The British Whig.

VOL. XLVII. KINGSTON, CANADA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1879. NO. 306

OUR BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

ROBERT GAGE, Architect, over Gage Bro Jewellery Store, Princess Street, Kingston.

CARD—MRS. GRAFFTEY, Teacher of the Pianoforte Music, &c. Residence—Wellington street.

TIM RIGNEY'S CITY LIVERY STABLES, Princess Street Kingston. Office—Under the City Hotel. Any style of Carriage on hand.

POWER & SON Architects and Building Surveyors. Office—Wellington Street, Kingston. John Power. Jas. W Power.

WALKEM & WALKEM ATTORNEYS, SOLICITORS, &c., Kingston, opposite the Post-Office. RICHARD WALKEM | JOSEPH B WALKEM

DR. TELGMANN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, has removed to the corner of Queen and Bagot streets. OFFICE—Heath & Gunn's Drug Store.

R. E. SPARKS, D.D.S., L.D.S., DENTIST.—Office and Residence, Princess St between Montreal and Sydenham Streets. Careful attention paid to the correction of all irregularities of the teeth.

D. PHELAN, M.D., M.R.C.P.S., Ontario and Quebec (Member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and Quebec) Physician, Surgeon, Accoucheur. Office: Wellington Street, near the Kingston Bakery.

H. J. SAUNDERS, M.D., MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE of Surgeons, England. OFFICE AND RESIDENCE—Wellington Street, half way between William and Earl Streets. OFFICE—At Dr. Yates' Surgery.

ROBERT SHAW, BARRISTER, Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor, &c. OFFICE—Princess Street, over Doctor Skinner's Drug Store. Money to loan on Real Estate.

SMYTHE & DICKSON. BARRISTERS and ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Solicitors in Chancery, Notaries Public—Ontario street, adjoining Dominion Telegraph Company's Office. S. H. SMYTHE, B.A., LL.B. | E. H. DICKSON, B.A.

HOMŒOPATHY. C. L. CURTIS, M.D., successor to Dr. Jarvis. PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, &c. Office and Residence nearly opposite the Post Office, Wellington Street. Calls in the city or country promptly attended to.

J. H. CLARK, M.D., D.D.S., L.D.S. DENTIST, Graduate of New York College of Dentistry. Office—Wellington Street, between Princess and Brock Streets. Particular attention paid to the preservation of the teeth. Kingston, Feb 5th, 1879.

JOHN K. OLIVER, M.D., Graduate M.D. University Queen's College 1864, Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, K., 1864, Member of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, O., 1871. OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, 279 King Street East, adjoining British American Hotel, and directly opposite St. George's Cathedral and the Custom House. OFFICE HOURS. Morning.....7 to 10 o'clock. Afternoon.....2 to 5 o'clock. Evening.....7 to 10 o'clock. Calls to the city or country promptly attended to. Kingston, Dec. 13th, 1879.

FORD & SONS Cataraqui Tannery KINGSTON, ... ONTARIO. Manufacturers of Slaughter, Sole, Harness Upper and Grain Leather Pebble, Hides Top, Buff and split Leather, Waxed Calf, Cow and Carriage Calf [Kid, Belting, Boot Leather Hose, &c. Dealers in Hides, Sheepskins, Calf Skins, Seeds and Wool, for which the Highest Market Price will be paid.

ESTABLISHED 1862. Steam Dye Works. 60 PRINCESS ST. HARD and SOFT FELT HATS Renovated and Dyed, to look equal to new, on short notice. Terms reasonable. R. MONTGOMERY Steam Dyer. June 23, 1 79.

JAMES REID, Cabinet Maker, Upholsterer and Undertaker, 102 Princess Street KINGSTON. A kinds of COFFINS, CASKETS, SHROUDS &c., kept constantly on hand. A NEW HEARSE, the best in the city, and can furnish Funerals at the most reasonable terms.

ONTARIO Building & Savings' Society, OFFICE—WELLINGTON STREET, Opposite St. George's Hall.....Kingston. WM. FORD, President. M. DORAN, Vice President. Solicitor.....B. M. BRITTON, Q.C. Subscribed Capital, $250,000. Savings Bank open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Interest allowed on deposits. Loan Department—Money advanced on the security of Farm or City Property. For further information apply to JAS. McARTHUR, Manager. May 5th, 1879.

