

THE OMEMEE MIRROR.

"OH, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US, TAE SEE OORSELS AS IHERS SEE US."

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A Cat's Paw

Or, The Maid of the Mill

CHAPTER I.

It was dawn—dawn here in London, almost as cool and clear as in the pleasant country, where the bird was wakening in the garden and the tall poplar stirred and quivered in the morning breeze. Even in the hospital the bright-eyed morn had come in to greet a score of sufferers, who had longed for her coming through weary hours of pain, to welcome her arrival as nurse physician friend. It was dawn, too, in the long perspective of the silent streets, silent now, the less for the booted stamp of an occasional policeman, for the trampling of a belated cab. And it was dawn in the principal rooms, of one of the houses in London, filled with the great ones of the earth, or as they term themselves, somewhat presumptuously, "the nobles but the best people." Dawn less welcome here, then in deep robes of breezy upland, than on the wide, lone sea, in the blustery ward of the hospital, or along the narrow streets—greeted, indeed, as a deliverer only by a few outworned chaperones, and perhaps by the light-fingered musicians, who had still an endless collection of works through before they could cover up their instruments and go to bed.

I stood at the top of Lady Billesdon's staircase and watched the usual "business" with an attention partly flagging from weariness, partly diverted in the contemplation of my hostess herself, whose pluck and endurance, while she would have done honor to the gods of Guard-magistrate, were no less extraordinary than admirable in an infant old lady of three-score. Without consulting the ordering like arrangements, she had been "under arms" so speak, for more than five hours, erect at the doorway of her own ball-room, greeting her guests, one by one, as they arrived, with unflagging cordiality, never smirking the bow, the hand-shake, nor the "right thing" said to each. Under her direction the ordering like arrangements, the whole responsibility of the entertainment, the invitations, accepted and all the invitations denied, and those she took before me, that covered a good woman without a father or pedigree in her eyelids, an additional care on her quiet matronly brow.

It was wonderful; it must have been something more than enthusiasm that kept her apron-something that stern sense of duty which fixed the Roman soldier to his post when the boiling deluge swept a whole population before it, and engulfed pleasant wicked Pompeii in a sea of fire. But it was her own kind heart that prompted the hope, I had been amused, and the pleasant "Good-night" with which she replied to my farewell bow and sincere congratulations, for she was an old friend to the success of her ball.

Lady Billesdon, like those like her who give large entertainments, at endless trouble and expense, for the amusement of their friends, deserved more gratitude from the charming young people of both sexes who constitute the rising generation of society in London than these are inclined to admit. It is not to be supposed that an elderly lady of plucky habits, even with daughters to marry, can derive much enjoyment from a function which turns her nice house out of windows, and keeps her weary self about and walking till six o'clock in the morning—but if people whose day for dancing has gone by did not sacrifice their comfort and convenience to the pleasures of their juniors, I will only ask the latter to picture to themselves what a dreary world would be the London season, what a desolate place of incurable penance would seem parks, shoppings, operas, and those eternal dinners, unrelied by a single ball!

Some such reflections as these grossed my attention as I went down stairs, mechanically fingered the latch-key in my waistcoat pocket, that I am ashamed to say I inadvertently trod on the dress of a

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figure of the shapely limbs, denoted pride, indeed, but it was a pride to withstand injury, oppression, misfortune, insult, all, the foes that could attack it from without, and to yield only at the softening touch of love.

As she walked listlessly to her carriage, taking it, stepped to me, but little heed of her companion. I agreed—I could detect in a certain weariness of step and gesture, the tokens of a life unsatisfied, as destiny incomplete.

I had no carriage to take me home,

Dreaded Results of Kidney Disease

Allments of the Most Painful and Fatal Nature Prevented and Cured by

DR. CHASE'S KIDNEY-LIVER PILLS.

