Squire Richards' Second Wife !

"WHAT? no, you don't say so! Squire Richards going to marry again, and his wife only dead three months! Goodness me!"

"It is awful! You may well be astonished, Mrs. Wilkes; it is terrible to think of! Such deception! Why at his wife's funeral, one would have thought him actually heart-broken; and then the crape on his hat is a half a yard deep!"

"Ah, me, Mrs. Hanson, there is no dependence to be put on appearances! The world gets sinfuller and sinfuller every day, and it can't be covered up with silk, or broadcloth. As I said to my husband, Mr. Wilkes, the other night; says I, 'Simon, things are coming to an awful pass! Everybody will git into the State's prison in two years, at this rate!' And says Simon, says he, 'I don't doubt it, Mariah!'"

"And you and Mr. Wilkes were right, perfectly right; it is just so! But this dreadful conduct of the squire's has made me more conscious of the truth of it! Strange that a sensible man should behave so!"

"Yes, it is wonderful! but how did it git out, so quick? The squire ain't no hand to tell of things, you know."

"Betty Higgins found it out, last night. She was taking tea at the widder Town's; you know she's most always a visiting somewhere, though I wouldn't mention it to a living person except you, Mrs. Wilkes; and while they were at supper, the squire rode by in a new buggy—going toward the depot! People don't git new buggies for nothing, you know."

"No, that they don't, Mrs. Hanson—vidderers especially."

"Well, he wasn't gone more than a half an hour, before back he came, driving upon the gallop—he didn't use to abuse his horse when poor Mrs. Richards was alive—and lo and behold! sitting in the new buggy with him, and his arm actually around her waist in broad day light! was a little girlish-looking woman, in a pink dress and a green silk bonnet!"

"My gracious! goodness! I want to know!"

"Yes, it's every word of it as true as our minister's discourses, and Mr. Sampwell never exaggerates — he's a fine man, Mrs. Wilkes; and the widder Town and Betty run up to the garret—they can see Squire Richard's house plain from the widder's garret windows—and the squire drove up to the front door, as if the side door wasn't good enough! and then he got out of the buggy and lifted the woman on to the door-stone!"

"My goodness! as if she couldn't git out herself! It's indecent now, ain't it?"

"To be sure it is! and he a middle-aged man and a member of the church!"

"Wal," recommenced Mrs. Wilkes, "I think sich doings is awful! Getting married again afore his wife is cold! Now, I suppose he'll say that he needed a housekeeper; but that's no excuse, for my Mary Elizabeth or your Julia Ann is a terrible favorite with tittle Elmetta, and Mary Elizabeth is a grand hand at managing children!"

"Yes, Mary Elizabeth is a fine girl, Mrs. Wilkes, but her health isn't hardly good enough to take so much care as there would be in Squire Richards' family with all his company; but then Julia Ann could have done it well enough. Julia Ann is a remarkable hand for children—can't help learning of them. Her example is so beautiful, you know."

"Well, for my part, I think somebody ought to go and talk to the squire about it. It ain't right for us—sisters in the church—to let him go and ruin himself and darter a-marrying noboby knows who! He ought to be reasoned with!"

"That's just what I think, Mrs. Wilkes, and I called over here on purpose to ask you to go with me to-morrow morning, and talk with him about it."

"I'll go, and be glad to! I hope I'm never backward in doing my duty."

"Well, I must be going; I've made a long call—to-morrow morning at eight o'clock; it's best to go early; I'll call over for you."

"Dear me, Mrs. Hanson, I don't come half as often as I want to, but I'm ashamed to keep coming all the time. As I told my husband, Mr. Wilkes, the other day, says I, 'Simon, I'm actually afraid I shall wear my welcome out over to Mrs. Hanson's.' And says he, says Simon, 'I shouldn't wonder if you did, Mariah!'"

Eight o'clock, the following morning, found our friends Mrs. Wilkes and Mrs. Hanson standing on Squise Richard's front door step (the side door wasn't good enough for the lady in pink, and of course it wasn't suitable for ladies of their "calibre") awaiting to be admitted. A frouzy-headed Irish girl answered their rap.

"Is Squire Richards in?" inquired Mrs. Hanson.

"In? to be sure he is! Safe in the bed, ma'am! Is it after seeing him that ye are!"

"Yes; we called to see him on important bosiness," replied Mrs. Hanson, frigidly.

"Sure then and I'll be after calling him; though the old gintleman's sound aslape—for I hurd him snoring but jest now when I come forenint his bed-room door. Come in with yees!" and Biddy ushered the ladies into a room where the breakfast-table was standing in waiting for the family.

"Hum!" said Mrs. Wilkes, looking significantly at the table, "she can't be no great things laying abed till breakfast time! Poor Mrs. Richards! She used to be up in season!"

Just at this moment, the squire entered in elegant dishabille—that is without a coat, and minus shoes and stockings. He advanced, holding out his hand cordially.

"Good morning ladies—good morning; I am a little late, you see. Hope you will excuse my toilet; the fact is, I sat up rather late last night, and felt drowsy this morning. Fine morning, isn't it?"

