

The Bride of an Evening.
BY EMMA D. N. SOUTHWORTH.
CHAPTER I.
THE ASTROLOGER'S PREDICTION.

Reading, a few weeks since, one of De Quincy's papers—"Three Memorable Murders"—recalled to my mind the strange circumstances of one of the most mysterious domestic dramas that ever taxed the ingenuity of man, or required the flight of time to develop.

The locality of our story lies amid one of the wildest and most picturesque regions of the Old Dominion, where head waters of the Rappahannock wash the base of the Blue Ridge.

The precise spot—Crossland—is a sublime and beautiful scene, where two forest-crowned ranges of mountains cross each other at oblique angles.

At the intersecting point of these ridges reposes a little hamlet, named, from its elevated position, Altamont.

At the period at which our story opens the four estates, in the four angles of the irregular mountain cross, were owned as follows:

The eastern farm, called Piedmont, was the life property of Madame Audley, a Virginia lady of the old school.

The western and most valuable estate was the inheritance of Honora Paul, an orphan heiress, grand daughter and ward of Madame Audley.

The northern and smallest one, called from being the deepest vale of the four—Hawes's Hollow—was the property of old Hugh Hawes, a widower of gloomy temper, parsimonious habits, and almost fabulous wealth.

The southern farm—named, from the extravagant cost of the elegant mansion house, elaborate out-buildings, and highly ornamented grounds, which had absorbed the means of the late owner, "Farquhar's Folly"—was the heavily mortgaged patrimony of G. Freely Farquhar Dulaney, the grandson of Hugh Hawes, and now a young aspirant for legal honors at the University of Virginia.

'Singular coincidences!' interrupted Mr. Willoughby, as he arose and joined his wife and brother-in-law at the other end of the room.

'I thought so when the prophecy was fulfilled,' replied Godfrey.

'And the other three events?' softly inquired Honora.

'The other three events, if they follow as predicted, must happen within the next two years, or before I reach my twenty-fifth anniversary. The first of these is to be the unexpected inheritance of vast wealth.'

Upon hearing this, a bright smile played around the lips of Honora, and banished the clouds from her brow. She waited a few minutes for him to proceed, but finding that he continued silent, she said—

'Well, Mr. Dulaney, go on! what was the third predicted event?'

'Do you command me to inform you?'

'No, sir; I beg you, of your courtesy to do so.'

'Very well,' he said, dropping his voice to a low undertone. 'It was to my marriage with the woman I should worship.'

'And the fourth?'

The answer came reluctantly, and in tones so low as to meet only her ear.

'Well, well the commands of young ladies are not to be disobeyed!' replied the old man, gallantly, as he extended his hand and drew a card, which he passed to the Sybil.

Amid a profound silence, and in a solemn voice, she read—

'Thy fate looms full of horror. From false friends, Near at hand, perils threaten thee— A fatal sign stands in thy house of fire— An enemy—a head lurking close behind The pendulous of thy plume—Oh! be warned!'

'Pshaw! what serious mockery!' exclaimed the old man, scornfully, as he turned away and gave place to his nephew, who had all the while been posted behind him, peeping over his shoulder.

'Will you permit me to test my fortune?' inquired the fascinating Dr. Hawes.

'And what would you with the Sybil?' was the response.

'I would know the future!'

'Draw!' said the Sybil, in a tone of assumed stentness.

Smiling his graceful but most sinister smile, the doctor drew a card, and passed it to the reader.

'Hear!' said the latter, lifting the tablet of fate, and reading—

'Thou art a man of power, and thy power shall be great. There is a great crowd at the bar of "The Crown and Magpie." The landlady—a stout, vulgar-looking woman, with redoubt curls, a heavy gold chain round her neck, and numerous rings on her fat fingers—was busily engaged in pouring out gin for her customers: the regular ones she was treating—for it must not be forgotten that it was New Year's eve.

Such was the scene of vice and dissipation which met the eye and sickened the heart of Rachel when, with little Mary in her arms, and protected by the presence of her son, she ventured into the house.

'Is Mr. Hoffman here?' she inquired, faintly.

'The question had to be repeated several times before she could get an answer.

'Can't tell the names of any of my customers,' replied the mistress of 'The Crown and Magpie,' snappishly.

'Perhaps you will oblige me by ascertaining?'

'Too busy, ma'am! Hot water Sally! Three and eight-penny! Sir. Half-and-half directly!'

'You can't go in there!' shouted the landlady, as Rachel was making her way towards the parlor. 'Mine is a respectable house; I allow no females beyond the bar.'

'But I am Mr. Hoffman's wife.'

'So they all say,' answered the woman, with a sneer.

