THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, - - - June, 2, 1871.

THE OLD MAID OF THIRTY-FIVE.

BY ETHEL BRANDE.

[CONTINUED.]

Thus grumbling, I entered my room and cast my eyes around to see what it was best to employ my time about—for upon this, my birthday, I was extremely fastidious as regard my occupations. It pleased me just then to remember that there was a quantity of old letters to be looked over and sorted—a task that I had put off from day to day, as a painful one, for it would necessarily recall the one bitter sorrow of my life.

Twelve years before, upon that very day, my marriage was to have taken place. But before the time cam awe had quarreled, and when the sun rose upon our wedding day, John Davis was across the sea, a sad and solitary wanderer. As I re-read those letters—relics of my love-dream—how vividly did every circumstance connected with it come up before me! How well I recollected our quarrel, which my own willfulness had caused, and John's sad, reproachful face, when I turned from him with the angry exclamation:—

"Go, if you wish it—it is best—for we shall never agree; we had better never meet again!"

And we had never met again. My words bitterly repented of as soon as spoken, and repented every day and hour since that time, had been literally adhered to. John was in a distant land, and I was an old maid of thirty-five. My musings were here interrupted by the most outrageous noise down stairs. I began seriously to think that my Uncle was knocking away a portion of his house, by the hammering that I heard. The most uproarious shouts of laughter, likewise floated up from the regions below. "I really believe everybody here is crazy to-day," thought I, as I commenced my toilet for dinner.

To please Robert, I put on the very gayest dress I possessed; for, however much I might grumble about the boys, I knew, and they knew, that I would do almost anything to please them.

"Very well, very, well indeed. You willdo, Laura," said Robert, as he took a critical survey of my dress through his eye-glass.

At dinner time there were the same mysterious words and glances that I had noticed at breakfast, and everybody seemed unusually excited. In the afternoon Robert prepared to drive me out in his new buggy to see the country in its October dress.

"More likely to make acquaintance with mother earth," retorted I; "for, really, Robert, you are so excited you will not be able to manage that spirited horse of yours." But Robert protested that he was never calmer in his life, and, as a proof of his placidity, performed some of the most ridiculous manœuvers, without, however, convincing me at all.

"Better go, Cousin Laura," said Willie "it may be your last chance. I don't expect you'll as much as look at me after to-day."

In my heart of hearts I determined to look at the gentleman, and to talk to him in a way that he should not soon forget. But this matter was put off till another day, for there stood Robert, waiting impatiently for me. Now, as I really had no fear of Robert's driving, I decided to go, little guessing the vexations I should undergo before I reached home.

"Now," thought I, as I seated myself in the buggy, "now I will find out the meaning of all this mystery. It will be impossible for Robert to keep the secret from me."

"Has anything unusual happened to-day, Robert?" I commenced.

"Anything unusual happened to-day repeated Robert.

"Why, yes, I think there has."

"What?" demanded I, impatiently.

"Why, you are thirty-five to-day, are you not, Laura?" returned Robert, with a very demure face;" and quite young and handsome too, for thirty-five?"

"No matter" thought I, "he will at least be moved when he hears that I am going away. I know that he will say Cousin Laura can't be dispensed with."

"Robert," I began "sometimes—to-day, especially—I have thought that I should be happier in another dwelling-place, because—"

I was interrupted by Robert, who was attacked by a most outrageous fit of coughing, which lasted several minutes and which, by its violence, threatened to rupture a blood-vessel. Indeed, I was really alarmed by the evident distress in which he was, and which exhibited itself by the purple hue of his face, and by the oddest grimaces. No allusion was made to my remark during the remainder of the ride, and I must say, I was not a little wounded by the perfect indifference manifested by Robert upon the subject of my departure.

"There's Madge Walters," shouted out Robert as we passed a cottage at the gate of which stood a blooming young girl. And as Robert spoke, he drew up with a sudden jerk, threw the reins to me, and was soon in earnest conversation with Madge. Now Madge was a great favorite of mine, and it was no secret that she was a great favorite of Robert's, also; but I should have preferred that he take another time to show his partiality, especially as by their motions I knew they were talking about me. So I leaned further back in the carriage, feeling very uncomfortable, and imagining their whole conversation.

"I suppose he is telling her I am thirty-five to-day, and of course she will answer with her prettiest smile.

"Poor old maid—I pity her!"

"Good-by, Madge. Now don't forget to be ready at the exact minute," was Robert's final speech, and we drove away. Robert had several other calls to make, the object of which I could not discover. There were several mysterious conferences held with elderly spectacled ladies, and middle-aged ladies, and young ladies, all of whom nodded kindly to me, but all of whom I suspected of saying to each other, "She's thirty-five to-day, poor thing!" How I wished we were at home! and home we reached finally, only to be met at the door by Willie, who had spent the time profitably in composing an epitaph upon our possible fate, which standing at the foot of the stairs he shouted out to me word by word.

How long I sat in the solitude of my room I know not. Weary of the present I had gone back into the days of the past—days that could never return. When I awoke to actual life it was dark, and the room felt damp and chilling. There was an unusual sound of voices and clatter of feet below, and hurrying from one room to another. I passed down the dark staircase and opened the parlor door, and then started back at the flood of light that burst upon me. The parlors were most brilliantly lighted, and full of company—my particular friends—many of whom I had thought far distant; the friends of the family were all there.

To be continued.

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PURSUANT to an execution to me, directed by the Third Judicial District Court of the Territory of Utah, I shall expose at public sale, on the steps of the Court House, in the town of Farmington, Davis County, and Territory of Utah, on the 8th day of June, A.D. 1871, at 10 o'clock a.m., the following described premises, to wit:

"Commencing at the N. E. corner of the Farmington Town Survey, containing 160 square rods, on a certain tract of land, known as the Nine Farm, being south of the town of Farmington, bounded on the north by Mrs. Beesley and Thomas Cheney's farm, on the east by the Canyon Road, on the south by the Alley, and on the west by the Walker Farm, containing one hundred (100) acres, more or less."

Also, all the right, title and interest of said defendants in and to the property of Lorenzo G. Miles, at the suit of John A. Morrow.

Terms of sale—CASH.

H. T. PATRICK, U. S. Marshal.

May 18th, 1871. d131 4t

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