"Very enchanting," returned Mrs. Hanson, who greatly prided herself on the elegant propriety of her language, "it is beautiful enough for a morning in the gorgeous land of the Orientals! But to change the subject; we called on a matter of business——"

"What's the difficulty now, Mrs. Hanson? A new carpet for the parsonage, or is fifty dollars wanted by the Missionary Society? Come, speak out:"

"Ah, squire, it is wuss than that!" put in Mrs. Wilkes, no longer able to keep silence; "it is something that consarns you, squire—consarns your everlasting and eternal well-being!"

"Indeed! Well, go on."

"Squire, we called to see if you were thinking of marrying again. We——"

"You weren't going to propose to me, were you, ladies? I should be exceedingly happy to receive such proposals, but I should have Deacon Hanson and Major Wilkes in my hair forthwith. It would not do, ladies!"

"No; we supposed you had already made your election of the person who is to fill your dead wife's place, and we called to talk with you about her. We have understood that she was in your house, and, if agreeable, would be pleased to see her. Our interest in yourself and your motherless child has induced us to do this."

"And we want to know where you got acquainted with her, squire, and how old she is; and if she knows how to do housework!" said Mrs. Wilkes.

"How did you learn anything about this?" asked the squire, evidently somewhat nonplussed by the extraordinary knowledge of his affairs displayed by his visitors.

"We heard of you riding out with her, squire; she dressed all in pink, with a green silk bonnit! Don't look very well, squire, to see a man of your age riding out with a young gal!"

"Well, ladies, suppose I should take a notion to get married? You could not blame me, I do not think. Here I am with no housekeeper, and an Irish girl to oversee things, and my home is none of the most orderly. Elmetta needs some one to care for her, and it would not be in nature for a father to be unmindful of his child's interest."

"Why, no, of course not. But then, if you needed a housekeeper, my Julia Ann would come and look after things. She is a capital manager and very fond of children. She and Elmetta—sweet little thing—would get on admirably."

"Yes, or my Mary Elizabeth either! She would be tickled to death to come! She thinks so much of Squire Richards and his little gal. And, if I do say it, Mary Elizabeth is as nice a girl as there is anywhere!"

"Mary Elizabeth's health is too feeble for much exertion, Mrs. Wilkes; you do not do right to put anything hard upon her, you know she has a pain in her side half the time."

"Well," said the squire, at last; "I do not know what to think about it! I do not believe Elmetta would give up this 'lady in pink,' as you call her, at all; she has taken a wonderful liking to her."

"Where did she come from, squire? You have not told us anything about her yet!"

"To be sure, Mrs. Wilkes. Well, I found her in a milliner's shop in the city of Portsmouth."

"In a milliner's shop! Then she is a milliner, is she? Well, I never!

"Will you be kind enough to favor us with an introduction? I should be happy to see her before I form an opinion of her character."

"Well, Mrs. Hanson, it will be an advantage to her to form the acquaintance of two such estimable ladies as my present company; and I will be glad to present her to you forthwith. Pray excuse me for a moment."

"Stop, Squire!" shouted Mrs. Wilkes "what is her name?"

"Jennie Ray," returned the squire, disappearing in the passage.

"Jenny Ray! a regular story name! She's some city highflyer, I suppose!"

"Very likely, Mrs. Wilkes; but I see the squire's mind is made up, and it is no use to say anything. We must make the best of her."

Just as Mrs. Hanson let fall this magnanimous speech, the door opened, and the squire appeared.

"Ladies," said the squire, bowing politely, "permit me to present to you Mrs. Jennie Ray, my daughter's wax-doll, which I purchased at Portsmouth, last week, and which arrived day before yesterday at the depot by express! The cost of it was forty-five dollars, and at present I have no intention of making it my wife!"

Squire Richards was somewhat eccentric, and knowing how busy-bodies gossiped about him, and having purchased a large-eyed wax-doll for his little daughter, the idea struck him that it would be a fine joke on the scandle-loving people of Wheatwold to take it from the packing case and ride home with it in his buggy—in full view of the public. We have seen the result.

The squire is still unmarried, and bids fair to remain thus; his widowed sister having established herself as mistress of his family.

Mrs. Wilkes and Mrs. Hanson would not like to have their unfortunate mistake made public, and I wish it, as a particular favor, that those that read this little sketch will keep it as private as possible.

CHRISTMAS.

BY HELEN G. TRENHOLM.

Another year hath passed away,
Once more we greet thee, Christmas day,
The Birthday of the Lord.
Glad hymns of praise our voices sing,
All earth's loud alleluias ring,
With sweet accord.

Yet some hearts chant a minor strain,
Some lips attempt to smile in vain,
Remembering that one,
Who last year joined the triumph song,
Hath journeyed hence, perchance for long
Beyond the setting sun.

