

A TERRIBLE END.

A STORY OF TROPICAL LIFE.

Every one who watched the coquettish, heartless ways of Sophie Richmond predicted trouble, if not danger, for her. But the blue-eyed, golden-ringed, blonde beauty of the "Circus Royal" would listen to neither advice nor warning. Her sole object in life appeared to be to win applause, to make men bow in worship, tempt them into an avowal of love, and then dance lightly away with an amused smile, and the most merry of laughter ringing from her red and tempting lips.

At the North, where passion is kept in subjection, civilisation perfected, law stern in its decrees and swift in execution, this was not a matter of moment. Revenge was the exception, not the rule, and men healed their heart-wounds by another alliance. Not so under the Equator. There blood runs hot as the sunshine, passions are volcanic, vengeance almost certain, law little respected or obeyed, and female beauty inflames and drives to desperation.

Knowing this, and fearful of some jealous episode that would wreck the chances of prosperity open to them at Bogota, the manager endeavored to impress the importance of more circumspect behavior upon the giddy girl. But with her usual merry laugh she responded:

"No danger of my falling in love with any swarthy prince or ragged ranchero and running away with them."

"That is not the question. It is that you do not permit them to fall in love with you and cause trouble. Remember, they are hot-blooded, jealous and revengeful in the extreme."

"Little fear. I know how long to play my fish before letting them go, and always manage to have half a dozen on a string at the same time."

"That will never answer. You must not give the slightest encouragement to any. Lovers you will have in plenty, if you permit it, and I warn you not to trifle with a single man."

"But it is such fun to see men make fools of themselves," she laughed, and flitted away singing as merrily as a bird upon a cherry-laden tree.

It was as the manager predicted—could not have been otherwise. Such piquant beauty, such snowy complexion and dashing grace, such abandon in manner fired the impressive Spanish hearts and the most enthusiastic vivas greeted her entrance, and the sawdust was speedily covered with flowers and more costly gifts.

Nothing could have pleased the girl better. She lived upon admiration and triumphed in floating upon the topmost wave of applause. She dressed for it, rode for it, danced and sang for it, never danced more winningly or more coquettishly charmed, never so exerted herself to drive men mad with love.

As long as this feeling was general it was well, and crowded the canvas. But very soon two pressed before the others, and their earnestness caused her alarm. Thoughtless of consequences, she had accepted and publicly worn their favors, had flirted and somewhat committed herself to both, playing one against the other and enjoying their jealousy.

Their dark beauty, picturesque dress, muscular, manly development had first attracted her. Their soft words flattered her vanity. Now she awoke to the reality of having gone too far, and that to the other she had given her own heart.

But little she knew the imperative nature, the vindictive passions that flamed behind the intensely black eyes; the jaguar nature that was ready to break forth into deadly hatred at the slightest cause; the oaths that had been crushed, the hopes that were driving them onward to love rewarded or to the most swift revenge.

Her woman's wit suggested temporizing, but theirs was not the nature so to do. Decision was forced when she least expected and was least prepared to meet it. The night of her benefit came. She was dressed with more of lavishness, had more fully displayed her physical charms than ever before, had won thunders of applause. Flowers had been rained upon her, all of woman's and artist's pride had been gratified, and as she flung herself down in her dressing-room for a trifle of rest a man lightly entered, threw himself at her feet and poured out his adoration in the most fervent of words.

"Senorita Americana, I love you," he said, and seizing upon her trembling fingers pressed his lips rapturously upon them.

She started, flushed, paled, and with difficulty repressed screams. Then countering excessive fatigue and anxious to gain time she pleaded:

"Manana."

"To-morrow?" he repeated bitterly, with corrugated brows and nervously working hands. "You would not say so to another. You scorn me because I am poor, have not lands and houses and jewels and—"

"Go, go," she implored, wildly.

"Never until you promise, swear by the amor de Dios to be my wife."

"Yours?" and the love, within her flamed up a hundred times more powerfully than ever before. "Yours, Barbaro? I would die first."

