

FATE'S AIDE-DE-CAMP.

BY LEIGH WEBSTER.

WHAT HE THOUGHT.

From New York Ledger:

He sat behind one of the great pillars in dimly-lighted St. Thomas and looked at a certain profile across the church. It was a profile he knew by heart, yet never lost an opportunity of studying for new light. It belonged to a woman with innocent gray eyes, which were constantly belying the bits of worldliness which fell from her tongue from time to time.

He knew just how she was looking at this moment, with her head down-bent; her determined little chin relaxed. He knew as well as if he were sitting directly in front of her, how soft and tender her eyes, how thoughtful her face; and he said to himself:

"What a fool I am! What a fool I am! I know I might just as well think of calling a goddess down from the sky to my side, as of winning her. And yet, here I am again, storing up misery for myself. At least, she does not know I am here, and won't be despising me as I despise myself. Weak! I never realized how weak I could be. Didn't I vow last Thursday that I would never see her again? And here I am, three days later, haunting her church. How can a man see her after that vision in the conservatory?"

"How I hate that Blake, taking everything as if it belonged to him—even her love, I don't doubt. Her love! that would have humbled me to the earth! Born rich; cultivated; sings like a siren—confound him! I heard her say herself that he has charming manners. No wonder he wins. But I could stand it better if he would not take it as a matter of course. I know now that I had a grain of hope until then. She was so sweet and kind, I thought that perhaps she knew how I felt, and did not resent it. Fool! fool! She undoubtedly said to herself:

"Poor fellow, he has a hard time—a struggling young lawyer. If he manages to go into society once in a while he ought to have a good time. I will remember to say a pleasant word to him tonight."

"A year from now she won't remember my name even. How could an honorable man, situated as I am, dare even to think of her? If only I were not connected with the firm which manages her business! Of course, I know just how much money she has, and she knows that I know it. I can imagine just how that old guardian of hers—how can she bear to live with him?—would look at me if I should walk in some day and ask for her hand. She, herself—if the words 'fortune hunter' should come into her mind—it would show in her eyes in a minute. Ah, well! I could never have asked her to share such a home as I could give her, and I would not let my wife provide her own. Then what could I have given her to make up for the socie-

ty she must lose? I should never amount to anything in my profession if I were drawn into the kind of life which she leads, and I wouldn't stay at home and let her go alone. My wife shall share my life or I will never have one. But I could have made her happy I know, if she had loved me. She is too good to be wasted in that giddy whirl—but she will be with him. Why should I be so sure that it is all settled? Idiot! What difference does it make to me, anyway?"

(To be Continued.)

Fair Maiden (a summer boarder)—"How savagely that cow looks at me."

Farmer Hayseed—"It's your red parasol, mum."

Fair Maiden—"Dear me! I knew it was a little out of fashion, but I didn't suppose a country cow would notice it."—N. Y. Weekly.

Friend—"So yours was a case of love at first sight?"

Mrs. Getthere—"Yes, indeed. I fell desperately in love with my dear husband the moment I set eyes upon him. I remember it as distinctly as if it were yesterday. I was walking with papa, on the beach at Long Branch, when suddenly papa stopped, and, pointing him out, said: 'There, my dear, is a man worth ten millions.'"—New York Weekly.

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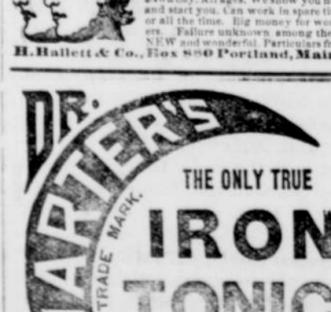
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1891. Harper's Magazine ILLUSTRATED

ILLUSTRATED.

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