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## A NOBLE WOMAN.

This girl was half reclining in a rustic seat behind the arbor. She was in a half dazed state. The bees buzzed in and out among the flowers near by, but she did not hear them. A mocking bird alighted on a bush and poured forth his lovelest strain, but she did not note the sound. The song of the laborer and the lowing of cattle that echoed from the fields did not reach her senses. At that moment she was unconscious of all the beauties of nature, of all the harmonies or pleasant sounds, of all the fragrances of the country.

But she was not unconscious of a pain that was gnawing at her heart. Lately the deepest sleep that she could get could not ease her to lose the realization of that. It was ever present with her.

And why was this? The girl's name was Ellice Burke. She had a lover whose name was Charles Vane. They had been engaged for six months. Two weeks before this morning she had come down to this pleasant place, Heathcote Farm, a guest of her friend, Virginia Heathcote, and had found Charles Vane already here. And almost immediately she became aware of that which caused her pain. Charles Vane, her lover, was hovering about another woman; evidently deeply fascinated by that other.

Her name was Maud Danforth. She was a very beautiful girl, and beyond all doubt, had been a very decided flirt. Ellice had heard of her frequently, and had met her occasionally before she had found her here, like herself, a guest of the Heathcotes.

The last two weeks had been miserable ones to Ellice. She understood fully how matters were, but she had been compelled to hide her pain under a calm and even gay exterior. What a bitter fate stared her in the face! The man she loved no longer loved her, as it seemed.

Charles Vane had been trying all these days to keep up the semblance of his regard for her, and had asked for no release from his engagement. There were several other guests with the Heathcotes, but none of them knew of the bond between her and Charles. They knew, however, of his affair with Maud Danforth, but what else could they call it but a flirtation? Nothing, truly, in view of her reputation.

And the realization of all this was what was present with Ellice as she sat behind the arbor, causing the pain at her heart.

Presently two people came down the garden walk to her and on the terrace the arbor. Ellice did not hear their steps. But when a man spoke she heard that. It was Charles Vane's voice that was sounding in her ears, and he had called the name of Maud Danforth. These two were conversing about no common-place subject. No! and if Maud Danforth was only with Vane, she had secured her victim firmly; and if it was more than a flirtation on her part, she had achieved a victory, for he was pouring forth passionate words.

"Oh! Maud, I was saying, 'I love you with all my heart, madly, better than my life.'"  
"Ah! if he could have beheld the deathly white face of the girl outside, a pang of remorse as keen as he now thought his love for Maud Danforth strong must have touched his heart. Ellice Burke was hearing those words, words that aroused her fully from all dreams, yet at the same time took away her powers of volition, that numbed her heart, that bound her in the chains of despair.

"Maud, Maud, my darling," Vane continued, "is there any hope for me? Do you love me?"  
There was a moment's silence. Then the answer came—an answer that showed that Maud Danforth was not flirting this time, that she showed that however much she may have trifled in the past, she was full of triumphant happiness.

"Oh, Charles, I love you."  
Their bush and sky and flower faded from the sight of Ellice Burke, and all became dark to her. She heard no more, and in unconsciousness she found a temporary relief. She never knew how long or short the time was in which she lay in that condition. When she came to herself and rose, mechanically listening for the voice in the arbor. When several moments had passed and she heard no sound, she knew that they had left it. Then with a sigh her head fell back upon her arm again.

Oh! the bitter pain at her heart. She knew now that heretofore hope had not quite fled, that she had still cherished the thought that perhaps Charles Vane might love her best, that only a temporary fascination might be drawing him to Maud Danforth. But how the whole

miserable truth that she was nothing to him was apparent.

At last she was able to rise to her feet. She managed to reach her room unobserved by any one. She locked the door and sank down upon a sofa. It seemed as if despair was consuming her heart. Would this blow kill her?  
"Am I dying? Am I dying?" she asked herself.

Then a long sob shook her; then another, and another; then came a burst of tears, the first that all this agony had caused her to shed.

Blessed tears! they soothed and calmed her. They quieted to an extent the keen agony that had been gnawing at her heart.

When the bell rang for dinner she bathed her face. Looking in the glass she saw no especial change in herself. She had suffered, but her countenance did not show it particularly. She was glad of this.

"Of course I shall have to wear a mask," she murmured to herself. "I suppose I will have to be gay," was her thought. "I will bear up here for a day or two, and then I will go away."

And at dinner no one could have guessed how she had been and was suffering.

A day passed. To the sensitive girl there came no thought of any but one course she should pursue. She could never, never again think of Charles Vane as her lover. She would release him.

But this was what she shrank from. She dreaded to approach him on the subject. She was leaning it all bravely but that seemed too much.

