Provided, that in any township which now has three supervisors or other officers having charge of roads elected under existing laws, no new election under this section shall be required except as the terms of said road officers expire.

SECTION 2. The supervisors of each township shall meet at the place where the auditors of the respective townships meet to perform their official duties, on the first Monday of March next following their election, and yearly thereafter, and after being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, to discharge their duties with fidelity, a copy of the same to be filed with the township auditors, shall organize as a board by electing one of their number as president and one as secretary, and in all townships which do not have a township or district treasurer elected under existing laws, they shall appoint one person as their treasurer who shall not be a member of said board, and shall proceed to levy a road tax which shall not exceed ten mills on each dollar of valuation, except by authority of the court of quarter sessions. This valuation shall be the last adjusted valuation for county purposes and which shall be furnished to said supervisors by the county commissioners. The supervisors may also divide their townships into such road districts as they may deem best, and shall appoint a road master or masters for such district or districts, who shall be citizens of the township for which they are appointed and shall hold their appointment at the discretion of the supervisors. It shall be the duty of the road master to see that the work done in his district or division is in accordance with plans, specifications and directions furnished him by the road supervisors, to work upon the roads himself, to oversee the men employed while at work, to keep the time of each man working under him, and report to the road supervisors as often as they may direct. The supervisors, from time to time, shall fix the wages to be paid per day to road-masters and laborers and the number of hours constituting a day's work on the roads and bridges.

SECTION 3. That the road supervisors shall have full control of road-masters and employers of laborers, and in engaging the labor to work on public roads and bridges in the several townships of this Commonwealth it shall be the duty of the supervisors thereof to give the taxpayers resident of such townships the preference on condition that said taxpayers shall notify said supervisors on or before the first Monday of May in each year of their desire to secure such work, and provided, however, that no unseasonable person shall be employed on such public works, and said supervisors are authorized also to purchase such material, scrapers, plows, stone crushers, roller and other road machinery, tools and property, as shall in their judgment be necessary for making and repairing roads and bridges, the same to be the property of the township, to be used exclusively for township purposes and to be properly taken care of by said supervisors.

SECTION 4. Said supervisors are hereby authorized to join with the supervisors of one or more of the other townships in their respective counties in the purchase of such road machinery as in their judgment may be too expensive to justify such purchase by said township alone, the said machinery to belong to such townships in proportion to the amount paid therefor by each, and the right to use the same to be regulated by agreement to be made between said supervisors at the time of joining in said purchase; provided that said joint ownership shall merely continue during such period as may be agreeable to all of said joint owners, and either board of supervisors may at any time elect to sever said joint ownership as to any or all of said machinery in case the same cannot be agreed upon amicably, by petition of the supervisors of either of said joint owning townships to the court of quarter sessions, which court, after notice and opportunity to be heard shall be given to the supervisors of each of the other townships, shall then make such order for the sale or disposal of said joint property as will be right and proper in each case.

SECTION 5. That the supervisors of each township shall make or cause to be made a duplicate designating the amount of road tax levied against each taxpayer of the township and deliver the same to the township or district treasurer-elect under existing laws, or appointed under the second section hereof, and shall

also give him a warrant to collect the same to be collected as follows, namely: To all tax-payers who pay their road tax before June first of each year to the treasurer an abatement of five per centum shall be made; on all road taxes paid to the treasurer between June first and October the first of each year the tax-payers will be required to pay the full amount of road tax levied against them; provided said treasurer shall have given notice by printed hand bills of the times and places at which he will receive said taxes, said places to be fixed by said supervisors. On the first of October in each year the treasurer shall make out a list of all delinquent tax-payers, with the amount of road tax levied against each, with five per centum added thereto as a penalty for such delinquency, and deliver the same to the township collector duly authorized to collect taxes under existing laws, who shall immediately proceed to collect the same and make payment thereof to the treasurer as soon as received, and the collector shall receive for his services the five per centum in penalty added. The treasurer shall receive as compensation for his services such amount as the board of supervisors may prescribe, not exceeding one per centum of all moneys received by him.

