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e Watchman.

URSDAY, MAY 12 1892.

A WOMAN'S WEAPON.

at is a woman's weapon ?"
sked a charming girl.
ropped her lashes shyly
d stroked a vagrant curl;
consciously she murmured,
s rosebud newly cut;
ve a strong suspicion
e weapon is a pout."

at is a woman's weapon ?"
k a lover true.
med him to a maiden
h eyes of heavenly blue—
velvet lips were parted,
innocent of guile—
eagerly he answered :
Her weapon is a smile."

at is a woman's weapon ?'
sked a poet then.
sudden inspiration
e siezed upon his pen.
I could name a thousand,"
cried in accents clear;
woman's surest weapon,
rant you, is a tear."
it Times.

THAT OLD DRESS.

It Did for its Self-Sacrificing Wearer.

Langdon had sent out cards of ion to her "dear five hundred" s for a grand ball at her elegant ce on Fifth avenue, in honor of trance of her twin daughters ciety.

had just been graduated at ashionable "finishing off" estab- nt, and their debut was intended a very magnificent affair.

. Gregory, husband and daugh- ere on the invited list. As the and two latter sat in the parlor, g at the elegant cards, with the sting subject under deep discus- they were broken in upon by the ce of Mr. Gregory, who looked sed and weary.

apa," cried Lena, the elder daugh- See our invitations to Mrs. Lang- great ball," showing him the cards eld in her hand. "And there is veliest silk at Stewart's that I to wear. Can I go and order it rrow ?" she pleaded, laying her hand, flashing with jewels, on his and looking into his face.

aven't you any dresses to wear ?" ked, moodily.

lenty of old ones, which have al- been worn, and will not answer is particular event," she returned. ow much will it cost?" Mr. Gre- asked.

h, perhaps a hundred and fifty," Lena, carelessly, with as little idea e value in money as an unfledged

e father groaned and said some- about "foolish extravagance," drawing out his bankbook, slowly ed out the required sum and laid the table.

ow much do you want, Bertha ?" ked, turning towards her.

don't think I want any, papa. I a pretty dress, which will answer nicely," she replied.

ou're a sensible girl, and the man gets you for a wife will have some o help him keep his head above r. If the pressure on the money et lasts much longer, with these nds to meet, I shall soon be a bankrupt," said Mr. Gregory, as ft the room.

hat is the trouble with papa! t does make him talk so dolefully n he is asked for a little money ?" Lena. "Any one would think he poor man."

t is one of his money-nervous spells; s always so afraid his business s would come out just so straight; it is economy, and retrenchment, erything will drift to bankruptcy. is the way business men always ir has become quite an old story me," said Mrs. Gregory, drawing eath of relief.

"I don't think papa is trying to frighten us at all," said Bertha. "I think his business does really perplex him. I've noticed for a week that he has looked pale and careworn and he said but little."

"Was that the reason you didn't want a new ball dress?" asked Lena.

"Yes. I'd rather wear an old one than place papa to the expense of a new one now, while money is so hard to raise," replied Bertha.

"Pray inform us how you came to know so much about monetary affairs, my daughter?" said Mrs. Gregory.

"I heard papa and Mr. Ainsley talking about business when he was here the other evening, and he said it was almost an impossibility to get money at all now," said Bertha.

"Well you are a little goosy; if you will go to the grandest ball of the season in an old made-over ball dress you can do so. And when you see the victory which may, perhaps, be won over a certain gentleman by your elder sister's more stylish toilet, you will regret your decision in favor of Mme. Noah's antediluvian costume," said Lena.

"I'm perfectly indifferent to the praise or contempt of the fashionable world, for their is neither heart nor sincereity in it. I want no dry goods worshipper for my future liege lord. So you have the field open and clear to yourself."

"Bertha, what dress have you to wear? You haven't any that you've not already worn two or three times, at least, and I desire my daughters to make an elegant appearance as any of their friends on this occasion," said Mrs. Gregory.

"I'm going to have Mme. Leiceister make over my blue gros-grain silk, and you know she is a noted genius for renewing worn ball dresses; but it, after it is done, it looks antediluvian and musty, I'll do penance by staying at home," said Bertha.

"Do just as you prefer; but I think your father would give you a new one if you wished it," said her mother.

Lena purchased the new dress and had it made up without regard to expense, and it was exquisite when done and extremely becoming to the young lady, who had been congratulating herself on the success she was determined to achieve.

Bertha's dress came from the mantua-maker's hands as beautiful as it could be, and none would ever have suspected it had already been thrice worn unless she had been seen with it on.

It harmonized admirably with her fair blonde complexion, forming a vivid contrast to Lena's more brilliant style of personal attractiveness and bright, orange colored robe.

On the day previous to the ball Clara Ainsley called, a sister of Hugh Ainsley, who was the fixed centre star around which the feminine luminaries had ambitiously beamed for the last two seasons, each fondly hoping to be the finally favored one.

But to the secret chagrin of each he still maintained the same quiet courtliness of manner toward them all. He seemed quite as indifferent to their heart affairs as he would have been to the pyramids in Egypt.