Circumstances assisted her, however. She was sitting behind the arbor again, not dreaming this time, but wide awake to the bitter reality, when she heard the voices of some persons coming down the path to the arbor. Very soon she knew that the persons were Charles Vane and Maud Danforth. They entered the arbor, Charles making a common-place remark as they did so. Then there seemed to be a pause in the conversation.

Ellice rose to go. She did not wish to hear any of their love making. No. She could not bear that now. Then she heard words that caused her to stay.

"Does Ellice know yet?" asked Maud.  
"No," replied Vane. "I dread to tell her."  
"And with her assistance, Maud, half drowned as she was succeeded in getting a hold beside her."  
But a fearful face became apparent. The overturned shell would not sustain the weight of both of them. It was slowly, slowly sinking.

## ACTON.

Its Manufacturing and Commercial Interests, etc.

GLIMPSES OF EARLY HISTORY AND OTHER MATTERS

So little has Acton's manufacturing business been pruned for the world, that few people have any idea of the extent and importance of the operations. Compared with some of the large manufacturing towns, the sum total of the business may appear somewhat insignificant, but considering the size and age of the village, we have reason to believe it will bear favorable comparison with many much older and more pretentious places. The growth of Acton has not been of the mushroom variety, but it has progressed steadily and quietly until it has attained a position amongst the most substantial of our incorporated villages in Ontario. The place was first settled something more than forty-five years ago by the Adamses, and the small hamlet was for a long time known as Adamsville.

About the year 1845, a post office was established and the place was christened Acton, but it was not until the Grand Trunk Railway was being built that the village began to assume any commercial importance. It then advanced considerably in growth, for a short time, and property became very valuable. But after a few years of prosperity it again settled down quietly and continued so until four years ago, when the people agitated for and secured its separation from the township, and its incorporation as a distinct municipality. More and better buildings have been erected the past few years than during any previous period in its history, and the volume of general business has been vastly increased. The financial position of the municipality is equalled by few, it being entirely free from municipal debt, and has a considerable sum to its credit. It is now in a fair way for making rapid strides in growth and commercial prosperity.

The following sketch of the leading manufacturing and mercantile establishments of our village will be found interesting:

**Beardmore's Sole Leather Tannery.**  
A little more than forty years ago, when this entire section of country was an almost unbroken forest, a small tannery was built by Abraham Nelles on the site now occupied by one of the largest establishments of our manufacturing leather in Ontario. The business was carried on by Mr. Nelles, in a small way, for a number of years, and he was succeeded by Edward and Henry Smith, who increased the capacity of the tannery and carried on a successful and profitable business. The concern was purchased about 25 years ago by Coleman and McIntyre, of Dundas, who built a large stone addition to the old building, and confined their operations exclusively to the manufacture of sole leather from Spanish hides. They carried it on successfully for about four years, part of the time under the management of Mr. J. B. Burns. During their ownership the building was burned down, and the site was sold for her, what a noble existence was sacrificed for her that she might have life and love!

After much practice several Chicago girls have got so that they can chew a toothpick "just like a man." Thus the canoe moves on.

During last year the quantity of cheese shipped over the Grand Trunk from Belleville was 70,885 packages, with weight, 4,782,518 pounds; of butter, 72,230 pounds.

Sentimental youths are now in anticipation of St. Valentine's Day, stringing together languages in which the words "dove," "love," "heart," "par," etc., appear prominently.

From New York and Boston. They consume nearly 2,000 cords of hemlock bark each year, for which they pay out about \$10,000. The manufacture of sole leather does not require a very large number of skilled workmen, still the wages paid at this establishment amount to about \$400 a month. The capital invested is about \$60,000. The main building is of stone, two stories, 147 feet long by 60 wide, with leech house 70x30 feet, engine room, etc. There are about 100 vats. The machinery comprises the most modern improvements, nearly \$1000 having been expended last spring in introducing round leeches, coolers, new bark mill, a centrifugal pump for pumping liquor, and other improvements. The tannery and yard occupy four acres. The yard is almost constantly filled with bark. The leech bark supplies the tannery, in use with fuel. The municipal taxes on the property average about \$250 a year.

We learn with regret that Messrs Beardmore & Son have about concluded arrangements to remove their entire operations to Toronto, and that the concern here will be closed in about a year from this time. This step has been forced upon them by the growing difficulty of procuring sufficient bark at a reasonable cost. For several years that the supply has been brought long distances, even in some cases as much as 20 miles by team, and much further by railway. It is hoped, however, that the withdrawal of the business of this firm from our village will not have the effect of leaving a vacuum in its place. It is quite probable that the building will be used for the manufacture of upper leather and other light stock, requiring but comparatively a very small quantity of skilled workmen. The building has a capacity for the employment of 60 or 70 tanners and curriers, and with very small expense could easily be adapted for the purpose. Our village would thus reap a much greater benefit from the establishment than it does now. We understand that the proprietors are open to negotiations with parties desirous of buying or leasing the premises for the purpose named.

