

THE MINISTER'S WIFE

(CONCLUDED.)

It was not the reputation of the Rev. Elias Ormsby that drew so large an attendance at the little church on the next Sabbath. Curiosity led most of those who wore bonnets and crinolines thither, and it was gratified to the utmost, for in his very first prayer the old gentleman uttered a devout and earnest supplication for the pastor of the congregation, who at that very moment, perhaps, took unto himself the solemn obligation of married life. Might Heaven give him strength, and bless him and his young and pious wife, etc. It was a prayer worth listening to, but the ladies of Applebloom heard nothing after the word wife. They were lost in astonishment; and hurried out of church, after the benediction, with indecent haste, to discuss the affair by their own firesides. And on Monday, when it was known by all that black Betty, the charwoman of the place, was engaged to scrub and scour the parsonage; that an ingrain carpet had been sent down from New York for the parlor floor, and that a tea-set had arrived in a box, marked "this side up, with care," the certainty of the astonishing fact became established, and Applebloom joined in denouncing Mr. Redlaw as a despicable flirt. "And," said the plump mamma of the nine scraggy Misses Fish, "of all men, a minister should blush to earn such a reputation. Nobody would believe the attention he has paid my girls. I couldn't tell which one of 'em he wanted, he was so particular to all of 'em."

think of me, if I, their pastor's wife, fled at such an hour." The man listened at first unconvinced. "We owe them nothing," he said; "they have used us shamefully. Remember, I am actually their pastor no longer." But his wife gently pleaded; pleaded to stay midst the danger, to aid him in the duties which would fall to him amidst the sick and dying; and, touching his heart and soul by her sweet Christian spirit, brought him at last to say: "You shall have it as you choose, Rosa; we will stay amidst this hard, heathened-hearted people in their hour of trial; but, God sparing us, we will leave them when it is over, and go elsewhere."

church-yard groups were gathered, girls and boys, young married couples, old folks who had seen their grandchildren grow to be men and women and die. And, waiting in the morning sunlight of a pleasant winter day, they saw their pastor coming along the frost-hardened road with his wife upon his arm. They came nearer, and they saw how frail her form had grown; but still her veil was down, and they could not see her face until standing amongst them, she put it back, and then—yes, breaths were held, and all eyes riveted upon those features; and there was a hush, unbroken, until a child's voice, clear as dropping silver, arose upon the air: "Oh, mother, look; the lady is just as beautiful as ever." And then, though it was Sunday, and in New England, and beside a church, a cheer arose upon the air, and men tossed their caps on high, and women sobbed; she sobbed also, beautiful Rosa Redlaw, thanking God for all his love, and thanking Him also, as a woman must, that He had not taken from her the charms in which her husband took such tender pride, and of which, for his sake more than for her own, she was also just a little proud, though she had laid that pride aside, knowing well her danger, when she went forth upon her mission.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE

REPORTED BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

The House convened at 5 o'clock, and though less than a quorum was present, the session lasted an hour, and considerable business was done in the way of advancement of bills. Mr. Nohe asked leave to introduce an insurance bill, stating that this was the first insurance bill he had sought to introduce. Unanimous consent being obtained, he introduced a bill to prevent fire-insurance companies organized in states and countries foreign to the state of Illinois from reinsuring or disposing of by treaty or otherwise any liability for insurance on property located in the state of Illinois. Thirty House bills on the order of first reading were read a first time and advanced to second reading. This left seventeen bills still on the order of first reading, the bicycle baggage bill being at the bottom of the calendar on that order. Among the bills advanced to second reading were the following: Needles' to require foreign corporations to have a public office or place of business in this state; Brown's to prevent the adulteration of food and drugs; Steen's to regulate the employment of children; Cochran's to establish a law department at the University of Illinois; Ely's to punish persons making false entries in the books of corporations or false statements to officers thereof; Eldredge's regulating the sale of ice; La Monte's increasing the salary of the Cook County judges to \$10,000 per annum, and the bill of Allen of Vermillion to authorize county boards to grant aid to homes for indigent orphan children. The House adjourned to 10 a. m. to-morrow. The Senate met at 5 p. m., without a quorum present. No business was transacted, and immediately after the reading of the Journal an adjournment was taken until tomorrow at 10 a. m.

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