THE City Woollen Mills ARE NOW IN FULL OPERATION. ON HAND FOR SALE: Flannels, Sheetings, Blankets, Yarn, &c. Special attention to orders for Batting. Liberal reductions to the trade. Call and see the Mill in operation. Corn-Meal, Feed, &c., on hand at the lowest figures. HEWTON & HUGHES. Kingston, August 27th, 1879

STOVES, STOVES. Call and see the Crown Jewel Revertible Fire HALL AND PARLOR HEATING STOVE, the most successful Stove sold. Every Stove guaranteed. Also the Crowning Glory Wood Cook Stove, With large portable planished copper Reservoir; combines more important features than any other Reservoir Cooking Stove, and is the only low portable Reservoir Cooking Stove in the world with warming oven under the fire. Examine my Stoves before buying elsewhere. WM. DUNN, PRINCESS STREET. Oct. 3rd.

MANHOOD RESTORED. Prescription Free. For the speedy Cure of Seminal Weakness, Loss of Manhood, and all disorders brought on by indiscretion or excess. Any Druggist has the ingredients. Address DAVIDSON & CO., 78 Nassau St., N. Y.

SPERMATORINE. The new French Medicine cures Spermatorrhœa IMPOTENCE, and all nervous complaints resulting in Loss of Memory, serious impediments to marriage, great depression, etc. $2 per box; 3 for $5. Sold by druggists everywhere. Wholesale—LYMAN BROS. & CO., Toronto. Sent by mail, securely sealed, on receipt of price. Address Imperial Medicine Agency, Box 659 P.O., Toronto.

A CARD TO THE LADIES OF KINGSTON Who are not acquainted with the fact that I am making quite a large number of LADIES' ULSTERS, CHESTERFIELDS, JACKETS AND MANTLES this Season. I have better facilities for meeting the requirements of Ladies in this Department than any other one in the city. My work is far superior and the general appearance of every garment I make commands universal admiration. I have no objections to cut and make up materials furnished me, and my charges are very moderate and I study to please. G. W. ANDREWS, The Ladies' Tailor, Wellington Street. Dec 1st, 1879.

OTTAWA LADIES' COLLEGE, (PRESBYTERIAN), RE-OPENED. SEE PROSPECTUS, For which apply to REV A. F KEMP, M.A., LL.D., Principal. Ottawa, October, 1879.

J. DUNBAR & CO. Are now showing a large and fashionable Stock of Overcoatings, REALLY NOBBY GOODS, Scotch Tweed Suitings, Choice Styles and excellent value. English and French Trimmings, very superior and Cheap Goods. Our Canadian Tweeds, Very best makes and very cheap, will be MADE TO ORDER at very Lowest Prices Having secured the services of a FIRST CLASS CUTTER we hope to be able to please all who favor us with their patronage. J. DUNBAR & CO. Merchant Tailors, Corner Princess and Wellington Streets. Oct. 22nd, 1879

Hundreds of Thousands of DOLLARS IN PREMIUMS ARE foolishly paid by Canadians every year to foreign Fire Insurance Companies, all of which money goes out of Canada and leaves the country just so much the poorer. Canadians should avoid this vital error and keep their money at home by insuring only in Canadian Companies. THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSURANCE CO. is solely a Canadian Company; all its stockholders being Canadian, and its business being confined strictly to Canada. It is moreover a Company of the highest standing and of undoubted security. HEAD OFFICE, ... MONTREAL. PRESIDENT, ANDREW ROBERTSON, Esq. MANAGER, ... JAMES DAVIDSON, Esq. All classes of risks taken on the most moderate terms. Losses settled promptly and liberally. C. F. GILDERSLEEVE, Agent Kingston. Office 42 Clarence Street. Nov. 22.

Bargains! Bargains! MILLINERY. A Nice Trimmed Hat for 50c. Stylish Trimmed Hats for $1.00, $1.25 and $1.50. Real Beaver Hats from $2.50 up. MANTLES—Now selling at half price. ULSTERS—Very Cheap; come and see for yourselves. CLOAKS—Latest Styles, cheaper than ever. GLOVES—Cheaper than any house in the city. CORSETS—Special line 70c., worth $1.00. WALSH & CO., 354 King Street, 3 doors from Princess. Dec. 5th, 1879.

