

### The Mother of Medora

By Kate M. Cleary.

WELL, I wouldn't look so tragic about it if I were you!"

"Oh, yes, you would!" sighed Medora.

She tossed her preposterously long yellow braids back over her shoulder, leaned forward in her low, bed room rocker, and with a round chin popping on a pink palm gazed into the sparkling fire with dark, solemn eyes.

"You shouldn't have become engaged to him in the first place," asserted Nell.

"That's easy to say!" Medora Verne exclaimed in some exasperation. "How's a body going to help becoming engaged to a fellow who haunts you like your shadow, and is the only presentable man within a month's mile, and who makes the other girls furious by giving you alone his persistent and flattering attentions?"

Nell Harmon's plain, pleasant face looked back at her gravely.

"But you weren't in love with him, dear!"

Medora gazed meditatively at the slim feet on the fender. Fairy feet were in their pretty bouclé slippers of blue silk and swan down.

"I didn't know anything about being in love then," she confessed, meekly.

"And you do now?"

Medora nodded, her white brow ruffling into a perturbed little pucker.

"Who is he? Do I know him?"

A series of rapid little nods from the girl in the blue kimono.

"Isn't Reuben Dever?"

"I should say not!" indignantly.

"He's fifty!"

"It isn't that! He's Gregory Bowdler?"

"Nell—that child!" A disdained toss of the yellow braids. "He isn't grown up yet."

"I can't think of anyone else unless it might be Dave Rogers."

Mrs. Verne raised heavenward a pair of appealing eyes.

"May the Lord give you sense!" she petitioned. "Dave Rogers! That lubber!"

Then there was no sound in Nell Harmon's pretty room save the whispering of the fire and the purr of the family cat. A sudden suspicion caused Miss Harmon to sit upright—to flash at her guest a suddenly illuminated glance.

"Medora—it's never Maurice?"

The face in the flooding freshline kindled rosily. The lids drooped over the blue-black eyes. The reply came in a whisper.

"Yes—it's Maurice!" she uttered the name tenderly.

"Well!" gasped Nell Harmon. Her great astonishment held her silent. "My—my brother! I never dreamed—Does he know?"

"Oh, you—stupid—thing! How should I know—if he didn't! He had to tell me—hadn't he? That's how I came to find out he was in love!"

"Oh!" breathed Nell, and found no further word to say. But the flood gates of Miss Verne's confidence were set wide.

"And here Maurice adores me—has for five years, he says, but I'm sure it can't be that long, for I was only in school a dress time. And, miserably, still the without Maurice—I don't know I shall! And here I'm engaged to Thomas Elder—a fussy, finical, tiresome, old-young creature! He won't let me off. I've tried to make him hate me since I found out that Maurice was the only man in the world for me! But he won't! He thinks I'm perfection, and that mamma will be perfection when he meets her! She's to get back from Europe on Saturday. I've told him she must live with us. I'm fearful, 'know most men detest a mother-in-law—' and mamma wouldn't leave her own house for any man alive, not even for me! In a despairing tone, 'he—she—hopeless! I've told him she has no money. I think of that! You know what mamma's income she declares that doesn't make a particle of difference. I said 'Oh, Nell! Think of my sweet mother being bad-tempered! He vows that's impossible—if she's my mother! Nell—whatever am I to do?"

"Well, of all the sublimated Sapphires I've ever met, you've turned into the worst, Medora! I pity you! Maurice! There—there! You little ailing! As if I wouldn't give—oh, what wouldn't I give to have you for a sister! Hark! Come in, Keturah!"

Keturah came in—a tall, stout, red-faced woman, with the aspect of a grenadier and the stride of an Amazon.

"Are you ready, Miss Nell? Shall I brush your hair now?"

"Not for ten minutes, thank you," Nell answered, politely.

When the door had closed behind Keturah the visitor drew the folds of her Japanese robe around her with a fastidious little fidget.

"I can't congratulate you on your taste in choosing a maid, Nell! That old creature is hideous. And your mother says she has a volcanic temper."

"She is very faithful—very devoted to me. You see, I received her from unhappy conditions several years ago, and trained her in my service. She is not charming to look at, I confess, and her temper only acquiesces her when the other servants are disagreeable. But let us talk of your love affair, dear."

"It's your turn. Tell me—haven't you been in love?"

