

in her refusal to go aboard a sinking ship? "Begad," he said, "I'll try her again."

The fact was he had so set his heart upon Sally, and Sally alone, that nothing was to be allowed to balk him; and his reasoning was purely formal.

Anniversaries having been unpropitious, he waited on till a bright day late in May—a day when all animate Nature was fancying, in its trusting, foolish way, that it was going to bask out of doors forevermore. As he rode through Holloway Lane it was scarce recognizable as the track of his two winter journeys. No mistake could be made now, even with his eyes shut. Though afternoon, and about the same time as on the last occasion, it was broad day and sunshine when he entered Hintock Abbas, and the details of the Knap dairy-house were visible far up the road. He saw Sally in the garden, and was set vibrating. He had first intended to go on to the inn; but "No," he said, "I'll tie my horse to the garden gate. If all goes well it can soon be taken round; if not, I mount and ride away."

The tall shade of the horseman darkened the room in which Mrs. Hall sat, and made her start, for he had ridden by a side path to the top of the slope, where riders seldom came. In a few seconds he was in the garden with Sally.

Five, ay, three, minutes did the business at the back of that row of bees. Though spring had come, and heavenly blue consecrated the scene, Darton succeeded not. "No," said Sally firmly. "I will never, never marry you, Mr. Darton. I would have once; but now I never can."

"But—" implored Mr. Darton. And with a burst of real eloquence he went on to declare all sorts of things that he would do for her. He would drive her to see her mother every week; take her to London; settle so much money upon her; heaven knows what he did not promise, suggest and tempt her with. But it availed nothing. She interposed with a stout negative, which closed the course of his argument like an iron gate across a highway. Darton paused.

"Then," said he simply, "you hadn't heard of my supposed failure when you declined last time?"

"I had not," she said. "But if I had 't would have been all the same."

"And 'tis not because of any soreness from my slighting you years ago?"

"No. That soreness is long past."

"Ah, then you despise me, Sally!"

"No," she slowly answered, "I don't altogether despise you. I don't think you quite such a hero as I once did—that's all. The truth is, I am happy enough as I am, and I don't mean to marry at all. Now may I ask a favor, sir?" She spoke with an ineffable charm which, whenever he thought of it, made him curse his loss of her as long as he lived.

"To any extent."

"Please do not put this question to me any more. Friends as long as you like, but lovers and married never."

"I never will," said Darton. "Not if I live a hundred years."

And he never did. That he had worn out his welcome in her heart was only too plain.

When his step-children had grown up, and were placed out in life, all communication between Darton and the Hall family ceased. It was only by chance that, years after, he learnt that Sally, notwithstanding the solicitations her attractions drew down upon her, had refused several offers of marriage, and steadily adhered to her purpose of leading a single life.

THOMAS HARDY.

NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST.

During the year ending August 31 there were forwarded from Livingston, Montana, 302 cars, containing 6,206,700 pounds of freight. The largest item was 2,000,000 pounds of lumber, followed by cattle, horses, sheep, lime, wool, hay and coal.

While miners at Houston, Idaho, were recently drifting for the huge copper vein, at a distance of 240 feet below the surface, they cut a blind ledge of great width, assaying \$204 per ton in free gold. The tunnel in which this vein was cut had been run 390 feet.

Active operations have been commenced in opening the coal mines on Trail Creek, Montana. From 100 to 150 tons per day are being taken out and shipped to Helena and other points along the railroad. Montana's coal will in the future be one of her most valuable resources.

A quarter interest in the Elm Orlu, a high grade silver mine of Butte, has been sold for \$10,000. A few months ago this was considered a comparatively valueless prospect, but a streak of rich ore was struck which, upon development, proved to be permanent. The mine is opened by a sixty and a ninety foot shaft.

Ex-Governor Woods, Hon. John H. Mitchell and others have incorporated the Washougal Railway and Improvement Company, with a capital stock of \$500,000. Their declared object is to construct a narrow gauge road in Clarke County, W. T., running from the Columbia River, at the mouth of the Washougal, to the Cascade Mountains, near Mount Adams, a distance of fifty miles. Such a road would tap a magnificent timber belt.

Several tons of ore from the Wakoosta and Alameda ledges, Madison County, Montana, were recently shipped to Omaha for reduction. The various lots yielded from 23 ounces silver and 1.3 ounces gold per ton to 670 silver and 34.8 gold. The lowest grade was sent simply as a test to show whether it would pay to ship low grade ores. The result shows that there is a vast amount of ore that can be sent from those mines to Omaha with good returns.

An oil well, 110 feet deep, has been sunk near the line of the Oregon Short Line, one and one-half miles from Fossil Station, Wyoming. The well has been sunk through "Laramie" sandstone. Attention was called to the oil by numerous oily springs in the vicinity. The substance is a fine lubricating oil of a dark red-brown color, of medium specific gravity, and needs no preliminary treatment for use on the railroad as a lubricant. The discovery is of great importance to the Union Pacific. Two other wells are being put down.

Many fine samples of ore are being brought in from the Cle-elum district in Washington Territory. The Galena, President and Black Honey Comb locations are developed to a depth of from fifteen to sixty feet, and show clearly defined ledges carrying gold, silver and lead, assaying as high as \$300 in gold and silver to the ton. Owners of Cle-elum ledges are anxiously waiting for the Cascades Branch of the Northern Pacific to put them in easy railroad communication with Portland and the outside world generally. They will then be prepared to furnish a steady supply of ore to any reduction company that may be organized in this city.

The party under Lieutenant O'Neal, which started out some weeks ago to explore the Olympic Range, was recalled before completing the trip across the mountains. The Lieutenant confirms the previous reports of an extensive and fertile rolling country back of the foot-