

# THE SON AND DAUGHTER OF POVERTY.

And in the crowd, unnoticed by any of the officials, they stole into the church and toward the chancel, and concealed by a pillar, waited hand in hand for the ceremony to begin.

Neither could understand the clergyman's opening words; but he had no more reverent listeners than those two pathetic little figures. When he asked the question beginning "Wilt thou have this woman—" and the bridegroom answered I will Jimmy was caught napping, or perhaps he did not understand; but when came the bride's turn to answer "I will" he was ready to prompt Al's.

Say "I will" he whispered. I will falter Al's. Nob'dy can part us now said Al's as they descended the church steps, the ceremony over.

Twelve hours later Doctor Barnett the well-known philanthropist, passed through Grecian lane, accompanied by the superintendent of one of his homes and a police sergeant and followed a little distance by a closed carriage. They were engaged in rescue work. From time to time the officer flashed his bullseye on a doorway or entry.

Suddenly he stopped. It was before Jimmy's temporary home.

Here are two doctor he exclaimed. Doctor Barnett approached noiselessly and stood looking down at the ragged waifs nestling in the corner. Poor babies! he murmured.

Hi, there! cried the officer, stooping over them. Wake up—wake up! Jimmy started and half opened his eyes. Al's murmured in her sleep.

What does she say? asked the superintendent.

Nobody can part us, the Sergeant answered. Come now then wake up! The boy opened his eyes, saw the dreaded uniform and scrambled to his feet.

Run Al's—run! he cried. Here's a bobby!

He did not attempt to escape himself but stood perfectly still while the officer took hold of his ragged cuff. Al's sat up and began to cry.

Please sir don't hurt jimmy! He ain't done nuffink, Nobody's going to hurt him, said the superintendent. Where do you live?

Along of Jimmy, she sobbed. Where does Jimmy live? He's your brother, I suppose?

No, sir, said the mite. We're married. You can't part us.

Doctor Barnett looked at the Sergeant who in his turn, looked at the superintendent. No one laughed. Presently the doctor coughed. The superintendent blew his nose.

I'm blest! exclaimed the officer. The carriage drew up at the curb while the children told their story. You ain't going to part us. Al's cried.

She allowed the superintendent to lift her into the carriage without a struggle. But Jimmy kicked and fought like a little Turk. He was "had" at last.

More than fourteen years had passed. A burly young woodsman, sunburnt, hard as nails, to judge by his appearance, was walking down Montcalm street, Quebec, studying the numbers and tradesmen's names as he went. Presently he pulled out a letter and read it. It was dated from London:

My Dear James—I have great pleasure in informing you that Alice Graham went to Canada, went to Canada, with 24 other girls, in May last. Her address is care of Mr Le Croix, 101 Montcalm street, Quebec. I am glad to learn you are doing so well, and I hope you will continue to prosper. Your sincere friend, ROBERT BARNETT.

This was at least the one hundredth time that Jimmie had read

Doctor Barnett's communication, as its ragged state testified.

I wonder if she'll know me? It isn't hardly to be expected. I shall know her, though—no fear that I sha'n't.

No 101 proved to be a private house of considerable size. Jimmy rang. A neat maid opened the door.

Can I see Alice Graham? he asked. Miss Graham is with the children was the answer. If you step this way I will tell her. What name shall I give her?

I had rather not send my name, said Jimmy.

His reflections in the room into which he was shown were interrupted by the entrance of a young lady. A puzzled expression was on her oval, dimpled face and in her big black eyes.

I think there's some mistake he faltered. I've called to see Alice Graham.

I am Alice Graham. Jimmy looked hard at her. She was very pretty and fashionably dressed. Al's as he remembered had been pretty, but the picture in his mind had little resemblance to the beauty who now stood before him.

You must be another, he said sadly. The Alice Graham I want to see came from London. I came from London.

From Doctor Barnett's home? Yes.

Then I'm afraid the doctor has made an awful mistake. He sent me this letter but there's something wrong somewhere.

The girl glanced at the address. Next instant her arms were round Jimmy's neck, the red rose in her hair was resting on his shoulder.

You're Jimmy Steer! she cried. Jimmy, who married me in St Martin's Church years and years ago! And I didn't know you, she went on laughing and almost crying by turns. Whatever have you been thinking?

And then she pushed him away at arm's length and looked him up and down. Why Jimmy how you've grown! It's not surprising that I didn't know you. You're quite a big man! And then she kissed him.

About a year afterwards Mrs Le Croix lost her children's governess. Jimmy made another journey up from Hamilton. This time he did not return alone.

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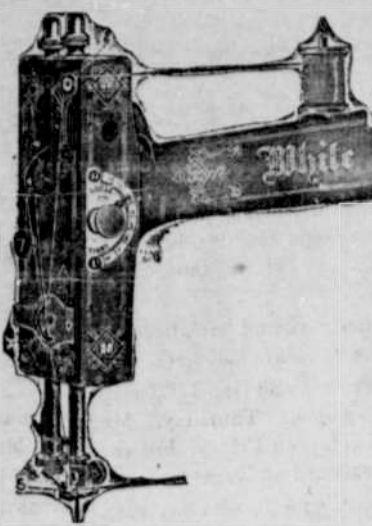
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