

THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, May 20, 1871.

SEARCHING FOR A HUSBAND.

[CONCLUDED.]

"I have often wished to see the place," said the captain to me. "I have passed it a good many times, but always out of sight. We nearly saw too much of it once, eh, W. H. However, a miss is as good as a mile."

From this time we had a constant succession of fair winds and fine weather, and arrived at Bombay on the 1st of June. During the remainder of the passage we had a wonderful recovery. On board how matters were between Armstrong and Miss Bellamy. Never a thought crossed her of retracting her promise, give in a moment of pity, and she looked extremely happy. Nearly the first to board was our Bombay harbor Major Bellamy, he had come off in one of the subaltern's boats. The young ladies walked by the poop ladder to receive him.

"Well, Charles!" "My dear Louise! But how you've grown. And inspired, too. By George, you put your sister into the shade!" "I want to introduce a gentleman to you," she went on, beckoning Armstrong forward. "One of the passengers and a friend of mine, Mr. Armstrong, George, this is my brother Charles."

Charles Bellamy looked blank. There was no mistake, as he feared, what this style of introduction meant. Era he held out his hand with some hesitation, and the frank, pleasant face of George Armstrong seemed to compel him to that advance. Louise disappeared, saying she had her "things to look after."

Major Bellamy looked around and saw me. A warm grasp of the hand, and he smiled me aside. Our thoughts went back to the old days, and it almost seemed as though we were lads together again. We were at the same school, though he was a few years older than I. "I say, Harry, what is the meaning of all this?" Louise speaks to the man as "George," and she coolly introduces me to him as "my brother!"

"Well, I see you guess," was my hurried answer, for I had barely time to stay a moment with him. "I think it is a case, Charles. I warned Armstrong against it; I said a word or two of warning to Louise; but love and circumstances have been too strong for prudice."

"My companion drew in his lips. What is he? Poor, of course!" "Has next to nothing, besides his pay; he's a lieutenant in the engineers. But, look here Bellamy—he is a gentleman in the best sense of the word; and a downright good fellow; safe to get on. If Louise were my sister, I'd give her to him with pleasure to-morrow."

"But—" "I can't stay; we are about to bring up, and there's the pilot calling out for the chief officer. I'll come on to you, old friend, as soon as I can get ashore."

It came to pass, and very shortly; for Major Bellamy did not see his way clear to hold out against Louise's will. And he had grown to like Armstrong, who was at the wedding; and we had a jolly spree.

The following formed part of Mrs. George Armstrong's first letter home after the ceremony: "POONAH, July 27.

"MY DEAREST MAMMA: We have been married three days, and are now at this place. I find it more pleasant than Bombay. The latter, just now, is very disagreeable to live in. Always rainy and cold or rainy and hot and muggy. Here the weather is lovely. I wish we were rich, that we might come home and see you; I know you would like George. He hopes to get promotion soon; and I am sure he will, for he's very clever and powerful. His desires, his love to you; and he says if papa but I'll leave a space at the end for him to write his own message."

All the girls here go on as in a most disagreeable manner for marrying him. George went into a passion over it; he said I had made a great fool of myself, and thrown myself away. They all talked round of nonsense about Mr. Stewart, saying I ought to have married him because he's immensely rich. Would you believe that he proposed to Charles for me when he had only seen me twice? Fancy it! He is an old man, quite forty, and his whiskers are turning gray. The idea of his wanting me! Mamma, he's very well, dear mamma, but I've better, Oh, if you could but see George! He is, I think, the best fellow in the world."

Mrs. Bellamy dashed down the letter with a groan. She had not patience to read further. Louise's ideas had indeed undergone a change in a few months, and to her mother it was a cruel blow. "The simplest of the world," thought Mrs. Bellamy in her walk. "To think that she should be herself to a poor lieutenant in a marching regiment, with nothing but his pay, when she might have done so well. I'll never forgive her."

THE TWO MRS. TRAFFORDS.

There was only one reason for not proceeding to the ceremony that was to make Elizabeth Trafford and Miss Bellamy wed. The bridegroom, it was said, was that Dick Trafford, Bellamy's younger brother, a youth of about sixteen, had not arrived from the city, where he was attending a boarding-school. The day had come, however, and almost the hour, and, whatever the cause that delayed him, especially since it was Christmas week, it was not, of course, thought sufficient to postpone the marriage.

The Traffords were a remarkably handsome family—so handsome that the family group would at once have rivaled the eye of even the noblest of nobles. Trafford was one of those few genuine blondes who do not fade early and look like washed ribbons before twenty years of married life. Mr. Trafford himself had been married for some years, and his wife, so bronzed was his complexion, so chivalric his manner. Of the three children, Eliza, the eldest, resembled the father. The two others were a daughter, about sixteen, named Lucy, and Dick, the schoolboy of sixteen just mentioned. Both favored their mother, being blondes of the purest hue. Lucy was just as fresh and tender as an apricot, and Dick, about sixteen, was like a handsome, so bronzed was his complexion, so chivalric his manner. Of the three children, Eliza, the eldest, resembled the father. The two others were a daughter, about sixteen, named Lucy, and Dick, the schoolboy of sixteen just mentioned. Both favored their mother, being blondes of the purest hue. Lucy was just as fresh and tender as an apricot, and Dick, about sixteen, was like a handsome, so bronzed was his complexion, so chivalric his manner.

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