

I call God to witness, between you and me, of whatever evils resulting from this deplorable marriage my son may be the author or victim, the guilt be on your head.

(Signed) JAMES G. BLAINE.
MISS NEVINS WAS TO BLAME.

When I wrote the foregoing letter I believed that Miss Nevins had no other responsibility in the marriage than in consenting to my son's appeal. Since then I am prepared to say that the marriage was arranged by her far more than by my son. She did everything to promote it, suggested every arrangement, anticipated and provided for every emergency; in fact, but for her personal, active, untiring agency the marriage would never have taken place. In this she showed a knowledge and a forethought not to be expected in a woman of 21 years. Within ten days after her arrival in Augusta, within a week after first meeting my son, she was thus adjuring him for several successive days: "Write nothing until I see you. Let me know at once about the law (of marriage). I cannot wait to hear; it makes me ill;" "Can you come to me a moment? Am alone. Do not send up your card;" "Do not ask any questions that may lead people to suspect anything. We are in the mouths of every man, woman and child in Augusta. Every look, every flush of your face is talked of. Look into the laws only tomorrow and perhaps one question at the bank," where he obtained the money for his marriage on my account, by inducing the cashier to advance him funds on his memorandum—a thing he never learned to do before he met Miss Nevins; "All else can wait. Do be careful. You do not know how vile the world is. Do look up the laws. Did you look up the laws of Massachusetts and New York? I am sure not. Answer tonight. I have at last thought of the only man on earth whom we can trust for a witness."

Another time, writing of this "man who could be trusted," she wrote: "I have known him since a child, and he would do anything for me. If you say so, I will give him a gentle hint that I will need his services for an emergency, but not tell him for what."

When they reached New York, after fleeing from Augusta, she cautioned my son not to forget the \$20 gold piece in the little box for Ducey, and to "look in the pockets of his gray clothes for a ring." She directed the proceedings to the least minutiae.

It was thus that a seventeen-year-old boy was

TEMPTED FROM HIS SCHOOL BOOKS and tutor, and blindly led to the altar by a young woman of 21, with entire secrecy, contrived by herself and with all the instrumentalities of her device complete and exact. My eldest son, Walker, went to New York to see if the marriage was not invalid, or could not be annulled. He was met with the assertion that it was too late for any proceedings to set aside the marriage.

I next propose to show the falsity of the assertion that my wife broke up the marriage relations of my son and his wife. Before we sailed for Europe, in June, 1887, Mrs. Blaine met her daughter-in-law but three times. Fourteen months later, when we returned,

we found that our son, in our absence, had not only spent his entire allowance, but was deeply in debt. At a family council in August, I learned the details of the dismal failure of their New York life, and proposed that they should take our Augusta home, in addition assuring them \$2500 a year until my son was able to earn an income of that amount. His wife replied that she would not stay in Augusta on any consideration. He was very much disconcerted by her decision, and for the first time informed his mother and myself of his discontent and unhappiness. We then learned that he had been gradually estranged from her, and this refusal was merely one of a long series of disagreements, which finally led to their separation.

THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF HER DEPARTURE

from Augusta was the fact that my son, at my request, was with me several days on a campaign trip. He did not go home as soon as he expected to, and, when he returned, found that she had left for New York eight hours before. Mrs. Blaine strongly disapproved of her departure, earnestly urging her to remain. She did not then dream that our son would not follow his wife or suspect that the latter left with any less friendly feeling toward herself than any other member of the family. Foreseeing difficulties in the path of the young couple, she told her daughter-in-law before she left that she would at any moment receive her grandchild for any length of time, for life if necessary, and give him the best of care and attention. The offer was neither accepted nor declined. Before leaving she left a note for her husband, the temper and tone of which is sufficiently indicated by a single extract:

"You knew when you left what the consequence of your trip to Bar Harbor would be. What business had you at Bar Harbor? Why did not you telegraph me and not let me lie awake till nearly 4 o'clock. You shall live to regret all this. You have broken the greater part of your promises thus far, and, until you learn to be truthful, you need not come near me. I am not here to have my affairs discussed among the neighbors. If you desire to have communication, you can address New York Hotel."

MARION NEVINS BLAINE."

ON READING THE NOTE my son declared: "I will not follow her, and I told her that I would not when she made the threat." Forty-four days after this wilful departure she returned to my house, accompanied by her mother, my grandson and his nurse. At the moment of their arrival there were in the house only Mrs. Blaine, who was ill, and the servants. Mrs. Blaine arose, dressed and went down stairs, having previously instructed her maid to do everything required for their comfort. This was the only time she ever met Mrs. Nevins. Neither lady advanced to greet her. No hand was extended to her, but, from Mrs. Nevins, seconded by her daughter, came charges against her son and herself so insulting and violent that a servant was called in for the frankly expressed purpose of acting as a restraint upon the elder visitor. On this brief stay of two weeks with us and on this last

visit of two hours, rests all the substantiations of the statements of the Judge at Deadwood. Before leaving for the West I had advised with Mrs. Blaine in the event of the return of her daughter-in-law, and she acted upon my advice. Not a word since the separation has been written by her, nor has she seen my son's wife, except on the streets in New York, when not a word was exchanged between them.

MY SON WAS ENTIRELY FREE.

No restraint was attempted, desired or needed to ensure the separation. On the day of his wife's departure he was as strongly determined as on the day of her divorce not to resume relations with her. Far be it from me to hold my son blameless, though, all things considered, I hold him more sinned against than sinning. But his mother, at no time, in thought, word or deed, attempted to separate man and wife. On the contrary, she did not fail by liberality, consideration and extenuation, to foster in every practical way their happiness, if happiness to them had been possible.

(Signed) JAMES G. BLAINE.

FATHER DUCEY.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—A *Herald* reporter went to Rev. Ducey's house last night to interview him about the reference to him by Mr. Blaine in his statement. "I have no statement to make," said Father Ducey. "Mr. Blaine says I transgressed my priestly duties in marrying his son. I merely refer him to Archbishop Corrigan, who approved all I did in the matter. It would have been impossible for me to marry young Blaine, without the sanction of the Archbishop. I know all about the letter Mr. Blaine wrote me, and a poor letter it is. It will not help to set Mr. Blaine right before the Catholic world." More than this the priest would not say.

THE FEDERATED TRADES.

The mass meeting of workingmen held in the Federal court room last night, under the auspices of the Federated Trades Council, was well attended. Banners bearing the following and other inscriptions were carried through the streets to the scene of the meeting:

"Eight hours on public works is law from Maine to California."
"Eight hours on public works should be law in Utah."
"The glory of Utah is in its mines."
"Protect the life and limb of the miner."
"Be honest and give us a mechanics' lien."
"Capital always takes care of itself."
"We demand cash payment of wages."
"Legislators, read up your platforms."

The meeting was called to order by R. G. Sleater, president of the Federated Trades, at 8 o'clock. The following letter was read from Governor Thomas:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Feb. 28, 1892.
Mr. Phil Corcoran, Salt Lake City, Utah:
Dear Sir,—Your kind invitation to be present at the mass meeting of workingmen, to be held at the Federal Court-house this evening, to discuss labor measures, is just received.
For reasons which will readily occur to