SECTION 6. That the township or district treasurer appointed by the board of supervisors shall be required to give bond with at least two sufficient sureties, to be approved by the court of quarter sessions of the proper county, in a sum double the amount of the road tax duplicate and moneys received from the State appropriation for roads, or from other sources for like purpose, conditioned that the said treasurer shall well and truly pay over and account for all moneys collected and received by him for road purposes according to law, and such bond shall be filed with the clerk of the court aforesaid; and he shall pay out moneys received only on written order of the board of supervisors setting forth what the same is given for, signed by the president and attested by the secretary thereof.

SECTION 7. That it shall be the duty of the said supervisors to make the road beds not less than sixteen feet wide, to keep and maintain them ten inches higher in the centre than at the sides thereof, with central drains on either side of such road beds of a width and depth of one foot wherever practicable, to remove all obstructions preventing the flow of water either from the surface of the road beds, sides or drains thereof, to keep the roads in good condition, and to place culverts of stone, iron or terra cotta pipes wherever practicable to convey the water across and underneath the surface of such road beds.

SECTION 8. That the said board of supervisors shall receive no compensation for their services, but may be allowed for the cost of stationery, fuel and light and for their necessary traveling expenses a sum which shall not in the aggregate exceed one hundred dollars annually, to be paid out of the township road funds.

SECTION 9. That the board of supervisors of the several townships receiving State aid as hereafter provided for, shall annually on or before the first Monday of March in each year, make a report on oath or affirmation to the county commissioners on blanks furnished to them by the Secretary of Internal Affairs through the said commissioners, of the whole amount of moneys raised during the current year by taxation for road purposes, specifying in such report the amount expended for maintenance or repairs of roads, for opening and building of new roads, and for macadamizing or otherwise permanently improving roads, and the number of miles thus made, and such other matters and things as the county commissioners or Secretary of Internal Affairs may require, and said reports shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Internal Affairs by said county commissioners on or before the first Monday of each year.

SECTION 10. That the said board of supervisors shall keep minutes of their proceedings and such books as they may find necessary in the performance of their duties, all of which shall be open to the inspection of any taxpayer at all reasonable times, and which shall all be submitted for the information of the township auditors when said auditors meet to audit the accounts of the treasurer and other township officers, and shall deliver such books, papers and accounts to their successors.

SECTION 11. That said supervisors shall be required to let by contract the construction of all roads hereafter designated as "Highways," and may in their discretion let by contract to the lowest and best bidder the opening, making, maintaining and repairing of all other roads, bridges, or any part or parts thereof, reserving the right to reject any or all bids. Notice of all such lettings shall be given at least three weeks before the same shall take place by advertisement in at least two weekly newspapers of general circulation published in the county, if so many shall be published therein, and by hand-bills put in at least ten of the most public places in the township, designating the time and place of such lettings. Said supervisors shall require bonds from the contractors with approved security in double the amount of the contract price, conditioned for the faithful performance thereof; provided such contracts for maintenance and repairing shall not continue for more than three years.

SECTION 12. That it shall be the duty of the said board of township supervisors to select and designate, or provide for the laying out of the roads in each township, to be macadamized or otherwise permanently constructed, out of the funds hereinafter expressly devoted thereto, as provided in section seventeen, which roads shall be selected, and laid out in or through the different townships in a manner such that as far as practicable they may form a continuous highway between the most populous points in the county to the boundaries thereof and to points on other important roads or railroad stations, so as best to accommodate through and local travel, which roads shall thereafter, until abandoned as such by the proper authorities, be known as "Highways." Said supervisors shall make and keep in a book provided for that purpose a map or survey showing their location and grade in connection with the other public roads in the township, shall furnish a plan and full and complete specifications in accordance with the most approved and improved method of road making, considering the location and materials at hand, and the manner in which, and materials out of which, such "Highways" shall be constructed, make alignment and grade thereof, and shall divide the same into convenient sections showing the order in which they shall be constructed and repaired under the direction as herein provided. Provided, that when the services of a surveyor is needed may employ one at a per diem not to exceed three dollars.

SECTION 13. That road viewers shall only be appointed upon petition signed by at least ten taxpayers of the township in which the proposed road is to be located, vacated or changed, and in case the proposed road passes through two or more townships the same shall be signed by at least ten taxpayers of the township in which the termini are situated; provided, that in townships not having that number of taxpayers, viewers may be appointed on the petition of one-half of said taxpayers and approved as aforesaid, and that written or printed notice of such views and re-views shall be served by the said petitioners, or any one of them, upon the owners of any lands through which the road to be located, vacated or changed, runs, and in case the road in question crosses the line of any railroad, turnpike or canal, the superintendent or president of such company shall have written notice by a registered letter dropped into the postoffice addressed to either of them. The court shall also require printed, or partly printed and partly written handbills to be posted in ten or more public places in the vicinity of said road, or proposed road, at least ten days before the view, or re-view, as the case may be, shall take place, subscribed by the clerk of quarter sessions.

