

THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, May 20, 1872.

DR. KELLUM'S PRESCRIPTION.

[CONTINUED.]

And there was no time to lose, for in two days he was going away to a distant city to establish himself in business. He had hoped to carry Rose with him, but all his pleading had been of no avail to induce her to leave her mother's side. All his hope now lay in influencing Mrs. Carter. So, early that morning, he took his way to the cottage, at the foot of the hill. "My dear Mrs. Carter," he said, "I am very sorry to hear that you are still filled with the anxiety regarding Rose's health which he had aroused; so perhaps, Mrs. Carter, you will find a better time for trying to win her over to his side."

But, though she did hesitate for a moment, his pleading was in vain. "You know there is no one whom I would rather have for a son than you, Charles," she said.

"But I know your father. He is a man, a very stern man, and he will never relent. He would never forgive you for marrying against his will. I cannot consent to your ruining all your prospects in life. You are both very young, you may change. The time might come, Charles, when you would regret disobeying your father's wish. You are his only son, and so dear to him; and before this, you say he has never thwarted your slightest wish. You ought not to disobey him hastily. To be sure, his prejudice seems unreasonable."

"Unreasonable! It is absurd!" interrupted Charles, hotly. "Why, he has never so much as seen you, to my knowledge."

Mrs. Carter's cheek flushed faintly. "I lived here when I was a girl, you know. I knew your father then. He has some reasons for disliking me which I don't understand."

"It's only a prejudice, a notion, I am sure," said Charles. "And he has no right to dictate to me in such a matter."

And he was beginning his eager pleading over again, when Barnes appeared with the note. There was no address on the outside, and Mrs. Carter opened it, while Charles waited in a fever of suspense to know what his father could have to say to Mrs. Carter.

Her face was a picture of amazement as she read, but pleasure shone through it as she handed the note to Charles. It was brief and to the point.

"Let him have her."

"I always told Rose he had a heart. It could only get at it!" cried Charles, in a transport of delight. "Now, you can make no objection; we have your promise! And I am going to the day after to-morrow, you know, and I must take my wife with me."

"The day after to-morrow!" cried Mrs. Carter, who was beside herself. "My dear boy, you are beside yourself!"

"You and Rose have said wait to me for so long, that you can't have the heart to say it longer, now that you have no reason for waiting. I shall coax Rose over to my side, and then you can't refuse."

And he did coax them both over to his side, after countless arguments and objections. It was arranged that there should be a wedding on the day after to-morrow, which would be only a few intimate friends were to be invited, the next evening.

Then Charles hurried home to express his gratitude to his father; whom he began to think he had misjudged.

While this scene was transpiring at the cottage, Samuel Hodgkins had received Doctor Kellum's answer to his note, and being somewhat puzzled by it, had transmitted it directly to the Widow Thomas, thus relieving himself of all responsibility in the matter.

So the widow, who was wearing her best cap with new cherry ribbons, in anticipation of the doctor's taking her gentle hint and coming himself to drive her to the quarterly conference meeting, was called from that pleasing occupation to read the following note, a mere scrawl, written evidently in haste and irritation.

"Let her take a doctored spoonful of extract of valerian, night and morning, for her nerves, common sense in as large doses as she can get it, and stop gadding about evenings."

EDWARD H. KELLUM.

The widow's black eyes snapped so that the doctor if he had been there to see, would have liked them less than ever, and the roses that had dotted her cheeks, she thought forever, reappeared in full bloom. She had been angry often in her life—the departed Reuben had not been very easy to manage—but never before had she felt anything like the wrath she felt that moment.

"The impudent old scoundrel! Gadding about evenings! Indeed! 'Valerian for my nerves' as if I were some dainty old maid! 'Common sense in as large doses as I can find.' How dare he write such a note! Well, I have had a lucky escape! Still, I am cross-grained and wretched! A life of it I should have had with him!"

And the widow put on the cherry-ribboned cap, slipped down and fell to dusting the portrait of her deceased spouse with a vim. With all his faults, Reuben was not the worst man that that ever lived!

Charles was obliged to repress his gratitude for a while, for when he reached home he found that his father had come to a neighboring town to attend a medical convention, and he would not return home until the following day.

When the doctor returned the next afternoon Dr. Kellum, finding a leisure afternoon upon his hands, made an unusually careful study of the case, and wondered if he should not repent, if she proved to be of a quarrelsome temper.

To be continued.

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