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The Canadian Lost

CANTA Y PRIDAY DEC 2 MAT.

WOMAN'S LOVE.

(Continued from ninth page.)

Continued from ninth page.)

Sours: "Notatus did not mean it, and her child love her dearly—dearly! Oh, there he is!"—as, passing round a hut, they stepped into a jard where nearly all the tribe were gathered.

The Ori was standing in the centre of the group, talking earnestly; but, as Miriama appeared, he stopped suddenty. She dropped her load, and stood sefore him, tall, slight, pale, with hends clasped tightly in front of her and even fixed on the ground, as a minimal stands before a judge.

He also stood still and looked at his foung wife for some moments in

foung wife for some moments in stence, while an expression of regret

and something like remorse stole over his face,
"Has Miriama-lost her tongue that it may no word of welcome to her husband?" he asked at length.

bend?" he asked at length.

"Morates is happy that Te Ori has
returned safely. He knows that he is
welcome to her—and to all the tribe
the flowers of spring;" and she
retised her eyes to his face, with someshing in their mystic depths which
contend him to draw her to him and of sporoval rose from the s murmur of approval rose from those standing round, for Miriama was dearly loved by them all. As To Ori released his wife, he said curtly—

ve, who have come And she hurried away, fushed, eager, happy, and, meeting Kotarua. surprised her by seizing her round the waist and laugging her with all her

Happiness is mine, Koturnal Onjoy, joy! But come and help me-About a week later Miriama was one day toiling wearily along with two ca-tabashes of water, when she heard a

step behind her, and her husband's roice saying—
"Put down the water, Miriams. I

She obeyed, and stood, silent and frembling, waiting for she knew not what. He did not begin at once, but after a somewhat nervous glance at her face, looked away to the purple

her face, looked away to the purple. Hills in the distance,
"Miriama," he began at length, with his eyes still averted, "of late years we have not been happy. When our children died they took all our sunshine with them. Now I am going to take a step which I think will be for the welfare of all; but I thid it difficult to tell the country to the step who is in the step who is in the step who is the step who is the step who is not considered. No. What?" Her voice was hoarse with a nameless fear, and she gasped

He looked into her face for a moment, then almost turned his back as

"I am going to take another wife. The wise men of our tribe advise it." His cheeks paled as he spoke, and he spod as though expecting an outburst But nothing met his car save a low

moan, as Miriama pressed her clenched hands tightly over her heart. So they stood for some time, the man moving uneasily from one foot to another, and looking away from his companion. The woman motionless as a statue, with her head bent on her preast. But presently she fulsed her head, trying to smile with her pitiful ashen lips.

"Te Ori ever leved a joke; Miriams is stupid not to laugh." "It is no loke," he returned roughly "and Miriama is—as she says—stupid or she would have guessed if long ago. Come" and he placed his hand on her Come"—and he placed his hand on her shoulder almost timidly—"come—you have ever been a good wife; let your husband fell you why he does this thing. Five times have the summer flowers bloomed and faded sines the spirit of Te Whoree rose like a bird from the sea and floated away to the regions of peace and joy, leaving us desolate. No other son has come to us; and you know that for ages past it has ever been the rule for son to succeed tather as emer of our tribe. If Te the should leave the son of a disthat he should leave the son of a dis-

he good seed he has toiled to sow to, no; it must never be! This heart gens with bitter fury at the thought yow, Miriams, look up and left me?

containing furely there we take the good of some weelf But-putitive for shee weelf But-putitive for shee we friends?

"Friends? Nevert Since you are retermined to hill my soul, hill my body also! You have your putathere—one swift strong stroke, and all will no over. See!—bending her head and sweeping the thick mantle of her hair side—"I am ready. I refuse to live my lenger. The sun of my life has set, and I am afraid of the darkness that will follow. To Ort, I wait!"

"Pail!"—and he drew his breath glickly as he stopped forward and raised her to her feet. "His Miriams got back to her bublished, to think I would hurt a hair of her head? Is my neart so small that I cannot love two some at one of Ones more, our take a finished. Gol"

"Fee, I will got And may—Ob,

similated. Golf

"Fee, I will got And may—Ob, no, no, no—surely not that! Current from the lips of Miriama on the head of her best beloved? Oh, I take thems all backs and may they fall on my own read! For will not bill me, and so send me from angular that drives me and to peace and rest in the company of my children? He be it; I must live. Yest our talk is ended, and it only remains for you to any one hind word to show me or the lonety road path of my future life. Hitherto we have sailed along the stream of life in the same sance; but from now poor Miriama must steer her own, and that toe invest the rough seas of min and season, and without one star of hope to not hear find her way. Won't you say the kind words that must last her so ong. Te Ori? There are no current for heart now—only great love and of there pain."

