

The way Mattie cured her "Better Half" of Smoking.

A wild girl was Mattie Lee. I knew her when she was fifteen; she was the first in every flock, a favorite with the master, yet the scholar who, often after that of the right, caused a shade to rest upon his brow.

So she heard the street door open, and a well known footstep in the hall below. Quickly lighted the match, she applied it to the sweet scented herb in the pipe, rested herself, and when her husband entered, sat quietly by the stove, wreaths of blue smoke curling gracefully over her head, which was thrown back in that peculiar position of enjoyment which gentlemen assume while inhaling the weed.

Each particular hair of Richard's head seemed to stand on end, in contemplating the tale unfolded by that word habit. The only outward manifestation he made of the state of his feelings, was an emphatic "Impossible!" accompanied by a look of alarm.

"Why, my dear sir, I had acquired the habit lately, I should only have been trading in your footsteps, thereby showing my willingness to be guided, as a dutiful wife should be, by the inclinations of my husband, and a laudible design to consult in all things his taste; but I have no such commendable motives to offer. I was influenced wholly by a desire to please myself. I used to think before we married that if I gave up smoking, I should let you know it had been done, but since I have found how much it adds to your enjoyment, and you have told me so often how much your pleasures are heightened by being shared by me, I have almost concluded it my duty to continue it. How delightful it will be to sit together during the long winter evenings, and thus taste the thoughts of social intercourse. Come, sit down; I have here a cigar in readiness for you; I prefer the old-fashioned pipe."

"By this time Richard's brain was well lighted. "It cannot be possible that my wife would so degrade herself," he at length exclaimed. "Why, Richard, it seems to me that you are making a great ado about a small matter. I do not think it so dreadful to enjoy a harmless, innocent pipe, here in my room, occasionally, when no one can possibly know of it and yourself. Besides, if there is any degradation in the pretense of giving up smoking, I am only going down to a level with my husband. You expect me to love you, notwithstanding the habit, why not vice versa? And if I take you to my feelings towards me, I care not what others think; and Mattie now looked up in his face with such an expression of veneration for him and all his actions, that he almost laughed, annoyed as he felt."

"Come, Mattie," said he more pleasantly than he had yet spoken, "let us make an agreement. If you give up smoking, I will give up the cigar for a week, and then give it up entirely. What do you say?" "I do not see why I should not have the same privilege as yourself," said Mattie, pretending to be offended; "it is probably quite as difficult for me to give up a long established habit," then, after a moment's consideration, she added, "However, since I consider that profligate in your eyes, an acknowledgment of my profligate in your eyes, a woman's will over that of the stronger sex, I will accede to your proposition."

If Richard ever smoked to "one cigar a day for a week," Mattie never knew of it. On that eventful night he had "seen himself as others saw him, and with the right vanished forever his love of smoking."

The Secret of Mormon Desertions. It is so happened that a party of returned Mormons, comprising nearly two hundred, were grouped at the foot of a hill, waiting for a ferry, over 40 families of them collected, with their oxen by their side, around their camp fire.

Thousands escape in this way without either food or attire suitable for the boisterous journey they are to undertake. One very boisterous instance occurred in connection with the party whom we met at the ferry at the mouth of Platte. A Frenchman and his wife, learning when they reached the Salt Lake what was the real character of the community which they had travelled so far to see, and surrounded with only a blanket and a few loaves of bread. Their sufferings in crossing the mountains were painful to the last degree.

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