Dross Of Her Dream

By... FRANK H. SWEET

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When the girl reached her own door she turned to look back at the sun which was just sinking behind the cotton mill. But it was a dull, disreputable ball which leered at her through the grimy atmosphere, and she threw out her hands with a sudden revulsion of pentup disgust.

"'Tain't my sun!" she half sobbed. "Hit's—hit's only just some cheap thing the factory gits up!"

The company used the poorest grade of soft coal, and, though its dense smoke had ceased to blacken the sky above the tall chimney, it still clogged the moist atmosphere of the mill yard and the cheap, hastily constructed village in the little bend of the sluggish river.

A heavy step approached, and she turned to look into her father's rosy good natured face.

"You 'pears to git ahead of we uns, Nervy," he said, with obvious disapproval in his voice. "I spoke to to

THEN SHE CAME AND PLACED HER HAND FAMILIARLY ON HIS SHOULDER.

Bess comin' out, an' she said you left the factory like you was fired out a gun. She they don't like folks to be offish an' onneighborly."

At the name of Bess the girl drew back, flushing hotly.

"I don't care for none of 'em," she retorted drearily. "They're so cheap an' triflin'. Oh, pap, if only we hadn't left the mountain!" She turned abruptly into the cabin, and he followed.

"But hit was you as seemed most set on comin', Nervy," he expostulated as he seated himself upon a box and watched her start a fire and set about getting supper. "You said there'd be chances to study an' l'arn to be like folks, an' now," wonderingly, "here you be homesick a'ready. I didn't care much to come myse'f at first, but now I wouldn't go back."

The girl's face hardened a little, but she made no answer. The man drew his box forward and began to eat hungrily, but from time to time raised his eyes furtively to the face opposite.

"Mebbe you'd ought to have mo' comp'ny, Nervy. 'Tain't very lively with jest one man like me in the house an' me mostly out. Now, there's the Grogans, that take bo'ders," shifting his eyes from her direct gaze. "They don't charge but $2, an' that would leave you more'n a dollar a week for spendin' money. Of co'se," hastily, "I'd hate to have you go away, but if I 'lowed you was havin' a better time I'd be willin'."

Her lips curled a little.

"Then hit's true," she said. "I've been hearin' you was aimin' to marry that gal Bess, an' I reckon I've done said sharp things to folks that hinted hit, but I—I couldn't help hit, pappy," her voice breaking suddenly, "with my own mammy dead only five months. If you'd wait a year, I wouldn't say a word, an'—an' I'd even try to make friends with Bess. Oh, pappy, won't you please wait on mammy's 'count?"

The man shook his head sullenly. Her face again grew hard.

"I s'pose hit's Bess that's done told you that she an' me can't live in the same house. Well, don't be skeered. Jest whenever she tells you to send me off I—I"— She rose hastily and went to a window, and the man, with an uneasy glance in her direction, seized his hat and slipped quietly from the room.

Half an hour later she was again standing by the window, her few household duties completed. The doors and windows of the other cabins along the street were already being filled for the customary evening gossip and scolding, and at the shrill voices she suddenly dropped the sash.

Presently she noticed a tall, broad shouldered figure coming along the street, stopping now and then as though to make inquiries. A few moments later a clear, imperative rattat sounded through the house, and she went to the door, wondering who it could be.

"Jake—I am glad to see you!"

"Oh, Jake! You here?" Then, with a warm flush on her face, she re entered the room, and he followed.

There were no chairs, and she motioned him to the largest of the boxes. Then she came and placed her hand familiarly on his shoulder.

"Now, tell me, Jake," she commanded, "what ever brought you way off to these parts an' how's all the folks an' the farmin' an' everything."

But he only possessed himself of one of her hands, laughing.

"You uns are in a fine lar bo...ets' nest of a place," he declared. "I ast for you at one house an' at another an' another, an', though nobody seemed to know you by name, they all wanted to talk an' say somethin' about somebody else. Hit was only when I spoke of you as bein a tall, fine lookin gal with square shoulders, that they seemed to know. An' then whew!" He paused abruptly, and at that moment a flare through a broad crack in the stove crossed her face. "Nervy," he cried sharply springing to his feet "what's the matter? You've been sick an' an', yes, you've been cryin'."

"No, no Jake," she expostulated smiling and flushing under his ardent gaze. "Hit's hit's jest the lonesomeness of the place. You don't know."

"Yes I do know" explosively. "It's that shiftless eyed daddy. No, I don't mean that Nervy. But I feared it a comin' along." His face had grown dark, but now it suddenly lighted and he ended with a chuckle. "Any how he's goin' to help marry you."

He drew her down beside him.

"You remember that day we parted on the mountain," he said with suppressed eagerness in his voice. "You wasn't satisfied with our narrer way of livin' an' you vowed you would not couldn't marry me 'cause I wasn't ready to climb up along of you. An' I'm free to say, Nervy, I didn't feel I could leave the mountains then. I'd been brung up among 'em an' I loved 'em. I had a nice farm an' was doin' well. So I let you come off alone."

"But I was mistook, Nervy," his voice becoming more earnest and tender. "Jest as soon as you was gone I didn't care any more for the farm an' the mountains. Hit was you I wanted. So I've come here to climb up with you. I've been to the factory, an' there ain't no job for me just now 'cept tendin' fire in the engine room at 90 cents a day. 'Tain't much but mebbe hit'll do for a start. I did low on waitin' till I could get a little saved up, but now your daddy is is goin' to do what he's goin' to do hit seems to be the best thing is for us to git married right at onct. You've knowed me since I was a little feller, an' you know I can be trusted. Will you marry me, Nervy?"