What mean you? He had seem tooking at her with a moody brow. To der likes no flowers speech.

'I mean that this is 'good by the ween us. I will leave the leavings with my faithful old kinswoman, and go to as brother. With what het blushes of sinne shall I tell my story! But what matters it—what matters anything sow? You may say truly that your seart is large enough for two womensur not if Miriama be one of them, for he is greedy, and will have all or none. Ah, why do you se? —he had spring to not story, was shaking her violently in a mnest of ungovernable tury. mpest of ungovernable fury.

"Why do I so?" he hissed. "That I may shake the breath from your frail body for daring to say you would leave me! You—the woman who has belonged to me from the hour of your birth! I could find it in my heart to all mine, body and soul? Do you think I could bear to think that other men were free to look upon your heauty—to woo, perhaps to win you? Never! Te Ort knows how to take care of his own. I shall give the men strict charge over you, and, if, when I return, you are missing, they may tremble. Where is all your vaunted faithfulness that it flies at the first trial? Fou have always spoken words of peace in my ears, yet now you would be the cause of blood shed between my men and your brother's, for have you back I would! My words are plain; see that you remember them;" and, giving her a last shake, he strode away; and she, reeling a few steps, fell into a clump of te-tree, and there lay, too crushed both in hody and spirit to realise her misery. So, hours afterwards, Koturua found

"My poor, crushed blossem!" she cried, as, peering through the serub, she saw the prostrate form. "May the bad spirit get him for this! Miriama as she saw the heavy eyelids quiver-"not so should the daughter and sister of a chief meet trouble. The day is dead, and the hour approaches when the spirits of darkness have power to

work evil to these whom they find abroad. Let us go home,"

"I have no home, Kounua. All is full of the blackness of despair. Let

But Hoturus, by dint of coaxing and soothing, at last prevailed upon her to rise and step out upon the path.

The moon had risen, and was bathing everything with a flood of silvery whiteness. whiteness. All looked so calm and peaceful that the two poor grief-stricken women paused instinctively to look

"How beautiful—how peaceful does it all look! But the moon is heartless; see how so smiles at me and my It seems had ages and ages since I put down those calabashes to listen to what Te Ori had to tell me; and, oh, what wicked thoughts have been in my what wicked thoughts have been in my heart since then! I was planning, as I lay yonder, how I would smile on the bride when she came, and hasten to bring her food with my own hands, taking care that it was well seasoned with sweet-tasting poison; and then how I would take a dose myself, and go and lay my head on my enildren's grave and die. What shall I do? I must go away, Koturus, the wickedness is so strong within me the wickedness is so strong within me that I know I should kill her!"

Koturna had only just succeeded in etting her home when there was a rap the door, and Te Orr's voice asked if fiama was there.

"Why do you wake an old woman from her sleep?" grumbled Koturua. "Yes, she is here."

"Do you lie?" he aked suspiciously, putting his head within the ubor.
"Te Ori is a great enest!" success the old woman, in a rage. "He insuling the kinswoman of his wife! Am I a dog!"
"You are a prating old foot!" he use an angrily, when Miriama's soft voice interrupted him.

"I am here. To Ori. Say not hard words to Koturna." "See that you stay there!" he answered roughly, closing the door with a bang and whiting prop,
The next morning fariams was roused from an uneasy sleep by Rota-

or comes to the control of the contr



hand will wind it once more round its loved support. How quickly would it then put forth fresh tendrils, and mayyou can guess then how deep is her love when she stoops to plead once more. Ah, frown not so darkly; she more. Ah, frown not so the self nieself as much for you as for herself

"Have done! Twas not for this I came to you. To-morrow evening I shall be home again. You will meet me with a smile, won't you. Minimal —and he held out his hand almost pleadingly.

"Will nothing I can say stop you from minimal"

frown returning to his brow. "Remember my words of last night, and dare not to leave the kainga. Good-bye!"
"Good-bye, Te ()ri," she responded quietly, though she was trembling so much that she could hardly stand; "but, before you go—while you are yet all mine—take me in your arms for the last time and say you do not quite hate

He complied at once, drawing her into a close embrace, and kissing her lips again and again, whispering as he did

ama, and grieve the heart of your hus-band. There—and there! I will take there kines bank when I meet you again;" and he turned away with a strange moisture in his brown eves For a minute she stood as he had left her, then, with a low moan, threw herself down and lay motionless till Kotu-

"Come, child; we must go at once, for we shall be well guarded to-night, and now is our chance." "Oh. Koturua, never to see him day

after day! How can I go-oh, how can But she sat up and listened while Koturns planned their flight.
"That is all," concluded the old wo-

nan; "you must saunter away careless and wait for me by the kauri with the broken branch. Now 20. In a dazed dreamy way Miriama un-astened a green stone ornament from her neck, and, walking over to her own list, glaced it where it could not fail to estels Te Ori's notice as soot as he entered; then, giving one miserable farewell look around, she turned away in lendings.

