

AN ENGAGEMENT.

By SIR ROBERT PEEL.

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SYNOPSIS.

Arnold Hopeham, a clerk on a small salary in the foreign office at London, is engaged to be married to handsome Bella Carstairs, who, with her mother, is obliged to keep up appearances in very reduced circumstances. Bella believes that she loves Arnold, but is unwilling to marry him until he gets a more lucrative position, which his influential uncle, Lord Drillingham, has promised to obtain for him. Lord Drillingham neglects the matter, and Arnold proposes to Bella that he and his cousin Kate, Lord Drillingham's daughter, pretend to be engaged, with the idea of increasing his uncle's interest in obtaining an appointment. She consents, and he goes down to Decourt to arrange the matter with Kate. Kate agrees, Drillingham approves of the engagement, and bestirs himself about the appointment. He obtains a position of an important position in Canada, but Bella refuses to go to Canada. Kate calls on Bella and endeavors to persuade her, but in vain.

PART IV.

One must not play with love. The old adage has told us so, and Kate Drillingham at least had proved its truth by her own experience. Perhaps she had a slight penchant for her cousin before the farce had begun, but at any rate the performance of it had done serious damage. The interview at Hanstead had shown her the fact beyond the possibility of any further self-deception, and she knew that Drillingham's knowledge now—the motive of her recent anxiety to see Arnold and Miss Carstairs quickly married.

Well, the young lady, the devoted Bella, was less anxious. That was perfectly evident. She was not disposed to make anything even faintly resembling a sacrifice for the sake of the man to whom she was engaged. "Then," said Miss Drillingham, "why should I make one for her? I will not! I am going to see Arnold with my own eyes, and if you had been a man, you should lead to his falling in love with me and telling me so, he will receive an answer very different from the one he would have received from me. I consider I am perfectly justified. I

"I shall win, I shall beat you yet," would express my feelings for the sake of that vulgar piece of modern nonsense—that is what she looks like! I will fight with myself, I won't be cool towards him when I don't want to be! It is a duel between us two, Miss Bella Carstairs; you have the advantage up to the present, for he is silly enough to care for you, but I shall win and I will beat you yet!"

The writer is not sure that she was wrong, but wrong or right, it can only be recorded that she followed the programme she had laid down for herself to the letter. Her skillful, oh yes, skillfully! She was far too much grande dame. Miss Drillingham, to fight openly, or to encourage with consciousness. Hopeham never able to say that he had changed which occurred between them began at any particular hour, or even on any particular day. He only realized by degrees that a change had come. And it was difficult to define what the change was, well perhaps for Kate, for she would have scorned to disparage her to him, however artfully. Perhaps also they did not refer so frequently to their mock betrothal—the jesting allusions to it were absent from their conversations now, but still it was hard to express the new difference in words; he merely realized that they talked together more like any other man and woman who are seeing a lot of each other, for example, he could not have told her today that she made him think of her as a "chum"—a jolly good fellow. He remembered that he had said that once, and wondered why he did not think so still.

Not that she was any the less agreeable—far from it. He had never liked her so much, never before known she was so charming, so graceful, so witty. She had not mentioned her fatal visit to the Carstairs to him, and when he heard of it, it was a fortnight afterwards, and from Bella herself. He received the news with complex emotions. Euphemistically as the interview was described, he was intelligent enough to comprehend that his cousin could not have an opinion in it altogether favorable to his fiancée, and this view was confirmed, moreover, by the silence she had maintained on the subject.

It had been very tactful of her, very nice, to have said nothing to him. Another woman would have said: "I went to enquire for your father's interests, and the girl would not listen to me." Of course Bella was helpless in the matter—it was her mother's influence that was to blame—but Kate could not be expected to know what, and she had certainly displayed great delicacy towards him.

Next time he saw her he thanked her for it. "By the way," he said, "I did not know of your visit to Mrs. Carstairs and Bella till the other day. It was awfully good of you, Kate. I am sorry you should have had the trouble—and for nothing."

He knew that this was a gracious falsehood, but, man-like, he continued the subject, instead of allowing it to drop. "But you never told me of your call," he said. "I had no idea you had been there."

"Didn't I?" she said; "I meant to." Both paused and looked through the window at the lawn. "What do you think of her?" he asked.

"She is very delightful, very pretty—it is very impossible to say less—I congratulate you heartily," Drillingham said. But her tone lacked heartiness, and he felt. She had formed a wrong estimate of Bella; he must justify the girl at once.

"Oh, I saw that, naturally." "No, no," put in Hopeham. "I'm sure you wouldn't; but of course your view is different under the circumstances. I mean there is not the necessity for you to weigh all the pros and cons carefully, is there? If you had been the man to whom she was engaged, you would be expected to do so as it is."

"I believe you would have gone," he murmured. "I beg your pardon? If you had cared for me, I believe you would have gone, Kate."

"She neither acknowledged nor denied," "Thank you," she said; "but don't let us discuss that. I'm indeed I can't say; I am not in love with you, and you are many miles from being in love with me."

"What do you wonder?" she murmured. "I was going to say a stupid thing. I was going to say that it was fortunate for my peace of mind that I did not see more of you before I became engaged."

"She smiled pensively. "And why?" "Really why?" "Yes, really. We ought to be able to speak frankly to each other if any two people can."

