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# META'S MARRIAGE.

BY SHIBLEY SHOWNE.

" Did you ever see Metella Vail looking to levely as she does to-night?" said Mrs Livingstone, lifting a heavy gold-rimmed glass to her eyes.

Old Doctor Wynne knit his shaggy brows together as he regarded the young girl to whom Mrs. Livingstone had directed his attention.

"She is very beautiful," said he, slowly. But there is a look about her that I do not exactly like. Her eyes sparkle too brillianty; her checks are too scarlet. They are etting her drink too reeklessly of the cup of ontinued excitement, I fear!"

Mrs. Vail's rooms were crowded upon this old, dazzling December night. She had taken a sort of pride in collecting around her the clife of the fashionable world, for she was a woman whose ambitions were vast, and her beautiful niece, Metella, was the undisputed belle of the occasion. "But," as old Mrs. Livingstone said, shrewdly, "there was something unaccountable about the

Rollo Vail was a Wall street broker who and risen as saddenly into wealth and disinction as Aladdin's Genii had started out of darkness. One day, no one had ever heard of the name: the next, Mr. Vail's earriage was the handsomest in Central Park, and Mrs. Vail was sending out her cards from a Fifth avenue palace, to receptions, Jerman's-no one knew what! and all the gay world was flocking around her. Nobody new anything about them, yet everyone recepted their invitations !"

" Their suppers are gotten up in real Parislan style," said Mrs. Livingstone, who was in epicure, "and their champague is genuine rellow seal. Mrs. Vail has Pair grande, and the rich man himself looks like Napoleon the First. Of course I shall go where I am well treated. And as for their auteesdents, what business are they of mine?"

Mrs. Vail wore black velvet and emeralds that night, with a spray of silver-green French forms in her bair, which fell trailing o her waist. Metella was in the palest blue sills, trimmed with festions of thread lace, and wore, fastened into her curls, a cluster of blue cornflowers, dotted with diamond

She had been walking when Harry Fane led her, all smiling and breathless into the gool and similarly conservatory that opened from the dining-room.

"Get me a lemon ice," said Miss Vall, with the imperions air of a princess. Nor did she look unlike one, standing there with blue eyes a glitter, lips like a scarlet rose eleft apart; and golden hair floating lightly from under the clasp of the diamond-studded flowers:

Mr. Fane beckened to a waiter, and gave he order. Then he sat down and looked

almly at Miss Vail. " Now, Metella," said he, "I am ready for

your answer." " What answer?" She was larry in disengaging a fold of lace from the handle of her pearl fan.

"The answer you promised me night when I told you that I loved you."

" I did not promise you any answer." " Not in so many words, perhaps; but we fully understood each other. You comprehead that I wish you to be my wife?"

"That's all nonsense, Harry !" His brows slightly contracted.

" Do you think it is, Meta?" " Let us be frank," said the young beauty, snipping at the leaves of a camelia tree. "I

do like you, Harry. I have always liked you; but-He listened with bated breath, and lips

firmly set together. "I am engaged to be married to Mr. Julian. He proposed formally to my uncle

this morning. "So," mid Harry Fane, coldly, "you are willing to barter yourself for an old man's trold: 7"

She started as if some noxious insect had

"Harry," said she, you forget yourself; Mr. Julian is not yet fifty !"

He smiled hitterly. And you love him!"

" I-I respect and esteem him?" hesitated Metella, turning alternately red and white. "Metal Metal think again?" pleaded Harry Fane. "Do not let yourself be bargained away-do not let love, and life and tope be laid on the alter of a grasping atobition. I cannot get you diamends, and horses, and cancel's hair shawls, like Isane Julian-but I love you !"

" Now, Harry-as if I could marry an artist!"

" Not even if you loved him, Mota?" " It's house arguing," said the young lady, with a toss of the head, "I am to be unraied to Mr. Julian in January. Fate is fate-and

new give me your arm back to the ball-room.

