

HEATHER BELL.

Her eyes are like the heather on the Norland hills a-blow, and her curving tips of laughter like a berry in the snow.

THE MASKED ROBBER.

BY MATILDA A. WOODCOCK.



NEW YEAR EVE had again come, and, as usual, a large party of us young people were invited to see the old year out at my uncle's country seat.

There is always one story which comes to me on New Year Eve and seems peculiarly appropriate to that time, although it is not a joyful one.

When I was sixteen, my mother died, and soon after her death my father sold our old home, and removed to a large farm.

One afternoon in June, when we had been living on the farm two years, I was sitting on the porch reading a novel and crying over the sad fate of the heroine.

Just then my father came up, and, having heard Lake's story, said that the man should be brought at once to our house.

Our pretty spare room, with its fresh matting and Swiss curtains, was the one which I selected for him.

It was many weeks before he was able to move from his bed, but between the doctor's skill and our careful nursing he slowly regained his strength.

choicest from our garden for John's room. I was perfectly delighted when he one day told me that my cheeks put the roses to shame.

At last I felt that John loved me. I never moved that his eyes did not follow every motion, and how the light came into his eyes when I returned to him after some short absence!

The weeks glided by. John had recovered and would soon leave us, yet he had not spoken of his love; but after a while the words came.

It was one which had been handed down through several generations to John. He had always worn it on his little finger.

At last, it came to my father's knowledge, and in one of his fits of fury at the weakness and loathsomeness of my lover, he literally kicked John out of the house.

After this, my health gradually gave way, and our physician advised my father to take me to Europe, which he did.

One morning, at my cousin's suggestion, we walked over to the picturesque old churchyard. We strolled in and out among the graves; stopping now and then to read the quaint inscriptions.

My bedroom was large and had four windows. Two of them opened on the piazza, and two on a beautiful green terrace.

My dressing-table stood between the piazza-windows, and on it was my jewel-casket, containing all my diamonds, and several other valuable articles of jewelry.

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It was many weeks before he was able to move from his bed, but between the doctor's skill and our careful nursing he slowly regained his strength.

Remember, my dears, in those days your white-headed old aunt was young and romantic, and a man far less fascinating and handsome than John Graham under such circumstances might have turned my silly head.

I confess to you that my head was wholly turned, my heart entirely given away to this stranger. For weeks I was hands and feet to him.

Never a wish was uttered by him that, were it in my power, I did not gratify. He was very fond of roses, and early every morning I would gather the

toward me. Certainly this time he would take my life, and I prayed God it might be done quickly; but, no! I must suffer still more.

When I again opened my eyes, the bright light was streaming through the blinds. At first, I had only a vague remembrance of what seemed to me a dreiful nightmare, but gradually the whole scene of the night before came clearly to my mind and a terror seized me.

The subject of the masked robber was never mentioned until my health was fully restored. One day I was in my boudoir, idly lounging, when my husband came in, and, seating himself on the sofa by my side, took a small piece of paper from his pocket-book.

It looked like the fly-leaf of a book, and was covered with writing in lead pencil. He handed it to me, saying, "I think, little woman, you are strong enough to read this."

It was as follows: "I have come here to-night with a band of robbers intending to steal and, if necessary, to murder. While taking the jewels from your casket, I came across a ring. That ring saved you. I looked upon your face and a flood of recollections came over me. You need never fear. I love you still."

So the mystery was solved, and the robber, who had robbed me of nothing, saved my old lover. You may try to search him out but in vain, and it was not until many years after that I had been invited to spend a few days with some relatives of my husband's, in the western part of New York State, I again heard of John Graham.

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Two Bills Alike. Young Henry Miller, of New York, got a bonanza when he was paid off the other day. His wages were given to him in the shape of light new \$5 bills.

Now it is time to apply manure to blackberries, currants, raspberries and other small fruits. It should be scattered broadcast at the roots of these plants, which should run over considerable territory.

Rolling or hilly land is the best situation for the poultry-house. Sandy and gravelly soils are also to be preferred.

Cocks should not be kept in the pen with the layers, as an egg-producing diet will fatten them and ruin them as breeders.

The Dorking is the most popular fowl in England. There are three varieties—the colored, the silver-gray and the white.

The moth miller is a much to be dreaded enemy of the bees, but if the stock is kept strong they will not allow it to deposit its eggs on the comb.



TO ESTIMATE HEIGHT.

To estimate the height a colt will grow to: Take a colt at any time between six weeks and one year, put him on a level surface so that he will stand naturally, then measure the distance from the hair of the hoof to his knee joint, and for every inch or fraction thereof he measures he will be hands fifteen inches, he will be fifteen hands high; if 15 1/2 inches, he will be 15 1/2 hands high, and so on.—New York World.

HOW TO FEED MEAL TO A COW.

The best way to feed meal to a cow is to cut hay and wet it only as much as to make the meal adhere to it, and mix this with it, adding a small handful of salt with each feed. The meal is then more completely digested than if it were given by itself, in which case it is apt to pass on to the third stomach and miss the rumination, which is necessary to the perfect digestion of a cow's food.

GREEN FEED AND PURE AIR FOR POULTRY. It should never be forgotten that poultry need some kind of green food at all seasons of the year. In winter there can be given them cabbages, chopped onions, or turnips, occasionally varying this diet with short leaved dandelion hay.

THE SEASON OF SELECTING THE PLACE FOR THE HOTBEDS AND COLD-FRAMES FOR STARTING early seeds should not be postponed any longer. It takes some time to make the beds and fill them with the right soil.

WATER-CRESS CULTIVATION. In answer to inquiries, the Farmers' Voice gives the following directions for growing water-cress: Water-cress requires a clear running stream and a gravelly soil.

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Signs of Eighteen Nine is four. The old saying: "A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard" is often verified, and it further says, that the year will bring forth much sickness, wherein pains and aches, rheumatic complaints, soreness of joints and limbs will abound.

How's This! We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

216 Bus. S. lbs. Oats From One Bus. Seed. This remarkable, almost unheard-of, yield was reported to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., by Frank Winter, of Montana, who planted one bushel of Great Northern Oats, carefully tilled and irrigated same, and believes that in 1886 he can grow from one bushel of Great Northern Oats three hundred bushels.

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Why so hoarse? Use Hatch's Universal Cough Syrup. 25 cents at druggists. A wonderful stomach corrector—Beecham's Pills. Beecham's—no others. 25 cents a box.

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"German Syrup" I simply state that I am Druggist and Postmaster here and am therefore in a position to judge. I have tried many Cough Syrups but for ten years past have found nothing equal to Boschee's German Syrup.

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"MOTHER'S FRIEND" is the greatest offered child-bearing woman. I have been a mid-wife for many years, and in each case where "Mother's Friend" had been used it has accomplished wonders and relieved much suffering.

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