JUST in TIME. Coal Vases. Coal Tongs. Spark Guard Fire Irons. Mrs Pott's Sad Irons. Japanned Toilet Ware. Spice Boxes. Lemon Squeezers. And other Goods in Season, AT HORSEY'S, Princess Street. Kingston, Dec. 18th, 1879.

SIGN OF THE CIRCULAR SAW FRASER & MOWAT'S HARDWARE Still at the old prices. A large Stock of Garden and Field Tools just to hand. Special inducements in Builders' Hardware. Sole Agents for NOXON BROS. STANDARD MOWERS AND REAPERS, GRAIN DRILLS, ETC. 134 Princess St. April 26th

THE NEW BATHS. THE UNDERSIGNED ANNOUNCES TO the citizens of Kingston the opening of his NEW BATHS, in the apartments Under the British American Hotel ATTACHED TO HIS BARBER SHOP. HOT AND COLD BATHS AT ALL TIMES. J. H. JONES, Proprietor. Jan 31st.

CUTTERS —AND— SLEIGHS —AT— AUCTION PRICES! —AT— J. W. BROWN & CO'S. All Work Warranted. Dec. 23, 1879.

The New Book Store. The Choicest Selection of Christmas Presents Ever Shown in Kingston. New Goods Arriving Daily —AND— EVERYTHING IN OUR LINE DOWN TO CASH PRICES. Farrar's St. Paul only $6.00. Farrar's Christ only $2.50. All our Books reduced to suit the hard times, and Fancy Goods disposed of at fabulous rates for Cash. Christmas Cards reduced to half price for the remainder of the season—A Splendid Assortment. Prices to Suit the Times. S. WOODS. Dec. 22nd, 1879

Notwithstanding the Heavy Duty on the Celebrated Indianapolis Patent FLOUR It still takes the Lead FOR PASTRY. BUT FOR A GOOD BUN USE THE TEA ROSE BRAND OF FLOUR, AND FOR A GOOD DRINK —USE KAOKA, KAOKA. CHINA T. HOUSE. J. REDDEN. Dec. 10th, 1879.

McMAHON BROS. FOR Cheap Hardware! THE Subscribers beg to intimate that they have purchased the Stock of John K. Rose and intend carrying on the business at the same place, Yarker's Old Stand, PRINCESS STREET, Where they will keep always on hand a complete stock of HARDWARE OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, and will be happy to see all the old customers and as many more as may favor them with a call. McMAHON BROS., Princess Street. Dec. 3rd, 1879.

MONTGOMERY'S QUADRILLE BAND. WM. MONTGOMERY has a first-class Quadrille Band for Balls or Parties and guarantees satisfaction. Terms moderate. Address—73 Princess Street, opposite Welsh's Marble Store. W. Montgomery Leader and Caller. Piano Player if required. Nov. 7th, 1879.

CITY PROPERTIES for SALE. NEW OFFERS. Frame House, 4 Rooms, Summer Kitchen, Woodshed, Well, Good Garden; Lot 66 x 132; Corner of Chatham and Sixth Streets. Well Finished Two Storied Frame House on East side of Chatham Street. Block of Five Government Lots on corner of Albert and Earl Streets. Fine Lot on corner of Union and Barrie Streets, 99 x 132. Lot on Stuart street, near the Park, 45 x 70, with 10 feet right of way. Two Storied Double Brick House Nos. 230 and 232, on Barrie, near Earl Street. S. C. McGILL, Real Estate Agent, Clarence street, opposite the Post Office. Dec. 13th, 1879.

NEW BARBER SHOP. MR. J. A. THEOBALD desires to inform the citizens of Kingston and vicinity that he has opened a First Class Hair Dressing and Shaving Parlor, next door to Mr. S. Woods' Bookstore, Wellington Street, and having had an extensive experience and intending to do all in his power to please his customers trusts he will receive his share of patronage. By business, since opening, has increased to such an extent that I have added another member to the staff, and will now be able to oblige all comers. J. A. THEOBALD. Dec. 12th, 1879.