When you think of the pain and cure, Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, suffering which accompany backache, are the most effective treatment you can obtain, for besides their direct kidneys and bladder, when you think and specific action on the kidneys, they keep the bowels regular and the disease, dropsy, diabetes and apoplexy, you may well wonder why people neglect to keep the kidneys, in perfect order for all these ailments are the direct result of deranged kidneys.

Once the kidneys fail to filter from the blood the impure and poisonous waste matter there is trouble of a painful and dangerous nature. Among the first symptoms are backache, weak, lame, back pains in the legs and sides, deposits in the urine, impaired digestion, loss of flesh energy and ambition, stiffness and soreness in the joints and feelings of weariness and lassitude.

Prevention is always better than cure, and hence the advisability of using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills on the very first indication of such derangement. Whether to prevent or

and wanted none. No gentle voice when I arrived there, kind of querulous, as the case might be, to reprove me with the lateness of the hour. Shall I say of this luxury that I wanted none? No; but toning my coat, and reliant on my latch-key, I passed into the grey morning and the bleak street, at Mrs. Vandeleur's residence, drove off, and the gentleman who had attended her walked back with a satisfied air into the house for his overcoat, and possibly his cigar-case. As he hurried in, he was fastening a white rose in his button-hole. A sister flower, dropping and fading, perhaps from nearer contact with its late owner, lay unnoticed on the pavement. I have seen so many of these vegetables exchanged, particularly towards the close of an entertainment that I took little notice either of the price, or the personal, or perhaps, or his friend's companion; but I remember now to have heard in clubs and other places of resort, how pale beautiful Mrs. Vandeleur went by the name of the White Rose, at least none less appropriate, that she was supposed to be a plumply girl with thorns, and that many well-known lingers' wife said to have been prickled to the bone in their efforts to detach her from her stem.

There is a philosophy in most men towards love in the morning, supposing them to have been up all night, which tends to an idle contemplation of human nature, and indulgent forbearance towards its weaknesses. I generally encourage this frame of mind by the thoughtful consumption of cigar. Turning round to light one, I saw from Lady Billesdon's doorway was started to observe a shabby-faced, figure advance stealthily from the corner of the street, where it seemed to have been on the watch and waited at the swiftest roses crushed and falling on the pavement. As it passed swiftly by me, I noticed the figure was that of a man in the prime of life, but in bad health, and apparently in narrow circumstances. His hair was matted, his face pale, and his work clothes hung loosely from the angles of his frame. He took me heed of my presence, was probably unconscious of it, for I perceived his eyes full with tears as he pressed the crushed flower passionately to his lips and heart, muttering broken sentences the while. I had caught the words, "I have seen you once more, my darling! I swear to you, and it was at a wedding, that this good-looking young man, who is probably poor, head and ears in love with her, and I could stare at her without ruddiness now, from my post of observation on the landing. Yet it was no wonder I had not recognized her, though the dark penciled eyebrows and the deep-set eyes were Norah Welby's, it was hardly possible to believe that this high-bred, queenly beautiful woman could be the laughing, light-hearted girl I remembered in her father's parlour some ten or fifteen years ago.

She was no with then. She was a splendid enchantress now. There was magic in the gleam that tinged her dark, raven hair with gold, magic in the turn of her small head, her delicate temples, her chiselled features, her a smiling sweet mouth, and the depths of her large, dark, loving eyes. Every movement of the graceful neck of the tall, lithe

body was a witch, but how different from, and infinitely more dangerous than, the witches our forefathers used to fear, and drown, and burn, without remorse. She was coming out of the cloak-room again, still haunted by that good-looking young gentleman, who was probably poor, head and ears in love with her, and I could stare at her without ruddiness now, from my post of observation on the landing. Yet it was no wonder I had not recognized her, though the dark penciled eyebrows and the deep-set eyes were Norah Welby's, it was hardly possible to believe that this high-bred, queenly beautiful woman could be the laughing, light-hearted girl I remembered in her father's parlour some ten or fifteen years ago.

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