"Then if not willingly you shall be without. You lured me on, drove me mad with your matchless loveliness, and mine you shall be. Swift horses and trusty men wait. In half an hour we will be in the mountains, and let those follow who dare and find us who can."

He threw a dark cloak around her, stifled her cries with its folds, lifted her in his strong arms and was about to dash out into the darkness when he was felled by a heavy blow and the half-fainting girl torn from his grasp.

"Malo Pecho!" thundered the one who had defeated his plans of abduction, "go and save your wretched life. A word will bring hundreds to my assistance. Go I spare you, for such loveliness is enough to drive any man mad."

With a growled curse the guilty man fled. His was not the courage to, lion-like, face foes when baffled, and meet death full-fronted and with unquailing eyes, but rather that of the prowling mid-night beast that leaps suddenly and without warning upon

its victim, crushes skull and laps the blood from the still beating heart.

The action of one lover caused the affections of the girl to go out entirely to the other. Passive, white as a lily, she lay pillowed within his sheltered arms, and when he smoothed back the tangled mist of golden hair, when he whispered his all-absorbing passion, she looked up to him with happy though streaming eyes and lifted her lips to receive the proffered kisses.

"You have saved me from a fate worse than death," she whispered, still with leaf-like trembling; "do with me as you will, but protect me from him."

"Have no fears," he answered, straining her closer to his heart, "but *Dois mio!* had I not come to his heart?"

"Yes," and she clung frantically to him, "he swore vengeance but it may fall on you."

"Such men—he is but a miserable ranchero of the mountains—are but barking dogs. Cheer up, darling. Hark! They are calling you. Yes, go to-night love. Nay, it must be so, but never again. You shall be removed at once to the home of my mother, petted, guarded, and next week Bogota shall ring with praise of the fairest bride ever blessed by priest."

Only fond lover's words, but they thrilled her as human utterances had never done before. Hers was an organization that admitted no half-way feeling. Love was all or nothing, and once having found her king, she admitted not even the shadow of another upon the throne.

As one walking in sleep, acting under the most subtle mesmeric influence, the girl went through her final act. She had eyes but for one face, ears but for one voice, saw the flashing of but a single pair of eyes, heard a single shout above the tempest of vivas.

The performance ended, the company heard of the betrothal, but nothing of the episode of the dressing-room. The lovers kept that an unwelcome secret, though often talking of it in the sweet communings that followed, she shuddering even at the recollection and fear of coming danger, and he consoling and reassuring.

But such passionate hearts could not long be satisfied without the fruition of love. He had named a week, and insisted upon their marriage within that time. Rich, influential, respected, the narrow-streeted city was upon the qui-vive for the event, and the ancient cathedral was filled with humanity and festooned with flowers as never before. All the impressive ceremonies of the church were brought into requisition. Before the altar stood the happy couple, the hands of the priest were raised in benediction, when even from behind the sacred place a dark form sprang, a dagger flashed in the light of a hundred candles, the bride of a moment fell into the arms of her husband, and shrieks of horror and denunciation rang from every lip.

In the intense confusion the assassin escaped followed by universal anathema and the direct curse of the priest whose holy vestments were spattered with the blood of the young bride who had been instantly carried out. Then one hundred willing hearts, devoting themselves to vengeance, were thirsting for blood. Upon whom, and how to be gained, they paused not to consider until the frenzy had somewhat subsided. Then the episode of the dressing-room was told and the rash and desperate man settled upon.

"But," said one, whose blood had been tempered by years, "nothing can be done to-night. In the darkness he could hide from a thousand eyes. With the first ray of light, mount and follow."

It was so ordered, and while husband, physician, priest, and friends guarded the bedside of the wounded woman, horses were made ready, weapons prepared, and a hunt to death arranged.

With the first of the dawn little parties started in every direction. The husband—the recovery of his wife having been assured—could not be restrained from leading one. He would have been ashamed of his manhood to have remained behind, and his very soul was thirsting for blood and vengeance. Fortune and gold favored him in finding a certain clue. He followed swift and far, and on the evening of the second day came upon the horse of the fugitive lying dead by the side of the rocky mountain path. With a joyous light in his eyes he thought of how soon the end would come, of the assassin at his mercy—a feeling then entirely foreign to his heart.