WM. DAVIS, THE CELEBRATED PLANET READER, Is the Seventh Son of a Seventh Son. No charge whatever. Will give perfect satisfaction to the public. 24 Place d'Armes (near the Haymarket.) Kingston, Nov. 12th, 1879.

THIS PAPER ... Advertising Bureau (1 Spruce St.) ... NEW YORK.

PETROLEUM. SILVER STAR. RECOGNIZED IN ALL MARKETS AS THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR GRAVITY, ABSOLUTE PURITY, and PRIME BURNING QUALITY, with full GUARANTEE OF FIRE TEST. Ask for "Silver Star" and take no other. See that our name is on each package. We are the only Manufacturers of the PATENT TIN CANS, and are prepared to supply this Trade with our brands of Illuminating and Lubricating Oils, in Barrels or in Patent Tin Cans. Correspondence solicited. All orders shall receive our best attention. J. L. ENGLEHART & CO., Producers, Refiners and Shippers, Petrolia, Ontario, Canada. December 19, 1879.

A. ROSS Has on hand a Splendid Stock of Wool Goods in CLOUDS, SHAWLS and JACKETS, which he is selling CHEAP. Also—A few pieces of Black and Silver FOX FUR TRIMMINGS, and a complete Stock of General Dry Goods, Fancy and Staple. Parties desiring any of the above mentioned Goods will do well to call before the Christmas rush commences. A. ROSS, Nos. 132, 134 and 136 Princess Street Opposite the City Hotel. Dec. 12th, 1879.

CHEAP CLOTHING. —AT— McNAUGHTON & CO. GREAT CLEARING SALE —OF— READY-MADE CLOTHING, CLOTHS, TWEEDS, DIAGONALS, &c., to continue until the last day of December. We need not say much in the matter, as our customers are well aware of the great value we give when we make a Clearing Sale. All we ask of our customers is to give us a call and examine our Stock and see prices and then judge for themselves. One price asked and no less taken. McNAUGHTON & CO., Corner of King and Princess Streets. Kingston, December 11th, 1879.

THE NEW YORK CLOTHING STORE is the CHEAPEST Place to do Business in, and the HOUSE Bears a First-Class Reputation. IN Order Work and Ready-Made Clothing. THE BROWN AND BLUE OVERCOATS are the cheapest and best in the CITY, and we are sure we can say, we have sold this season the largest quantity in the city; we are still hard at work manufacturing to meet the demand. Please give us a call, and WE GUARANTEE A FIRST-CLASS FIT, AND GOOD MATERIAL—at the lowest living profit. Z. PREVOST. Dec. 9th. NEW YORK CLOTHING STORE.

CALL BEFORE PURCHASING YOUR OVERCOATS —AT— LIVINGSTON'S, And see the Largest and Cheapest Stock of Men's, Youths' and Boys' Overcoats in the City. C. LIVINGSTON, 21 BROCK STREET. 21 Dec. 5th, 1879

Great Reduction in Prices of JACOB'S LITHOGRAM. The Lithogram, by recent improvement, is so altered in construction and thickness, (double the original) and ease of erasure, that the Patentee is enabled to offer a guarantee with each Lithogram sold, and that all may test its merits, has established the following reduced prices:— Note, $3.00; Letter $5.00; Foolscap; $7.00; Folio, $9.00. Agents wanted all over the country. Beware of infringements; anyone found with one in their possession will be prosecuted according to law. S. WOODS. Dec. 23rd, 1879.

GILES' LINIMENT. Lame and Sick Horses Cured Free of Cost. Giles' Liniment Iodide Ammonia. BEFORE USING. AFTER USING. TRADE MARK. Spavins, Splints and Ringbones Cured without Blemish. Send for a pamphlet containing full information to Dr. WM. M. GILES, 129 West Broadway, N.Y. Use only for Horses this Liniment in yellow wrappers. Sold by all Druggists. Trial bottles 25 cents. See testimonials daily in BRITISH WHIG. For sale by J. G. King, Druggist, Kingston. December 20th, 1879.