This was the gentleman Lena was bending all her energies to ensnare and bring to her feet before the present season closed.

Clara was an intimate friend of both the girls and she was invited upstairs to see the dresses, which had just been sent home. Their beauty she warmly expatiated on, but Lena would not allow her to leave until she had told her of Bertha's wonderful fit of economy.

The combined entreaties of all the trio could not induce Mr. Gregory to accompany them to Mrs. Langdon's. He pleaded a headache and fatigue.

This was a cover to the real reason. His business affairs were daily becoming more entangled by means of several heavy failures of parties owing him to a great extent, and all he could see before him was ruin and disgrace.

But he could keep his forebodings to himself till after the fete was over, when, if he found no means of extricating himself, he would make a clean breast of the whole thing to them.

Hugh Ainsley was quite attentive to Miss Lena that night, who looked very queenly in the gay throng, and his attentions were received with deep satisfaction to herself. Nor was the less interested Bertha, who had laid no siege to him, overlooked.

He inquired at once where her father was, as he had not seen him there. To her reply that he had resisted all entreaty to come, from great fatigue, he uttered a prolonged 'Ah,' and fell into a reverie.

He was thinking of the vague report he had heard on wall street that morning that the commercial house of Gregory & Co. was fast tottering toward bankruptcy.

The next morning, at an early hour, Hugh called Mr. Gregory's counting-house and offered to help him through the financial crisis that was upon him.

Mr, Gregory had done the same deed years before for Hugh's father, and he (Hugh) kindly pressed the favor back upon him, which was accepted with tears of gratitude in the eyes of the panic-stricken merchant.

As Clara and Hugh sat at dinner the next day after the ball, discussing the costumes brought out there, she related what Lena had told her of Bertha's streak of economy.

"Is that so, Clara?" he asked. 'Was she as self-sacrificing as that? But she looked as sweet as a rosebud in her dress if it had been worn three times."

Then he told her in confidence of the state of Mr. Gregory's affairs, and the reason which had probably deterred Bertha from the outlay for a new dress,

"She is a noble, girl, Clara, and I'm afraid we couldn't number many like her amongst that gay assembly at Mrs. Langdon's. Surely, 'all is not gold that glitters.'"

A week after this the footman at the Gregorys brought up a card to the parlor for "Miss Bertha, and the gentleman is waiting below in the drawing-room."

Bertha glanced at the card, and saw 'Hugh Aainsley' inscribed thereon.

"Did you say this was for me, John?" she asked, thinking it must have been intended for Lena.

"Yes, ma'am. He said 'Miss Bertha,' replied the servant.

Lena pouted at this; she had thought she had made a mistake, and an angry frown clouded her face as Bertha descended to the drawing room.

"Was it I you wished to see, Mr. Ainsley?' she asked after saluting him.

"I was you, yourself. Why? permit me to inquire."

"I thought it might be one of John's blunders, and that sister Lena was the one desired," said Bertha.

"No, Miss Bertha; it is you with whom I have special business," he said at the same time watching the sudden enlargement of her blue eyes when he said business.

"For several years, Miss Bertha, I've been searching in the circle of my acquaintances for a noble, true-hearted woman, to ask to become my wife. I have just been fortunate enough to find her, and have now come to ask her if she will bear my name, and share with me my earthly lot."

"Bertha, will you answer me 'yes?'"

"Give me time to think, please; it is so sudden," she stammered, covering her face with her hands to conceal her blushes.

"You shall have three whole months to consider the subject, then I shall demand an unconditional answer," said Hugh drawing the hands from her face and pressing them to his lips.

In three months their engagement was announced to the gay world.

After three months and the gay world was invited to their public wedding in church. After much coaxing, Lena was prevailed upon to be Bertha's bridesmaid; but it was bitter disappointment to stand in that place, instead of next to the groom.

In years after she learned that Bertha's "old ball dress" had turned the scale in favor of her, and won Hugh Ainsley. He reasoned that the daughter who would sacrifice her own desires for the sake of lessening the burden weighing upon the shoulders of her father could not fail to make a true wife.

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The following table shows at a glance how the affairs of the London Mutual have been going during the last few years :—

Year.	Losses unpaid at close of each year.	Cash available for paying losses at close of each year.	Money Borrowed	Surplus reckoning premium notes at full face value.	Investments each year.
1885	$6,047	$63,963	None	$101,816	None
1886	9,878	50,686	None	115,955	$6,500
1887	12.455	22,701	$20,000	97,268	8,000
1888	23.014	20,721	40,000	75,334	None
1889	20,436	13,911	40,000	74,068	9,028
1890	26,182	1,403	60,000	67,176	11,797

It should be borne in mind that during the last three years the London Mutual collected in heavy assessments over $30.000 more than usual, and yet at the close of last year, after collecting a full year's income, they had only $1,403 with which to pay $26,182 of unsettled losses. In regard to security no one should hesitate as to which company to select.

S. CORNEIL,
Agent Royal Canadian Company.

Lindsay, July 22, 1891.

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