

"He may object to this public sale of his private property."

"I expect him to object, and I hope his objections will be great."

"And why?"

"Because I shall tell him that the only means by which he can prevent the public sale is to buy the picture himself, and believe me, I shall name a high price for it."

"A very clever idea; but I fear you will fail."

"And wherefore?"

"Because M. Dechamps will be forced into nothing."

"He will not refuse the request of a lady?"

"That is a different thing," replied M. Dechamps, blushing at the thought of his own gambit.

"I am sure that is precisely the way in which I shall make my request, and I am confident of success. Now I must go, and I trust you will not betray me, or if you do, you shall share in the purchase."

"I give you my word, I shall say nothing, and as proof of my sincerity I will, if you wish it, let you see the interior of the chateau. M. Dechamps will be to-morrow, where he is to-day—you will see no one but me, and I shall feel proud to conduct so estimable a lady through the chateau."

"Delightful. If I had M. Dechamps as a polite when I see him as his steward, I shall become his champion, and begin to think that envy has painted him worse than he is. What time shall I come to-morrow?"

"Your own convenience must decide that."

"Then I would suggest the morning, everything is so busy in the evening in the morning. Will eleven be to you?"

"Not at all."

"Then I shall be here at that hour. In fact, just that you should know who I am. My husband was M. Dechamps, brother to the Marquis of C."

"He was, as you have heard, of course, killed in a duel, which originated in a fancied insult to me. It is just two years ago, and ever since I have lived in the only spot in the world I can call my own, the pretty little villa, scarcely a mile from here. You will, of course, tell M. Dechamps of my visit—you may also tell him who I am—as I do not care to cater to his vanity by having him suppose I was some poor creature who viewed his elegance as something new to me."

"All shall be as you wish, madame."

"You are most kind, monsieur, and I appreciate your civility. Bon jour."

M. Dechamps, who had been waiting for the widow gave a bewitching bow and galloped off at sight, leaving the bachelor bewildered but fully sensible to her charms, and thoroughly ashamed of himself, not as he knew him, but as he was.

The following morning was, if anything, brighter than the preceding one, and the little widow, prettier and happier, had paid great attention to her appearance, though she wore the same habit; it was turned over in front, and displayed a spotless chemise fluffed off at the neck by a jaunty green bow, her hair was pinned up with light, graceful ringlets, all of which had the effect of making her look still more childish, still more piquant.

Any difficulty Mme. Jerrold had anticipated in finding the chateau was removed by seeing that individual standing actually at the gates. Yes, it was an actual fact, M. Dechamps had arisen at nine, and without ringing his bell, so that the chateau still maintained its morning tranquility, and so well trained were the servants that had the bell not sounded for a week, no one would have ventured to intrude upon M. Dechamps, who after ringing the bell, through his chateau to ascertain if all looked as it should to receive a visitor. Precisely at eleven he was waiting at the gates, and precisely two minutes after that hour the little widow arrived.

"Are you here to receive me, or to tell me I must not enter?" was Mme. Jerrold's greeting.

"I am here to conduct you through both grounds and chateau to the drawing-room. I may say request—of M. Dechamps, who expressed himself as honored by your giving his chateau a moment's consideration."

An hour's ride, side by side, brought them to the chateau, and there the admiration of Madame Jerrold knew no bounds, nor did the admiration of M. Dechamps for his fair, bewitching visitor.

One, two and three hours had passed, and still both lingered to examine and re-examine the wondrous paintings, the rare books, the antique furniture, and, in fact, everything that fell within reach of their eyes.

By this time Mme. Jerrold signified her wish to depart. M. Dechamps assisted her to her horse, mounted his own and rode to the gate with her; little or no conversation passed between them. At parting, Mme. Jerrold, without knowing why, held her hand out to M. Dechamps took it, knowing full well why he held so.

He watched the widow out of sight, and then on the wings of delight and hunger he flew back to the chateau, rang his bell, set his household in motion, and late as it was, he had breakfast.

The valet, who was indignant, the cook grumbled, the outler was indignant, and the coachman impatient. M. Dechamps was intensely happy, and from that day he never lost the sensation.

One week passed, then two weeks, and no widow; but on the third week there was widow every day in the week, the steward pretending to guard her from M. Dechamps. Rides through the park, sketches of the chateau, and sprightly conversation made the hours fly, and finally Mme. Jerrold announced that she, armed with her picture, was going to make her attack on the following Monday.

"The sooner the better, I assure you, madame."

"And wherefore?"

"It will decide the pecuniary affairs of the poor family for whom you work."

"True," replied Mme. Jerrold, somewhat disappointed, as she had expected a compliment. She only remained a short time longer, and then left without a word more in reference to the picture or the hour at which she would bring it. The consequence of which was that M. Dechamps sat in state in his library the whole of Monday morning, and was just about to ring for his luncheon, when the servant announced: "Mme. Jerrold on business of importance."

To be continued.

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In the Singer's work is fed or passed through the Machine in the natural direction, namely, from the operator, permitting her to sit in a natural and healthy position. In many other Machines the fabric is passed from right to left, or the reverse, compelling the operator to sit at an angle, and thus causing the weakness of the back, etc.

The Singer uses a SINGLET STRAIGHT NEEDLE, which is not liable to break or miss the stitch. Many other Machines use a long crooked needle, which is liable to break and to miss the stitch.

In the Singer Machine the shuttle is carried, by a wide wheel, in the natural direction, and does not go up and down, or in and out, as in other Machines, thus requiring the operator to sit at an angle, and thus causing the weakness of the back, etc.

On the Singer, the Tension on both the upper and lower threads is absolutely under the ready control of the operator, thus rendering the Machine absolutely perfect for good sewing, which is not the case with any other. Many so-called cheap Machines are really worthless, and so are the most costly and expensive ones, because they are not adapted to the work.

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Being about twenty years in the market, having been constantly improved by the employment of the most skillful and ingenious of our age and unlimited capital, it is now directed to all kinds of heavy and light manufacturing in the United States, and is the only Machine in the world that will do all that is claimed for it. Some other Machines are greatly complicated, to do useless and silly things, and thus render the Machine a costly and unnecessary expense. The Singer is simple and direct, and will do all that is claimed for it. Some other Machines are greatly complicated, to do useless and silly things, and thus render the Machine a costly and unnecessary expense. The Singer is simple and direct, and will do all that is claimed for it.

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