

WHICH WAS TO BLAME.

Gracie's handwriting," said he, opening it mechanically. "She hasn't got mine yet, or I should break the seal with fear and trembling. Poor girl, what a wretch I am to break her heart and she loving me so! But I'll read her last dear letter for it will be the last she'll write to such a brute. My poor little sister Gracie.

Paul laid the envelope on the table with a sigh, straightened the sheet of French note-paper, redolent of violets, and began:

"DEAR PAUL:—How to begin my wicked letter I can't tell, but it wasn't my fault. I did love you next to my mother and sister, Paul. Oh! why did you send that fascinating charming man, Dr. Parker, here unless you did it to try my poor, weak heart and prove it wanting. I can't tell how it is, but I love you just as well as I ever did, like a brother, perhaps, but him I love next to my Creator! wildly and passionately, and he loves me the same. But I am engaged to you, my poor Paul, and you do love me so. Oh, what shall I do? Write and tell me what to do.

"Don't jump overboard, or take poison, will you, dear Paul, for I will marry you yet if you say so. Your loving sister in sorrow,

"GRACIE."

Which feeling predominated in Paul Mayo's breast—joy that his way was clear to espouse Mary, or chagrin that another fellow, "charming" at that, had taken his place in Gracie's affections—it is hard to say. Men are vain creatures, and such a blow cuts closely, not so much affecting the heart as the self-love.

Never mind; "all is well that ends well," and this little mixed affair ended as well as the most romantic reader could wish—two joyous weddings, two happy couples, with peace and plenty to crown life.

OLD BURTON'S BRIDE.

From N. Y. Weekly: "Oh, Georgina! wait a moment. I have something strange to tell you."

Georgina Gray, a beauty and a belle, halted on the marble step of her own home on Fifth avenue, to hear the news which Louise Palmer, her next door neighbor and most intimate friend, was bringing.

"Be quick, Louise," she said, "I am to meet George in the park at three, and I shall be late if I don't mind."

"My news is about George Howard," was the significant reply, as Louise joined her.

"Indeed?"

"Yes. You know that rich old Uncle Stephen of his?"

"Of course I do. He is to leave George a large fortune when he dies."

"He is dead, Georgina."

"Are you sure?"

"Perfectly. And he has not left George a single penny."

"Why how can you know that?" asked the beauty, pouting.

"It is in the paper this morning. The notice of the death and the contents of the will."

"What a shame!"

"Isn't it? Poor George! I wonder what he will do? And what shall you do, Georgina?"

"Oh, I don't know, I'm sure," said the heiress, turning to ascend her own steps again.

Louise staid.

"I thought you were going to the park, Georgina?" she said.

Georgina only smiled, and waved her hand as she disappeared. But when she was alone in her own room, she tore off her walking things and threw herself on the bed, to weep the bitter tears of rage and regret, for the loss of a lover who had been very dear to her.

"Such a shame of that old wretch to treat him so!" she sobbed. "But I can't marry a poor man. I can't go down to the level of a poor man's wife. I must give him up, and take that disagreeable old Burton, with his money-bags and his snuff. And poor George is so grateful and so handsome! Oh dear! This world is a very hard and sad one to live in after all. I'm tired of it already."

The next afternoon when George Howard called at the Fifth avenue mansion to inquire why he had not been blessed with the sight of his lady love in the park on the previ-

ous day, he noticed a bent and insignificant looking man, badly dressed, who shambled down the steps, and entered a handsome brougham in waiting.

"There goes old Burton. He is worth six millions if he is worth a penny," said a passer-by to a lady leaning on his arm.

George turned a wondering glance in the direction of the fast receding brougham. What could "old Burton" want at the house of his Georgina.

Alas! he knew only too well when he was shown into the familiar drawing room, and saw Georgina there, in a ravishing Parisian toilet more beautiful than ever, with no welcoming smile for him.

A magnificent solitaire diamond shone upon her hand. The flashing gem was scarcely brighter or colder than the brilliant blue eyes that met his own.

"Mr. Howard," she said, coldly, "I did not expect to see you here."

"Not expect me! What can you mean, Georgina?" he stammered.

"And why did you not come to the park, as you promised?"

"I was more agreeably engaged," she replied. "Mr. Burton, who is an old friend of my father's spent the evening here."

"And he has but just left you," said George, glancing at the diamond.

She smiled, and looked down at the gem in her turn.

"What am I to understand by all this?" cried the young man. "You know as well as I do how we parted when we met last. Why do you meet me in this cold way now, Georgina?"

She frowned.

"My note will explain all, Mr. Howard. I sent it to your hotel over an hour ago, by a servant. I am quite sure you will find it there now."

The hint was so direct and merciless that George Howard lost his patience.

"You have thrown me over for a richer man. You have sold yourself, Georgina, to the money-bags of that old man. And this is the girl I loved—the girl whom I believed so true that she would be all the fonder when reversed came!"

"It is useless to talk like that," said Miss Gray, in an icy tone. "I have not been trained or educated to become a poor man's wife. Luxury is essential to my happiness. If I should be foolish enough to marry you in your present circumstances, we should both be wretched in a month. Nothing will induce me to sacrifice myself."

"Oh!" said Howard drawing nearer, "you have heard of my uncle's will."