Night, however, closed around dark and tempestuous, and they were forced to discontinue the search. Not an instant longer than necessary was it delayed. The sun of morning revealed a plain trail, that of a man crawling along and dragging one limb as if broken.

"He cannot have gotten far," said the outraged husband, with grim determination, carefully examining his pistol. "Ha! There is a little cabin. My life upon it he will be found within!"

Better mounted than the others, he spurred forward to the rude shelter he had noticed—the deserted hut of the herdsmen—lunged himself from his horse, entered, and then reeled out with face pale as death, and gasping from between white and trembling lips.

"Por l'amor de Dios, look within!"

Strong-hearted men did, and became weak as women. The sight they saw was horrible beyond conception, and revenge more complete than they would have dared to wish for.

Lying upon his back upon a little bench, with one broken limb hanging down, was the man they were searching for. His face, even in death, was tortured by the most horrible agony and fear. Half coiled around the body, with its weight crushing the breast, and with its long teeth still buried in his throat, was a monster serpent. Gorged with the blood it had sucked, it was almost incapable of motion and easily killed.

Worn out with traveling, suffering from the broken limb, dazed by fierce storms, the wretched man had dragged himself thither and been attacked and killed while sleeping.

"Holy mother!" said the husband, "much as I desired vengeance, I would have prayed against such a fate for him. Some of you find means of burial, and may the Heaven he insulted and defied have mercy upon his guilty soul!"

Sick in body and mind he hastened homeward. To the priest he told all, and begged him to enjoin secrecy upon all who had been with him. The tale was too horrible to bear repeating. To his young wife he simply said the man had been found dead,

and Bogota gossips wondered and questioned in vain.

(I have the authority of a late Consul to Columbia for the truth of this incident.)

NOTABLE PETS.

The British Soldier Fond of Pets—Dogs, Goats, Antelopes, Deer, Tigers, March With the Regiments.

Soldiers are fond of pets, and will tame anything that is tamable from a raccoon to a horse. The latter animals, however, are in most cases not individual but regimental charges, perhaps having been the property of a beloved officer who has fallen in action. Old Abe, the Wisconsin war eagle, was a regimental pet during the civil war. In the British army there are few regiments which do not possess a four-footed favorite of some kind. Dogs are, of course, the rule, and a famous one was Dash of the Royal Marine battalion. He was wounded in a battle in Spain, and the marines knighted him for bravery, so that he was henceforth known as Sir Dash. The Welsh Fusiliers, formed in 1869, always have a goat with shield and garland on its horns, to march at the head of the drums. Black Bob, a horse, was the pet of the Royal Irish Light Dragoons in 1814. When, at last, he was retired on account of age, he literally died of grief. Another regiment had a highly prized pet in the shape of a black ram captured in India. The ram proved a willing prisoner, showing not the slightest disposition to resent its compulsory enlistment, and subsequently accompanied the regiment through the Central Indian campaign, marching upwards of three thousand miles. Since then the regiment has never been without a ram. Billy, an antelope, is a much prized pet. He invariably heads his battalion, when marching past, he being led by two little drummers. Billy's horns are tipped with silver, and his neck is encircled with a handsome silver collar, having two silver chains, one on each side, for his conductors to lead him by. Roderick, a deer, is the pet of a Highland regiment. On parade Roderick always goes round the different companies, and, when column is formed, he at once takes up his position in front of the band, beside the drum major.

In 1869 two officers of the Fifth Lancers, while on a shooting expedition in the Nepal district, encountered a fine tigress with cubs. They killed the tigress, and the cubs were captured and taken to Lucknow, where they used to play about the Fifth Lancers' mess. One died, and the survivor was presented to the Madras Fusiliers, who gave him the name of "Plassey," and constituted him their regimental pet. Plassey became very tame, and was on the most friendly terms with the men. He lived at the officers' mess, and with an antelope and dog for companions, seemed well contented. He accompanied the regiment to England, and was in the zenith of his popularity with the Fusiliers when an old lady resident of Dover wrote to the general commanding the district, stating that she had seen Plassey disembark, and that ever since she had remained a prisoner in her house, fearing lest the tiger should have escaped and be roaming about the town! So poor Plassey was sent to the Zoological Gardens, accompanied in his exile by his faithful dog.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Tendency to Grow Less Wheat—Mixed Farming Will Result in Better Success.

