wealthy gentleman, whose acquaintance he had made, and who, seeing that the young New Englander possessed business abilities of no inferior order, gladly and winningly lent him the money, feeling quite sure it would be a safe investment, and exacted in addition for himself, had for himself the same feeling of confidence in the young man that he would have felt toward any man who had told him a story of wasted opportunities and want of forethought.

He paused in front of the crackling fire, his head bent a little forward, thinking with one of his many friends would be most likely to accommodate him; even as he pondered, there came a knock at the door, and a servant entered the room:

"A gentleman to see you, sir," he said, giving his master a card; and glancing down at it, Graham Trowbridge read with some surprise the name—Russel Antnon was in town," he thought, then aloud:

"Show the gentleman in, Thomas."

And still standing on the rug in front of the fire he waited for his visitor.

CHAPTER II.

He did not wait long, scarcely a moment had elapsed before a firm footstep sounded outside on the marble-paved hall, and a tall, rather heavily built gentleman came into the library, and the shadow disappeared from Graham Trowbridge's face, as he hastened in his kindly greeting to welcome, he drew forward a large *fauteuil* for his visitor's hands with words of warm

The soft mellow lamplight fell upon Rus-

Russel Antnon

THOS. McNEA

CHAPTER III.

It was not at all strange that Mr. Trowbridge's eyes softened as they rested upon his daughter's, nor was it to be wondered at that she was the very pride and idol of his heart. Was she pretty? That is the first question general y asked about a woman, and I, taking it for granted that you have asked that question regarding Muriel Trowbridge, answer yes, she was very pretty. She was not strictly beautiful, her features were all too short for perfect classical beauty nor did she belong to any especial order. Her eyes, with her curly black lashes and brows, were to dark to warrant her being called a blonde, yet no one would have thought of her as a brunette; that would have been nonsense with her fair complexion and golden hair. It was not brown, it was not red, the soft hair that lay in broken rings on the low, white forehead, and fell in loose, heavy curls upon her shoulders, it was a marvellous mixture of all three, bronze-gold in the sunshine, red-brown in the shade, and her eyes match ed that changeable hair to perfection. Properly speaking they were gray, that is, gray was their normal color, but they were rarely seen in one of two moods, black as night when their owner was angry or excited (and Graham Trowbridge was not particularly calm in her presence), brown when she was happy, and then the dark lashes and brows were not noticed, the eyes seemed to be filled with golden sunlight, and looked like the brown pools in some forest stream, where the sunbeams fall through the overhanging trees and rest upon the water. Her complexion was a clear olive, the eyes large and dark, the features straight and regular, a trifle heavy perhaps in repose, but when animated, as they often were, lighted up with the brilliancy of her eyes, and the whole face became beautiful. Her figure was tall and slender, and her hands and feet were small and well formed, and she moved with the grace of an English girl.

Such was Muriel Trowbridge, as she stood by her father's side, her hand resting upon his shoulder, and looked down upon the face of the visitor, who had risen from his chair as they entered the room.

"Muriel, my darling, I was just wondering where you were, and if you would not come and welcome an old friend of your father's. Russel Antnon, this is my daughter."

Russel Antnon smiled—a little, sad sort of a smile.

"Not quite twice as old," he said. "Muriel was eighteen last October, you know; many women have been married at that age."

"Yes, that is so," said Mr. Trowbridge, musingly; "her mother was only eighteen when I married her, but there I cannot realize that Muriel is as old as that. It seems only a few years ago since she was a little child, climbing in my lap to play with my watch, and now somebody wants to marry her. You are sure that she loves you, Antnon—it would be terribly cruel to tell you so. Let me, her father, broach the subject to her. If she loves you, well and good. You can go to her then and tell her the extent of your love for her, that a woman expects. If, however, it should be the contrary, it would be best for you as well as for her, that the matter should be one of business entirely."

"But though you say you like Chicago, you did not like it sufficiently well to remain there very long, did you?" laughed Mr. Trowbridge, shaking the ash of his cigar

"Well, I don't blame you. New York is about as good a place to live in as there is this side of the water."

A faint flush overspread Russel Antnon's face.

"Mr. Trowbridge," he said, slowly "when I went West six weeks ago I went with an object. I wanted to fully decide a question in my own mind. Some time ago I met a lady, who from the first attracted me; since I have known her I have seen a great deal of her—circumstances have thrown us together; she is very young, and at first I thought the feelings I entertained for her were those a brotherly one for a younger sister; but within the last six months the conviction has been growing upon me that my love for her was not the calm affection of a brother for a sister: it was the deeper, stronger, warmer love of a man beats the woman he would make his wife—would cherish above all others in the world, and I have come to ask you if you will give me your daughter for my wife."

Russel Antnon spoke firmly, but there was a slight tremor in his voice, and his face flushed as he waited for Mr. Trowbridge's reply.

Mr. Trowbridge looked at him for a moment in silence, then he said, gravely:

"I have no doubt of your love for her, Antnon, and I am sure that you will make her a kind husband, but I must tell you frankly that I had hoped that Muriel would marry a man of her own country, and remain near me. I am getting old, and I shall miss her sadly, but I will not stand in the way of her happiness. Muriel is of age, and must decide for herself. I will speak to her to-night, and you can see her to-morrow morning. Come into my office to-morrow morning after 10 o'clock and I will tell you the result. I don't think you need have any fears, my boy," noticing the little anxious look on Russel's face and laughing lightly as he spoke. Then more earnestly: "I think any woman would be proud to call you husband. I know my daughter would be very much surprised, dear, if I should tell you he loves you."

