

# THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, SEPT. 11, 1874.

Paid in His Own Coin.

BY MAUD STANTON.

"My dear Harry, I am aware that you are an incorrigible flirt. But I beg of you as you value your own reputation, give Miss Blanchard a wide berth, for she is merciless on us poor fellows, and I warn you that you cannot carry a flirtation with her and receive no wound in your own heart."

"My dear Ned," replied the other, indolently brushing the ashes from his cigar. "I am surprised at your wanting your brother-in-law to behave in a manner that you find so repulsive. The critic that you fling so coolly into my face is a base fabrication. I emphatically deny it. As for Miss Blanchard, I am hardly sure that she will be worth wasting pretty speeches upon."

"As you have never met the young lady, I forgive you that speech, otherwise Norwood here would be converted into a hospital."

"Really, Ned," she has made such sad havoc with your heart, I can no longer doubt her superiority. When does she arrive?"

"She is expected this afternoon, and you will probably meet her this evening."

"I'll bet you a hat, Ned, that ere the summer is ended, Isabel Blanchard will subvert her royal will to that of your humble servant."

"Done. I have warned you and if you suffer you alone are to blame."

"With a light laugh the other replied: "No danger. A flirtation in this wilderness will be a highly entertaining and so distinguished personage."

Ned's reply was lost as they sauntered carelessly toward the house, and as they disappeared from view a low rippling laugh broke the stillness, and a merry voice said, "These willows are a royal retreat, Cousin Minnie. The young man has a high estimation of his power. But who is he?" and the beautiful speaker turned to her cousin with no shade of annoyance on her brow.

"Harry Clifford. His father is wealthy, and he moves in the very best society. Indeed his presence is considered as indispensable. But he shall not stay here to insult you, Isabel."

oried, seizing her hand and covering it with kisses.

"Nay, Mr. Clifford," she said, but not unkindly, "hear me through. One week from to-night Cousin Minnie intends to give a farewell party. Meet me in the conservatory and I will give you my answer. In the meantime," she continued, as he was about to speak, "you must consider it a forbidden subject. Now we must return to our friends."

Silently he plied the oars, and when he reached the house as silently bowed his farewell.

Minnie's farewell party was at its gayest. Music and laughter resounded everywhere. Harry was restless. Isabel avoided him.

Ned rallied him on his low spirits. "Upon my word, Clifford," he said, "if you would dispense with that scowling brow you would be remarkably handsome this evening. But is not Miss Blanchard beautiful? Look there; she is the centre, as usual."

Harry turned gloomily toward her, but a glance from her soft dark eye beckoned him to her side. His face changed as if by magic, with a hurried "Excuse me Ned," he eagerly sought her presence.

"It is warm here Miss Blanchard. May I have the pleasure of your company in the conservatory?" he asked, striving to make his voice appear natural.

She bid a laughing adieu to her admirers, and accepted his arm. One end of the conservatory was but dimly lighted, and he led her there, seating her on the throne they had erected for her when she personated a queen in one of the tableaux.

Dropping on his knees, he said, "Isabel! my queen, I await your answer."

"It is this, Mr. Clifford," she answered, laughingly. "A flirtation in the wilderness has proved very entertaining with so distinguished a personage as Mr. Harry Clifford."

"And this is your answer?" he asked, slowly.

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