Never in the annals of agriculture were farmers' minds so much unsettled with regard to what crops will be most profitable the coming cereal season as they are at present. The low prices of wheat have precluded any effort that might otherwise have been made to be put in spring wheat. Indeed, for a number of years now in this part of Ontario this variety has not been successful except on extra well-prepared soil. The good price at which oats are selling will induce a majority to sow a large acreage of this cereal, and some farmers have already sown a greater part of their arable area. Those who had their land fall-plowed, are, as usual, first to get the seed bed ready. Of course, the great drawback to devoting too much land to one crop and not following out a mixed husbandry, is that if this particular crop fails, either in yield or price, the farmer has nothing to fall back on to make up his losses. There is a strong tendency at present to change the system of farming by growing less wheat, and a great many in this district are sowing down for meadows and permanent pastures. A great many prefer to sow grass seed with barley rather than oats, as it is not so likely to smother out by heavy growth of straw. Another departure that many farmers are likely to try is raising beans as a field crop, especially what is called the pea variety. These give better satisfaction as a general thing, and the price for genuine pea beans is said to be a few cents a bushel above other varieties. These beans are planted with a common seed drill, by putting corks in the holes so as to leave the rows the right distance apart. Corn can be planted in the same way. This crop should receive more attention at the hands of our farmers than it does; if the land is properly prepared there is no State in the American Union that can excel us in prolific corn crops. Corn should be grown more, not for the grain alone but for a fodder crop for both soil and ensilage.

But whilst farmers this spring are expanding on general purpose farming specialties in all lines are claiming attention now. And there is no doubt that two or three specialties if adapted to the farm, and its owner is adapted to them will result in better success than aiming at too much in the general purpose way of farming. In taking up a specialty, however, one should not go too fast, nor should one take up something for which he has no natural liking. Not every man can succeed as a dairyman, nor everyone as a stock breeder. One must study his inclination and adaptability for the specialty in which he proposes to embark.

An electric locomotive running between Paris and Havre attained a speed of seventy-five miles an hour. It drew thirteen cars.

In some of the German towns, when a man is convicted of beating his wife, he is allowed to go to his work, as usual, but his wife gets his wages, and he is locked up only on Saturday nights, and remains in prison until the following Monday. The punishment usually lasts for ten weeks.

READABLE ITEMS.

A Lot of Interesting Items Gathered From All Parts of the World.

It takes a Danish express train a day to travel 100 miles.

There are nearly 2,400 miles of railway open in New South Wales.

Germany has on an average 437 doctors for every 10,000 inhabitants.

The occupants of a balloon a mile high command a radius of 96 miles.

A pedigree book of high-bred cats has just been published in England.

Fewer than 11,000 Prussians have incomes of more than \$7,000 a year.

Ten per cent. of the inhabited houses of England and Wales are in London.

A quart of cream should yield from thirteen to fifteen ounces of butter.

Employment is scarce and labourers are over-plentiful in South Australia.

Artificial limbs are usually made of willow wood on account of its lightness.

The increase of population in the whole of Australia last year is placed at 85,000.

Curacao takes its name from the West India group where the Dutch first made this drink.

Seventy per cent. of the people of Ceylon live by agriculture. The percentage in Britain is 15.44.

Gold to the value of \$375 was recently collected from the soot of the chimney in the London Mint.

The water that pours over the Falls of Niagara is wearing the rock away at the rate of five yards in four years.

A belt worn by the ex-Empress Eugenie just before the war of 1870 fetched \$150 at a recent auction sale in France.

On an average an engine-driver travels twenty thousand miles in the course of a year.

The first royal statue raised in London was one of Charles I., which stands in Whitehall.

