

FATIE'S AIDE-DE-CAMP.

BY LEIGH WEBSTER.

From New York Ledger:

"Yes; is it not? And the way it came to me was so odd, I must tell you about it. You know to-day is—oh—This morning I found, with the mail at my plate, a little box with this ring in it. There was no card with it—nothing to tell from whom it came. It is such a queer shape. There must be some story connected with it. Was it not strange?"

"Very strange. A 'good luck' offering I suppose. That is a four-leaved clover, is it not?"

"Yes; but I am not superstitious."

"Did the superscription give you no clue? You have kept it, of course?"

"Yes; it is about here somewhere. Oh, you lawyers!" she laughed, as she rose, now quite self-possessed. "You would take the romance out of everything. I don't care to find out who sent it, and have the whole thing become common place immediately. But here is the paper, if you care to see it."

The young man took the paper and studied it with such deliberation that she grew uneasy, and said at last: "Well, what do you discover?"

She would not have been nervous could she have only known that the letters were dancing such a jig before his eyes he could not tell one from another. What should he say? What should he do? Dared he produce his part of the ring and tell her the truth? Or should he get himself away as quickly as possible and try to think this thing out? But her question roused him.

"Yes," he said, slowly, not lifting his eyes to hers, I have discovered something. Will you let me take this paper away with me?"

"No! No! She said, and she impulsively seized the paper and threw it into the fire. He looked at her with such pure astonishment that she began to breathe more freely again. "I don't want this spoiled by being turned into a case. I shall not wear the ring after to night. I will merely keep it as souvenir of St. Valentine."

"She suspects whom it is from," he thought to himself. "I must find out."

"No, but it would be a satisfaction to me to find out, since it would explain something which has been puzzling me since last night."

She looked at him interrogatively, but said scoldingly:

"I have also had a valentine, and I should like to show it to you."

She took the little roll of paper which he passed to her, with trembling fingers. He tried not to watch her face as she read it, but how could he help it? He saw her eyelids quiver. How slow she was! In fact she was reading each line twice over, to gain time. He could wait no longer:

"This was with it," he said, holding out something in his hand. Then she had to raise her eyes, and as they met his after a glance at the ring, the blushes that swept one after the other over her cheek so enraptured him, that, throwing caution to the winds, he broke out:

"Can it be true? I love you more than any one else ever could

—but I can't speak unless you say that I may?"

A beautiful light came into the gray eyes. With a trembling smile she held out her hand.

WHAT THE WORLD THOUGHT

"She couldn't have been much of an heiress, after all. She has married that young Parshall, and gone to live in the plainest manner, downtown. Given up society, too. He must have been disappointed if he was after her money. How did it all happen?"

[THE END]

From West Shore.

Sportsman—Son, is there any hunting around here?

Johnny Hayseed—Yep, you can hunt, but dad won't allow no shootin' on this place.

Goslin—I wondah why Gurley always call his sweetheart "Dovey," doncher know.

Dolley—I expect it's because she's pigeon-toed.

"Well I never!" cried the Puritan girl when the wine came around.

"Well, I do," replied her ecort, and did.

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