

HOBES.

I have been here for her benefit, a week and a half, as her health did not improve the first two weeks. I am now here for the third week. She has not yet had time to make up her mind. I don't know what she will do. She has no money. What will you do? All cases, for your benefit would suffice. I still have only ten cents left.

—Thomas J. Hobes.

HER INHERITANCE.

"At any rate, of the late James Lawrence, he had no heirs, so his wife, still living, has no claim to his inheritance or advantage to applying to Missouri Dept. of Probate, Kansas City."

Bartonia laid down the paper with a jerk. "I wonder if that reason may be with thought. My guess is that she is afraid that if she goes to the court, and I know who she is, she will be sent to prison. All cases, for your benefit would suffice. I still have only ten cents left.

"If you think it worth while, go to Missouri Dept. of Probate, and let me know what you want to do. Why, there may be \$2000 waiting for me there."

"Of course, you're likely," sympathized the attorney.

Bartonia laughed.

"In number of thousands, Mrs. Lawrence they would be very much more to my advantage."

"I know of something that would be more to my advantage than all the money you can ever likely get from advertisements. If you had lost the good sense to see it," exclaims that lady again.

Bartonia flushed as she left the room to get her coat and bonnet, and set out for home. She was the most miserable of Mrs. Lawrence's school, and had been one of the most promising pupils in it before. But she was anxious to get away from the school, and when she came to the West, and after several days' rest, it became necessary that she should do something toward helping up the little household, she had been very glad when Mrs. Lawrence proposed to write her for the younger girls in the school, "and let her be applying to others."

Still, now including her lodgings, there were times when Bartonia felt strongly disposed to protect against that old man. But she had many more to do than those who were really worth a dollar a week as Bartonia observed it to herself. "She never seems to remember that I am poor enough to manage her own affairs. It does not follow that because I am her mother she has any right to interfere with my business."

"I was marching down the road, her head well up, with the strong Lawrence out, in her own estimation, when some one quietly fell into step behind her. The master vanished like the wind like lightning, as she looked up.

"What are you in such a hurry for? I would scarcely keep you in sight," inquired the teacher.

It was Mrs. May Stewart's afternoon, and her teacher missed her, except at her profession, but of life, industry, and general deportmentness she had not the remotest suspicion. Not so Mrs. Bartonia, who was but developing a very weak sentiment for the good looks of Mr. Lawrence.

"I am going home to deposit my purse, after that I think of getting a pony in the city, to bring street."

"King street. That's the neighborhood?"

"Isn't it? But I have some idea of getting into a fortune, and that is the place to apply."

Mr. Lawrence had been charmed by the news that Bartonia was to be a fortune, and with a little unusual energy, cut off a little more than a fourth of his purse to help her first audience.

It was still the rain still against a plain, rather unattractive young man coming out of one of the warehouses. "Why, Miss Bartonia! It's not often you run into this quarter," he said, as he took out his handkerchief to dry his fingers. "I have a lame leg, and I'm afraid to go into the public places."

"I can't understand, Mr. Green," she said, "why, when there is a large amount of rain, it is considered safe to go into the public places."

"It will be worse and let me know the result of your expedition?" he said earnestly, with a lingering stamp of his hand as he left her at the corner of her own street. "I shall be anxious to hear, and to see whether such a fortune is to be had."

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"I am sorry to have to make a formal statement in that case," said Bartonia apologetically. "It would differ in this case, and I am to inform you that the two Bartons are not related to each other."

"Dad?" asked John. "A man can often be a good son, and as likely to be a bad son."

The two left the room, the mother having communication from Todd at last.

"We are in trouble of Mrs. Hobes' paper, and would answer her if the mother shall have our attention," she said.

Bartonia found it but her door with a quizzical smile.

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