A man has been known to stay for five minutes in an oven in which the temperature was 380 degrees.

The principal nations of the world have 2,291 warships, mounting 8,383 guns, mostly of a very heavy calibre.

In Germany there is a law forbidding restaurateurs to serve beer to people who have eaten fruit.

About two hundred different persons handle a pair of kid gloves ere they are completely made.

The green ants of Australia make nests of leaves which they bend together and unite with a kind of natural glue.

About the thinnest thing in the world is the film of a soap bubble, of which it would take 50,000,000 to measure an inch.

The first mention of the pipe organ in history is in connection with Solomon's Temple, where there was an or an with ten pipes.

The stem half of an orange is usually not so sweet and juicy as the other half, because the most of the juice gravitates to the part which is downward.

Mining engineers now use photography to illustrate their reports by presenting pictures of ledges and other features of the mine.

Cremation is becoming increasingly popular in Paris, and the crematorium erected at the cemetery of Pere Lachaise has already been found to be too small.

Eggs of the Algerian locust have been found to yield a thick oil resembling honey in appearance. It burns well, and mixed with alkali makes a good soap.

The electrical bicycle is cropping up in England. The weight of the batteries when filled with liquid is to be forty-four pounds, and the whole weight of the machine is to be 155 pounds.

An expert declares that he knows of at least six hundred counterfeiters of the Old Masters which are now hanging in private galleries in the United States, and all of which were originally purchased in Europe at very high prices.

A French physician has constructed an acting model of the human heart. It is of the same hue, size, and consistency as the natural organ, with every detail, and a red fluid courses through it, and through artificial arteries.

Numerous petitions have been received by the Pope from Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, praying him to take the initiative in summoning an international conference to consider the best means of abolishing the Monte Carlo gambling establishment.

So great is the echo in one of the rooms of the Pantheon that the striking together of the palms of the hands is said to make a noise equal to that of a 12-pound cannon.

The Chinese Encyclopedia meets a long felt want, and no family should be without it. It was published in Peking in 5,020 volumes, and at the price of \$10,000 is the same as given away.

The discovery has been made by a German physiologist that the milk of inebriate mothers contains a small amount of alcohol and it is his belief that such mothers communicate to their offspring a desire for stimulants.

The rector of the Berlin University has just been compelled to order a new official mantle at a cost of 2,400 marks. The one which he has worn till now was made exactly 192 years ago, and constant wear and tear rendered it unfit for Court ceremonies.

Government statistics as to the cost of clothing the soldiers of the British army show that the annual cost of clothing the Life Guards per man is £7 9s 3d., while infantry of the line are turned out at £2 17s 2d. per year. The Highlander, with his feathery cap and tartan kilt, costs £3 16s 5d.

A beggar, who for many years had subsisted on charity, died a few days ago in Auxerre, France. In a trunk he left bonds to the value of 1,000,000 francs, and in his cellar were found 400 bottles of wine of the vintage of 1790.

The first aerial voyage was made September 18, 1783, by a sheep, a cock and a duck to a height of 1,500 feet. The first human traveler through the air was M. Francois Pilatre de Rozier, who mounted the following month in a free balloon.

All the wars of Napoleon Bonaparte cost his country £255,000,000, while the

Louis Napoleon cost France £442,000,000. The former made the enemy pay most of the expense; the expense of the wars waged by the latter was borne by France.

Mohammedanism is largely on the increase in the British West African colony of Sierra Leone, one-tenth of the population now being of that faith. A state-aided branch of the Church of England exists there, and practically all denominations of Christians have mission-aries in the colony, but Islam gains on them.

Ten young women are every year started in self-supporting careers by the generosity of Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt, of New York. The sum of \$500 is devoted to the instruction and advancement of each young woman who displays ability, ambition, and industry.

A man weighs less when the barometre is high, notwithstanding the fact that the atmospheric pressure on him is more than when the barometre is low. As the pressure of air on an ordinary-sized man is about 15 tons, the rise of the mercury from twenty-nine to thirty-one inches adds about one ton to the load he has to carry.

