

PEARL OF THE OAKS.

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BY MARY ROWENA COTTER.

PART SECOND.

[Continued from last week.]

VII.

Down to the woods, where Melissa had been found a few weeks before, the party went, and they searched every spot, calli g her again and again, but she was not to be found. Beside them lay the clear, cold waters of the river, and as Frank looked into the placid stream which he had once loved but, since Marie's mad plunge into it had filled him with dread when she approached it, an awful fear crept into his heart. How bright those waters looked, sparkling as they were in the sunshine, but they had robbed him of one dear child, and it might be possible that they flowed over the dead form of another who had no one to rescue her from a watery grave. The only reassurance of her safety was that nothing belonging to her could be found.

"I don't think she's been round here anywha, Mas'rs," said one of the men, who, suspecting his fears, thought it best to get him away as soon as possible from the place which had recalled such melancholy thoughts, "so we'd bettah look somewha' else."

"I hope not," said Frank, looking anxiously into the depths of the water, as they took their departure for the negro quarters, where they met with the same ill-success. Next the Levimore woods, where the gypsies had their camp, was visited, but Melissa was not there, and with hearts laden with fears that she had indeed fallen into the river and had been drowned Mr. Tone met Jamie Levimore, and his faithful boy, Jack. "Have you seen Melissa?" was the question asked to which with an inquiring countenance the boy answered in the negative.

"Is she lost?"

"Yes, was the reply, and they told him of the fruitlessness of their search. The boy was silent for a few minutes, for the wild little creature was already growing very dear to him, and he was willing to risk almost any thing for her. He, too, had a vague suspicion that she might have been drowned, but would not mention it, and was too bewildered to know what to do.

"Put Mike on her truck, and he will find her," suggested Jack. Mike was Jamie's pet, a huge black dog in whose veins flowed both the blood of the bloodhound and St. Bernard, and, while as gentle as a kitten, he had followed to their hiding place more than one runaway negro, but that had been before he came into possession of the Levimore family. One long, shrill whistle from his young master sufficed to bring the noble animal bounding down from the house, where he had been taking a nap. He was led to the school room, where Miss Leroy sat reading one of the latest novels as unconcernedly as if she were doing only her duty. She gave a little scream at the sight of her unexpected visitor; but when assured that the dog would not hurt her, and was told what he was there for, she laughed heartily, saying that since her arrival in this country she had grown quite accustomed to hearing runaway slaves being caught by bloodhounds, but it was quite a novelty to hear of the same method being employed with white children.

Jamie Levimore had owned the dog for three years, but he had not forgotten the lessons taught him in his younger days. After sniffing around the room he bounded out through the back yard and thence to the oak grove where, at the foot of one of the trees he stood looking up, barking furiously and wagging his tail.

"Look at him now," said one of the men, "that's a woodchuck or somethin' up dat tree, an' he won't go no farther." By this time the men were on the spot, and Jamie tried to put his dog on the scent again, but the animal only ran around the tree, barking louder than ever, greatly to the displeasure of all, until Jack, rolling up his great white eyeballs, exclaimed: "Tha' she is; de monkey hab climb' de tree."

All eyes were turned upward and there, seated on a slender limb, tully forty feet above their heads, was Melissa.

"Melissa, come down," called Frank.

She looked down, clung closer to the limb, and said, "I tried to, but I can't."

"Can anyone get her down?"

Each looked up, but it was not less than fifteen feet to the first limb, and the ascent seemed impossible. How the child got there no one knew, nor could she tell herself. Ladders were brought, but none would reach her, and no one dared attempt to climb the tree.

"I can do it, I know I can," said Frank, "but I am afraid that I can't get her down."

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"Try it," said Mr. Tone, "and I will give you any reward."

"I ask no reward but to see her lapped on 'terra firma;' bring a rope, and I will see what I can do."

"Be quick," said Frank, "for I fear her strength may give out, and she cannot hold on much longer."

The rope was brought, and with the assistance of the longest ladders he succeeded in reaching some of the limbs from which he climbed to where she was. As Mr. Tone expected, her strength was failing, and she trembled violently from weakness when the boy reached her.

"I am afraid I will fall, I cannot hold on any longer," she said, looking down.

"Look up, not down, or you will surely fall; and try and hold on just a minute longer." He had secured the rope to a strong limb above her head, and grasping it firmly with his right hand he stepped on the slender limb on which she sat and put his left arm around her. The weight of the two was too much for the limb, which was going to decay, and it snapped, then broke and fell to the ground. The hearts of those below beat with dread lest two young lives might be lost, and the men reproached themselves for their cowardice in allowing a boy to make the perilous ascent.

