

THE COQUETTE.

Ah, the soft, the perfumed laces,
Oh, the dear, distracting graces,
And her eyes
Like stars, that from their places
Look very grave and wise;
And her mouth, in mute surprise,
Like a poppy dream reposes.
Till she speaks;
Then a smile breaks through the roses,
Through the darling, dimpled roses
Of her cheeks!
Ah! the dream she half discloses
When she sighs.

Roses cannot bloom forever—
They must fade.
Who hath found a light that never
Casts a shade?

Lovers hath she—scores of lovers,
But to none her heart discovers
A true friend.
Cruel still, yet half relenting,
Scornful now, though half repenting,
Half inclined, but not consenting
To be kind.
Young and old men, saints and sinners,
Veterans scarred and new beginners,
Sue for love, but none are winners;
She is free—

Heart and hand—and life before her,
Free to lure each fond admirer—
Time and heavenly grace restore her—
Blind is she.

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Thus in years gone by
I penned the picture of a fair coquette;
To-day I scan the lines—but with the sigh
Of heartful deep regret.

To lightly speak—at all—of womankind
Brings its reward of pain,
And from remorseful thoughts the haunted mind
Shall seek release in vain.

But said I not—the roses fall from blight
However fair they bloom,
And never yet was seen a glow of light
Without the shadow's gloom?

I saw her when at last
A lover sought her from the silent land,
And she—unlike her old self of the past—
Gave him her heart and hand.

And she came to him,
The cheeky blood was faded from her cheek
Beneath the touch of lips that did not speak,
But kissed her silently.

And yet—mayhap I dreamed—
But round her lips from whence there came no
breath,
There played a smile in which her soul did seem
Conquering still with death.

None shall shame her—none shall blame her,
Since her lover came to claim her,
And she gave him heart and hand;
For the angel that did bear her
Where the gates of heaven stand,
Ever after said, no fairer
Soul had reached that shining land.
Yet, of those who thronged to meet her,
Stretching out their arms to greet her,
There be some who still relate
How they wish for nothing sweeter
Than the smile she gave St. Peter
As she entered through the gate.

A ROMANCE OF THE SEA.

During a visit to some friends in Charles-ton, while on a leave of absence from H. M. S. Diana, Lieutenant Howard Granville fell in love with a dark-eyed girl of eighteen named Helena Riol.

She was an orphan, living at the house of her uncle, Alfonso Riol, who was an American by birth and a Spaniard by descent.

For some years he had been a sailing-master aboard an armed United States schooner, where, he informed Granville, he had often been promised promotion, but was still neglected, which he ascribed to his descent. He instanced several persons, who had not been so long in the navy as he, and yet had obtained places above him.

"If I were like some men I would be revenged," he added, bitterly.

"A man should always do his duty, whether promoted or not," said the British officer.

A fortnight later the schooner sailed on a surveying expedition off the African coast. Helena Riol accompanied her uncle. Although she and Granville were lovers, there was a singular coldness in her manner when they parted.

The lieutenant often thought of it afterward, and imagined that the sailing-master had prejudiced her against him.

A month later Granville's ship was ordered to cruise for a slaver, which, it was reported, had lately been noticed off the coast of Africa.

In due time, passing the Cape Verdes, the English frigate stood on her way toward the Gold Coast, in the vicinity of which the outlaw craft had last been seen.

On the starboard side of the upper deck the captain was one day walking to and fro, and on the larboard side stood Lieutenant Granville, now and then glancing aloft.

Suddenly, from the young lookouts at the masthead came the cry of "Sail O!"

"Where away?" shouted Granville.

"Right ahead, sir! About five miles off!"

The Captain seized his glass, and sprang upon the horse-block.

"She looks suspicious, sir," he said to the lieutenant, as he passed the glass to him.

Granville had an eye like a hawk's; he could see further than most men on the water.

"Ay, ay, sir, a suspicious craft," he remarked, after a brief inspection. "It seems to me she has a familiar look, although I cannot recall where I have seen her before."

"She is not very low in the water, sir," said the captain; "but I do not like her looks for all that."

Granville said he thought she had something the appearance of an armed craft.

"These, sir, are not the days of pirates," rejoined the captain, smiling. "Why do you think she is armed?"

"I may have been mistaken, sir, at so great a distance," answered the lieutenant; "but, when I looked through the glass, I fancied I saw a port closed."

"Try her with the colors, quartermaster."

"Ay, ay, sir."

And up went the union jack even as the old tar spoke.

The other vessel hoisted the same colors.

"Now, signals, quartermaster."

The signals were hoisted and responded to, until the one questioning the stranger's name shot up aloft.

Then there seemed to be some hesitation aboard the schooner—a long delay, that caused the quartermaster to move the signal flag up and down peremptorily.

All at once a white flag, with the letters "L-O-S-T" distinctly revealed upon it, with the aid of a glass, appeared at her gaff.

"Ah! by George!" cried the frigate's Captain. "Caught now, my fine fellow! And yet," he added, thoughtfully, "she may really have lost the signal."