SECTION 14. That the court of quarter sessions of every county of the Commonwealth on application by petition signed and approved as herein provided, shall appoint three viewers to lay out new roads, to vacate and supply roads or parts thereof, to vacate roads laid out and not opened, and such roads as have become useless or burdensome. Said viewers shall consist of a surveyor and two interested citizens of the county, who shall in all respects perform their duties in accordance with the acts of Assembly in such cases made and provided.

SECTION 15. That it shall be the further duty of the said county commissioners to appoint a competent person to inspect the work done on highways by the contractors before the work is accepted by the board of supervisors, and if they have failed to comply with the plan and specifications furnished therefor he shall give notice thereof to the said board of supervisors who shall not accept the work, nor pay any moneys due thereon, until the contractors have completed their contract in manner and form agreed upon. Said inspector shall receive for his services a compensation not to exceed three dollars per diem to be paid by the county treasurer upon warrants drawn by said county commissioners.

SECTION 16. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Internal Affairs to furnish to the board of supervisors of the several townships, through the county commissioners, suitable blanks to make the reports provided for in section nine of this act, and he shall furnish to the State Treasurer a detailed statement of the amount of moneys expended by the supervisors in each township for roads, highways and bridges, and the several townships, through the county commissioners, as a basis to make the distribution of State appropriation for roads as provided for in section seventeen of this act.

SECTION 17. That all moneys appropriated from time to time by the Legislature for road purposes, to be paid out of the State treasury, shall be divided to the supervisors of the several townships of this Commonwealth in proportion to the amount of road taxes collected and expended by each township for road purposes during the preceding year, and such share or portion due each township shall be paid by the State Treasurer to the township or district treasurer, or the treasurer appointed by the board of supervisors of the township, and the supervisors of each township shall set apart at least twenty-five per centum of all road taxes collected each year, which, with the moneys appropriated or received from the State for road purposes, shall constitute a special fund to be kept by the treasurer in a separate account from other road funds, and shall be expended exclusively in the making of macadam or other permanent roads in the township according to the provisions of section fourteen.

SECTION 18. That in case the board of supervisors of any township shall fail or neglect to carry out the provisions of this act no such township shall be entitled to receive any part or share of the moneys appropriated by the State to macadamize or otherwise permanently improve the said highways.

SECTION 19. That before any railroad, pipe line or conduit, telegraph, telephone, electric light, power lines, cable transportation, or any other incorporated company, firm or municipality, authorized by law so to do, shall enter upon or occupy any part of the roads, bridges and highways of any county or township of the Commonwealth for any purpose, where the occupation is of such a character as not to require the construction of a new road to take the place of the part occupied, before such an entry is made they shall file with the board of supervisors of the township a map showing the position of the road or highway they desire to so occupy, and the manner and extent of such occupation, which map shall be approved by the board of supervisors of the township aforesaid. If in their opinion the interference with the road or highway is not such as to destroy or seriously impair or interfere with its use by the public, nor greater than is necessary under the circumstances, and if the map is approved, they shall file with the court of quarter sessions of the proper county a bond, the amount and sureties of which shall be approved by said court, obligating them to do the work under the direction of the said board of supervisors in accordance with the approved map, and with the least interruption to public travel during the execution of the work, and to put the highway or road where they have interfered with in as good or better condition than it

was before they entered upon it. Every such company shall file with the said court of quarter sessions an additional bond drawn in favor of any such township, as aforesaid, in a sum to be named by said court, with two sufficient sureties, to be approved by said court, conditioned to secure any such township as aforesaid against damages or loss by reason of any injury or harm done to any vehicle, team or person passing or re-passing along the works of such company during their construction, or any time thereafter.