"I fancied so—once!" She spoke in a low tone, a burning flush suffusing her cheeks. "I—I was jilted for a younger—a prettier woman."

"Nell—my dearest!"

Miss Harmon rose, went to her desk, took from it a letter which she brought to her friend. "You read this," she said.

A sharp exclamation of surprise broke from Medora at sight of the envelope. She read the letter through. It was a brief note—and a brutal one. The writer had been mistaken. He had fancied his affection for Miss Harmon was one that would prove deep and permanent. Within the last few weeks he had met at The Cascades a girl fairer—if possible—younger, if he might be permitted to speak so frankly—and wealthier—not that wealth counted. He herewith returned Miss Harmon's letters, and hoped they might be friends in the future. "The Cascades? That date!" cried Medora. "It is from Thomas Elder—and he—he meant me! Oh, Nell—why didn't you tell me before?"

"It might seem as though I were revengeful!"

"I'm revengeful now! Well, we must think of a way to make him break his engagement with me! I know I can't use this letter as a reason. I would never drag you into a position of such humiliation. I—I have it! Listen!"

It was after midnight when Miss Harmon's bed had been properly brushed—and Medora's, too, by the way. Keturah shook her head at the crackling notes extended. "You may take the money, my mistress said. 'You are doing me a favor as well as Miss Verne.'"

The next day Thomas Elder, sitting down to his desk, trim, well-shaved, shrew-faced, alert, pronounced on one particular envelope out of the pile awaiting inspection. A large square envelope of palest azure, with a silver seal, and the vagrant odor of mignonette clinging to it.

"From Medora," murmured Mr. Elder, placidly. "From my Medora!" He was charmed at the contents. To call at five—to meet her mother, who had that day arrived from New York! Ah—certainly! It was Medora herself—Medora exquisite in a street gown of crimson cloth and black tulle, who entered the little reception-room.

"No—I can't go with you! You must meet mamma alone!" He found her bashfulness entrancing. "She is in the library. She is expecting you. Go right in!"

The suitor boldly did as bidden. In the waning light of the winter day the room was shadowy. A gaunt, red-visaged creature in a gown of parrot-green confronted him. A mighty hand crushed his. A pair of sharp gray eyes pierced his soul.

"Glad to meet you, Thomas Elder! Hope you'll make a good son-in-law! I suppose Medora has told you you're coming to live with you? That's right. You aren't afraid of panther cats, are you? I've got a tame one that will eat out of your hand. He sure you get a good southern room in the house for my girls. Three—three! Yes, that's them. They never stop singing if they get light enough. I've been gadding around the world so much I've gathered some live curiosities—bargains, I call them. It was such a comfort to me to know Medora was going to get married, so I have a place to keep my panther. Not, critically, 'that's think she did the best she could do—' with her looks! I'll give you a good diet of vegetables—best kind of diet for you. I'm a vegetarian, you know. No meat in my house! Medora says she told you I lost my money in that wheat failure. Didn't tell you all the fortune she had swallowed up in that Bank of Gilead crash? No—didn't tell you that? I'm surprised! Well, it don't make any difference to you, son-in-law! Day not to have a place to keep my panther? Oh, we'll have to hurry things!"

Escape Thomas Elder finally effected. How he never knew. So excited was he that some sound in an adjoining room seemed to resolve itself into an irrepressible ripple of laughter. That night Keturah, in a parrot-green gown, lashed at heartily as his mistress, when between gasps of merriment, Medora read aloud a letter from her admirer, in which he deplored the fact that a suddenly developed case of cardiac collapse had convinced him that he could not get any woman to share the life of a hopeless invalid.

"What's the joke, girls?" cried Maurice Harmon, shrugging off his overcoat as he came into the parlor; a fine, many young fellow, with steady eyes and a strong, beautiful mouth. "Jewel! Isn't Keturah in style!"

Keturah, still shaking with mirth, took his coat and went out. Nell stood up and kissed him.

"It's all right, old boy," she said. "Medora will tell you about it." She laughed again at the thought of Elder's dismay when he should meet the red-headed Medora, angry, gracious, cultured, gentlewoman. "All's fair, you know, in love and war!"

"This was both!" cried Medora. Nell was still laughing when she went out, and softly closed the door.

An Unhappily Married Couple.

An artist relates that once he was standing in front of a huge poster which represented a well-known actor in the character of Henry V. Two men strolled by and stopped to look at it. Finally one of the men turned to his companion, who was looking at the actor's face with a look of disgust and asked impatiently:

"Henry V.—what?—Youth's companion."

