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THE OLD DAYS.
Old friends, old comrades, here's a health
A cup of greeting to you all,
Where'er the evening shades of life
Around your faithful spirits fall,
A hand to you, and a health to you,
And golden memory's wealth to you,
For the old days,
For the old, care-free days.

I scarce can think those days are gone—
And yet like dreams, they are no more,
And one by one your faces, friends,
Are turning toward the other shore.
They have to you, and bade farewell to you!
And the cups shall clink a knell to you
For the old days,
For the old, care-free days.

How few of us will ever meet
Again this side the narrow stream!
And even if our hands could touch,
We'd seem like figures in a dream.
It's youth, sweet youth, good-by to you!
We are ghosts that cry to you
For the old days,
For the old, care-free days.

Sit quiet, friends, and think it o'er,
Aye, think how sweet the old days were
Seek not, weep not; take memory;
Let's have a loving cup with her,
A cup with her, and a song with her,
And a sitting still and long with her,
For the old days,
For the old, care-free days.

James Buckham, in Munsey's Magazine.

purchase one of Marcel's motor-clocks. It will cost you guineas. That's all."

"Heavens!" he gasped. His cigar had dropped—also his jaw. "How—however much would you take for the patent?"

"Ten thousand pounds down, and a florin royalty on every clock sold." I leaned across, afraid to hesitate now. "But mind, this is in strictest confidence, because it's very possible again, that when I leave here I may ask you to let me take Netta—as my wife. There!"

It was out. And Baldwin—he could not have even suspected; he sat staring and incredulous for a time, and then swayed up unsteadily.

"Well! How queer—Netta again? Let her go? I couldn't; what on earth should I do without . . . You're rich, and you want my wife? I—I dare't think now, Marcel; let it wait a bit. No, no, don't see her yet. Shake hands—yes, indeed! Heavens, I sha'n't sleep this night!"

I went out, leaving him standing so. That kitchen door was closed; but I fancied—I was sure—I heard a suppressed sob in there. Should I—no, presently she would be bringing up my supper, and then! Back to my room in a whirl I went, and sat down for the thousandth time to compare those precious calculations. Why, yes, the simple idea was perfect; the uncoupling of the one spring implied the tightening of the second, and so the motor-bar was bound to revolve. My last valuable must go to obtain the preliminary fees, but that . . . The softest tap.

"Your supper, Mr. Marcel—and good night!"

I stumbled to the door. Netta—she had placed the tray on the floor. I caught just a glimpse of her dress whisking round the staircase below. Ah, then, she knew there was something in the air that night! She was nervous—fluttered; the very cocoon seemed to have been spoilt in the making—for the first time. I slipped it, and then sat thinking wildly again. Tick-tick, went my darling clock over there. Now—was it wavering? No, no—only my poor, tired brain. The reaction was setting in, of course. To bed! Tomorrow. A clear brain, at any price!

I must have fallen asleep before I touched the pillow. Sunshine was streaming in when, partly dressed, I sat up—sat up with a vague but terrible sensation as of something being wrong. The time? The time—I looked across to that bench, gave a half scream—and then my heart seemed to become still.

My clock was—not there!

What did I do first? I hardly know; something had seemed to snap in my brain as I struggled to realize. Gone—stolen while I slept! My table of calculations—gone too. I had left it beside the model. . . . Lamont! The flash-thought sent me reeling. His manner—his jealousy—his hint at theft! Dazed, I only knew there was a nameless thing in my mind as I stepped out on to the landing and listened. The hands of the clock there pointed to seven, and Lamont left for his work at eight. He would swear to his innocence; I would simply hold him by the throat while I crushed open his box. . . . I opened his door quietly. Lamont was not there. I started round for his trunk. It was gone.

I felt my way down the stairs again like a man suddenly blinded. At the foot I met Baldwin, our landlord, and clutched his arm. Just one tense whisper: "Lamont—that man?"

"Goodness, Mr. Marcel, what's the matter? . . . Lamont? Why, he's gone—came down here an hour ago, woke me and gave me a week's money instead of notice, and left the house without another word."