SECTION 20. That it shall not be lawful for any supervisor or county commissioner to be interested either directly or indirectly in any work done or contract relating to roads and bridges, nor to furnish any materials therefor. Any person knowingly violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, and may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months, both or either, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 21. That if any supervisor, county commissioner, or other person employed by them to work on the roads, bridges and highways of this Commonwealth, shall violate the provisions of this act, or shall fail, neglect or refuse to carry out the same, the persons so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars and undergo an imprisonment not exceeding three months, both or either, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 22. That the supervisors of the several townships of this Commonwealth elected or appointed in pursuance of this act, shall perform all the duties imposed by the existing laws on supervisors of roads, bridges and highways, and shall be subject to the same responsibilities and penalties that supervisors are now subject to under existing laws, excepting where the same is inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

SECTION 23. That all acts or parts of acts, general, special or local, inconsistent herewith, or supplied hereby, be and the same are hereby repealed.

ALTAR LILIES.

On a low bench within the altar rail
There stood a vase of flowers, the offering,
Of one who traced God's steps o'er hill and dale,
And laid again His blossoms at His feet.

A lava vase, with tales of mountain throes,
And craters yawning to the deep profound,
It held white lilies pure as Alpine snows,
And clinging sprays of ivy clasped it round.

"So, heart!" I said, "all scarred with hidden fire,
Take form and beauty from the hand divine,
To hold the lilies sweet of pure desire,
And let immortal hopes about thee twine."

—Mary A. P. Stansburg.

HOW I SAID "YES."

BY AMELIA E. BARR.

My godmothers and my godmothers in my baptism called me "Olive," and they lived to be heartily ashamed of themselves for it; for never was there a child with a more mistaken name. A belle-garde state was my normal condition. I do not remember my names, but I have grace enough to pity them. The mildest of my teachers considered me "merrily," and you can ask Geoffrey what he thought of me a year ago. Now it is different, I have found my master, and I believe I rather like it. This is how it came about:

Geoffrey had asked me three times to marry him, and three times I had said "No," in the most decided manner. But that never made the least difference to him. He only laughed and said I would know my own mind better next time.

"I suppose," I said, "you mean to ask me once a quarter?"
"Is that enough?"
"Too often, a great deal, sir!"
"Well, then, we will say once in six months, Miss Olive."

And then he walked smilingly away, and began some nonsensical talk with father about Doctor Koch and his bewildering theories.

This last asking was just at the beginning of warm weather, and father, who thought Geoffrey's opinion infallible, asked him where he would advise us to go for the summer.

I had made up my mind to go to Long Branch and I said so, very distinctly; but Geoffrey proposed some out-of-the-way place in the Virginia mountains. Then he pointed it in such glowing colors that nothing would satisfy father but a personal investigation. It was all Geoffrey's doing, and I told him so at the railway station.

"It is your doing, sir," I said, "and I shall remember you for it."
"Thanks, Olive," he replied; "there is nothing I fear but forgetfulness."
I wanted to speak unmistakably to him, but the train moved, and I felt that it would be only waste material.

At the end of the second day we got to our destination. It was a pretty place; I must acknowledge that. Nature had done all she could for it, but art and civilization had passed it by. The men were simply "righths," and the women were—well, none too good for the men. The houses were log-cabins, through which daylight peeped and the wind blew as it listed. But there was, of course, a big white hotel—there always is. I have no doubt if we had gone to Stanley Falls or Guthrie we should have a hotel and proprietor—the institution is ubiquitous. We procured rooms, and my trunks were, with some difficulty, got up the hill and the flight of wooden steps into the hall.

"I suppose," I said, with a resigned look at father, "there is no use in taking them to the register. I can have no use for my dresses here."
"As you like, Olive," he replied, in one of his meek and mild ways; "as you like, dear; that gray thing you have on looks pretty well, and it does not show the dirt."

After this remark, of course, I had every trunk, bonnet-box and satchel taken upstairs; and the noise and confusion, and even the occasional bad word their size and weight called forth, were quite grateful to me.

"It is not my fault," I explained.

"If people will build stairs like cork screws, I am not responsible."

In this amiable mood we took possession, and I think, if Geoffrey had known what I was thinking about it, as I did up my hair and put on my white evening dress, he would have lost a trifle of his self-complacency—that is, if men ever do make a loss of that kind. The first thing that pleased me was the supper. It really was good, particularly the berries and cream which were a specialty with me.

