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JAMES GODWIN'S FORTUNE.

From Happy Hours.

CHAPTER II.

"They say that the bridal trousseau will cost a fortune, for her father is immensely wealthy. What a splendid pair they will make!"

Dora looked patiently at her gossiping friend, Nellie Danvers, who came in every now and then for a chat.

"You look as though you did not comprehend."

"Well, James Godwin is to be married to my old friend, Clara Ellis."

Dora said nothing, but turned her head wearily upon the cushions of her chair. Pshaw! why did she care? Surely, she had sent him away, and told him she could never marry him!

She allowed Nellie to run on with her chatter, listening patiently all the while, and striving hard to keep her secret; but over and over in her mind went the words, "James to be married!—James to be married!"

That night she wrote to James Godwin, for the first time in her life:

"I have today heard of your approaching marriage, and I am glad to hear of it. But before the time arrives you must visit me. You must not take this fair young girl from her luxurious home to a life of poverty. Come to me, and take the wealth I do so little need. If you do not, I shall feel it my duty to give it to some orphan asylum or other charitable institution. I cannot, with respect and honor to myself, and the memory of my beloved aunt Mary, retain this property. I shall expect you to come to me before your marriage. If you do not, I shall dispose of it as I have already proposed.

DORA HILLSDALE."

When the letter was on its way she felt at rest, and as soon as sufficient time had elapsed, began to look for a reply. It did not come. She waited one, two, three, four months, before she heard of him.

She was sitting in her arm-chair in the very room where they had parted, with her eyes half closed, and her thoughts far away, when there came the sound of a light step near, and before she could turn, a pair of hands covered her face.

"Who is it? Do you know me?" asked a familiar voice.

"Yes; I know you. It is James Let me look at you."

The hands were removed, and he sat down in his old way at her feet

"I came for my money, Dora, and—don't scold me—for my wife!"

"Oh, James, I am"—the clear voice faltered—"glad! Where is Miss Ellis?"

"And did you believe that idle story, Dora?"

"Yes."

"You were wrong. I shall never have a wife or a fortune unless you bestow them upon me. I told you last winter that I loved you. Do you think me capable of uttering a falsehood?"

"No, James."

"Then, Dora, you must believe me, and believe that I am unchanged. If I marry, it will be yourself."

"A poor invalid like myself, James?"

"Yes, and no other. Can't you love me a little! I am a scapegrace, a wretch, and all that; but I love you, Dora, and will be a tender and loving husband to you. Won't you try to find a place in your heart for me?"

With perfect strength and grace, she stepped from her chair and stood straight and well before him, her face radiant with joy, her hands outstretched to him.

"There is a place in my heart for you, James, if I have a heart. I'm half inclined to think that you have it all in your possession."

"Dora!—Dora! why, what does this mean?" he said, unmindful of her words, in his astonishment at seeing her before him well and strong.

"That by the merciful interposition of Divine Providence I am once more permitted to walk.".

"And you love me?"

"With all my heart, James."

Then, with his arm round her, he walked up and down the floor, to convince himself that he was not dreaming.

"Now what is to be done with the money Does it go to the orphan asylum, or shall we keep it and do good with it, and at the same time benefit ourselves?"

"I think we had better keep it awhile."

They did so, and there is not a happier or more benevolent couple in the country.

THE END.

A MUSIC-MAD LOVER.

From Peterson's Magazine.

CHAPTER I.

The crimson glory of a winter's sunset was reflected in lingering leavetaking over mountain and sky as Ethel Vane sat at the window, reading. The rays faded as she finished the last words of the novel and closed the book with a fine sign.

Otto, at the other side of the room, half turned toward her at the sound, but did not raise his hands from the piano or cease his dreamy playing. The long slender fingers touched the keys lovingly and tenderly. The hands were the natural inheritance with his music-loving temperament, from his German ancestors, but it had been many generations since one of the Van Arnheims had made music his best beloved. Surely not from the calm phlegmatic merchant, his father did he receive the dreamy impracticability, the almost womanish tenderness, the absent mindedness and imperfect knowledge of his surroundings. It may have been this that caused the slight shadow that lay on Ethel's face, as she glanced toward him. Otto had often wondered whether he would rather part with his music, his power of interpretation, or his betrothed. At these times, he called himself selfish and wicked; but he never answered the question, even to his own mind

"Novels—even the most real novels—are poor teachers for human beings," said Ethel, impatiently.

She was sitting on a low stool at her mother's feet, and leaning against her knee. "They tell of all kind of troubles and temptations except our own—of benefits that will apply to every other case but ours. And yet, I suppose, people often seek in them for answers and solutions of their especial trouble or temptation."

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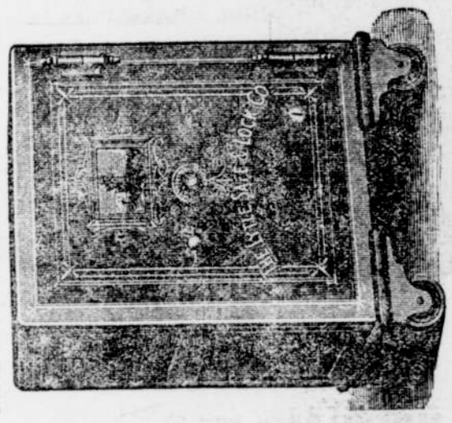

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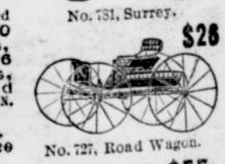

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