CATARRH Of Ten Years' Duration. The Discharges Thick, Bloody, and of Foul Odor. Senses of Smell and Taste Wholly Gone. Entirely Cured by SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE. Messrs. Weeks & Potter: Gentlemen—I feel compelled to acknowledge to you the great benefit SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE has been to me. For ten years I have been afflicted with this loathsome disease, and especially in the winter time has it been most severe. The discharge has been thick and bloody, smelling a foul odor so bad that my presence in a room with others was very offensive to them. One week after commencing the use of SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE I was not troubled with it at all. My senses of taste and smell, which were wholly gone, have now fully returned, and my general health is much improved. Yours, MELBOURNE H. FORD, Short-Hand Writer. GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., Nov. 3, 1878. LATER. Gentlemen: The package of SANFORD'S CURE arrived here to-night all right. I don't know what I should have done if it had not been for this remedy. I have tried Nasal Douches and everything else, and although I have been able to stop the offensive discharge, I have not been able to recover my senses of taste and smell until I tried SANFORD'S CURE. You can refer any one you choose to me, and I will cheerfully inform them in detail as to the benefit the remedy has been to me. Yours, MELBOURNE H. FORD. GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., Nov. 16, 1878. SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE Not only promptly arrests the corroding discharges in Catarrh, but, by sympathetic action, it restores to health all the organs of the head that have become affected by it, and exhibit any of the following affections:— Defective Eyesight, Inflamed and Matter Eyes, Painful and Watery Eyes, Loss of Hearing, Earache, Neuralgia of the Ear, Discharges from the Ear, Ringing Noises in the Head, Dizziness, Nervous Headache, Pains in the Temples, Loss of the Senses of Taste and Smell, Elongation of the Uvula, Inflammation of the Tonsils, Fœtid Sore Throat, Tickling or Hacking Cough, Bronchitis, and Bleeding of the Lungs. Each package contains Dr. Sanford's Improved Inhaling Tube, with full and carefully prepared directions for use in all cases. Price, $1. For sale by all wholesale and retail druggists and dealers throughout the United States and Canada. WEEKS & POTTER, General Agents and Wholesale Druggists, Boston, Mass.

COLLINS' VOLTAIC PLASTERS. AN Electro-Galvanic Battery, combined with a highly Medicated Plaster, forming the grandest curative agent in the world of medicine, and utterly surpassing all other Plasters heretofore in use. They accomplish more in one week than the old Plasters in a whole year. They do not pallate, they cure. They Relieve Affections of the Chest. Relieve Affections of the Lungs. Relieve Affections of the Heart. Relieve Affections of the Liver. Relieve Affections of the Spleen. Relieve Affections of the Kidneys. Relieve Affections of the Spine. Relieve Affections of the Nerves. Relieve Affections of the Muscles. Relieve Affections of the Joints. Relieve Affections of the Bones. Relieve Affections of the Sinews. No matter what may be the extent of your suffering, try one of these Plasters. Relief is instantaneous, a fact supported by hundreds of testimonials in our possession. Bear in mind that the most important discoveries in pharmacy date back less than ten years, and that combinations of gums and essences of plants and shrubs are herein united with Electricity to form a curative Plaster, in soothing, healing, and strengthening properties as far superior to all other Plasters heretofore in use as the scientific physician is to the horse-leech. Price, 25 Cents. Be careful to call for COLLINS' VOLTAIC PLASTER lest you get some worthless imitation. Sold by all Wholesale and Retail Druggists throughout the United States and Canada, and by WEEKS & POTTER, Proprietors, Boston, Mass.

Finest Collection —OF— Christmas & New Year's PRESENTS IN THE CITY, CONSISTING OF Ladies and Gentlemen's Dressing Cases, Odor Cases, Cut Glass Toilet Sets, Crystal and Cut Glass Bottles, &c., &c. AT MODERATE PRICES. CENTRAL DISPENSARY, W. D. GORDON & CO., 124 Princess Street, nearly opposite the City Hotel.

A Night Bell. Agents for Holman Liver Pad. Dec. 18th, 1879.

For Christmas —AND— New Year Presents IN CROCKERY, CHINA, GLASS, SILVER PLATE, LAMPS, CUTLERY, &c., GO TO ROBERTSON BROS', Who have the Largest Assortment in the City. —ALSO— A Good Assortment of Coal Oil Chandeliers, Library and Hall Lamps. Dec. 19th, 1879.