"I have."

"When—how—why told you the news?" he asked.

"Louise Palmer told me yesterday afternoon."

"As you were going to the park to meet me?" he said, quietly.

She did not deny it.

"And she said nothing more to you since?"

"I have not seen her since. I have seen no one."

"Excepting Mr. Burton," said Howard, laughing. "Well, he is a happy man. He has no uncle to disinherit him. Farewell, Miss Gray. Before long I shall feel ever more grateful to you than I do now, for I am old fashioned enough to wish to marry a wife who will love me, and not my bank account."

He bowed low, and left her.

As the door closed behind him, she realized, for one instant, what she was losing.

"Come back to me, George!" she said, faintly.

But he did not hear her.

And as he went down the street she consoled herself by a dream of the future, seen in the depths of her engagement-ring.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Little boy—"Mamma, may I give what's in my savings-bank to that beggar man?"

Mamma—"You dear, sweet little cherub! Do you want to give away all that money your uncle gave you? There was over a dollar."

"I spent some of it, mamma."

"Did you? How much is there left?"

"There's a twenty-five piece left, but the candy man said it was bad."

—N. Y. Weekly.

Boggs (wearily)—"This paper makes me tired."

Foggs—"Nothing in it?"

Boggs—"So much in it."—N. Y. Weekly.

Advertisement for '25 COMPLETE NOVELS FREE TO EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER!' featuring a list of 25 novel titles and authors, including 'The Mystery of the Red Room' and 'The Mystery of the Yellow Room'.

25 COMPLETE NOVELS FREE TO EVERY READER OF THIS PAPER!

We want to increase our circulation very largely during the next six months—months, if possible, to accomplish it we need the cooperation of our present subscribers and readers. If each one of you will send us a copy of this paper, we will give you a complete set of 25 complete novels.

An Offer Remarkable for Its Liberality.

Send in 25 copies of this paper for one O. N. G. subscriber for one year. We will give you 25 complete novels absolutely free.

- List of 25 complete novels including: 'The Mystery of the Red Room', 'The Mystery of the Yellow Room', 'The Mystery of the Blue Room', 'The Mystery of the Green Room', 'The Mystery of the Purple Room', 'The Mystery of the Orange Room', 'The Mystery of the Pink Room', 'The Mystery of the Brown Room', 'The Mystery of the Grey Room', 'The Mystery of the Black Room', 'The Mystery of the White Room', 'The Mystery of the Silver Room', 'The Mystery of the Gold Room', 'The Mystery of the Iron Room', 'The Mystery of the Steel Room', 'The Mystery of the Copper Room', 'The Mystery of the Brass Room', 'The Mystery of the Tin Room', 'The Mystery of the Lead Room', 'The Mystery of the Zinc Room', 'The Mystery of the Nickel Room', 'The Mystery of the Cobalt Room', 'The Mystery of the Nickel Room', 'The Mystery of the Cadmium Room', 'The Mystery of the Mercury Room', 'The Mystery of the Potassium Room', 'The Mystery of the Sodium Room', 'The Mystery of the Calcium Room', 'The Mystery of the Magnesium Room', 'The Mystery of the Barium Room', 'The Mystery of the Strontium Room', 'The Mystery of the Bismuth Room', 'The Mystery of the Antimony Room', 'The Mystery of the Arsenic Room', 'The Mystery of the Tellurium Room', 'The Mystery of the Selenium Room', 'The Mystery of the Tellurium Room', 'The Mystery of the Selenium Room', 'The Mystery of the Tellurium Room', 'The Mystery of the Selenium Room'.

Advertisement for 'SYRUP OF FIGS' by California Fig Syrup Co., describing its benefits for various ailments like constipation and liver issues.

Advertisement for 'USE FERRY'S SEEDS' by Ferry's Seed & Plant Co., highlighting the quality and variety of their seeds.

Advertisement for 'THE BEST AND CHEAPEST FAMILY PAPER' by The Golden Censer, published by the Golden Censer Co. in Rockford, Illinois.

Advertisement for 'Payette Nursery' featuring 'HARDY TREES A SPECIALTY' and 'HARPER'S PERIODICAL'.

Advertisement for 'HOME AND FARM' magazine, published by Farmers for Farmers, featuring agricultural news and farm management tips.

Advertisement for 'ASK FOR IT! THE SELF-THREADING ELDREDGE' sewing machine, highlighting its ease of use and mechanical features.

Advertisement for 'LEAVENING POWER' baking powder, listing various brands like 'ROYAL' and 'ELMER'S'.

Advertisement for 'ROYAL BAKING POWDER' by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., emphasizing its purity and quality.

Advertisement for 'HARPER'S PERIODICAL' featuring 'HARPER'S BAZAR' and 'HARPER'S WEEKLY'.

Advertisement for 'ALMEDA A. STENGER' featuring illustrations of various breeds of cattle and sheep.

Advertisement for 'HARPER'S PERIODICAL' featuring 'HARPER'S BAZAR' and 'HARPER'S WEEKLY'.

Advertisement for '20 BOOKS GIVEN' by Harper's Bazar, offering a collection of books to subscribers.

Advertisement for 'ROYAL BAKING POWDER' by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., emphasizing its purity and quality.