### NEWS OF THE WORLD.

#### HAPPENINGS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS FROM ALL QUARTERS.

Plato Junks sunk by Chinese Man-of-War—Remarkable feat—Tribute to Be Rendered In an Incumbent-Famous Philadelphia Boat Crew Defeated.

General Daniel Butterfield died at his home, Craigside, at Cold Spring, N. Y. He was born at Utica, N. Y., October 31, 1831.

The steamer Empress of India, which arrived at Vancouver, brought the news that 16 pirate junks, return from a buccannery expedition on the coast just north of Shanghai, were rammed or blown up by the Chinese man-of-war Chinlang. Shots from the warship assisted in the annihilation of the crews. The few prisoners taken were lined up on board the warship next morning and decapitated.

At a meeting in London of the Eastern Telegraph company it was announced that, in conjunction with the postoffice authorities, the directors of the company were formulating a scheme to enable the public, by means of a code, to cable to the far east for about one penny a word.

The wife of Morris Cohn, of 25 Pike street, New York, presented her husband with triplets Tuesday. By the advice of the family physician the children have been sent to the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, where they will be reared in a special incubator, and visitors to the exposition will be permitted to see the babies grow.

The world's champion Vesper eight-oared shell crew of Philadelphia, which has carried the colors of its team to a victory, went down to defeat before the strong Argonaut crew of Toronto, Canada, in the last day of the annual regatta of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen.

By the will of the late Pierre Lorillard, the millionaire tobaccoist, the famous Hancock stock farm was left to Mrs. Lillian Barons Allen. A contest of their lands for less than two acres as much as Special Inspector McLaughlin is authorized by the government to pay.

Lieutenant Victor Blue has been assigned to Mars Island navy yard. For his valuable services during the late Spanish-American war he received high praise from the government officials.

While Charles Fiege was riding on his bicycle from Tropic to Los Angeles a motorist started across the road and ran into the front wheel of his machine, being caught between the spokes. Fiege involuntarily took a header, and on picking himself up made an inventory, with this showing: A dead squirrel, well mixed with the bicycle; six spokes in the front wheel broken off as clean as thought out with a knife; sundry bruises and sore spots about his person. Fiege painfully made the rest of the journey on foot, juggling the remnants of his wheel.

Irene Sears, the 7-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Peary Sears of Phoenix, A. T., was bathing in the sea at Long Beach, Los Angeles county, when a wave carried a large log toward her, knocking her down and crushing her frail body to the neck. The next wave caused the log to roll the other way. She was immediately carried to the office of Dr. Woods, but medical aid could not save her, and the child died of her injuries.

A decision in favor of the children of the late James G. Fair was rendered by Judge Treat of San Francisco, and about \$1,000,000 will be divided among the heirs. By stipulation over \$2,000,000 worth of the personal property was reserved on account of Mrs. Nettie Craven's claim that she should be given a widow's share of the estate, and it is to be held until that claim has been disposed of finally.

The confectionery and cigar store of Sargent & Baker at Corona, Cal., was nearly wrecked and Lon Baker, one of the firm, severely injured by the exploding of a soda fountain. Baker was lying on a couch eight feet away. Suddenly an explosion occurred that drove Sargent five feet from the couch against the wall of the building and drove Baker and the fountain ten feet into an alley, through a wooden door, the tank going ten feet further, striking another wall and shattering the bricks. Baker's left leg was crushed from knee to ankle, the leg apparently having been struck by a piece of metal. Sargent was uninjured, but Baker's condition is serious.

The original bank-note plates used by the Bank of New Brunswick, N. J., which went out of existence some time in the '90's, was supposed to have been destroyed, but it appears that these plates have fallen into the hands of parties who have printed from them large quantities of notes, which have been put into circulation in New York and San Francisco. The notes readily pass along the Canadian frontier, as the takers think they are the notes of the Canadian province of New Brunswick. "New Jersey" being printed in small letters. Possibly \$2,000,000 of these notes are in circulation.

The body of A. G. Neal, formerly receiver of the United States land office for the Waterville district of Washington, was found in a rowboat on Lake Umbagog. It is believed that he committed suicide. Neal was engaged to Miss Edith Moore of Waterville, and the wedding was to have taken place in a few days.