Mechanics' Institute CLASSES. PARTICULAR NOTICE. The Evening Classes will be discontinued during the Holidays, and will re-commence on Monday evening, 5th January, 1880. The Library is open daily between the hours of 12 and 1 and 7 and 8 p.m. By order of the Committee. ROBT. BAIRD, Secretary. Dec 23rd, 1879.

OYSTERS! OYSTERS! FRESH DAILY AT THE BAZAAR. Fruits, Confectionery, Cakes, Pastry, &c. REES BROS, Manufacturing Confectioners. December 9th, 1879.

Daily British Whig.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 31.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

A happy, happy Christmas, and
A merry bright New Year,
How sweet the kind old greeting sounds
In every heart and ear!
No matter how care burdened, and
No matter how distressed,
A something in their welcome makes
Them dear to every breast.

We heard them in our childhood, when,
With spirits light and gay,
We dreamt not that life's joyfulness
Could ever pass away,
And though long years of carefulness
Have sobered many a heart,
A joy still lingers round them, which
Can never quite depart.

Nor ever shall it Christianlike,
We count the rolling years,
Not as removing joys from us,
But sins and cares and tears,
And upward, onward, bearing us
To that bright land and blest,
Where "the wicked cease from troubling, and
The weary are at rest."

No year can open gloomily
To him whose heart doth yearn
Above all joys and tears on earth
To see the Lord's return.
As stars their light, and mists their shade,
Lay down before the day,
So joys and griefs of earth, in heaven's
Celestial sunshine fade away.

My soul, wouldst thou with happiness
The opening year begin,
Come, kneel to Jesus' cradle bed,
And count the cost of sin—
His tears were wept to dry thine eyes,
His griefs were for thy gain;
The octave of thy song of joy
Was His fit forty of pain.

Thence, let the year its colouring
Of sober tint, fade
Rise up, go forth, do everything
For thy dear Saviour's sake,
And mid the world's temptations
Remember for the good,
On New Year's day the Infant Christ
First shed His precious blood.

EVA'S NEW YEAR CALLS.

The crimson and flame torches of a December sunset were fading away in the west, and already the low, eastern skies, so palely gray and tenderly opaline, a crescent moon hung silvery.

It was after five o'clock, and from the windows of the Stapleton farm-house kitchen the cheery glow from the blazing fire, and the more slender beam of the lamp, fell in broad banners of light on the snow.

All around was the hush of on-coming night, so beautiful and solemn in the country; so peaceful and rest-giving to weary, passion-tossed hearts.

But the fair young girl, with the blue zephyr shawl wrapped about her slender, graceful figure, her blue eyes looking eagerly down the road, into the fast-gathering twilight, had not yet known the meaning of sunset, or peacelessness; for all the seventeen years of her life had been happy, and joyous, and care-free, until very lately—until since this last summer-time, when Rex Conway had come her way, spending July and August, and golden September, at the one hotel in the vicinity, where every season city gentlemen came, and gay, elegant ladies, and sweet, flaxen-haired children, with their Saxon *bonnes*, in ruffled aprons and coquettish caps.

And this last blessed summer-time, Eva Stapleton and Rex Conway had become acquainted in some chance way, and from acquaintance grew friendship; and by the time the Christmas snows had covered the earth, it had come to be written on Eva's heart that she loved him!

He was very handsome—handsomer than any one Eva had ever seen before—in a style so different from that of the sturdy young farmer fellows to whom she had been accustomed. He was elegant, stylish, just like Eva's cherished ideal, and and so very unlike—well, for instance, Ralph Porter, who, it seemed to Eva, suffered more from comparison with Mr. Conway than any one else she knew.

To be sure, Ralph and she had always been friends, and it was only right and just that they should be, since the Porter family and the Stapletons had been friends for generations; and to be sure, also, there had been a time when Ralph had told her how good and suitable it would be if she would marry him some day.

And she had blushed a little, because it was the very first time a word of such importance had been spoken to her—blushed and laughed, and told Ralph he was a silly old goose, and that she never expected to marry anybody at all.