And there the brave boy was now, swinging in the air, with one hand grasping the rope while the other held the burden which was growing too heavy for his weak arm. If both hands had been free it might have been easy enough to save himself; but as it was, it seemed that he must either let go the rope or the child. The latter he would not do, even if it cost him his own life, and he bravely clung to both until his arms were numb. What was he to do? He closed his eyes and said: "Pray, Melissa, that we may be saved."

"I don't know how," was the innocent reply, which surprised and hurt him.

"Put both your arms around my neck, then, and hold on tight, for I must let go." She obeyed, and as the boy, who felt himself growing dizzy, loosened his grasp around her waist, he murmured: "My dear mother, pray for us, and help us to reach the ground in safety."

"Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Melissa repeated the words after him and they sunk deep into her heart, never to be forgotten. By this time he had the rope in his left hand, and placing alternately one hand below the other was making a slow and perilous, but sure descent. The ground was reached at last, and Jamie, with bruised and blistered hands, fell fainting at the foot of the tree. Oblivious of those around her Melissa raised her eyes to Heaven, as she had seen him do, and said fervently, "My dear mother, pray for him; Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Frank Tone looked at her in amazement, wondering where she had learned these words, for had Marie's voice spoken to him from the grave he could not have been more surprised. It sounded so much like his dead darling that another tie of love bound him to the strange child.

Had Melissa been rescued from her perilous position by one of the slaves she might have been severely reprimanded, if not punished by Mrs. Tone, but Jamie Levimore had risked his life to save her's, and she was so interested in the story of the boy's bravery that she forgot all else. If Melissa had any share in her thought she rather gloried in the opportunity she had given him to make him such a hero.

Not so with her husband, for he trembled whenever he thought of the terrible fate she had escaped, and that evening he drew her to his side, and putting his arm around her, made her tell him how it had all happened, which she did in child-like simplicity.

Miss Leroy's refusal to have Meg in the school room had been the cause of it all, and with tears in her eyes the child humbly confessed how she had given way to her temper. She went first to the kitchen to look for Meg, and not finding her there started for Don's cabin. She sat down to rest in the oak, and was soon attracted by the song of a bird in one of the tallest trees; then an irresistible desire seized

her to climb to where the bird was. She knew well she could not catch it, but in the tree top she would be free, and Miss Leroy could not find her to punish her, as she feared she might do. Having spent so much of her life in the woods, climbing trees was like a second nature to her, and without a thought of danger she mounted almost to the top of a tall one. It seemed so much like the freedom she had lost that she was happy in gazing down upon the surrounding landscape, which, with the forest, green hills, and river in the distance, and she had no thought of how she was to get down until she heard the dog barking at the foot of the tree.

"Did you not know, dear, that it was wrong for you to get so angry?" he asked gently.

"Yes, but I wanted Meg to study with me."

"Would you be a better girl and learn your lessons if you could have her?"

"I would try to. May she come in the school room?"

"I will see about it; you may go now."

It was with no little difficulty that Frank persuaded his wife to allow Meg to go to the school room with her little mistress, and when Miss Leroy heard of the plan she said that she had not been hired to teach niggers; but remembering that she was in danger of being discharged, she relented when informed that she was expected to have nothing to say to the little intruder excepting when she wished her to wait upon herself or her pupil. She took advantage of this by keeping the child busy almost continually, greatly to the displeasure of her pupil, who thought that Meg ought not to be troubled during school hours, and it was this which caused Melissa to once more give way to her temper.

(To be continued)