"But, sir," I inquired, "are there any Christians here besides ourselves?"
"It is to be hoped so, Olive. I saw a little church in the valley."
"Pshaw, father! I did not mean church Christians; I mean society Christians."

"Ah, they are different, are they? Well, what do you think of Augusta Pennington for a Christian?"
"Augusta Pennington! Is she here?"

I asked, amazed.
"No, she is not, but her brother lives within two miles, and he has a daughter about the same age as yourself. Mrs. Pennington wrote them we should be here to-day; they will doubtless call in the morning."

Well, I did not care if they did. The dresses in my trunks were sufficient to inspire any woman with comfortable assurance. The next morning I made a beautiful toilet, but neither Mr. nor Miss Lacelles called. Just after supper I heard a little stir and bustle on the stairs, a rippling laugh, the rustle of silken robes, and, leaning on her father's arm, Miss Lacelles entered. She was beautiful; I saw that at a glance; tall and pale and lady-like, reminding you of a fair white lily. We soon struck up a friendship—a girl's friendship I mean. Some one has said that there is no friendship between the sexes, and some one is mistaken, I think, for the world holds no safer friend for a woman than an honorable man. A woman's friendship is very likely to be the result of convenience, or of being, as my father sneeringly remarked, "the only Christian within hail of each other." Mary showed me all her dresses and told me her secrets, and I returned the compliment, mindful of Buras's advice to still "keep something to myself I wadna tell to ony."

Lieftelde told down into an unexciting but endurable routine. Mary and I visited each other and arranged our next winter's campaign, for I had invited her to pass the cold weather with me in New York. One day, in the middle of one of these pleasant chats, a servant came in and handed me a card. The name on it roused at once all the antagonism in my nature. It was, "Geoffrey Gardner."

Now it so happened that the existence of this gentleman was the one thing I had kept back in my confidences with Mary. So I had now to explain who and what he was. I wanted her to come into the parlor with me; but no, she would go home first and dress; but she promised to be back in half an hour.

I disliked Geoffrey, yet I was glad to see him. My mental faculties were rusting for want of attention. Father would not quarrel with me, and Mary was my only face card. I could not throw her away. Besides, I rather liked to see his great, handsome figure in the room. He was so full of life that he seemed to vitalize even the chairs and stools; they tumbled about and got out of the way in the strangest manner. I told him about Mary Lacelles, and warned him that he would lose his heart. He gravely told me he had none to lose.

Imagine six feet two inches of manhood without a heart!

We waited tea for Mary, but she did not come till quite dark, and we had our tea. She said she had been detained by company, but I knew better than that. She was dressed with reference to candle light effect, and would not lose its influence on her first appearance. I never saw her look so lovely; her rose-colored dress, with its broad shimmering bands of white silk, wonderfully enhanced her charms. Geoffrey looked delighted, and she gave him the full benefit of both her upward and downward glances.

When tea was over, I left the room a few minutes, and when I came back, found Geoffrey and Mary sitting opposite each other, with the chess-board between them as an excuse for flirtation. The move had been so rapid that I was astonished, and a little angry, too; and father did not improve matters by whispering, as I passed his chair:

"Checkmated, Olive!"

It was not a pleasant evening for me, and it was the beginning of many unpleasant ones.

"How it came let doctors tell," but I began to like Geoffrey just as soon as he began to like Mary. I called up pride to the rescue, but it did not help me much, and I suffered a good deal in watching Geoffrey's attentions to Mary, and listening to her prattle about him. I thought her supremely silly, and I told her so. She was astonished at my petulance, but I don't think she suspected the truth. Only father did that, and he looked so: "Serve you right, miss," that I longed for him to be a woman for an hour or so, that I might talk back to him.

One day, after Geoffrey had been a month with us, a riding party was proposed to the top of the mountain. Father and I, Geoffrey and Mary—that would be the order, of course; and I was prepared for that; but there is a last straw in every burden, and my last straw was this incident. They were mounted and waiting for me when Mary dropped her glove. From my window I saw Geoffrey pick it up, put it on the hand laid so confidently in his, and then kiss it. After that I was not going to ride for King nor Kaiser. I sent a positive refusal to all entreaties, and as soon as they were out of sight indulged in a good refreshing cry. I cried myself to sleep, and woke about dusk with a newborn purpose in my heart which comforted me wonderfully, the key-note of which was:

"She stoops to conquer." Yet I did not dress again. I knew they were to take tea at Mr. Lacelles's; so I threw my dressing-gown around me, and taking a novel in my hand, I ordered a cup of strong tea and went into the sitting-room. As I walked in at one door Geoffrey walked in at the other.

