

the girl could count friends in the apple-faced old ladies, who traded in booths—ladies who wore corded cotton sun-bonnets, short skirts, and pointed shawls, as if attired for hay-making every day! Lollipops were their stock-in-trade. Imagine the power of a penny, for which one could procure four cocks on sticks, teeny pink and white mice, with curly string tails, and delectable black-jack, which clenched the teeth like glue! Here largess was distributed to sundry ragamuffins, who, in return, provided a safe conduct through purlieus beyond which even the majesty of the law hesitated to penetrate.

Andrea also loved the shadow-people, and they exchanged charming courtesies, when, in the dusk, she met kings in fire flowing wigs, and beauteous painted ladies of fashion, bare-necked and notorious, taking the air in these sylvan shades; brilliant shadows, peacocking to and fro, with merry jest at Victorian poke bonnets, Indian shawls, white cotton stockings, and elastic side boots!

* * * * *

She sighed as she stepped before the narrow mirror hanging between the windows and opposite the door. She raised her hands to smooth her wavy hair—and thus, looking at her reflection, saw Lord Rivière—or was it a shadow?—standing in the doorway behind her.

He did not advance or speak.

There was no need of speech, for all of worship with which soul could entrance soul was conveyed to her from his beeching eyes.

When she turned he was no longer there.

"Rivière," she whispered, but there was no reply.

A clock chimed the hour of five.

Swiftly she passed into the corridor and to the oval staircase, as she clutched the balustrade, she swayed a little, and a rose tucked into her bodice snapped off and fell softly at the feet of a man passing through the hall beneath.

He looked up—gathered the flower, and as she fled back to the boudoir his steps were on the stairway—in he strode unannounced.

There was nothing intangible about this virile being.

Andrea was instantly her spirited self.

"Please give me my rose," she demanded. "You see," pointing to her breast, "it snapped off."

"No matter," he answered joyously, "I have found you."

"Do not say anything, Lord Rivière, that we may both regret," said Andrea with dignity.

"Does it hurt your dignity that I love you?" the man flashed at her.

"How could that be?" she queried gravely. "Love is greatest glory—but love through dishonour I will never take."

"Will you listen?" he pleaded, taking her hands.

"Not to another woman's lover," the girl said gently.

"I have been no other woman's lover," he assured her.

"But little Rosabelle —"

"Rosabelle would have the soul of me, how can that be when you have it in your keeping? Do you not remember? Did I not call you out of the shadow—and so far as the mill did we not walk together in the light? Was not that our enchanted hour—you and I alone, beloved, at the top of the world? Did I not say at parting 'We shall meet again'? Because so-called death came roughly and crushed my body—what has that to do with the eternal worship of my soul? Ah! Soul's essence—it must be love or annihilation for you and me."

"Be sure," said Andrea looking in his face, "no other shall share the soul of my lover with me. But honour there must be—and justice. Therefore you will go now. If we can retain these things, then love is ours—if not, some grace as sweet."

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

COMING EVENTS.

February 28th.—Conference of Representatives of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute and of the Affiliated Associations, Council Chamber, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Westminster, S.W. 11.30 a.m.

February 29th.—Society for State Registration of Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street. 4.30 p.m.

February 29th.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Eighth Annual Meeting. Caxton Hall, S.W. Chairman, H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, Esq., 3.30 p.m.

March 1st.—22nd Annual General Meeting, Hammersmith and Fulham District Nursing Association, Carnforth Lodge, Hammersmith. 5 p.m.

March 4th.—Meeting of the Scottish Nurses Association. Miss Paterson, one of His Majesty's Commissioners, will address the meeting, and the position of Nurses under the Insurance Act will be explained. Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow. 4.30 p.m.

March 4th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Some Diseases of the Respiratory Tract," by Dr. Parsons. 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 7.30 p.m.

March 6th.—The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture: "Clinical Symptomatology in Nursing" by Dr. Matthew. Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Trained Nurses cordially invited.

March 6th.—The Midwives' Institute, Post-graduate Lecture 5: Septic Infections, 6.30 p.m. Fee, 1s. to members, 1s. 6d. to non-members.

March 8th and 9th.—Provincial Meeting at Manchester of Royal Sanitary Institute. Friday, 7.30 p.m. Saturday, 1.45 p.m.

March 9th.—Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League. "At Home." Cleveland Street Asylum. 4-8 p.m.

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