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IN BLACKBERRY TIME

Love and Fate Figure in Side-Lines.

By JOHN PHILIP ORTH. Mr. Fred Islington was not referred to in the papers as a Napoleon of finance, but yet he held a responsible and well-paid position in an important bank.

Miss May Cranston was not mentioned as a second Patti, but it was admitted that she had a fine voice for song, and might some day become an operatic star.

It would seem to the logical reasoner that Mr. Islington and Miss Cranston ought to have kept clear of side-lines, and not have been tempted into risks. He took a few lessons in drawing, fitted up a garret studio and then went into turning out landscapes in his spare hours.

Miss Cranston selected sculpture as her sideline. She worked on ice-cold butter. The same was 45 cents a pound, but cheaper at that than marble. Butter is also much easier to cut. She didn't astound the whole United States, but she was content to feel that every time she finished a new bust there was a decided gain.

One day, at the house of a friend, Mr. Islington was shown a bust of what was called George Washington. He felt it his duty to remark that it could just as well have been called Nero, Columbus, Napoleon or Shakespeare.

A few days later Miss Cranston was shown one of Mr. Islington's landscapes, by a young friend who had received it as a gift on her birthday.

And later on came Fate. That but-ter-artist and the landscape painter met, and admired, and fell in love. Neither had anything to say about their sideline for some time, and then there was a row at once. Other



Yes, He Had Sat Where She Sat too Sketch.

parties had repeated their criticisms, and they had naturally been added to. It is hardly fair to say there was a row. It was more a chilliness, as if the wind had suddenly changed to the north.

"Miss Cranston" (she had been "May" the day before), began Mr. Islington, "I understand you have harshly criticized some of my work as a landscape artist."

"I thought I was justified, Mr. Islington," (he had been "Fred" the day before), was the frigid reply. "I have also been informed that you criticized my efforts in sculpture very freely."

"If we both have what they call the artistic temperament—"

"Yes?"

"If it would be better—better?"

"Yes?"

"I should not want to give up my work."

"No?"

"And you would not want to give up yours?"

"Certainly not."

"Then, Miss Cranston—then—"

"Then you have an important engagement this evening, and I will not detain you!"

That was all. That "Artistic Temperament" never gives in once it gets its back up. The possessor may realize that he or she is in training for an idiot asylum, but they must stick to it.

CORDELIA

Miss Eva Kratzer, of Columbia, is the guest of Miss Sue McCune.

Mrs. Able Kise left for Harrisburg and Penbrook to spend a few days with friends.

Mrs. John G. Eshleman, of Lancaster, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Hall.

Charles and Harry Kratzer, of Nesquehanna, were the guests several days of Raymond Bard.

"Now, my dear, it's your turn. Go down to the creek and cross and turn to the left and follow it up till you reach an old field. You'll find more berries there than you can pick in half a day.

The place was easily found. There was not only an old field, but the ruins of a dam and a sawmill that Granny had forgotten to mention.

"The landscape by Mr. Fred Islington, warranted all-wool-and-a-yard-wide, and true to nature in every detail, was before her. Yes, he had sat where she sat to sketch it.

"Miss Cranston!"

"I—I did not know—"

"Nor I, either."

"We have been too hasty."

"Oh, I don't know."

"You see, your unjust criticisms provoked me."

"But they were not unjust. Your sketch shows an old mill with the roof half gone. There is no roof at all here."

"Um!"

"The creek flows to the right, as you see. In your sketch you have it flowing to the left or up-hill."

"Um!"

"In your sketch you show an old water-wheel. There is none here. If there was one it could not ever have turned with the water flowing the wrong way."

"Your sketch," continued the young lady, "has a sunrise or sunset in it. Which is it?"

"Sunset."

"But why do you have it set in the east? The top of a picture is like the top of a map—it's the north. Figuring from this, your sun has wobbled around!"

"That's queer," replied the painter. "In an artistic way, and one proudly pointed out, you cover some of the fallen stones and stumps with what you mistake for brambles."

"You—you must be mistaken."

"There they are, and they are hazel bushes. I have no more to say, except that your sketch purports to be an autumn scene, and yet you have the maples all red, and two or three apple trees over there of a vivid green. I now yield you the floor to criticize my bust of Washington!"

"I thought—thought," began Mr. Islington, and then paused.

"Are you a good judge of butter?" asked the girl with a smile.

"Why, I thought that particular butter was all right."

"So it was. The trouble was with me. I sculpted Shakespeare and called it Washington. If I had tried to sculpt Nero people would probably have called it Xerxes. I am ready to admit that I am a dead failure in sculpture."

"And I don't believe it is in me to be a landscape artist."

"There was nothing further said for the next two minutes. Then the young man cautiously queried:

"Wasn't there something said about the 'Artistic Temperament'?"

"Why, there might have been."

"Do you think we have it?"

"Not being artists, how could we have it?"

"That's so. That's so. And not having got it, what becomes of the vows—the vows—"

"To be continued at the house!" laughed the blushing girl, as she extended her hand to be helped to her feet.

"How many quarts did you pick?" asked Granny, as she reached for the empty berry basket.

"My stars, but I forgot all about 'em," was the reply.

"Never mind, deary. I didn't expect you to pick a single one—not a one."

"But—but—"

"You see, he was here the other day while you were taking a nap, and he told me all about it, and I told him I'd send you down by the creek, and he and you and the blackberries and the old mill and—and—and don't you let him get away while I am getting supper!"

And Mr. Fred Islington didn't get away.

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