

An Opium Eater's Story. CRAWLING OVER RED HOT BARS OF IRON IN HIS FEARFUL FRENZY... This brief sentence was fairly heeled into the ear of a prominent druggist on Vine street by a person who, a few years ago well off is to-day a hopeless wreck.

ATTEMPT MANY DAYS. When I was a young fellow I lived on father's farm, down there in Connecticut. You've seen the place. The church was near the tavern, and behind the church was the parsonage; and there lived Dominie Wheeler and his daughter Dolly, on Saturdays after I had my supper, I used to dress myself, and tell my mother that I meant to call on Dominie Wheeler's folks. Mother generally answered that I couldn't do better; that the dominie's conversation was sure to be improving, and that Dolly was quite 'shy,' like some gals she could mention.

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All the business was over I took a moonlight stroll through the street. It was 80 years since the night I kissed Sally Grey, and lost my love for it, but nothing had altered in the outward aspect of the place.

People were sitting on their porches as of yore; the same flowers seemed to bloom in the gardens; the same longers to stand about the tavern door; the same young men and girls to hang upon the garden gates.

The old clock in the corner. The old rag carpet, was either the same or another just like it. There was only one blue vase on the mantel. I suppose the other had been broken; but there were the profiles of grandpa and grandma visible over the escutcheon.

"Well, father?" "Well, father?" "Could it be my slim young Dolly. Yes, it was. She was very fine-looking now, and she looked so maternally that I immediately exclaimed that she was Mrs. Isaac Robbins.

"I have been thinking it over, Dolly," he said. "I think it would be best for you to marry, I am eighty. I cannot live long. You had better marry Mr. Buchanan. He is very fond of you. You like him, I am sure. Is it for my sake you say no?"

"She bent over him and put her hands on his shoulders." "Father," she said, "I am going to tell the truth, a thing a woman's wisdom does in these matters. I should not have to leave you; so it is not for your sake, much as I love you. But I do not care for Mr. Buchanan. I have only cared for one man in my life, and that was you, father. I sent him away from me, because he had done very wrong; but I think now that we both loved each other. I know that, even now, I cannot forget him, and that I never shall forget him while I live."

"There were tears in her eyes; she brushed them away. In a moment she was at the door she opened. I held out both my hands. Those were Dolly's girlish eyes that looked at me, and I caught her in my arms. "I have come back to be forgiven, Dolly," I said, and I saw that I had not come in vain.

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When he was a poor young lawyer he became engaged to Miss Coleman, who turned out to be the richest, staidest and most respectable of the aristocracy. Miss Coleman's letters became irregular and then stopped altogether. He wrote repeatedly, but got no reply. At last he determined to go to Philadelphia, but at Lancaster the stage met an accident and he was thrown off a broken leg. He wrote again as soon as he was able, but still heard nothing. Laid up in a country tavern in the midst of a phenomenal snow-storm, for six weeks, embittered him and he wrote Miss Coleman a letter of reproaches, and then wrote no more. Now for Miss Coleman's part. Her eminently respectable father at the beginning intercepted all of her letters and all of Mr. Buchanan's. She made all the appeals to him a woman could make, but she never had a line from him after he left Philadelphia, except the last cutting letter—a letter, unfortunately, it contained nothing but his renunciation of her, she could know nothing of what had preceded it. The eminently respectable family were satisfied—the match was broken off by means that would have landed them all in the penitentiary in these days.

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