"Then because I might have been so profoundly unkindly as to want to marry you, Kate?" "Madman! you are laughing at me."

penalty is \$20 and costs or ten days' imprisonment, and as the man had no money, he was sent to jail for the short term.

The South Carolina Constitutional convention has passed a section prohibiting railroads from making "released" contract rates, an action which shows a strangely unfriendly attitude toward the higher rates now upon which the prosperity of the state depends.

The Western association has issued a circular prohibiting depot authorities in St. Paul and Minneapolis from checking baggage, selling sleeping car tickets or the allowance of passengers to go through the gates to trains on so-called identification cards or any other device except regular passenger tickets.

When the Lehigh Valley was first surveyed through the eastern part of Le Roy and Wheatland, the surveyors were apparently allowed to do nothing except to keep the grade down to twenty-two feet per mile. To accomplish this they made a series of remarkable curves that commence on the east bank of the Cataraugus at North Le Roy. Down through the North Woods the tracks swing around like the path of a snake. Now, it appears that the Lehigh Valley will put on some very fast passenger trains, which do not take kindly to heavy curves, so the company is going to straighten the tracks beginning at the Cataraugus and continuing east about six miles. To do this, the Le Roy Gazette says, they will lay another track toward the north and purchase the adjoining farms, lands which will amount to a considerable acreage.—Exchange.

Mine Inspector McDonald, of the Third (Pittston) Anthracite district, has compiled the statistics of accidents that have occurred in the mines in his district during the year 1895, and he finds it to have been a very bad year for accidents. There were in all 67 fatal accidents, and 767 non-fatal accidents, while the year before there were 46 fatal accidents and 148 non-fatal. The number of accidents occurring in each of the months of the year was as follows:

Month	Fatal	Non-fatal
January	11	11
February	13	15
March	15	17
April	6	11
May	11	13
June	4	7
July	8	21
August	11	13
September	8	14
October	6	18
November	10	15
December	10	15

Anthracite briquettes have heretofore failed as fuel, because the material has never been used in a satisfactory manner. According to the invention of W. H. Biggs and R. R. Greenhow, of Glanmorgan, Scotland, anthracite small coal (tumble) is passed through a disintegrator which will deliver it in such a condition that it will pass through a sieve of at least twenty wires per linear inch, a finer condition being preferable. It is then mixed with steam and water of equally finely powdered pitch, and the mixture is passed on to a pugmill, wherein (say) 6 per cent. of coal tar or other liquid hydro-carbon is incorporated with the mass. The mixture prepared in this way is heated by superheated steam and compressed into briquette moulds at a pressure of about 5000 pounds per square inch. If it be desired to render the briquettes smokeless, they may be gradually heated to about 500 degrees C. It is claimed for these briquettes that they are not deteriorated by rain, and that they are hard enough to bear tipping from a wagon or from sacks.

Binghamton Herald: It is stated on reliable authority that at a recent meeting of the directors of the Delaware and Hudson it was voted that the division between Nineveh Junction and Delanson be made double track at once, and a sufficient sum be appropriated to carry out the project. The work ordered completed at an early date. This will be indeed good news to the railroad men, who appreciate the fact that the trains can be hurried over the route much more rapidly where the entire division is double tracked. The small portion between this city and Nineveh Junction is to be double tracked, and comes from the Pennsylvania division, and all of the Boston freight leaves at Delanson for Mechanicsville. The portion between Delanson and Albany has practically been double tracked, and the improvement is one of the most important ever made by the company.

Reading's coal shipments for the week ended Jan. 4 aggregated 236,239 tons, an increase over the same week last year of 41,640 tons. For the fiscal year to date, the total tonnage shipped amounted to 1,251,929 tons, an increase over the corresponding period last year of 232,311 tons.

Chicago Live Stock. From the Milwaukee Wisconsin. At a good auction in the city yesterday afternoon, while a knot of attorneys were consulting the portraits of prominent Milwaukeeans in a recent work on Milwaukee. Mr. Merrill's likeness was recognized by the crowd, and several relating anecdotes concerning the railroad builder, told of the trouble he had with a certain conductor on the St. Paul road.

THE WORLD OF BUSINESS.

Wall Street Review. New York, Jan. 8.—Wall street was quiet today and a more confident tone characterized the dealings. Prices were exceptionally advanced quickly in response to buying orders, and the supply of stocks was small. The highest quotations were upon small that feature of the speculation: to comment, London was a buyer of St. Paul and Louisville and Nashville 1 cover shorts put out during the Venetian cover scare, and on the announcement of the popular bond loan. Fair more support and, however, in bringing about the restoration of confidence among stock traders, however. Was the general impression that the big bankers and the treasury department whereby the gold reserve was strengthened in case of a rail. This is the following to sustain this. The treasury department had re-assured effect. Minor factors at work were the change of the rate of sterling exchange, the directors of the Delaware and Hudson Company, the comparative dividend of 7 per cent. during 1895, and the light withdrawal of money on call, and the light withdrawal of gold from the market. The refusal of the clearing house bank to open special gold accounts with clearing banks, the increase in favor of higher prices, the comparative dividend of 7 per cent. during 1895, and the light withdrawal of money on call, and the light withdrawal of gold from the market. The refusal of the clearing house bank to open special gold accounts with clearing banks, the increase in favor of higher prices, the comparative dividend of 7 per cent. during 1895, and the light withdrawal of money on call, and the light withdrawal of gold from the market. 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