She rose swiftly and stood beside him, her eyes shining. He could see the eagerness, the longing in them even in the dim light.

"You ain't sold nor nor rented the farm, have you Jake?" she breathed.

"Not yet. Hit's the wrong time of year. I jest left hit in Brother Tom's hands to look out for."

"I'm so glad. Oh, Jake, you can't ever know how glad!" she half sobbed. "Yes, I'll marry you, but we won't stay here. We'll go back to the mountains an' climb up to other facts."

And she raised her face to his, transfigured at the thought, and he almost reverently, bent down and kissed it.

No Place Like Home.

A native of Prince Edward Island had gone forth to seek Fortune. When he reached Boston he got a good room at a modest hotel intending to remain there while he looked for work.

"Will you register?" asked the clerk handing him a pen.

"Register?" said the traveler. "What is that?"

"Write your name."

"What for?"

"We are required to keep a record of all our guests."

The man wrote his name and was about to lay down the pen when the clerk added:

"Now the place, if you please."

"What place?"

"The place you come from. Where do you live?"

"I live on the island."

"Well, but what island?"

The other man looked at him in amazement. Then he said with an emphasis that left no doubt of his feelings: "Prince Edward Island, man! What other island is there?"

Murky London.

A correspondent of an English exchange relates a story of an experience which an old Sydney colonist, Mr. Joseph Thompson, used to tell with a chuckle. He arrived in London on a visit in the midst of a gloomy December and one day at noon suddenly stood still in the Strand and stared fixedly into the sky. Within three minutes he had the usual crowd round him, all asking: "What is it?" "What's up?" They stared with him at the murky darkness which to the Londoner represents the sky, and at length some one ventured to ask him what he was looking at. "Oh," answered Mr. Thompson, "I'm looking for the sun. That's all. You see, I come from a land where he's to be seen in the sky at this time of day, and I hoped I might find him here, too, if I looked long enough."

Too Commonplace.

Youthful Jack—Oh, mother, I do love cake! It's awful nice.

Mother (reprovingly)—You should not say you "love" cake; say "like." Do not say "awful;" say "very." Do not say "nice;" say "good." And, by the way, the word "oh" should be omitted. Now, my dear, repeat the sentence correctly.

Jack—I like cake. It's very good.

Mother—That's better.

Jack (with an air of disgust)—It sounds as if I was only talking 'bout bread.

Correspondence

WILLARD

Mr John Feehan died of pneumonia on the 15th inst. Mr Feehan was ill but a few days and his death was a great shock to his relatives. He was an old and valuable employee of the hospital and a man whose kindly genial disposition won him many friends. He leaves a wife and four children, three sons and a daughter to mourn his loss.

NEWARK

The funeral of Thomas Greves was held from St Michael's church Tuesday, Jan 27th.

St Rose's band will have an entertainment in Ellicotts hall Monday evening Feb 2nd. All are cordially invited to attend.

Miss K. Kanally of Syracuse was the guest of Mrs P. Hewitt last week.

CANANDAIGUA

The recent fair netted $2[illegible] and the bands $3 each. This enables the parish to go out of debt and burn the mortgage which rather ceremoniously was duly carried out a week ago.

Mrs Andrew Young of Woodward will has recently been granted a pension. formerly lived here and is a sister of Michael Patterson.

The envelopes [illegible] taken up last Sunday amounted to $[illegible]. A few have yet to be heard from and it is expected that the amount will approximate $[illegible].

The Catholic Ladies Aid Society of St Edward's [illegible] St Patrick's and St George's [illegible] St Joseph's [illegible] Bath and [illegible] Dansville [illegible] of the [illegible].

The annual report of the [illegible] of the Young Ladies Sodality Jessie Wellman President Julia [illegible] vice president Kathryn McCarthy secretary and Elizabeth McCormick treasurer.

LIMA

The last of a series of festivals which were commenced during the holidays was held in Bregdal hall Friday evening Jan 23rd. The contest for a silver tea set between Mrs Silas Sylvester Mrs Wm Flynn Mrs Patrick Joyce and Mrs Frank Hayes was brought to a close on this occasion. Mrs Silas Sylvester was the successful candidate having collected the largest sum of money. These ladies took charge of the supper room. All report a very enjoyable evening. Many persons from out of town were present. About $600 will be realized from the festivals.

The Children of Mary Society of St Rose's church is being reorganized and a reception of new members will be held in the near future.

The Children of Mary are contemplating a pedro party to be held in the hall Wednesday evening Feb 11th.

St Rose's choir recently spent a very pleasant evening at the home of their pastor, Rev. S. Fitzsimons.

DANSVILLE

Rev. W. F. Dunn has issued his annual financial statement for 1902 which includes receipts and expenditures and detailed report of contributions pew rent and Sunday offering. St Patrick's parish Dansville and Holy Name Mission Cleveland. St Patrick's receipts are stated to be $[illegible] expenditures $[illegible] leaving a balance on hand of $[illegible]. The Catholic Father Duties and [illegible] of the [illegible] expenses of the parish [illegible] and improvements [illegible] an indebtedness [illegible] have been [illegible] to this [illegible] at the [illegible] were [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]