**W. H. Storey & Co's Glove Works.**  
This establishment was commenced in Acton by Mr. W. H. Storey, in the year 1868. At that time the operations were not very extensive, being principally confined to the manufacture of harvest gloves, and the coarser grades of men's wear. But now all classes of goods are made here, comprising over 60 different lines, and embracing the finest quality of lady's French kids, while the goods have the well-earned reputation of being much superior to any other manufactured in the Dominion, and in some lines rank fully equal to the best imported article. In the year 1872 Mr. Storey entered into a partnership with Mr. James MacGarvin, and with Dr. McGarvin in 1873, when the operations and facilities for manufacturing were largely increased. With ample capital, additional machinery and implements were introduced and a number of skilled workmen employed. About the same time a tannery was built for the special purpose of tanning and dressing the skins used in the manufacture of gloves. Dr. McGarvin's interest in the business ceased at the expiration of one year, it being since then continued under the careful management and practical supervision of Mr. Storey and Mr. Moore. In 1875 they built an entirely new tannery on a large scale. This is only one establishment of the kind in Canada that approaches this, in the extent and quality of its manufactures. The sale of Acton gloves extends from Halifax in the east to Winnipeg in the west, while the trade is only limited by national boundary lines and prohibitory tariffs. The lady who fancies she is wearing a genuine French kid glove direct from Paris, would not doubt be surprised to learn that the article was made entirely in the village of Acton from one of our Canadian lamb skins. Of course a large number of the dressed skins used here for the finest class of goods, are really imported from France, but the great bulk of the skins are dressed in their own establishments. [The process is described in another paragraph elsewhere.] It is great fallacy to presume that what are known to the trade as kid gloves are made from the skin of kids; our Canadian lamb skins are considered amongst the very best in the market for the purpose, and are sought after by United States and other manufacturers. The finishing, trimming, and other materials are mainly imported from Great Britain and the United

States in large quantities, and here it is where the present tariff operates to the great disadvantage of our manufacturers; the rates are high in proportion to the duties paid on the manufactured article imported from the States.

The wholesale value of the gloves made here during the past year is about \$35,000. From 35 to 50 hands are employed, men and women. Wages average about \$500 a month, paid every Saturday evening. Most of the goods are sold to wholesale houses in Toronto, Montreal, and other cities. The firm has two travellers constantly on the road, taking orders and supplying the retail trade; Mr. J. K. Fuller, east of Toronto, and Mr. Charles Dean taking the western section of Ontario. Mr. John Brown is the local agent in Manitoba, and Messrs. Walter Wilson & Co. supply the wholesale trade in Quebec and Maritime Provinces, and Sutherland Bros. & Co., of Toronto, the wholesale trade in Ontario.

**HOW GLOVES ARE MADE.**  
The mode of manufacturing may be thus described: The skins are first brought from the Dresser or first selected, the thinnest and finest qualities being generally reserved for ladies' goods, the next in grade for gentlemen's fine wear and the third selection for the cheapest grade. The skins are which are known as seconds and sold accordingly.

The skins having been selected, they are handed over to the Cutters for their part of the work; they are then placed in season until they are sufficiently damp to work properly, when they are stretched and worked in every direction in order that flaws or defects may be discovered and also to give elasticity to the leather. After being sufficiently worked they are measured, and herein the skill of the cutter is manifested, as he knows at once what kind and size of the goods the skin will cut to best advantage. The different sizes are cut out of the skins in square sections, and in this shape they are again worked over the end of the cutter's table until they are ready to be cut. Those that are tabular are slit and cut by shears, and are amongst the best fitting, and generally the finest class of gloves has their labor bestowed upon them. Other classes are cut with dies, by which means, after the stock is prepared a great number can be cut in a day; and when we consider that there are 120 pieces in one dozen pair of gloves, without the lining, the facility afforded by using dies will be at once apparent. On the gloves being cut, they are taken to the work room and passed to the Sinker whose business it is to decorate them; who she does with a machine specially adapted for the purpose. On the decorating being completed, the gloves are passed to the makers who again select them, the pairs which will match the best being kept together; having done so, the work is proceeded with, and according to the goods are fine or otherwise is the amount of labor bestowed upon them. As many as a dozen pairs of the finest quality of gloves are made by some of the makers in a day. After the machine work is done, the goods are sent out to be trimmed if they are for fur tops; or if for elastic tops they have the elastic worked in. The work is done out of the factory by those working at their homes. On being returned, the goods are handed to the person whose duty it is to finish them and this part of the labor is termed laying off. The goods are again placed in the seasoning tank until they are sufficiently damp to finish. Great care is required in this part of the work; as if the goods are not properly attended to here, all the nice labor of the maker will be lost as far as appearance is concerned. The gloves are now stretched on hands made for the purpose, and with tools adapted for this part of the work are shaped and then laid away to thoroughly dry. They are now taken to the packer, who again selects them, then hands them properly, marks the size thereon, and puts them in boxes, holding the largest elastic and the number of the glove thereat.