There was a coarse, mocking laugh from the crowd of half-drunken wretches standing near. The eyes of Richard flashed angrily, but the voice, and still more, the imploring look of his mother restrained him.

'Let us return home,' she said, in a despairing tone. 'I feel faint and sick at heart.'

THE undersigned respectfully invite the attention of their customers and the public, to their large and extensive stock of Ready-Made YOUTH'S & CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, and a well selected and choice assortment of Cloth and Cassimeres, from which to order suitable for the Spring and Summer seasons, and especially adapted to Boys' Wear.

FARMERS, ATTENTION! GROWERS OF GRASS AND TOBACCO, use Lehigh's Super Phosphate of Lime. \$2.50 per ton, or \$1.00 per barrel.

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GO TO SEE THEM. JUST received, 75 doz. Fancy Pipes, of all lowest prices. Tobaccoists, and all who sell at Tobacco, Small Segars, &c., will please call and examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere.

Summer Cooking Ranges. A CONVENIENT Range for Summer use, a grand improvement on the ordinary Range, for sale at Locust street, opposite the Franklin House, Columbia, July 15, 1857.

BOARDING. FIVE OR SIX GENTLEMEN can obtain board by application to Mrs. Leubach, at No. 1 Carpenters' Hall, Front street, Columbia, March 21, 1857.

Rapp's Gold Pens. CONSTANTLY on hand, an assortment of these celebrated Pens. Persons in want of good writing pens should call and examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere.

COCONUTS just received and for sale by JOHN F. SMITH, 100 Chestnut street, below the Washington House, Columbia, May 16, 1857.

Superior Self-Sealing Preserving Cans. THE Preserving Season is commencing, and "Self-Sealing Cans" has become an established favorite among housekeepers.

A LARGE LOT of Children's Carriages, of the best quality, for sale by GEORGE J. SMITH, Locust street, opposite the Franklin House, Columbia, April 19, 1857.

Water Coolers. A COMPLETE assortment of Water Coolers, of the best quality, for sale by HENRY FAHLEBER, Locust street, opposite the Franklin House, Columbia, July 15, 1857.

Patent Steam Wash Boilers. THESE well known Boilers are for sale by HENRY FAHLEBER, Locust street, opposite the Franklin House, Columbia, July 15, 1857.

Fine Family Groceries. A SELECT assortment of the best Family Groceries, for sale by DANIEL HERR, Locust street, opposite the Franklin House, Columbia, July 15, 1857.

Susquehanna Planing Mill, COLUMBIA, PA. THE undersigned respectfully announce to the public, that they are prepared to furnish all kinds of FLOORING, SIDING AND SURFACED LUMBER.

REMOVAL. JOHN FELIX, has removed his Watch, Clock and Jewelry Establishment, to the new stand on Front street, third door below of the House. He has a large stock of

WATCHES, CLOCKS, AND JEWELRY, which he is prepared to sell cheaper than they can be bought at any other establishment. He is also prepared to repair and clean watches, and to make and repair all kinds of Gold and Silver Watches.

GARDENING. THE undersigned begs leave to inform his friends and the citizens of Columbia and surrounding country, that he has commenced the practice of Gardening, in the most approved style of art, designing, and planting all kinds of Nursery Stock, viz: Fruit, Shade, and Ornamental Trees.

DR. H. JAMES' Extract of Cannabis Indica for the cure of Consumption, Liver Complaint, Rheumatism, Asthma, Coughs, Colds, Nervous Debility, &c. An Extract of Cannabis Indica, which has been discovered for diseases of the eye, cure every kind of Rheumatism, and is a powerful remedy for all kinds of Nervous and Debility.

PEOPLE'S MARBLE YARD. SHOP in North Queen street, half square south of the Railroad, and 3rd door north of Lewis' Hardware, &c. The undersigned respectfully announce to the public, that they are prepared to furnish all kinds of Marble, &c.

NEW AND NEW GOODS. THE undersigned respectfully announce to the public, that they are prepared to furnish all kinds of Goods, &c.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &c. The undersigned respectfully announce to the public, that they are prepared to furnish all kinds of Goods, &c.

CRAMPS, SCALDS, BURNS, &c. THE undersigned respectfully announce to the public, that they are prepared to furnish all kinds of Goods, &c.

PRIME GERMAN SEGARS. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED 200,000 MORE of these PRIME SEGARS, &c.

REMOVAL. Shaving and Hair-Dressing Saloon. THE undersigned having removed to Hamilton street, opposite the Washington House, &c.

LIME FOR SALE. THE undersigned takes this method to inform the public, that he is prepared to furnish all kinds of Goods, &c.