Experiments made by M. d'Arsonval, with an instrument which he calls the myophone, proves, contrary to the older opinion, that nervous excitability may exist for many hours after death. The old test of the muscle shortening is, no doubt, not applicable long after death has departed; but as the sound given out by the myophone proves, the death of a nerve is much less rapid than has been hitherto supposed, and a nerve may act on muscle, in a state of electric excitability, without producing more than simple molecular vibration.

Archdeacon Sinclair does not disguise the satisfaction he feels in the fact that, in the opinion of undoubted judges, the musical portion of the services at St. Paul's is the most perfect of its kind in Europe. The number of people who attend St. Paul's on a Sunday may be put down at 9,000—thus: morning service, 2,500; afternoon service, 2,500; evening service, 4,000.

The Bank of France is not entirely free from apprehension regarding the ability of the burglar, and guards itself in a very careful manner. Every day when the money is put into the vaults in the cellar, masons are waiting and at once wall up the doors with hydraulic mortar. Water is then turned on and kept running until the cellar is flooded. A burglar would thus have to work in a diving-suit and break down a cement wall before he could even start to loot the vaults. When the officers arrive next morning the water is drawn off, the masonry is torn down, and the vaults opened.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In New Zealand cats are used to destroy rabbits.

A bushel of sweet potatoes yields a gallon of alcohol.

Fifty disheartened gamblers annually commit suicide at Monte Carlo.

Montana has decided that the blossom of the prickly pear shall be considered the State flower.

Two-thirds of the cotton consumed by the world during the past sixty-seven years came from the United States.

A sea-gull has been domesticated by Frank Ransell, of Sheboygan, Mich. It has just hatched a brood of chickens.

For over sixty years the Rev. Wm. Mays, of Perryville, Ky. has been preaching the gospel, and has never accepted a dollar for his services.

The smallest people in the world are natives of the Andaman Islands. Their average height is four feet, and their weight about seventy pounds.

Henry M. Hoffman, of Reading, Pa., died suddenly of heart disease in the West. When his wife saw the body, upon its arrival home, she fell dead beside the coffin.

A tree that smokes has been discovered in the Japanese village of Ono. It is sixty feet high, and just after sunset, every evening, smoke issues from the top of the trunk. It is called the volcanic tree.

On Oct. 11, 1863, A. H. Sutherland, of Saugus, Mass., received a bullet in the neck at Culpeper, Va. It remained in his body over thirty years, causing frequent hemorrhages. A few days ago he coughed it up from his lungs.

Flowers played an important part in a nominating convention in Tuscola, Ill. Miss Mamie Bunch, a school-teacher, wanted the nomination for Superintendent of Schools. As each voter came up she pinned a bouquet on his coat. She secured the nomination.

Baited With Beer.

The ape family resembles man in more than one respect. They love liquor, and this love, as in all cases with mankind, often causes them to fall. The natives of Central Africa make a fermented beer of which the monkeys are very fond, and by using it as a bait capture a great number of these animals.

The natives go to the parts of the forests frequented by the monkeys and set on the ground gourds full of the enticing liquor. As soon as a monkey sees and tastes it he utters loud cries of joy that attract his comrades. Then an orgie begins, and in a short time the beasts show all degrees of intoxication. Then the negroes appear. The drinkers are too far gone to distrust them, but apparently take them for larger species of their own genus. When a negro takes one by the hand to lead it off the nearest monkey will cling to the one who thus finds a support and endeavor to go off also. Another will grasp at him, and thus in turn till the negro leads a staggering line of 10 or 15 tipsy monkeys. When finally got to the village the monkeys are securely caged and gradually sober down, but for two or three days limited supply of liquor is given them, so as to reconcile them by degrees to their state of captivity.

An Observatory Incident.

Elderly Lady (to the porter at an observatory)—"Will you please take up my name to Prof. Stargazer; he invited me to come to-day to observe the transit of Venus."

Porter—"Very sorry, ma'am; you're rather late. The transit took place at least half-an-hour ago."

Lady—"Oh, that doesn't matter! The Professor is a great friend of mine, and I'm sure he won't mind in the least having another transit."