A month had passed—a terrible month that I lived through in alternate fits of madness and spells of dumb stupor. One day I would tramp the streets with eyes strained for a sight of the man who had ruined my life; the next, I would sit huddled over that empty bench, seeing no one, speaking to no one. At times there would come that soft tap at the door, and Netta's whisper that she had something to tell me; then her father would call me from the stairs; but I never answered either—my interest in life was suspended.

A month; and then, one never-to-be-forgotten evening, a still stranger thing happened. Sitting there so, I heard heavy footsteps outside, and next a peremptory knock. Before I could stir, two men had walked in. I know that then I sprang up with a choke of incredulous passion. One man was a stranger to me; the other—Lamont! He had folded his arms; he could speak coolly, sneeringly.

"So you think I made off with your precious invention, Mr. Marcel? Stand still—wait! I might have done—it should have been justified, considering that it was you who robbed me of the one woman I'm ever likely to love or want. No matter! Shall I tell you why I went from this house as I did? Can you believe me?"

Speak I could not. The very world seemed to have stopped turning.

"I wanted Netta—and you were too blind and busy to see it. Her father had said: 'Netta's husband must have £500 of his own. She will never marry without my consent.' Very well; for long enough I sweated and starved for that. I own that I lent you money from time to time just to keep you buried in what I considered a fool's dream. I knew she cared for you most, if any man; but that you would never think of a wife while your problem remained a problem. That night, sir, when you told me you had solved it, I knew the crisis had come for both I forestalled you. I went straight to Baldwin. I got leave to speak to Netta—she refused me point-blank. There were high words. I offered to buy the house and make it over to her; but no. Finally she locked herself in the kitchen. I haven't a chagrined I told Baldwin I should pack my box and go back to France

the next morning—he might let her think I had committed suicide—anything he liked. I kept to that; I left the house as soon as daylight came. But you have accused me; it shall be thrashed out. This gentleman will see to that."

The other man cleared his throat. Now I saw that he had kept his back against the door.

"Mr. Marcel, I'm a detective. Rather curious information was quietly brought to us by Miss Baldwin in the day following the theft. Your invention had been stolen by a man named Pierre Lamont, and you were too prostrated yourself to take any sensible steps. We were to get back the article intact without making an arrest, if possible, and she would settle expenses and—"

"Miss—Baldwin!" I whispered, a hand to my aching brain. What were they saying? Netta—Netta had done this for me, while I had sat stupidly crushed and inactive!

"Sh! Miss Baldwin—the young lady who let us in just now. I was told off. I went to work, and ran across my man here three weeks ago—he had not gone so far, after all. He told me something that put me on another scent altogether. You'll be rather surprised, if nothing more. It stood to reason that the thief, if he meant business, would never attempt to patent the affair here, or in his own name either. I made inquiries, and yesterday, sure enough, word came to hand that a shady agent, well known to the police, was forming a syndicate in Berlin to put your clock exclusively on the market there, keeping himself well in the background in London. I shadowed him for just two hours, and then I saw him in confab with the man we wanted—the man who, as it happened, Lamont here saw creeping down this staircase at five a. m. on the day of the theft—with your invention under his arm, no doubt. Lamont thought little of it, but there's no doubt the thief had his notion as to where the blame would be sure to lie next morning. Now!" He lowered his voice a note. "Er—Mr. Marcel, it is rather unfortunate that the man who stole your brainwork should be the father of the girl who thoughtfully put us up to the job!"

"Baldwin!" I got out, with a husky quiver. For me, the room was spinning round; one dear face looked imploringly at me out of a mist. Baldwin's father! . . . The cocoon that might—drugged by himself! "Aye! I fancy it's not altogether his first attempt at shady work, either. We shall see. I've a warrant here for both of them, and—but you'll have your clock back, sir, with a grand advertisement, in a few days; and I hope you won't forget me. . . . Baldwin's out, the girl says, but he'll be back in a few minutes. She knows nothing, of course, and you'll like to avoid a fuss, I know. I shall have him as he steps in. If the master hadn't gone so far—"

Faint, thrilling scream from behind the door. He threw it back, and there stood Netta. She had heard all—saw what she had done in her loving desire to help me—her face told it. White, wide-eyed, her shaking hands put out, she stood there—a picture to go to a man's heart and print itself there for ever . . . and just at that moment, to complete the unnerving tragedy of the situation, we heard the turn of a key in the hall-door below. Merciful heavens! I know I stood dumbed and thrilled as much by the nameless suspense as by the incredible thought that my life's triumph was within reach again. Baldwin? Yes, and he was going down the passage.