Aunt Ceellis will wonder what has become

Metella Vail was exultant in the brilliant match she was about to make. Aunt Cecilia lrove with her from milliner to modiste, and back again, with the complacent air of a chaperon well pleased—the eight brides maids were duly selected, and the day of the wodding drew near.

But one day Meta came to her aunt with a troubled face

"Why, child; what is the matter?" said Aunt Cecilia. "You have been crying." "I-I am not perfectly happy," faltered Meta. "Oh, Aunt Cecy! I have been thinking about the future—of all the long, long years that lie before me. And I don't think

ought to marry Mr. Julian!" "Why not?" demanded Aunt Cecilia,

with a face hardening into stone. "I do not love him," confessed Mets, in a polee that was scarcely audible.

" My dear, that is all right," soothed Mrs. Vail. "Love will come in dud time, never

But Meta shook her head, "I would rather not marry him!" she persisted. "I will tell him so !" A slight spasm shot over Mrs. Vail's well-

owdered face. "Metella," said she, "you must marry him. Your uncle's honor is involved. I had not meant to tell you this, but your own conduct has made it inevitable. Mr. Julian has advanced to your uncle money in large sums-money that has warded off ruin."

"Then it is as people say—a mere case of argain and sale," related Meta, bitterly. "I am barted to save my uncle's commercial

tanding." Mrs. Vail burst into tears, carefully daunching them, however, before they had time to plough a briny chasm through the

'Bloom of Youth" upon her cheeks. "Meta," sobbed she, "would you see your incle ruined 7" Metella Vail turned away, sick at heart,

with a feeling that it would be in vain to try to stem the current of destiny. " I may as well make the best of it," said

she to herself; "but oh, why, why did I ever my yes?"

It was two weeks before the wedding day, and Metella Vail had accepted an invitation to a "German"-the last party she was to attend before her bridal. Shearrived rather late, and no one was in the ladies' dressingroom. Even the female attendants were peeping at the dances over the flower-gar landed staircase. She was arranging her own dress, when she heard the voices of two tadies in a small adjoining room, where ter and coffee were served to such as wished to partake of them before going down stairs. "I really think some one ought to tell

her," said old Mrs. Pepper. "Those Vail's would say of them sell their souls for a piece of silver,"retorted Mics Jeykill, "and the girl is just as bad as any of

" But she can't know that he is a lunatic!"

argued Mrs. Pepper. " Trust her for that, I dare say she mean to clap him into an asylum as soon as she has a chance!" said Mrs. Jeykill, sagely.

" Is it true that he sarangled his first wife in one of his mad fits?" asked Mrs. Pepper, while Meta stood still and breathless; the warm blood seeming to turn to ice within her veins "It's true as gospel," said the other, "and

thy other man would have been hung for But the Julians are rich and money is like charity-it covers a multitude of sins? I'm glad I'm not in Miss Vail's place, that's And the two old ladies went down stairs.

Metella Vail stood there, shuddering and pale. What awful risk was this into which she had so nearly plunged? What dizzy precipice had she blindly approached 7 And her uncle and aunt-like an inspiration it fiashed upon her that they were doubtless well aware of all this! How, indeed, could it be otherwise? Aware of it all-yet willing to sacrifice her youth and beauty to their own ends!

One instant she stood considering. Then wrapping the swan's-down bordered cloak once more around her head and shoulders she hurried down to the door, and gave directions that her carriage should once more

"Drive to No. - Wilmerden street,"

off the Harry Fane had been busy at his painting all day, and now, in the evening, he was hetching in a back-ground with his trim little old mother reading aloud to him. For Harry had resolved to give up all the gay ociety which had resolved itself into noth ng but apples of Sodam for him, and devote

imself to Art alone. Presently the little white-capped maid ome in, with a perplexed look on her plump face. "A young lady, ma'am," said she, "in

pink lace and roses, asked for Mr. Fane!" And Metella Vail followed her little an nouncer into the room, with large, luminou ryes and free as pale as ashes "Meta !" He started up.

"Yes, Harry," said she, "I have come to Will you take me back to your heart fler all that I have done and said ?"

