

### Col. Playfare.

"So you have really become smitten with that pretty little Miss Amory? Upon my word, Colonel Playfare, I was beginning to imagine that you were entirely proof against the arrows of the little blind God."

Aurora Moore spoke in playful accents, but there was very little sportiveness in the dark sparkle of her large black eyes, or the quiver of her red lip as she looked up into Colonel Playfare's face.

She was a brunette—tall, handsome and *distingue* looking, with cheeks of peachy bloom, and purple-dark hair rippling away from her olive forehead in graceful carelessness and Colonel Playfare, looking down upon her, owned to himself that Aurora was very handsome. And yet he did not feel at all disposed to fall in love with the star-eyed brunette—perhaps because his heart was already ensnared in another direction.

"And when is the wedding to be?" went on Aurora, with pretty audacity.

"Whose wedding, Miss Moore?"

"Why, yours, with Bertha Amory?"

"I am quite aware of any such arrangements."

"Ah, then popular rumor is at fault?"

He smiled.

"First tell me, Miss Aurora, what popular rumor says."

"That you are very much in love with Bertha's violet-blue eyes and au burn hair."

"Miss Amory is very beautiful," he said evasively.

"But you're not engaged to her? Really, Colonel Playfare, that is such a relief to my mind!"

"I am too much honored by Miss Moore's interest."

"No," said Aurora, winningly laying one white hand on Colonel Playfare's arm, "but please allow me to explain. You know the sisterly feeling I have felt toward you?"

Playfare bowed coldly, there was certainly something more than sisterly in the soft brightness of the midnight dark eyes that was looking into his.

"And although Bertha Amory seems so innocent and ingenuous, she is very far from the person I should wish to see your wife."

"Miss Moore, this is rather a vague accusation to make."

"In plain words, then, Colonel Playfare, she is selfish, deceitful, and treacherous!"

Philip Playfare's swarthy cheek had paled, he bit his lip until the blood started. Had Aurora Moore been a man he would have promptly knocked him down, then and there; as she was only a beautiful woman, fair and fragile as a butterfly, he sat still like a carved statue.

"Do not imagine that I judge rashly," she said without taking her white hand from his arm. "Only I am too much interested in your welfare longer to preserve silence."

"What proofs have you to allege, Miss Moore?"

"You are aware of her father's extreme poverty, and that Bertha gives music lessons to help in defraying the household expenses?"

"I know that Mr. Amory struggles hard to obtain a livelihood."

"Under those circumstances it is certainly advisable for Bertha to adapt her dress to the family funds."

"She does, I believe."

"I beg your pardon, Colonel Playfare, I saw her at Mrs. Moodie's last night, with a three hundred dollar silk robe on, and a set of pearls that must have cost three hundred more at the very least."

"Surely you are mistaken, Miss Moore. Mr. Amory is very heavily in debt, and it would scarcely be likely."

"Of course no, but did I not tell you that she was selfish and treacherous. Poor Mr. Amory! to say nothing of her reckless disregard for the feelings of his creditors, it must have deprived the family of many necessities to enable her to shine in silks and jewels!"

And Aurora heaved a graceful sigh. Philip Playfare sat silent with a painful feeling at his heart. If Bertha Amory was selfish and heartless, in whom could he put his trust? And while Aurora prattled on, at his side, he was silently burying away in the innermost depths of his nature the

love that had grown up so strong and tender during the last few weeks.

"You will be sure to come?" were the first words that reached his ear in anything like coherent shape.

He started.

"I beg your pardon, Miss Moore; what were you asking me?"

Aurora broke into a little peal of musical laughter.

"Only to honor mamma and me with your presence at our soiree next Monday night."

"Thank you; but I shall leave for Europe on Saturday."

Aurora started and the roses died away from the satiny olive of her round cheek. She had only intended to wile Philip Playfare away from Miss Amory, not to banish him from the beguiling influence of her own charms.

"Surely you will not leave us so suddenly?"

"My mind is definitely made up."

And Aurora saw no persuasion from her lips would avail to alter his determination. Unfortunately she had overshot the mark.

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"Going! Harry you must be mistaken."

"I am not mistaken, Bertha," said the boy, resolutely. "I saw his name myself on the list of passengers on the ships book. 'Philip Morton Playfare.' He's going out in the *Sidonia*, as true as the world."

And little Harry Amory, who was errand lad in a shipping establishment ran off to his dinner, leaving Bertha as white and motionless as a corpse.

"Going to leave me!" And the blood rushed to her cheek, and brow, and throat. "After all this is unmaidenly of me—he has never spoken out his love in words, and—"

But just then pretty Bertha broke down and sobbed and wept as if her heart were broken. Could Aurora have seen her unconscious rival just then she would have triumphed indeed.

Philip Playfare was walking up and down the ships deck wrapped in his furlined mantle, when a burly old gentleman came up to him with an outstretched hand.

"Colonel Playfare?"

"Yes sir."

"Happy to meet you sir—happy to learn that we are to be fellow passengers. I suppose you are the same Colonel Playfare that I have heard my brother John Amory speak of. I am Roger Amory, sir."

"Indeed."

"A very interesting family; that of my brother, sir," went on the loquacious old gentleman; "but Bertha's my favorite. Pretty girl isn't she?"

"Very sir."

