

Bess Trefoil's Reward.

BY AMY RANDOLPH.

CHAPTER III.

From New York Ledger:

Flora Trefoil was amazed beyond measure when she found that quiet, pale Bess had been Charles Cotesworth's choice, in spite of her own more showy fascinations. But Cousin Thankful chuckled to herself, in the little corner room of the Old Ladies Home:

"She deserves her happiness, every bit of it," said Cousin Thankful; "and I'm proper glad that Flora has got come up with."

Madame Enrico gave the wedding-dress—she had not forgotten the patience and sweetness of her best "fitter"—and the hands all joined and made it up after a wonderful new pattern that Mrs. Goldcoin's eldest daughter had brought from Paris.

"Nothing can be too good for Bess," they all said; and Flora shrugged her shoulders.

"It's so ridiculous," said she, "to make such a fuss about a pale, insignificant thing like Bess."

Rosamond's Way.

BY HARRIET PRESCOT SPOFFORD.

CHAPTER I.

THE MEETING.

From New York Ledger:

A tall and shapely figure clad in filmy drapery over a luster of milky satin, and, as she turned, a gleam of bright-banded brown hair, of eyes of deepest violet, of features like that of some young goddess in marble, of a skin perfectly pallid but almost luminous, the only blush about her being the great bunch of blush-roses in her hand; the maid-of-honor to some bride, as she walked down the aisle of the church, she trod on the flowers scattered there, and never dreamed that she trod on Scott Surrey's heart as well. For, in the instant of her turning, that heart had been cast at her feet.

He had been passing the church with an acquaintance, when the carriages and the awning and the carpet had caught his friend's eye, and Akron had exclaimed:

"Oh, now, see here! And I quite overlooked it. It's the wedding of Lu McIlvaine. Just step in this side door—we shan't be seen."

And they had done so; and fate in that moment had uttered one of her keenest ironies; for Scott Surrey was an insurance clerk on a salary of fourteen hundred dollars a year, and Rosamond Knight was the daughter of a man worth a couple of millions.

"Who is she?" he asked breathlessly.

"She is Mrs. Peters, now. A minute or two ago she was Lu McIlvaine."

"Nonsense! No. Not that one! The other—the—"

His friend turned and looked at him.

"So you're hard hit too," he said. "It's no use, Scott. You only join the undistinguished herd. She's for your betters. She walks on air, and won't look at anything less than a prince royal."

"But who is she?"

"Ah, you w'n't be deterred? I'll take you there then. Just to let you see the impossible. Why, the girl spends three thousand a year on her clothes. She's my cousin,

Rosamond Knight. At least her step-father's my cousin; although I'm none the better for the duffer. If she marries to please him, she's his heir. He's persuaded now that I don't want his step-daughter, and don't want his money, and so I have the freedom of the Knight bungalow. Come round at five, and I'll take you there for a cup of tea, if you really want your wings singed."

It was Scott Surrey who was walking on air. He had no thought of singed wings, or small salaries, or millions, or social differences, or any mundane things. He only thought: "She is beautiful; she is beautiful; she is peerless; my soul has gone out to her. She is the one I love. She was sent to me; I was sent to her across the worlds and the ages. I love her, I love her!"

"Poor fool!" thought Akron, looking at him. But if he had thought, "glorious hero!" it would have been all one to Scott Surrey. He was in warm and rosy clouds, penetrated with sunshine and joy—the joy that comes with the intoxication of first love.

He presented himself punctually at Akron's rooms that afternoon, and he had little more idea of what happened afterward than those usually do when walking in a dream. He was only conscious of rich soft light, fragrance of flowers, of antique rugs under foot, of a painting here, a statue there, of onyx and gilding and Sevres, of a smiling, gray-haired woman, of various other forms and shadows, of the young goddess, not now in milky satin, but in some soft deshabille of a tea-gown; and he might have hoped that he acquitted himself like a man, but he simply felt like a disembodied spirit.

He may have felt like a disembodied spirit, but that is not at all the way he looked, with that flush on his dark cheek, that glow in his dark eye, that gracious bending of the head with its dark, thick locks, that proud carriage and noble stature, that entire aspect of absolute wholesomeness and strength.

"Surrey!" said Mrs. Knight to Akron, "I could imagine you meant the Earl of Surrey."

"The Earl of Surry, if there is such a person, wouldn't be half the man that Scott is, probably," said Akron.

[To be Continued.]

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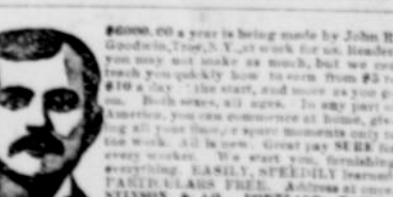
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