All the same, they remained the very best of friends, as far as Eva was concerned, while, with every day that dawned and died Ralph Porter worshipped the bright, sweet girl more and more, and patiently bided the time when his true, quiet devotion should awake the yet sleeping capacities of her girl's heart.

And then—Rex Conway had come, and all that beautiful summer-time Ralph was heartlessly set aside, often cruelly snubbed, and looked on in silent dismay and heartsoreness at the romance he had no more power to control or avert than a baby's hand to turn aside a crashing thunderbolt.

To-night, then, Eva stood at the lane-gate, her eyes looking so lovely, her cheeks pink as roses in June, her soft brown hair lying low on her forehead in short, loose waves and curls, waiting for Rex Conway to come up from the city on his usual weekly visit.

Up at the house, Mrs. Stapleton was bustling about preparing supper—fried ham and eggs, hot short-cake, lemon apple sauce, odorous coffee, and a certain choice cream sponge-cake and pine-apple preserve that Eva knew Mr. Conway especially liked.

She was very, very happy as she stood there, waiting; and then, afar off, she heard the frosty crunch of the well-packed snow beneath rapid firm footsteps. A moment, and the delicious odor of a cigar came to her on the gentle wind, and then, her heart in her throat, she gave a glad little exclamation, that sharply turned to one of dismay and disappointment she could not repress, as, instead of Rex Conway, Ralph Porter came plainly in sight, and looking very much like the man, too, in his heavy overcoat and gloves, and fur cap, and with his intelligent, honest eyes and face, over which swept a look of curiously-mixed delight and jealous dismay.

'So you are out enjoying this lovely night—the last of good old seventy-eight!'

He tossed his cigar away in the snow, and extended his hand to her, in which she laid her own somewhat reluctantly.

'Oh, it is you, Ralph, is it? Yes, it is a beautiful night. The five-fifteen train is in, isn't it?'

'Not just yet,' and he looked at his watch, as much to conceal that look of pain he never could restrain from flashing into his eyes whenever this little girl so decidedly showed her perfect indifference to him—'not yet, for three or four minutes; and you will catch cold if you wait here for the passenger to walk up from the station.'

She laughed lightly.

'There's no danger of my taking cold; besides,' and a little girlish triumph sounded in her answer, 'Mr. Conway always takes a carriage.'

He looked steadily at her now, a grave, wistfully-passionate look in his gray eyes.

'So it is Mr. Conway again, Eva! Has it come to such intimacy as this?'

She gave her pretty little head a toss—a haughty little gesture, that was very becoming to her.

'I am sure if you wish to call it an intimacy I don't care; and I am pretty sure Mr. Conway wouldn't care, either.'

'I dare say not,' he returned, bitterly. 'He is a conceited jackanapes, and—there, Eva, forgive me!' he said, suddenly, with a great effort of restraint upon him. 'He is your friend, and I dare say I ought to be glad, but I am not, and that is all there is about it. I'm jealous and disappointed, and you know it.'

She half trembled; his savage complaint somehow touched her.

'You oughtn't to be, Ralph,' she said, gently, 'I know I always liked you—I do now, better than anybody else, but—'

She dropped her eyes and twisted the fringe of her shawl into a tight cord.

'I understand you perfectly,' he said. 'You 'like' me, but there's a difference between liking and loving. And you—love him.'

A little, vexed blush spread warmly over her cheeks.

'I did not say so!' she retorted, hotly. 'You are mean, Ralph Porter, and I've just the greatest notion not to invite you to call upon me to-morrow.'

'I am afraid your invitation would be wasted,' he said, coldly. 'I am due at a dance over to Hubert's in the evening, and I have no intention whatever of spending both night and day in dissipation.'

A dance over to Hubert's—Judge Hubert's, the great man of the village, to whose fine mansion she had not the right of entry! But what matter? Rex Conway was coming to stay over night at the hotel, so as to make a New Year's call upon her.

She lifted her shoulders, as much as to say, 'Well suppose you do stay away, do you imagine I care?' and then the sound of carriage-wheels near by came trustily to them, and Ralph touched his hat and went away, as Eva had never seen him before—cold, reserved, perfectly nonchalant in his address.