"And the sweetest self-denying little puss! She just sacrifices herself to the welfare of the rest of the family, sir. Do you believe that while I was there last week she was invited to a big party given by some woman or other—Mrs. Moodie, I believe, was the name—and she was going to stay at home just because she wouldn't tax her father for money to buy a dress. And so sir, I went down town and got her a dress, and a set of pearls besides to remember her old uncle by. What's the use of money to an old fellow like me, if it can't help to make my little niece happy? But hallo! where are you going? Don't you know the ship sails in less than fifteen minutes?"

Philip Playfare's cheek was flushed and his eyes brilliant.

"I—I have decided not to sail in the *Sadonia*."

"But your passage money is paid."

"I don't care a fig for my passage money!"

And Colonel Playfare just reached the ladder in time to be the last passenger that went ashore from the goody steamer *Sidonia*.

On Monday evening Miss Aurora was much surprised by the appearance of Colonel Playfare at the soiree—nor was he alone.

"My dear colonel, I thought you were gone to Europe."

"No, I concluded instead to remain in New York and get married."

"Married?"

"Allow me to introduce my wife."

And Aurora mechanically bowed to the lovely golden-haired girl who was leaning on Philip's arm, in a soft mist of white lace and glimmering satin; while round her fair neck shone the identical pearls on whose foundation

Aurora Moore had raised up such a tissue of falsehood.

Truth had prevailed, and golden-haired Bertha was serenely happy in her bride-hood.

It is excellent for any stock. If fed to cows or horses, with cut straw it will do no injury, but rather good, as it helps to counteract the too constipating character of the less nutritious food.

Baked Cucumbers, prepare the cucumbers, chop them fine with a small onion; put them on with a very little water and stew for ten minutes. Prepare a rich dressing as for poultry of bread crumbs with herbs and yolk of eggs; pour off all the water from the cucumbers; add the dressing and one teaspoonful of butter and bake in a deep dish.

The best ground for a peach orchard is a light sandy soil that has been planted for several years with general crops. Do not plant on ground rich enough to produce onions, peas, spinach or lettuce, for trees will be liable to make a late autumnal growth and produce unripe wood that will be winter-killed.

In Europe dairy schools are being established, at which boys and girls are given both a theoretical and practical knowledge of milking and manufacturing butter and cheese, as well as familiarized with a knowledge of the breeds of stock and their characteristics. The schools are imparting great benefit wherever established.

One of the most troublesome insects in hot weather, is the so called red spider of the greenhouse. It is especially bad upon pear trees, causing the foliage to turn brown. Syringe with soft soap suds, stirring a little kerosene into the soap before adding the water.

To make plum pudding, take one pound of raisins chopped fine, one pound of currents, one pound of minced suet freed from skin, one pound of sugar, half a pound of bread crumbs a scant half-pound of flour, two ounces candied peel and a half of nutmeg grated. Mix well together with seven well beaten eggs and boil for eight hours.

LIVER SALAD.—Chop finely cold baked liver, put in a frying pan with half a cup of vinegar; add butter, salt and pepper. Stew five minutes. Serve hot.

SALTED HERRINGS.—Freshen placed in a baking dish; cover with milk and bake. When cold pick to pieces and add an equal quantity of mashed potatoes; make into small flat cakes, flour both sides and fry brown.

"Are you a philanthropist, sir?" asked an old gentleman of a young man who was distributing a quantity of butter-scotch to some little children in Washington Square. "Am I a what? said the young man. "A philanthropist?" "No sir, I am a dentist,"—Puck.

Mistress of the house.—Why are you idling about the kitchen in this way, Patrick? Surely you have taken out the ashes by this time." Pat.—Sure mum, they was that hot that I was mortal feared as phwat the temp'er wad be took out av the shovil, so I am coolin' it aff airy loike.

A Waterbury gentleman was surprised while out for a drive on the Wolcott road recently by the conduct of a boy whom he asked to ride. The boy refused obstinately, and when prevailed upon for a reason said he expected a whipping when he got home and was in no hurry.—Waterbury American.

A poor place: Mistress to new—"I hope you are satisfied with your place?" New help—Satisfied is it, mum, yes axes? Och, thin, divil a bit, is me answer. I can't afford to sthly in a place who has no credit widd the grocer, and me ould mother and four sisters dependa on me for food."—Judge.

School teacher.—"Now, master Thompson, tell me the denominations into which the money of the United States is coined." master Thompson—"Don't know." School teacher—"Don't you know how the money your father, brings home every Saturday is divided?" Master Thompson—"Tain't divided. Ma takes it all."

THIRTEEN PETRIFIED MEN.

Remarkable Discovery in a cave at Akron Ohio.—While T. Bowman, residing about three miles north of Akron, Ohio, was the other day engaged in setting posts he was greatly

surprised to see a post with which he was "packing" the bottom of the hole break through and disappear from sight. He took his spade and dug into the earth, which after a few minutes, suddenly opened, disclosing a cave. He at once procured a ladder and a lantern and descended into the cave. Here he beheld stretched on the ground the forms of twelve men, while the thirteenth leaned against the side of the cavern. One hand outstretched as if earnestly addressing his twelve comrades. By the aid of this lantern Mr. Bowman examined the bodies and found the man to be petrified. He soon made his exit and spread the news, and up to the present time hundreds of persons have visited the spot. All pronounce the scene the most wonderful and unaccountable ever witnessed. Mr. Bowman is placing a stairway into the cave, which is to be kept lighted, and it is his intention to charge for admittance. The cave is about 20 feet square and about 9 feet deep.—Much speculation is being engaged in about the strange discovery and excitement is running high in the neighborhood of Akron.

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