And then she told him what she had beard. "If I go back home they will make m marry that man," she said, wildly. 'Oh

you do not know what an iron will my Uncle Rollo has! And—and I have no other friend to turn to, than you in all this wide city f "I can tell you how to preclude any such sessibility," said Harry Fane, quietly, while

s mother was chafing Meta's ice-cold hand.

A faint smile-a relie of the old archness sparkled into Meta's eyes.

"I am ready and willing," said she, And she then sat down and wrote a little note to her aunt—a note that was not to be delivered until her destiny was settled! And then the little maid was sent out after a clergyman.

Mrs. Vail's carriage came the next day, and Metella, peeping over the blinds of the parlor, saw Aunt Cecy's face outlined against

the crimson satin lining. " I want my niece," said that lady excited-

"Unfortunately," bowed Harry Fane, 'you cannot have her.

"By what right dare you detain her?" flashed out Mrs. Vail. "By the right of her husband !" answered

Harry with calm dignity. So Metclia Vail vanished from the borizon of the gay world, never to reapper there. But Metella Fane is the happiest of wives. And she has not yet regretted her sudden toarringe

For what has Life more to offer than Love?

Hon. W. M. RAPSHER'S SPEECH On the adoption of the report of the Committee of Conference in relation to taking up the unfinished business at the session of

On the adoption of the report: Mr. Morgan (Lawrence). I move, Mr. Speaker, the indefinite postponement of this

subject. The question being, On the motion of the gentleman from

Lawrence [Mr. Morgan]. Mr. Morgan-Sir, I have been taught to believe that it is possible, or within our power to do right under any and all circumstances, not always possible, perhaps, to re dress or repair the evils of past wrong-doing, but from present light to do right in future,

but I must confess-Mr. Huhn. Will the gentleman from Lawrence [Mr. Morgan] give way until I make a short statement in this connection. The gentleman from Carbon [Mr. Rapeher] had the floor at the termination of the debate on the question. That gentleman has prepared what is considered by those who have seen it an able argument upon this question. He is neccessarily absent to-night upon legal business. This manuscript merely

would like to have it printed in the Record or read to the House, Mr. Potts. I move that it be read.

Mr. Sherwood (Northumberland). That is a novel idea, to present speeches here by Mr. Huhn. It is a courtesy which has

always been accorded on such occasions. The question being; On the motion of the gentleman from

Schuylkill [Mr. Potta], It was agreed to. The remarks of the gentlemon from Carbon

[Mr, Rapsher] were accordingly read by the

Clerk, an follows Mr. Hapsher. Mr. Speaker, this is the third time that I rise to finish a few remarks upon the question of taking up the business of the House. After I was fairly started the first time, the Senate entered to assist in counting the votes and officially declare the result of the last election for State officers, and the second time the hour of adjournment cut me off. I have already said that, under the peculiar circumstances which we now find ourselves, I have concluded that as a matter of public policy, economy and expediency, I would vote to austain the report of the new committee which is now before us The report is ununimous, and in order to ave time and revenue, all doubts with which the question is somewhat enshrouded, and get at the business which is before us, I feel it my duty to say that in my judgment, the House had better accept the report. Two weeks time, at the rate of about three thousand dollars per day, have already been wasted upon this matter, and if the House should not adopt the report of its committee it would be difficult to tell when the legislaion of the session would begin. A House divided against itself can not stand. That is our position, while the Senate is nearly

manimous. My reasons for taking the position which

I do, are briefly these: 1st, It is public policy and for the public good that the two branches of the Legislaare should be in harmony with each other. 2nd. The precedent (as far as it goes) enablished in 1876, is against taking up un-

finished business. 3d. This is the last year in which this prestion can arise, and whichever way it is lookled it will be of no future consequence.

4th. Because the new Constitution is very vague and indefinite upon this question, and the best legal minds do not agree upon whether it would or would not be constitutional to begin where we left off; hence, to emove all doubt and cavil, we had better

begin de nom. 5th. The responsibility, if there be any, will rest upon the Senate, because the House did its full duty to go on with the unfinished business where it left off in March, 1877.