Mr. Conway came driving up, and sprang out, tossing a quarter to the hackman, and greeting Eva in a pleasant—yes, more than pleasant—manner, not exactly lover like (even as they were not yet betrothed lovers), but the way he took her hand and retained it as he slipped it under his overcoat-sleeve—the way he looked in her eyes, and said, 'I am so glad to see you'—was certainly only one remove from proprietorship.

They went up to the house, and no other thought of Ralph Porter disturbed Eva that evening, which was passed most delightfully with her guest.

More than once Eva had seen a look in his handsome eyes that had almost startled her, so eager and intense it was, and, with her sweet shyness, she had put off, more than once, words she knew he would have said to her.

When he went away, between nine and ten o'clock, he kissed her good-night—the first time he had ever ventured to take such a liberty—and Eva had flushed like a wild rose, and turned her head away, so that the caress fell on her smooth, warm cheek instead.

'I believe you are a little coquet,' he said, laughing; 'and, for your punishment I shall tell you something to-morrow—something very delightful, with which we shall begin the new year. I will call between three and four, Eva; and do try to arrange it so the other fellow will be gone. Will you?'

Only short snatches of sleep visited the happy girl that night, and when the new morning of the new day of the new year came in floods of sunshine, she wondered if it was a prophecy of what the day should bring to her.

Happy as her sweet, girlish thoughts were, all the early portion of the day, and much as she enjoyed her numerous calls during the late morning—for the country beaux had too much ground to cover to wait until mid-day to begin—yet there was a certain eager restlessness and impatience about her, as she counted the slow hours away, until between three and four o'clock came, the time when Mr. Conway was to come to tell her he loved her.

It was between three and four, and every minute she expected to hear the door bell ring, that would announce his coming, and just at the stroke of half-past three, the door-bell did ring, and—instead of handsome Rex Conway being ushered in by the giggling girl who ordinarily "helped" at the Stapleton farm-house, and who to-day was pressed into new service as hall-porteress, there came a woman directly into the parlor where Eva stood waiting—radiant, so fair and sweet to see in her shining garnet damasse and pink over-dress, and deeper garnet velvet underskirt, with white flowers in her hair, and laces caressing her throat, and fair, bare arms.

'Are you Miss Stapleton?' the woman asked promptly.

Eva bowed assent, wondering how Hannah ever came to allow the stranger in the parlor.

'I have come from New York purposely to see you and your mother. I beg your pardon, but I am very tired and in poor health. May I sit down just for a moment?'

'I beg your pardon,' Eva returned, for a second glance showed her the pale, wan countenance, from which the shabby veil was removed; the dull, troubled eyes, with pitiful, sunken, purple hollows beneath them—eyes that eloquently, though mutely, told the story.

'I cannot stay over a train; I left my little children alone, while I came out here, Miss Stapleton, to see you, and your mother, and to tell you, to warn you'—and her waxen-white face blushed painfully—'against Mr. Conway. He is a married man—my husband—the father of four little helpless children, whom he half starves and wholly neglects, in order to follow his own wicked, selfish pleasure—that of flirting with young girls and passing off as a young man. My poor child, is it possible he has succeeded in interesting you so much?'

For a little, gasping moan came from Eva's white lips, as she endeavored to retain her composure.

'I am not so interested, but it is a very shocking thing to hear of one's acquaintance—very terrible—if it be true.'

There was a little desperate determination to disbelieve what this strange, shabby woman said.

'I understand,' she said, sadly, 'you don't believe me. Well, I can so easily prove it that it is of no consequence to me whether or not you do. It is only for your sake, Miss Stapleton, that I have come. He cannot hurt me more than he already has done.'

The quiet tones carried conviction, but Eva could not realize it all. She sat there, half-stupefied with fearful horror, wondering how it had come that such a fate was at her door. Or was it blackmail—did they call it that?—or a vile, jealous slander, or—

And then the door-bell rang again, loud, imperious, gaily, and Mr. Rex Conway came jauntily in the room, dressed in the height of fashion, with a *boutonniere* in his overcoat, a smile on his face, that sharply changed to a pallor that was livid, as his eyes fell on the woman sitting on the chair.

And, by that change of countenance, Eva Stapleton knew to what all her hopes and dreams had come.

'Eliza!' he gasped, feebly.

'Well, Reginald, or Aldie, or Rex—or whatever name you are at present