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

The weekly change of programme at Manager Moore's popular theater beginning Monday matinee Dec. 3rd, will present a number of star acts of well known vaudeville favorites, many new features and an abundance of novelty and high class comedy and musical specialties. In addition to the first vaudeville appearance in Rochester of the pre-eminent character actor, Mr. J. E. Dodson, late of the Frohman forces, in his masterly impersonation of Cardinal Richelieu in John Stapleton's drama "Richelieu's Statagen." Those in Rochester who have admired Dodson's clever acting in "Under the Red Robe" as well as in other pieces of a droller character, will rejoice to see him with his own excellent company in the greatest one-act drama ever seen in vaudeville which presents him again as Cardinal Richelieu. The splendid programme as arranged this week certainly contains paramount features and will prove one of the best shows of the season as it will be notable in many ways. In the more strictly vaudevilian line, Wm. Keller Mack who has starred in many of the late Chas. Hoy's best comedy productions has joined hands with the well-known comedian Thos. Dempsey and with the clever support of their own company will present the latest farce comedy entitled, "A Man of Chance." Morton and Elliott, merry musical artists, will offer a lot of choice novelties and oddities in their musical line. Donahue and Nichols a duo of eccentric acrobatic comedians, singers and dancers of the modern school, are said to be in the front rank of fun makers. Anna Teresa Berger, the greatest of lady comedians, will be heard to excellent advantage in her choice repertoire of popular and classic selection. John D. Gilbert, original ideal monologist, somewhat different from all others with novel witticisms which is said to create continuous laughter. Mr. and Mrs. Swickard have a clever comedy-ette entitled "Recruits for the Vaudeville." Jessie and Willie Barrows, favorites on the Keith circuit will produce their latest singing and dancing specialties. Falardo's termed the human orchestra, the "Sousa of Musical Imitators" imitates any instrument ever invented without the aid of any mechanical contrivance. Director Monk will have a number of new selections to offer which conclude an interesting programme for the coming week. Two performances daily. Next week, Dec. 10th, the big star card, is the great Irish comedienne, Maggie Cline and others.

The Baker Theatre.

Monday night, Dec. 3d, the Cleveland German Theatre stock company will present a German four-act comedy entitled "Jugendfreunde" (Bachelor Friends), which will be presented with the full strength of the company. On Tuesday and Wednesday, with daily matinees, William H. West's unrivalled minstrels, larger and better than ever before, will appear in an entirely new olio of the latest novelties, and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the usual matinees, Robert Fitzsimmons will be seen in his great home comedy-drama entitled "The Honest Blacksmith," supported by a company of sterling merit.

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Correspondence

OUR AGENT: Our agent Mr. A. Herman, will visit Auburn, Syracuse, Rochester, Ithaca and Geneva.

Lima.

On last Sunday evening the young people of the parish held a meeting by appointment to organize some sort of social club for the winter months. Mark J. Lockington was appointed to the chair, and Joseph T. Guinan secretary. After some deliberation it was decided to form bands of twenty-five and two leaders for each (a lady and gentleman) and provide from their own resources some entertainment or amusement for an evening as would be approved by the members of each circle. Father Fitzsimmons kindly placed the hall at their disposal. Some rare fun is looked for, and the readers of the JOURNAL will be kept informed whose band will lead.

The banms of matrimony was announced on Sunday between Sarah Curran and Martin Dalton.

The pupils of St. Rose's school are rehearsing a play for Christmas which promises to be up to the usual standard.

Geneva.

A very pleasant card party was held at the old Dutch church last Friday evening. Progressive euchre and whist were played. The proceeds were for the parish library.

The marriage of Edward Gavin of Rochester to Miss Kitty Fitzgerald of this city was solemnized in St. Francis de Sales church Wednesday morning at 9.30. The ceremony was performed by Rev. S. V. McPadden. The bridesmaid was Miss Alice Johnson, niece of the bride, and the best man was Edward McNamara of Rochester.

The ushers were Howard Sweeney and Daniel Costello. After the ceremony the bride party were driven to the home of the bride's parents, where a wedding breakfast was served. Mr. and Mrs. Gavin will reside in Rochester.

The funeral of John Handlan took place from St. Francis de Sales church at 10 o'clock Monday morning. High requiem mass was celebrated by Father Ryan of Rochester. The honorary bearers were Charles McGuigan, Thomas Toole, Daniel Hickey, Edward Steadman, Patrick Donohue and Patrick Brennan. The active bearers were John and James McGuigan, John Steadman, Michael Keleher, John Burke and John Ryan. Besides his wife, the deceased is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Charles McGuigan, Margaret and Mary Handlan, and three sons, John and Michael of this city, and Patrick of New York.

Penn Yan

Everybody is hustling for the fair, which will take place in the near future.

Times here in Penn Yan are duller than they have been in years, but everything keeps right up in price.

Superintendent Preston was over the road Nov. 20th and laid off a large force of men—one to three at each station—between Elmira and Ganandaigua.

Mrs. Guider, who has been sick for the past week, is able to be around again.

Miss Kittle Kelly and Michael Mitchell were married on Wednesday and left for Buffalo on the evening train.

Heavy rains have fallen in this place, and much damage was done by floods. The steamer West Branch sunk at Manamoochoport.

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