

THE STORY OF A LIFE.

"I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, 'Write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so, saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors.'"

This was the end, then, of this fair woman's life. To be laid in the dark, cold, lonely grave on this bleak winter's day. The end? In one sense, yes; in another, no. Her beautiful life could not end in that horrible tomb.

I knew something of her story, but I long to hear it all—the story of that lovely old face, with its sweet dark eyes and snowy hair.

That evening, as we sat together around the glowing wood fire, I asked the grandmother to tell me the story of Miss Margaret's life.

"You all loved Miss Margaret, children, but you could not appreciate her loveliness as one who knew her in her youth, and through all the years of her beautiful pathetic life.

"The dear old voice was very tremulous, and the glistening tears fell upon her folded hands. She was sadly shaken by the death of her life-long friend and companion.

"When we were six years old we commenced our childish school-life together. Side by side we plodded through the first stages of our new career, and playtime and study-time were inseparable.

"Margaret stood looking down upon the dead face of her love without a sound. She bent down and kissed him, then turned and left the room, waving her hand in farewell.

"This was the end of her beautiful dream, my sweet Margaret. The next morning she came to breakfast looking as if years had passed over her head.

"In our seventeenth year we left the academy. Margaret was to return at the autumn term as teacher. How we enjoyed that bright summer. We took long walks in the woods, rowed on the shining river, and spent happy hours in the saddle, covering miles of beautiful country, during the long summer days.

"The weeks passed on, and Margaret was very happy in her new life. Another interest had arisen in my young life, but it could not eclipse the beauty of my youth. I was your grandfather's promised wife, and in the spring time we were to commence our new life together.

"It was about this time that I first noticed a change in my Margaret. I could not define it. In her sweet eyes there shone a solemn, holy light. A tremulous sort of beauty seemed to rest on her brow and lip. She grew more beautiful each day. Her sweet reserve was never broken even to me.

"It was a beautiful day in the latter part of the winter when Margaret came to me with a new look upon her pure face—a look which a woman never wears but once in her life—when she loves as Margaret did.

"'Kiss me,' she said; and when she was softly seated with me in my own room, she told me the story of her betrothal.

"Mr. Edmonds was the principal of the academy at Alden. He had taken charge of the institution when Margaret went there in the autumn. He was the son of a widow, who was poor, and lived in a distant college town, where her younger son was a student. Mr. Edmonds was her sole support. His brother was in college at his expense, and with this double responsibility, he had hesitated about speaking of his love to Margaret.

"The spring came, and with the first song of the birds and the perfume of the flowers I was married. It needed but the fruition of my Margaret's love to complete my happiness. We went housekeeping in a part of this old house, and thus, you see, Margaret and I were still together. She came and went from her school in the sweet springtime, full of deep, quiet happiness. When the summer came she went home with Mr. Edmonds to visit his mother, who had written constantly to her since the engagement. She returned to us in season for the re-opening of the academy, where she was still to teach. She and Mr. Ed-

monds taught and studied together. He was a fine scholar, and she was fast following in his footsteps. Their love and happiness increased with every passing day.

The winters followed the summers and found them still working together. They wore making plans for their new home together in the near future. The brother, for whom he was sacrificing so much, would soon be enabled to relieve him of much responsibility. She spent many happy hours with me and the little ones, for she was very fond of my babies. She was not a girl to talk—as I often hear of girls talking now-a-days—of love as a trivial thing, and her hopes were too sacred for common conversation.

"I never saw a man so entirely devoted to any woman as Mr. Edmonds was to her. He seemed to look upon her as a treasure too precious and beautiful for him.

"Margaret's years of waiting were finally at an end, and in a few weeks she would enter upon her new life. A house was ready for them at Alden, where, after a few weeks' trip, they intended to locate. How I should miss you, but that was a thought I tried to keep in the background, and enjoy the present to the utmost.

"It was a lovely day in October, a week before the wedding day, that Mr. Edmonds came into Margaret's parlor looking fearfully ill. He stoutly insisted that it was nothing but a slight cold, and laughingly refused to be doctored, as he expressed it. The next morning he was unable to rise, and the doctor pronounced his malady diphtheria of the most malignant type. As the long day wore away he continued to grow worse, and at nightfall was delirious and suffering terribly. Margaret followed the physician into the hall and to him if there was any danger. She wished to send for his mother and brother. Kind old Doctor Seaton, who had known Margaret from her birth, laid his hand gently upon her shoulder, and only said:

"Send at once, my child."

"For two days he suffered terribly. Margaret never left him. Pale, weak, strong, and tender, she was by his side day and night. His mother, too, was with him on the third day, when the end came.

"The sunset light stole into the room as he opened his eyes upon Margaret and smiled. A sunbeam fell aslant upon the pillow and lit up the face with angelic beauty. Margaret knelt beside his head, and when a few minutes after, we raised her, he was dead. The beautiful young life had ended.

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Moorish Women's Attire.

The Moorish women appear in the streets entirely enveloped in a number of wide mantles, made of white woolen material or a finer texture—the so-called haiks—which cover the head and the whole body; the faces are deeply veiled. The costume permits as little of the figure being seen as the veil does the features. The appearance of the Moorish women inside their houses is quite different. There their figures are to be seen, after they have laid aside the haik and veil. The principal characteristics of this costume are the wide buched-out drawers, generally white, and on which the rich women are fond of expending very much stuff, so that this article of clothing looks like a shirt reaching to the feet. The chemise, consisting of raw silk or tulle, (black being the color generally chosen, in order to show off a light complexion, white women with dark skin wear white tulle), is perfectly transparent; the wide sleeves are hemmed with red silk inside. They wear a sleeveless jacket over the chemise, with flowers woven in and trimmed with gold embroidery and buttons. A sash is worn round the jacket, or straw-colored yellow silk very much embroidered with gold, which resembles the scarf worn by rich Jewesses on festive occasions. Long fine silk tresses are hung down at the ends. The hair is hidden under a silk handkerchief interwoven with gold, so that only the small plaits are visible at the back of the neck. Bright colored materials are generally chosen for the chemise. The forehead is adorned with silver ornaments, inclosing the oval-shaped face, like a frame, in a chain of gold and silver decorated richly with small coins which hang from one temple to the other. Chains, coins and strings of pearls, often of a very costly kind, cover the neck and breast in a very extravagant manner. Shoes without heels are worn over the bare feet or white stockings; they are rounded off in front and made of yellow or red leather.

Ostrich feather plush, with bits of feathers woven into a coarse lining, is the downy lining of new cloaks for the opera or evening parties. The outside has white matelasse satin figures on a ruffled ground, and is trimmed with a border of the downy plush used for the inside. Gilt cordieries fasten the front and decorate the hood.

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