Ex-Judge Dudley Dubose arrived in custody at the Alameda county jail, where he will serve a sentence of six months for contempt of court. The contempt of Dubose consisted in having advised his client, Alexander McKenzie, to refuse to obey the writ and citation issued by the California circuit court of appeals. It was arrested at Noon on June 29 and taken to Seattle on the steamer Bonanza, and thence to Oakland, where he was taken to his residence in Alameda Dubose occupied a position on the Kossuth branch for 12 years. McKenzie's client was sentenced to three years imprisonment and afterward pardoned by President McKinley.

A Few Pointers.

The recent statistics of the number of deaths show that the large majority die with consumption. This disease may commence with an apparently harmless cough which can be cured instantly by Kemp's Balsam for the Throat and Lungs, which is guaranteed to cure and relieve all cases. Price 25c and 50c. For sale by all druggists.

P. T. Thomas, Smythville, Ala., was suffering from dyspepsia when I commenced taking Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. I took several bottles and can digest anything. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure is the only preparation containing all the natural digestive fluids. It gives weak stomachs entire rest, restoring their natural condition.

Mayor Hugh O'Hara of Santa Paula, Cal., was shot and probably fatally



HELP THIS OFFICER FIND THE BUTROLAR.

### Contagious Blood Poison

There is no poison so highly contagious, so destructive, and so difficult to cure as this. It is the cause of all the diseases which are known as blood poisons. It is the cause of all the diseases which are known as blood poisons. It is the cause of all the diseases which are known as blood poisons.

**Liko Begots Liko.** driven from the surface to break out again, and to their sorrow and mortification find those nearest and dearest to them have been infected by this loathsome disease, for no other poison is so easily transmitted from parent to child as this. Often a bad case of Rheumatism, Catarrh, Scrofula or severe skin disease, an old sore or ulcer developing in middle age, can be traced to blood poison contracted in early life.

**The Sin of the Parents.** If it remains smoldering in the system forever, unless properly treated and driven out in the beginning. S. S. S. is the only antidote for this peculiar virus, the only remedy known that can overcome it and drive it out of the blood, and it does this so thoroughly and effectually that there is never a return of the disease to embarrass or humiliate you afterwards.

**SSS** Contagious Blood Poison in any and all stages; contains mineral to break down your constitution; it is purely vegetable and the only blood purifier known that cleanses the blood and at the same time builds up the general health.

Our little book on contagious blood poison is the most complete and instructive ever issued; it not only tells all about this disease, but also how to cure yourself at home. It is free and should be sent to everyone seeking a cure. Send for it.

**THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.**

### FIGPRUNE Cereal

The little folks enjoy the distinction of drinking coffee—just like mamma and papa.

Let the table beverage be FIGPRUNE and they can join with the family in partaking of a rich, nourishing drink made of choice California figs, prunes and grain.

Healthful—nutritious.

Boil from 5 to 10 minutes only

ALL GROCERS SELL

FIGPRUNE CEREAL.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

The undersigned having been appointed executor of the estate of Joseph Kessler, deceased, by the County Court of Josephine County, Oregon, do hereby give notice that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me at Grant Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, with the proper proof and vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice. Dated this 24th day of July, 1901.

H. T. KESSLER, Executor of the estate of Joseph Kessler, deceased.

ED. LISTER, Sheriff of Josephine County.

A. C. HOOVER, Attorney for Plaintiff.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTE.

To Fred Stevenson:

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, your co-owners in the eight quartz mining claims situated on the "Excelsior" in Josephine County, Oregon, and known as the "Sunshine," the notice of which is recorded at page 47, V. 9, the "Confidence," the notice of which is recorded at page 51-52, V. 9, the "Excelsior," the notice of which is recorded at page 52-53, V. 9, the "San Pedro," the notice of which is recorded at page 48, V. 9, the "Golden Eagle," the notice of which is recorded at page 49, V. 9, the "Columbia," the notice of which is recorded at page 50, V. 9, the "Mossback," the notice of which is recorded at page 51, V. 9, the "Webb," the notice of which is recorded at page 52, V. 9, the "Excelsior," the notice of which is recorded at page 53, V. 9, the "Sunshine," the notice of which is recorded at page 54, V. 9, the "Confidence," the notice of which is recorded at page 55, V. 9, the "Excelsior," the notice of which is recorded at page 56, V. 9, the "San Pedro," the notice of 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