"I came to take you to Mr. Lacelles's, Olive," he said.

"How do you propose doing it, sir? For unless you bind me hand and foot, and get a couple of men to tote me there, I really don't think you will succeed."

"I could carry you myself."

"Could you? I don't think you would enjoy the journey."

"Will you dare me to do it?"

"Not to-night. I should like to insure my life first."

"Olive, you have been crying."

"I have not, sir," indignantly. "And if I have, what is that to you?" reproachfully.

"A great deal. Oh, Olive, you teasing, prodding, bewitching little wretch! How often must I tell you I love you? How often must I ask you to marry me?"

"It is not six months since the last time, Geoffrey."

"I don't care; it seems like six years. And, oh, Olive, you know that you love me."

"I do not."

"You have loved me ever since you were eight years old."

"I have not."

"Now you must take me forever or leave me forever to-night. I have asked you three times before."

"Four times, sir."

"Well, four times, then. Odd numbers are lucky; here is the fifth time. You know what I want, Olive—your promise to be mine. Is it to be? Now or never?"

I suppose every one has a good angel. Mine must have been at his post just then, for a strange feeling of humility and gentleness came over me. I glanced up at the handsome face all aglow with love's divine light; at the eyes full of gracious entreaty; at the arms half-stretched out to embrace me. After pride struggled hard with love. I stood up silent and trembling, quite unable to acknowledge myself vanquished, until I saw him turn away grieving and sorrowful. Then I said:

"Geoffrey, come back; it is now."

"That is why I said 'yes,' and I have never been sorry for it. If I live to the age of Methuselah, I shall never be a meek woman; but still I will be a servant came in and handed me a card. The name on it roused at once all the antagonism in my nature. It was, 'Geoffrey Gardner.'

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"Could you? I don't think you would enjoy the journey."

"Will you dare me to do it?"

"Not to-night. I should like to insure my life first."

"Olive, you have been crying."

"I have not, sir," indignantly. "And if I have, what is that to you?" reproachfully.

"A great deal. Oh, Olive, you teasing, prodding, bewitching little wretch! How often must I tell you I love you? How often must I ask you to marry me?"

"It is not six months since the last time, Geoffrey."

"I don't care; it seems like six years. And, oh, Olive, you know that you love me."

"I do not."

"You have loved me ever since you were eight years old."

"I have not."

"Now you must take me forever or leave me forever to-night. I have asked you three times before."

"Four times, sir."

"Well, four times, then. Odd numbers are lucky; here is the fifth time. You know what I want, Olive—your promise to be mine. Is it to be? Now or never?"

I suppose every one has a good angel. Mine must have been at his post just then, for a strange feeling of humility and gentleness came over me. I glanced up at the handsome face all aglow with love's divine light; at the eyes full of gracious entreaty; at the arms half-stretched out to embrace me. After pride struggled hard with love. I stood up silent and trembling, quite unable to acknowledge myself vanquished, until I saw him turn away grieving and sorrowful. Then I said:

"Geoffrey, come back; it is now."

"That is why I said 'yes,' and I have never been sorry for it. If I live to the age of Methuselah, I shall never be a meek woman; but still I will be a servant came in and handed me a card. The name on it roused at once all the antagonism in my nature. It was, 'Geoffrey Gardner.'

Now it so happened that the existence of this gentleman was the one thing I had kept back in my confidences with Mary. So I had now to explain who and what he was. I wanted her to come into the parlor with me; but no, she would go home first and dress; but she promised to be back in half an hour.

I disliked Geoffrey, yet I was glad to see him. My mental faculties were rusting for want of attention. Father would not quarrel with me, and Mary was my only face card. I could not throw her away. Besides, I rather liked to see his great, handsome figure in the room. He was so full of life that he seemed to vitalize even the chairs and stools; they tumbled about and got out of the way in the strangest manner. I told him about Mary Lacelles, and warned him that he would lose his heart. He gravely told me he had none to lose.

Imagine six feet two inches of manhood without a heart!