

tion you have shown for her; but I do ask, do you believe this man's unsupported slander? and will you, on the strength of it, seek to divorce my child?"

Cyril lifted from his hands a white and haggard face, drawn with keen pain, and tear-stained.

"Divorce Dolly?" he said, with a sad smile; "believe that she could never have deserved it? No, sir; not if ten thousand cousins swore to it would I believe her false. I have been too much to blame. I have been negligent, cold, unkind to her, but I have never doubted her faith and truth, nor ceased, in my true heart, to love and honor her. I can doubt all but her—even you!"

turning fiercely upon Fred, "since you bring this accusation against her. You have formed plans to which I have been no party, and laid plots in which I disown all share, and my wife is the victim of your ambition. I refuse to believe that you saw her last night at all!"

"Oh, yes, he did!" cried May, entering suddenly. "He has told you the truth there. Here is one who saw him in her company. Come in Dick."

And Dick, accepting the invitation, entered, and stood bowing and grinning upon all.

"Good-morning, Mr. Hastings," said he to that discomfited plotter. "You got down to town before me this morning, didn't you? You didn't see me last night, sir, did you? But I saw you—saw you get into the coach—saw you at the hotel with the misses, and wearing a long, black beard!"

At those words Cyril sprang up with a cry of rage, while Hastings turned deadly pale.

"It's a lie—a foul lie!" Fred cried, passionately. "And you," with a threatening gesture at May, who stood smiling oddly in the half-opened doorway—"you have bribed him to tell it!"

She looked at him with a superb contempt that disdained to give him other answer, and then suddenly leaning forward to Frank, whispered him with the same bright, curious smile.

He started, looking at her with incredulous joy; then, hastily beckoning to Mr. Lisle, they passed out of the room together.

May suffered them to pass by, then took up her station in the doorway once more, silent still, and smiling.

"It's no lie," said Dick, sturdily. "The one that says his wife was never false may lie—and does lie—but I don't! No, nor I didn't long ago, when I said you was a villain, Mr. Hastings!"

Fred sprang at him with a cry of rage, but Cyril flung himself between them.

"The boy defends my wife!" he cried. "I make his quarrel mine! You villain, you have made away with her! Where is she? What have you done with her? Speak," and he seized him with a furious grasp, "before I murder you!"

With one powerful wrench Hastings freed himself.

"I know nothing of your wife, you madman!" he said, boldly, "except that she has been your ruin. Can you not see that this is a conspiracy between May Ellis and the boy to turn you against me? I swear I know no more than you do, at this moment, where Dolly is!"

Dick chuckled delightedly.

"That's true, said he—"a heap truer than he thinks for, Mr. Vernon. He does not know your wife, but I do!"

And so do I, cried May, still at the door.

Cyril looked from one to the other, anxiously, eagerly, half in hope and half in fear.

"Tell me then in the name of Heaven!" he cried. "I have been punished enough. She is safe, for you are smiling, May, ah! have some pity. Oh! Dolly, my darling, where are you?"

A cry answered him—a loving joyful cry, and as May moved aside, a little, tired, disheveled figure rushed through the open doorway, and fell weeping, laughing, almost fainting, into his outstretched arms.

"Cyril, my love! Oh! thank you, bless you, my dearest, in having such faith in me. I am your own true love, your own true wife. You might have found richer, wiser, fairer women, dear; but none more loving, none more true, than your poor little country girl!"

Six months later. In the splendid parlors of May Ellis' city home a gay and brilliant company is assembled to congratulate a new-made bride.

There she stands robed in dazzling white; tall and stately, and beautiful, and radiant with happiness and love. She leans upon her handsome, bridegroom's arm, and a marriage bell, of snowy bridal blossoms, forms their fragrant canopy.

A handsome, happy well-matched pair, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Osborne, ladies and gentlemen, married only an hour ago, and receiving their wedding guests.

"A wealthy couple," somebody whispers in the crowd. "Rich respectively in their own rights, without counting the Huntsford fortune, which fell to Miss Ellis, the bride."

"She didn't keep it," says another. "I know the lawyer who arranged the matter, she'll make known her final disposition of the inheritance to-day. It was in her power to dispose of it for her life time as she pleased, and at her death it goes to Mr. Huntsford's son, the little fellow

who was born three months ago, and who I hear will be brought here to-day.

"Strange place to bring a baby, too. That's Mrs. Huntsford, isn't it, standing by the bride. Lovely, lovely indeed! No wonder he preferred her to a fortune. There he is, dear, dark and handsome, and looking at his beautiful wife with his whole soul in his eyes. Well, she is a fair excuse for any folly, though she was only a country girl."

There is a sudden stir and murmur in the throng; a rosy, smiling woman makes her way proudly up the room and stands before the bride. She carries a baby, wrapped in costly robes, upon which May and Dolly pounce simultaneously.

"My precious son!" cries one. "My little godson!" cries the other.

And both come so near smothering him with kisses that Rose, his nurse, snatches him from them in dismay.

Then the bridegroom leads the bride back to the marriage bell, and Dolly takes her handsome husband's arm. Her father stands beside him, and she smiles upon them both.

Very happy is our little country girl in these latter days; nothing can come between her and her husband's heart again; they agreed to put far away from the present the errors of the past, together with the remembrance of the false and treacherous friend who had passed out of the country and out of their lives forever.

Mrs. Osborne smilingly introduces her very youthful godson to her guests.

"It was at my request he was brought here today," she says, "that I might make his full dignity known to you. In this dark-eyed young gentleman, who takes so very little interest in you all, you behold the solution of a problem. I said to myself some months ago, What shall I do with the Huntsford fortune? His birth brought an answer to the question, and relieved me from a painful difficulty. Allow me, my friends, to introduce you, one and all, to Master Cyril Frank Huntsford—not only future heir, but also the present possessor of the Huntsford fortune."

[THE END.]

PEOPLE'S PARTY PLATFORM.

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES.

First—That union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the upliftings of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their interests are identical.

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning or managing any or all of the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such professional government employees.

FINANCE.

First—We demand a national currency, safe sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations, a just equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, per annum to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

We demand that the postal savings bank be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

TRANSPORTATION.

Second—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

LAND.

Third—The land, including all the material resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. And lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government for actual settlers only.

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