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SELECT STORY. A STRANGE VALENTINE.

In the dusky light of a fragrant and richly adorned drawing room two people were in animated conversation.

"It is the most absurd thing I ever heard of," said the elderly lady, with a scornful smile.

"Worse and worse! Well, this is plain speak—And when do you think of it—only yourself! Selfish child!

"The young voice faltered; the pink flush gave way to pallor; the brown eyes filled.

"No, Teresa; it's mockery to ask that! I will not so clearly understand that this is to be no longer your home.

"The idea of a partitioning plan refused such an offer as that of Leroy Jones!

"Well, then, I shall have to go, I suppose; but what is the nature of the case?"

"You see, I am a little beside myself, but as I am a bearer of despatches I thought best to prepare for what is coming."

"Yes, I see how it is. You are sure you don't regret it. Sure. Do you think I would have made all this trouble if I had not been sure?"

"But I shall not. I am going, I tell you, Frank."

"I don't know yet—perhaps to Mrs. Russell—nor do I know what I shall do. I have no money and I am so ignorant."

"Which you will do with all the ease in the world, dear Frank."

"It is night in one of the great city hospitals, and all is silent but for the moans of those in pain and the mutterings of those in fever."

"To one she gives a glass of water, another's pillow needs raising and another demands soothing words."

"You see, I am a little beside myself, but as I am a bearer of despatches I thought best to prepare for what is coming."

"The smiling face became grave, the head in pain, the eyes were as tender as the song of the nightingale."

"Lately there arrived at the Indian Training School at Carlisle fifty-eight boys and eleven girls, representatives of the Yumas, the Puchos, the Chiricahua and the Apache tribes of Arizona Territory."

"The general amusement may be imagined—only equalled by the hearty laugh of the Indian—when Captain Pratt, desiring to show the boys' manner, suddenly pulled out from the deep mysteries of his loose sash-like belt a clear, bright little hand looking glass, the inseparable companion of the typical young buck."

"Some of the party had been carried off to undergo the initiation to the first steps toward a civilized existence, and had already emerged from the trying ordeal, shaven and clean and well conditioned."

"I have you at last, that is all I want. Do you know I have never loved anyone else—never. You were quite right not to marry me; a denunciation of a life you had no right to give."

"It is the 14th day of February, and Dr. Gansvoort is mounting the stairs of a New York boarding house."

"You see, I am a little beside myself, but as I am a bearer of despatches I thought best to prepare for what is coming."

"The smiling face became grave, the head in pain, the eyes were as tender as the song of the nightingale."

"The boys learn a variety of trades and the girls sew, iron and learn to be useful and helpful in all the duties of the household."

"The following question which agitates so many minds was written to the New York Sun by a correspondent from a Southern city:

"There are two young ladies here who are exceedingly anxious to go on the stage, and have requested me to write you to see if you couldn't give them all the necessary information in regard to the matter."

"Each newcomer is known in the school not by name, but by number which is engraved on a little tin medallion and hangs at the wearer's side."

"These Old Indians wore the traditional dress of their race, and beamed forth with great brilliancy, wrapped in sheets of the color of the gorgeous sunflower, the effect brightened, if possible, by the pronounced outlines of the soft, warm red handkerchief twisted, turban-wise, around their heads."

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