What really happened? It seemed afterwards like some dream. The detective took a step. Another pitiful effort—I could never forget it. Netta's arms barred the way.

"Dad! Dad! Go—go, for your life! You know! . . . Sirs, you dare not! Mr. Marcel, you couldn't—oh, for love of me, you'll never let them take him!"

And I—no! All the blood seemed to take life in me again as Netta's prayer sank into me. For love of her! her own father! It all happened in an indescribable minute; there was a rush in the passage below, and simultaneously I must have thrown both arms about the detective's waist, and held him fast. In that wild moment of revulsion I thought of nothing but sparing Netta—of sparing the man because he was what he was to her. And the door down there banged; he was gone.

"You madman! You'll lose him—everything!" panted the detective. But Netta had put me to the greatest test of man's love—I clung on as if for my own life—till suddenly the reaction came. For love of her I had lost what had seemed dearer than life itself. I slid down, and knew nothing more.

That, gentlemen, was 30 years ago. That model was lost—destroyed, no doubt, within 24 hours—we never heard of it or the man again. But here, tonight, stands its duplicate—and a duplicate of this we can see in a thousand shop-windows. Need I say that we owe it to Netta—the loving wife who has stood by me, built up my hopes again, and spurred me on to the great task, day by day, for those 30 years? Need I say what I won when it seemed I had lost everything? Left alone, I could never have brought myself to go over all that old ground again, but the patient inspiration of years has done at last what you see. And when I lost her. . . . when death took her from me, a year ago, her last whisper was . . . There, no, I can't. But here it is—and Netta knows! Netta knows—

Bit-Bits.

English Women's Jewels.

Among the wonderful collections of jewels owned by English women Baroness Burdett-Coutts' unique set of sapphires is celebrated; the marchioness of Bath's necklace of black pearls is estimated as worth \$500,000, and the duchess of Westminster's Nassau diamond at nearly \$200,000. The princess of Wales has a beautiful necklace which always wears on state or gala occasions.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

International Sunday School Lesson

for November 10, 1895—Text, Nehemiah 8:12—Memory Vs. 1-2.

[Specially Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.]

GOLDEN TEXT.—The ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the Law.

READ Nehemiah 8 and Luke 4:16-22.

SEE The first day of the seventh month, i. e., the middle or last of September, A. D. 44, about two months after the arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem, and a week after the completion of the walls on the 25th of Elul, the sixth month (August-September). The first day of the seventh month was September 22 in 1895, September 11 in 1896, and October 1 in 1897.

EXPLANATORY.

I. The Circumstances.—The section of Nehemiah embracing Chaps. 8-10 differs from the opening and from the closing chapters in that here Nehemiah is spoken of in the third person, while in the rest of the book he himself writes in the first person. In the prayer (Chap. 8) and the covenant (Chap. 10) the first person plural is used. "It was a series of events of the greatest importance. Nehemiah's design was to renew and enlarge the reforms which Ezra had begun 13 years before. Chaps. 8-10 are an account of transactions running through 24 days or more, by which Nehemiah brought this and other reforms into active operation. Our lesson is the first section of the account, and tells what happened in one day—the first day of the seventh month (V. 2).

II. The Great Meeting.—V. 1. This chapter should begin with the last clause of the last verse of the previous chapter: "And when the seventh month was come," etc. The first day of this month was the feast of trumpets, which proclaimed a day of rejoicing, like our Christmas bells. This was a week after the walls were finished. V. 1. "All the people gathered themselves together." From the city and from the