Meanwhile the schooner, which now was not more than half a mile off, held on her way; but, instead of adding to her canvas, she began to take some of it in.

Nimble forms, in dark blue shirts and trousers, swarmed all over her graceful masts and yards, and sail after sail was rolled up until she showed nothing but a

close-reefed main-topsail and a topmast staysail.

"One would think she expected a storm," said the captain of the frigate.

He glanced up at the sky, but he could see no indication of a tempest.

True, the wind had fallen away a little, and there was a thin, hazy strip of cloud on the otherwise clear surface of the heavens; but in these, in his opinion, were no signs of a gale.

He at once ordered a carronade forward to be fired as a signal for the schooner to heave to.

The quarter-guns sprang to their places; there was a flash, and the gun roared, sending a shot whirring past the stranger's bow.

She promptly hove to; but when he was within a quarter of a mile of her the captain noticed that the wind had died away with suspicious suddenness.

The shrill piping of the boatswain's call soon was heard.

"Stand by to take in sail! D'y'e hear, there? Stand by!" was the hoarse cry which followed.

A moment later the man-of-war's men covered yards and booms as they took in sail. The huge folds of canvas were rolled up with the regularity of clock-work, and in five minutes the stately vessel was reduced to her close-reefed main-topsail, fore-topsail, and fore-topmast staysail.

The captain then ordered Granville to board the schooner with a cutter's crew and look into her character.

Just as he got alongside of her, and a rope was caught and made fast to her bow, there was a roar and a shriek as of a thousand demons, and the schooner, for an instant thrown almost on her beam-ends, was hurled through the now whirling waters before the full fury of a white squall.

Granville sprang aboard. As he reached the deck, a tall fellow darted past him, and jerked from the pin, either purposely or accidentally, the rope that held the boat, thus leaving the latter, with all its occupants adrift.

The lieutenant laid a hand upon his sword-hilt.

"Rascal!" he cried. "Who—"

"My orders," interrupted a deep voice.

And, turning, the lieutenant beheld Alfonso Riol.

At the same moment, beneath him, he heard yells and the clanking of chains.

"This, then, is a slaver," cried Granville, as soon as he had recovered from his surprise at seeing Riol, "and you are her captain?"

"Ay, Granville. The story is told in a few words, if you have not already guessed it. I headed the crew of the naval schooner in mutiny. I killed the captain and his officers. I made alterations in the craft, changed her name, and then went into the slave trade with her. At last I won my promotion by calling with my own hand, for I now command this vessel. Better than all, I have had my revenge by simply obtaining my discharge from the navy. I did not even hint to her of my design, but, long before its execution, I left her at Monrovia."

Drawing the young officer further aft, beyond hearing of the sailors, he continued. "Promise me that you will not betray the character of this vessel to your captain?"

"I will give no such promise."

"Then you and I shall both go down in the same coffin."

"What do you mean?"

"I can soon explain. My craft is not a swift sailor, and she could not get away from your frigate. When I sighted the ship I knew I could not escape in that manner. But I hoped that the naval appearance of my schooner, and the exchange of one or two signals, would allay your captain's suspicions, and that he would then keep away from me. When my vessel's name was questioned, I feared that all hope was gone. I hoisted my signal of 'Lost,' which I had ready for such an occasion, still thinking that that might possibly satisfy your commander. When I perceived that it did not, I resolved to scuttle my craft and go down with all on board—slaves and all—sooner than fall into the hands of your naval people. I saw you coming, however, I recognized you, and I resolved that you alone should get aboard here, for I wanted to make my proposition to you. Now, all I have to say to you is this: There, by the after sail, is a good life preserver, and I still give you a chance to save yourself by changing your mind, and also to make my niece your wife. Promise me that if I do not scuttle this craft, you will, when you return to yours, inform your captain that you found my vessel and papers perfectly right and lawful. Promise that, and I will send you aboard when this brief squall passes in one of my boats. You then wed with my niece and welcome, as soon as you have the opportunity, for I know you both love each other; although I will own that I did not at one time like the thought of wedding her to a Britisher, and endeavored to prejudice her against him."

"I refuse to make the promise you ask, even for the sake of winning your niece, who is dearer to me than life! I am an Englishman, and as such I still repeat that I would do my duty by reporting the character of your craft and her captain."

"That is your determination?"

"It is. My duty before all other considerations."

The slaver ordered Granville to be locked up in a room in the cabin.

A few minutes later he heard the roaring, rushing sound of the water as it poured into the hold, and he knew that Riol had scuttled the schooner. The yells and shrieks of the poor chained slaves, dreadful to hear, were soon succeeded by their gurgling cries, as the water rolled over their heads.

In that storm the vessel sank fast, Granville could hear the men on deck making vain efforts to lower a boat in time to save themselves.

The prisoner was fortunate enough to find an ax. He beat down the door of his room as the schooner was making her last plunge, and flung himself toward the open companion-way. He clutched a spare spar, which, with other things, was being swept past him, and to this he clung.