6th, Because I do not believe that the people of the Commouwealth want a deadlock between the Senate and the House upon this question, and thereby hinder and delay all business, no one can tall how long.

7th. Because a deadlock between the two branches of the Legislature would unwisely delay important business, and cost the Senate thousands of dollars.

8th. Because the Senate is nearly or quite unanimous, while the Heuse is more equally divided.

These are my reasons, and I leave them to the calm and deliberate judgment of the House whether, under the circumstances, they are not sound.

The gentleman from Northampton, [Mr. James], says, with vehemence and impetuosity, that what was a good principle last

week was equally good this week. I suppose hardly any one would deny that

proposition in the abstract. But no doubt he meant to imply that should the House adopt the report of the committee of conference it would be doing violence to its vote last week, when it adopted the concurrent resolution, which resulted in a committee of conference. To adopt the report of the committee of conference does not require any change of principal whatever, much less a change of heart. In point of fact, the resolution which the House passed last week was conditional on its face,

That it would take up unfinished business where it was left off in March, 1877, if the

Sonate concur But the gentleman from Northampton has discovered a way to get out of the difficulty, and he recommends with earnestness that the House should pass a resolution to take up unfinished business and let the Senate do what it pleases in the premises: Under the present status of the question, I think the remedy is much worse than the disease, and would breed parliamentary and constitutional objections without end, and stop all legis-

I do not believe that the House will endorse such a revolutionary recommendation. The House will not stultify itself in adopting the unanimous report of its committee of conference. On the contrary, it would be more inconsistent not to adopt it. As far as I am individually concerned I still believe that if the Senate and House could agree, it would be better to take up business where we left off. There may be others of the same frame of mind, but there is neither visdom or statesmanship in quarreling with the Senate upon a matter of so little importance, makes a continuation of his speech, and I especially when the controversy is costing the usxpayers of the State thousands of dollars each day that it lasts. It is not the kind of a quarrel which our constituents fancy. It costs them too much. Under all the circumstances of the case, the House will do itself no discredit to adopt the report before us. I am free to say that the action of the Senate upon this subject will not be likely to impress any one as being a very refined specimen of

parliamentary etiquette. I should not like to see the House imitate the example. That body passed a resolution to begin business de novo, without asking the concurrence of the House. Some may regard it unfavorably and detect therein an unpleasant twinge of bulldozing. But let us not forget that charity covers a multitude of

Mr. Speaker, it may afford the House some consolation to reflect that the Senate of Pennsylvania is composed of great and good men-men distinguished for their piety and learning. Therefore, instead of being critical and belligerent, let us look upon them with awe and admiration. If any one strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also This is high Biblical doctrine. The same venerable authority is opposed to dissensions and strife. Since all believe in this authority, and are, perhaps, more familiar with it than I am, it is not necessary to do more than call attention to it.

It is often generous to yield a point, and shows more manhood than does stuborn obstinacy.

And I desire to call the attention of those gentlemen who have made severe reflections troon the action of the committee on the part of this House to the old mlage: "That vise men frequently change their opinions, while fools never do." Our highest courts frequently change their opinions. I take it for granted that every member will obey the dictates of his own conscience in this matter and do what he feels satisfied is for the public welfare, unmoved by personal considerations, jealouslet or pride. Looking at the question from this standpoint, I shall vote in favor of adopting the report of the committee.

-The destitution in South Wales is so great that relief committees have been formed. Of the three vast iron works near Merthyre, but one is in operation, and at the core of neighboring collieries there is work but two or three days a week. The worst of the matter is that there is not even a remote prospect of improvement, and the resource formerly offered of emigration to this country

-James Munley, brother of Thomas Munley, who was hung at Pottsville for the irder of Thomas Sawyer, was discharged from Pottsville jail on Wednesday of last week. He was charged with being an accomory before the fact. The District Attorney consented to the cutering of a nolle prosequi, the evidence not being deemed sufficient to convict the prisoner. Munley has hear in jail since the first of November lasts