

Rosamond's Way.

BY HARRIET PRESCOT SPOFFORD.

CHAPTER IV.

From New York Ledger:

"Because," said he, "I never shall look at you any more. Because I have been a fool, a madman, and have just come to my senses, and am going to leave you before it is too late—for you, I mean—it is too late for me already. It was too late for me when I first laid eyes upon you, and my whole heart became yours."

"I don't know what you mean," she cried. "Why must you leave me, then?"

"To-day," he said, "your step-father came to my office, and told me that I must."

"How perfectly infamous!"

"He was not rude, nor, can I say unkind. He said if you married without his sanction, you should never have a farthing of his money; and he would not sanction my pretensions, and poverty would be your unhappiness and death."

"Pshaw!"

"I had not thought of his money! I had thought only of my poverty, and of you. But he made me see the misery I might be the means of entailing upon you. He made me see your wretchedness, your regrets, your—your—ruin as a poor man's wife. But, before I disappear—somewhere—into outer darkness—I shall give myself the one joy of telling you that I love you, that I always shall love you, and you only, and that I would die for you!"

"You had a great deal better live for me!" said the young lady, coolly. And she held out her hand, and Surrey seized it and covered it with kisses. Then he stood up to go.

"Your father drew for me the picture of the life you had lived," he said; "the luxuries to which you were so used that they were the demand of second nature; and I blushed and recoiled when he asked me how much of that life, how many of those luxuries my fourteen-hundred-dollar salary could procure for you."

"Did you say fourteen hundred dollars?" said Miss Rosamond, briskly, and in the most matter-of-fact way. "Come over to the table under the lamp." And still holding her hand in his, he was blindly following her to the lamp, dazed and bewildered, and not understanding the evidence of his own senses, nor that the girl was bringing down emotion from too intense a strain.

A servant passed down the distance of some lighted space, bearing a tea-tray.

"Do you know," said Rosamond, suddenly, "how many cups of tea you drank on the first night you came to see me?"

"I was not altogether sure that I drank any," he answered her.

"How much more self-possessed women are than men," she said. "I am an example of it now. I suppose they are trained to it from their cradles. I knew, the first moment that you stood there bending before me, and when I swept the courtesy, and the pug became tangled in my train, that I—that you—that I—had found—my master."

"As if there could be such a question!"

"Well, then; the master of my

fate, I should think you would have seen the blood surging up my temples."

"You were as white as a white rose-leaf, and your eyes were like two violet flames, and your lips—"

"Never mind about my lips. And I said, 'Are you fond of pugs?' And you said, 'No, not at all, that is—yes—I mean, I—'" and her laugh rang out like a chime of fairy bells.

"Oh, I said anything and everything that was fatuous, and idiotic. I had gone all to pieces."

"And I felt," she exclaimed, "that if you never came to care for me I should want to die. And I felt all at once and at the same time, fettered and bound and chained, and that, if I didn't break the chain, I should want to die anyway. And then, you never came near me for four days after that morning in the Metropolitan. Where are the writing things? We might have a little more light. Oh, yes, here is a pencil and paper. Sit down," she said, imperiously. "Now, sir, will you make a schedule of what you think can be done with fourteen hundred dollars in a small family? And remember I am a district visitor, and know some things myself!"

(To be Continued.)

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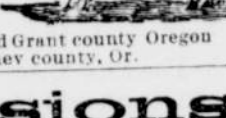
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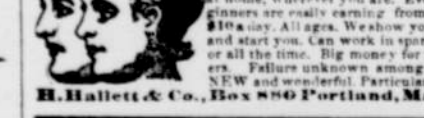
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