The squall had nearly gone to leeward; the violence of the gale had abated; and, after tossing about for some time in the heaving seas, the young officer, with about

half a dozen of the schooner's men who had also clung to floating objects, was picked up by the drifting cutter, which, with difficulty, had been kept from swamping during the squall.

On arriving aboard the frigate, Granville, gave a true account of what had happened.

Some time afterward he had the painful task of telling the story to Helena Riol.

Sad news it was to the beautiful girl; but, even while almost distracted by her uncle's crime and fate, she owned that she esteemed her lover for having so firmly adhered to his duty. The twain were married a few months later.

Table Manners.

Good table manners are founded on habits of punctuality, neatness, and order, united with that politeness which springs readily from a kind heart.

Everything at the table should be done moderately.

Do not be impatient to be served, or feel, while eating, that you must hurry and get through so that you can rush off to something else. This is bad enough when it is necessary; it is almost inexcusable when it is not.

Avoid all unusual noise when eating.

Never fill the mouth very full nor talk with the mouth full.

Never leave the table with food in the mouth.

Never sit a foot off from the table, nor jammed up close against it.

Never soil the tablecloth if it is possible to avoid it.

Don't be greedy, and don't try to eat all the good things you can, and don't carry off anything in your pocket to eat afterward.

Don't speak of it if you see any one else greedy. It is never polite to appear to notice faults of others in company.

Do not encourage a dog or cat to play with you at the table.

Do not cut your bread—break it.

Never express a choice for any particular part of a dish, unless requested to do so. When asked what part of a chicken you will have, save other people the trouble of choosing for you, and say what you will have, making some choice, though really not particular, as you might say.

Never hold bones in your fingers while you eat from them.

Cut the meat with a knife, and do not make an effort to clean your plate or the bone you have been eating from too clean.

Do not attract attention to yourself by calling loudly for anything, or by any boisterous conduct. We have seen children who made their wants known by giving two or three loud knocks on the table with handles of their knives, calling at the same time, water! butter! potatoes! milk! or whatever else they happened to want at the time.

We have seen others sit at the table, and while carving was being done, rub their fingers on the edge of the plate in front of them and feel around the inside of the tumbler also, so that when a plate with food upon it was exchanged for theirs the person receiving it felt unpleasantly. Don't be like such children.

Never handle dishes unnecessarily at the table, or play with your spoon, knife, or fork. A man is known by his company, and his company by his manners.

Do not pare an apple, peach, or pear for another at the table without holding it with a fork.

Swollen Tonsils.

Even if the phrase "swollen tonsils" be limited in meaning to express only a condition of some duration, it does not always mean the same thing. In health the tonsil is very small—so small that some who have studied throat diseases particularly think that it does not exist in the sense of being a visible prominence. Now, when the tonsil becomes enlarged and remains so it may be from removable causes and conditions, or it may not. The one group of cases may be considered as those in which much of the enlargement is due to an excess of blood in the tissues, and those very bright and sparkling, in a pale, steely sky, it will be fine. Swine, before rain, are unusually noisy and restless. Swallows in fine weather will fly high, and at the approach of rain close to the ground; but the latter does not apply if the day is cold, in which case they hawk very low. Common sparrows washing vigorously in a puddle on the road, or at the edge of running water, is a sure sign of rain. A baker who kept a parrot in the dry atmosphere of the bake offices noticed that a few hours before rain the bird took an imaginary bath, fluttering as if splashing water, and preening her feathers.—*Cassell's Family Magazine*.

Invisible Clouds.

In the recent English tests of light-house illuminants was brought out the curious fact—of great practical as well as scientific interest—that remarkable changes in the transparency of the air occur without any visible haze or mist. Invisible clouds seemed to float by, obscuring the lights for a time; and it sometimes happened that while the distant French lights showed with unabated brilliancy, the experimental lights, only a mile and a quarter away, had lost one-fourth to one-third their power.

JAPAN, according to the new census, has a population of 38,500,000, or about the same as that of the United States in 1870. In area Japan is about five times the size of Pennsylvania.

He who strives after a long and pleasant form of life must seek to attain continued equanimity.

WEATHER SIGNS.

Which May Be Observed by Early-Rising Students of Nature.

The man who is out of doors at sunrise can form a pretty accurate opinion of what the day will be. If just before sunrise the sky—especially in the west—is suffused with red, rain generally follows in the course of the day. In winter, often snow. If, however, it is frosty weather, the downfall is sometimes delayed. On the other hand, if the sky be a dull gray, and the sun rises clear, gradually dispersing the vapors, it will be fine. If he retires behind the clouds, and there are reddish streaks about, it will rain. Should the sun, later in the day, shine through a gray watery haze, it will probably be a rainy night. The sunset is very unreliable. Often a beautiful sunset will be followed by a bad day. After a rainy day, suddenly at sunset, in the far west, will appear a magnificent streak of crimson (not copper color)—this generally foretells a fine day. A tinted halo around the sun at setting occurs in long-continued rainy weather. A halo around the moon, especially if some distance from it, is a sure indication of downfall at hand. Rainbows are unreliable except they occur in the morning, when rain may be expected. Sun-dogs, and fragments of prismatic colors during the day, show