**Storey, Moore & Co's Kid Leather Tannery.**  
This establishment was built in 1875 by Messrs. W. H. Storey & Co., for the manufacturing of stock for their glove works. It cost \$2,500. About the time the building was completed, Messrs. Edward Moore entered into partnership, and undertook the management of the business, under the firm name of Storey, Moore & Co. During the past year, about \$10,000 worth of leather has been turned out, consisting principally of black kid for fine gloves and russets for harvest and threshing mitts; with a

considerable quantity of calf-skins and sheep pelts; the pelts being dressed with the wool on about (inch long) used for making heavy mitts with the wool turned inside, and faced with the calf-skins. The firm have sold nearly 89,000 worth of wool to the woolen factories. They have put through during the year 14,000 sheepskins, and paid out \$15,000 for skins, tannin and dyes. About 600 dzx eggs have been used. For tanning they use extract of hemlock bark and japonica, both of which are manufactured in the States. They employ eight skilled workmen. A brief description of the tanning process of manufacturing kid and russets may be interesting to many of our readers. For the following details we are indebted to Mr. Henry Moore, the courteous bookkeeper of the concern:

**THE PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING.**  
The skins arrive at the tannery in large bales. They are first thrown into a vat and thoroughly washed, so that the wool may be clean and fit for market. All the burrs and tags are cut out from the wool side of the skins and the large pieces of flesh are worked off on the other side. They are again put into the vat and washed with clean water, then hung in the sweat house until the wool can be pulled off easily. They are then carried up stairs to the wool room and the wool is all pulled off, and carried up to the wool bin in a vat of cold water till tight, when they are taken out and put in a vat, called the "liner," where they are allowed to remain a week or ten days, being handled every day. When this time has expired they are taken out and worked on a "beam" (so-called by analogy) for the purpose of taking off all the rough flesh and wool left by the pullers. They are next put into a vat called the "bait" and left till morning when they are taken out and worked on the beam, and at night put into the bait a second time. In the morning the skins are taken out of this vat and worked on the beam the third and last time. During this process they are assorted, the small fine skins being selected for kid, and the large heavy ones for russets.

**HOW THE SKIN IS MADE.**  
The skins selected for kid are then tanned in a white tan, occupying three or four days, being handled night and morning. They are then carried up to the kid kiln on the second floor, and thoroughly dried. After this they are piled in bins and left there for four or five months, when they are made damp and packed in barrels, so that they may be seasoned and the kid-dresser enabled to work them soft more easily. The skins are then taken out of the barrels and works them on an upright loom called "the stake"; he then works them on the "perch" with first the arm-stake and last the "moon stake" (which are used for shaving the skin to an equal thickness) and lastly the "sand block" which takes off all the loose particles and leaves a smooth skin. A dressing is then put on which makes a deeper black and fine gloss. The kid is now ready for the glove makers. The skins which were sorted for russets are put into a liquor of extract of hemlock bark & japonica, and after about two weeks, being handled daily. After this time has expired they are given to the cutter who shaves them to the proper thickness and makes them grain on them with the "shaker." They are then packed up for sale; then they are taken to the "moon stake" and are made soft and pliable. These are now ready for the glove makers.

**Alex. Wright's Sheepskin Tannery.**  
This concern is somewhat similar to the one described above, only on a smaller scale. It was established in 1871 by Dr. McGarvin & Henry Smith, for the purpose of supplying stock for Storey's glove works. It was purchased by Mr. Wright in 1875. About 3000 dressed skins have been turned out since last August; the annual capacity being 7000 or 8000. The process of manufacturing is much the same as that described by Mr. Wright. About 3000 dressed skins have been turned out since last August; the annual capacity being 7000 or 8000. The process of manufacturing is much the same as that described by Mr. Wright. About 3000 dressed skins have been turned out since last August; the annual capacity being 7000 or 8000. The process of manufacturing is much the same as that described by Mr. Wright.

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