

The Woman Who Planned.

(CONTINUED.)

The very next night as they returned from a walk in the soft splendor of the September moonlight, Frances stopped at the door, and instead of inviting her backward lover in, as was her wont, she turned her calm face toward him and said quietly:

"James, I am afraid I shall have to ask you not to come here so much."

The poor fellow felt, as he afterwards expressed it, as though a pitcher of cold water had been poured down his back.

"Not—come—so—much?" he faltered, opened-eyed.

"Yes," placing the white hands with just the hint of a tremble in them, on his arms. "You have been coming here very often for a long while and all the other gentlemen stay away, as if it were your right, you know. And things can't go on so forever. I—

"But bless you, Fanny dear, I can't stop! Make it my right to come! I supposed that you knew that I loved you and want you—"

"How many things you dear great, blundering men take for granted?" she said, conveying her forgiveness in a kiss.

Language failing him—as it usually does fail people at such times, except in novels and plays, where they rant through whole pages when all nature and experience suggest that they could be better employed—he executed his part for the appropriate tableau, which was rehearsed regularly several times a week, until the minister came with his little book, and the curtain fell.

Married a year. One plan at least had worked well; so that the month-old baby-boy snoring in the cradle, was entered at college in his mother's mind's eye. Of course he wouldn't go alone, the darling little fellow; and with both of her boys at Harvard, and she keeping house near by, over a gas stove, in cozy little chambers, with her daughter in the conservatory, life would indeed be worth living for.

But amid all the inventions and devices of the age, no motor so strong, no force so powerful, no influence so puissant has been devised, whereby man can hasten or retard by a heart-beat the movement of time. And so Mistress Marlowe had many years to fill up with little plans before she could enter upon her great one. Her haphazard husband sometimes laughed at them, but he early learned not to thwart or oppose them. He loved a quiet life, and knew its conditions—which was beyond the wisdom of many who passed for more knowing men. When "the Brigadier," as he facetiously styled her, planned a picnic, he groaned—but he was discrete enough to do it inwardly.

He knew what it involved. His wife would name the day, the spot, route, the hour to start and return, and the character of 'the spread' and packed by proxy the lunch basket for everybody who was to go. It was of no avail for him to tell her that it would rain—as it generally did; that some other party would have the boats; that the pickles would be forgotten, and the jam leak out upon the sandwiches, the dishes get broken, and the train be late. Such things always happened, and yet she had the pleasure of laying out 'a beautiful time,' and would sit on the stile and continue to smile amid the ruins of her plans, with a sweet serenity that an excursion into the happy land could hardly have improved upon.

"Where shall we go next year, captain?" her husband would inquire on such occasions, with his most aggravating martyr-like air, as they sat waiting for a let-up in the shower.

"Nowhere—if we wait for you to move, ducky," she would respond, with a good-nature that was as invincible as her courage. "You can laugh at my planning, of course; but everything that goes rightly, and that is guided by intelligence in this world, moves upon a plan. Soberly, now—why not make plans for a day, a month, or a year, as well as a plan of life? The man who starts on the journey of life bound nowhere in particular, generally brings up there!"

"Yes—and if he starts for somewhere in particular, he generally doesn't. If he takes to the river, there is a cataract half-way down. If he sails the sea, there are head winds and icebergs. If he treads the beaten path, people jostle and crowd ahead, or he is held back by weight on his coat-tails"—and Mr. Marlowe looked with an expression of mingled fondness and discouragement at his growing family of children. "Man proposes and woman disposes," laughed he as a final conclusion—"And between us, I think they who drift get about as much enjoyment and make just as good progress as we who try to navigate. Take your places as best you can, do the duty nearest to you, and live one day at a time. Who ever saw to-morrow?"

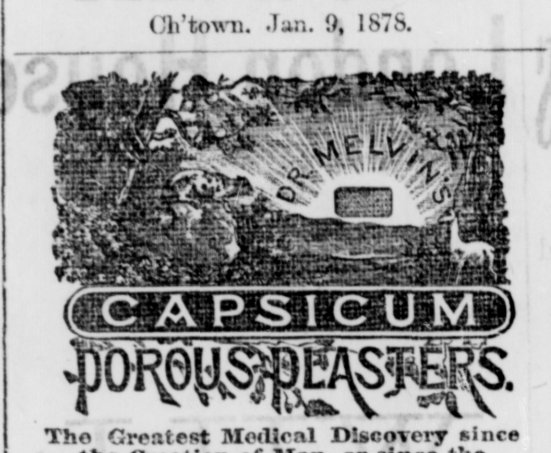
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ALL that Tract, Piece and Parcel of Land, situate, lying and being on Lot or Township Number Twenty-one, in Queen's County, bounded as follows, that is to say: By a line commencing at a stake fixed in the north side of the road leading from Morris' Mill to the old Malpeque Road, in the western boundary of fifty acres of land in the occupation of Alexander McSwain, junior, and running thence by the magnetic meridian of 1764 north seventy chains, or the rear boundary line of farms fronting on said first-named Road; thence west four chains and nine links, to the division line between the said Township and Township Number twenty-three; along said line south five chains, to a jog in said division line, thence along said jog west seventy-five links; thence south seventy-six chains to the old road; thence along the north side thereof northeastwardly to the place of commencement, containing thirty seven and one-half Acres of Land, a little more or less; together with all Buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. HODGSON & McLEOD, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

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ALL that piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Big Belfast, on Lot Fifty-seven, in Queen's County, bounded and described as follows, that is to say: Commencing at a stake at Big Belfast Creek, on the division line between this farm and the farm in possession of Hugh Martin; thence west to a piece of land in possession of Malcolm Buchanan, and heirs of the late John Buchanan; thence south to the north division line of the portion of the farm in possession of the said Lauchlin Martin; thence east to the west boundary of the land of the late Timothy Snae; thence following the courses of the Creek to the place of beginning, containing by estimation 50 Acres of Land, a little more or less; together with all buildings, rights, members and appurtenances thereto belonging.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hodgson & McLeod, Solicitors, Charlottetown.

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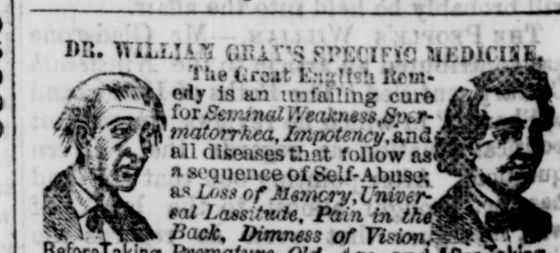
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