A week later she was soubing out her story in the sympathetic ear of her brother Hori, whose indignation at the slight paid to his sister knew no

g!" he muttered between his "Have you back, will he? Let

TOTAL BOT THE TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

but strove to find it for ou

rived from Te Ori, demanding per return at once, and threatening extreme measures in the event of his request not being acceded to; but Hori had returned such an answer as must have satisfied him that it would plunge him "Miriama was never the one to lack ready speech before."

"Miriama was never a deserted wife before," she reminded him gently. "It is not pessible for me to wish you other than good wishes, Te Ori, for I love you se; but I feel like some tender creeper that has been rudely torn from the support of a sturdy tree where it measures in the event of his request measures in the event of his request mot being acceded to; but Hori had returned such an answer as must have satisfied him that it would plunge him into serious difficulties to persist—or perhaps his conscience told him he was wrong. Whatever the cause, no more was heard of him.

Eighteen months have passed away, and threatening extremes.

As Miriama was standing one morning with a huge white blossom of pam-

-grass (loi-toi) in her hand, acting as a starter and umpire to a score of speed against one another, Hori came up, and laid his hand upon her shouldyou are not racing with them. But I

"What is it, Hori?"—and she looked at him with a smile. His face darkened as he answered I hear Te Ori has a son. I wish-

But she placed her hand over his "No bad wishes for him, for my sake Hori. May the good spirit keep him-and his little son!"

But she threw down the reed, much to the children's dismay, and glided away; and it was many hours afterwards before she appeared amongst

As Te Ori had foreseen, she was sought in marriage several times, but to all she smiled and shook her head, saying—
"Nay, do you forget that Miriams is already married." Seek a wife in one

of our bright young girls; there are many of them both pretty and good." One day some months later Miriama, Koturua, and several girls were stand ng on the bank of the river near which Hori's kainga was placed. It had been a wild night, raining and blowing furiously; but now the sun was shining brightly, and the hurricane had subsided into a gentle breeze. The river was much swollen, and was dashing

the current," suggested one of the girls
—"'twill be such run!"—and one after another they all, except Koturua, siunged in.
A few minutes of it they found quite

ough, and they came out laughing, "Oh, but it was strong, Koturna!" said Miriama, twisting her hair into a thick rope and wringing the water from it. "I went too far, and could

"Yes, I saw, and nearly screamed with fear. Never do such a thing again, child. My heart is thumping "Ah, well, there's no harm done!"—and Miriama smiled at her affectionately. "I will— Hark! What is that?"

ble cry for help floated to their ne one in the river-and in ger! Ah, yes! I see-it is a man; there the drowning man.

Keturna stood on the bank wringing her hands in anguish.

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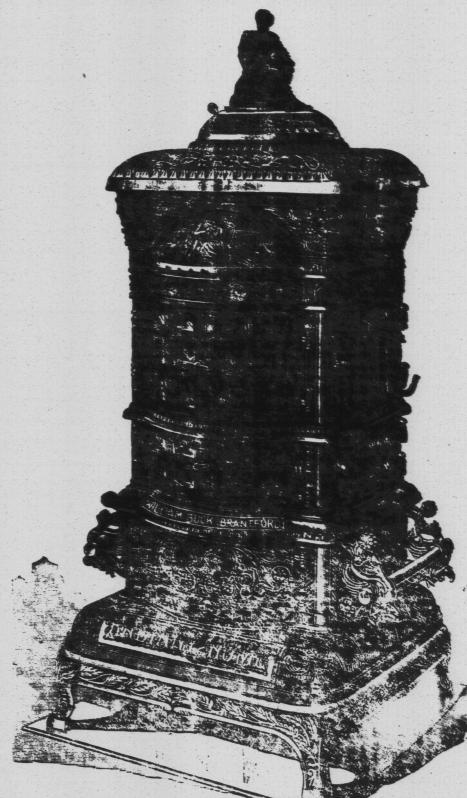
me, and as I have the means I intend to do my duty by them.

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