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Trowbridge, quickly. "Would you be very much surprised, dear, to hear that Russel Antnon was madly in love with you?"

"Loves me?" The lovely, questioning eyes looked straight up into his—entirely too straight to please her father; he would have preferred to see the long-lashed lids droop. "Why, what do you mean, papa?"

"I mean, Muriel, that Russel Antnon loves you very dearly—so dearly that he wants you for his wife."

He drew a long breath, half anxiety, half relief that the first step had been taken.

A buzzing flush swept over Muriel's face, the hand that still rested on Leo's head trembled.

"He wants to marry me," she said slowly, as though she could not quite understand it; "it seems very strange that he should want to marry me."

"I do not see anything strange about it, dear: when a man loves a woman with all tenderness and respect, his first thought is to make her his wife; and why should he not love you Muriel?"

"Why! Because it does not seem to me that we are suited to each other; I cannot understand him sometimes, and I know it is because his thoughts are higher, his principles better than mine. I have always thought that a man and wife should stand nearly on the same level, for if one is far above the other, certainly there cannot be that same sympathy and thought, and purpose that I am sure God meant there should be; eagles do not mate with little brown thrushes, pa-pa."

HEARTSEASE.

Run and fast, with scissors caught,
Have many a pleasant moral taught.

If you want to find out how great a man is, let him tell it himself.

Time is a good deal like a mule. It is better to be ahead of time than behind time.

Some writers never succeed in making a point except when they sharpen a lead pencil.

It is possible to tell the age of a cow by the wrinkles on her horns, but nature has provided no outward signs by which the age of an egg can be computed. Break it gently.

It is the easiest thing in the world to distinguish between an English lord and an American copy, commonly called a snob. The Englishman always speaks well of his own country.

Six-year old Fannie had eaten heartily, finishing her dessert with a full supply of ice-cream. Her mixture of sensations were thus expressed: "Oh dear, I'm so tight I can't shiver!"

Nothwithstanding the multiplication of trust companies in all our large cities, it is just as hard as ever for th impecunious man to get trusted.

Tootsy, on making the horrible discovery that her kitten had whiskers: "Ma, I don't want dis tat. Dis is a man tat. I want a dirl tat. I want a dirl tat."

Some scientist now observes that even a clam has parasites. He would have observed as much before if he had ever noticed the crowd around a free chowder.

It was a dull period for news when the enterprising managing editor of a Western daily headed an item concerning the death of a cat, "Nine Lives Lost."

Archimedes invented the slang phrase, "Give us a rest," when he offered to move the world with his lever.

The Buffalo *Express* has decided that there's no such thing as a well running dry. When it is dry it won't run.

It isn't that a man means to lie about snakes, but when one two feet long comes at him it looks as big as a fire-engine hose.

We are told "the evening wore on," but we are never told what the evening wore on that occasion. Was it the close of a summer's day?

Russel Antnon

CHAPTER III.

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"Yes, that is so," said Mr. Trowbridge, musingly; "her mother was only eighteen when I married her, but there I cannot realize that Muriel is as old as that. It seems only a few years ago since she was a little child, climbing in my lap to play with my watch, and now somebody wants to marry her. You are sure that she loves you, Antnon—it would be terribly cruel to tell you so. Let me, her father, broach the subject to her. If she loves you, well and good. You can go to her then and tell her the extent of your love for her, that a woman expects. If, however, it should be the contrary, it would be best for you as well as for her, that the matter should be one of business entirely."

Russel Antnon had listened breathlessly to Mr. Trowbridge's words, and now he said quickly:

"I think you are right. I will leave it to you to approve Muriel of my love for her."

"I will speak to her to-night," continued Mr. Trowbridge, "and to-morrow morning after 10 o'clock and I will tell you the result. I don't think you need have any fears, my boy," noticing the little anxious look on Russel's face and laughing lightly as he spoke. Then more earnestly: "I think any woman would be proud to call you husband. I know my daughter would be very much surprised, dear, if I should tell you he loves you."

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"I don't think Mr. Antnon takes any interest in dog-collars," he said, almost impatiently, "although I am quite sure he would have liked to have seen you. Muriel, do you like him?"

He asked the question abruptly; he had concluded that there was no use beating about the bush, that it was best to come to an understanding at once.

Muriel answered in a low, scarcely audible voice, "Yes, papa, I like him very much indeed."

"I am glad of it, my child," said Mr. Trowbridge, with a little pout, "didn't he come in and see me? I think he might have, when he was away so long, and I would so much have liked him to see Leo's beautiful new collar."

Mr. Trowbridge took the hint.

"Antnon" echoed Muriel, opening her eyes very wide; "I thought he was in Chicago: and why" with a little pout, "didn't he come in and see me? I think he might have, when he was away so long, and I would so much have liked him to see Leo's beautiful new collar."

Mr. Trowbridge took the hint.

"Thomas told me a gentleman had called to see you."

"Thomas spoke the truth, my dear," said Mr. Trowbridge, slightly wondering to himself how he had best break to Muriel the news he had for her. "Who do you suppose it was?"

"I am sure I don't know," answered Muriel carelessly, "somebody, probably I don't care anything about. See, papa, I want you to look at Leo's new collar."

"Well, if you won't guess, I shall have to tell you," said her father, paying no attention to the small request; "it was Mr Antnon."

"Mr. Antnon!" echoed Muriel, opening her eyes very wide, "I thought he was in Chicago: and why" with a little pout, "didn't he come in and see me? I think he might have, when he was away so long, and I would so much have liked him to see Leo's beautiful new collar."

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