Some gentle, loving, tender face,
That faded silent from its place.
And smiled a last "good night."
Ah! weep not then, for lo, to-day,
In pure and glorious array,
In robes of virgin white,

All souls redeemed, all hearts released,
With Christ this Christmas keeps the feast,
In blessed Paradise,
Where fields of jasper stretch afar,
Where beams the Bright and Morning Star,
Beyond these wintry skies.

Pay Your Taxes!

Treasurer's Notice to Delinquents

The County Treasurer hereby gives notice to DELINQUENT TAX-PAYERS, that all taxes were due and payable on Sept. 1st.

☞ALL TAXES NOT PAID BEFORE JANUARY 1st, 1898, WILL BE SUBJECT TO INTEREST FROM SEPT. 1st, 1897.

The Treasurer is in the COURT HOUSE daily, ready to receive taxes.

WM. D. BURCHINAL,
d18-2t. TREASURER.

Maltby House

EUROPEAN PLAN.

18 to 28 EAST PRATT ST.,

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

Rooms, 50, 75 and $1.00.
Bar and Restaurant Attached.

O. A. FOWLER, Mgr.

Galena, Maryland.

Stoves, Agate and Tinware,

FURNITURE!

Having purchased a Complete Line of

Cook Stoves, Ranges,

Single and Double Heaters,

With all Fixtures for same;

Also, a Line of Furniture,

and leased the store Room adjoining R. H. Hicks, I think I can prove that it is to your interest to call and examine my stock before buying elsewhere. I have also employed an experienced workman to assist in REPAIRING STOVES, and doing TINWORK, which will include ROOFING, SPOUTING, &c.

I shall still give my personal attention to the

Undertaking Business,

which I am better prepared to attend to now than ever.

☞FURNITURE REPAIRED reasonable.

Yours to please.

WM. T. HICKS,
s18-tf. Galena, Md.

Oehm's Acme Hall.

Your Best Christmas Gifts

Will be found here, those things that are useful as well as beautiful. And one thing is certain, you'll not find such rich quality, such high values, anywhere else as are here now.

Holiday Goods. Our great stores are crowded with holiday attire. Fancy Smoking Jackets, House Coats, silk Handkerchiefs and Fine Gloves in separate boxes; Suspenders, Neckwear, Hose, put up separately in dainty boxes; Fancy slippers, Unbrellas, Hats, Caps, Canes, Pajamas, Bath Robes, Dress Suit Cases, Satchels, Studs, Link Buttons, Collar and Cuff Buttons, all the newest fads in men's jewelry, and a hundred and one other things suitable and useful as Christmas gifts for men and boys.

Men's Suits. Every man and boy ought to know the goodness of Oehm-made clothing. The finest suits and overcoats, as perfect fitting as a tailor could make, are here at prices that seem a mockery in their lowness. You can save from three to ten dollars on every suit or overcoat you buy here.

Every facility for out-of-town visitors. Free reading and writing rooms exclusively for ladies. Smoking room for gentlemen. Free parcel checking. Information bureau. All cars pass

OEHM'S ACME HALL,

Corner Baltimore & Charles Streets,

THE EXACT CENTRE OF BALTIMORE.

If the Christmas Present is to be Satisfactory it must come from .....

TOULSON'S DRUG STORE

NEVER before has Chestertown been so completely bewildered with such a magnificent variety of useful and inexpensive Christmas Presents as are now displayed on our counters. PRACTICAL ARTICLES for PRACTICAL PEOPLE are here in profusion, and the store is given over to the good things for Christmas. EVERYTHING in our store is of a practical nature, yet there is not an article in our stock but that will be appreciated for its attractiveness as well as its practical utility. Many Beautiful Presents have already been sold, so follow the crowds, PURCHASE EARLY, in order to make a satisfactory selection. You'll find EVERY WANT FULLY MET, both in the article you select and the PRICE YOU PAY.

Inspect this grand assortment of Christmas Presents early, while its attractiveness is complete, and do not delay till the last moment, as that would be your misfortune, not ours. If you are puzzled what to present to some loved one or friend, just walk in the store and look around. You don't have to buy, but you will see the very article that will suit you.

TOULSON'S DRUG STORE,

CHESTERTOWN.

RAISINS, CURRANTS, CITRON, ORANGES, FRUITS, NUTS, CONFECTIONERY,

and things for the proper arrangement of the CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR'S DINNER are in abundance and to spare, FRESH AS THE FRESHEST and as fine as the very best. Come to the Every-day Purchasers' Headquarters for every-day and Sunday, too, goods. Respectfully,

JACOB F. THOMPSON.

PLESAED?

YES, MORE THAN PLEASED IS EVERY ONE WHO SEES OUR STORE FULL OF

Beautiful Xmas Goods!

We Have Almost Every Thing Made in Gold and Silver!

We could go on and name hundreds of nice things in this stock that would make pretty and acceptable Xmas Gifts, but we prefer not to tire you out reading. We want you to come in and look at this grand array of beautiful goods. It will be a pleasure to us to show them to you whether you wish to buy or not. Anything you want and do not see in our show cases, ask for it—we very likely have it, as we have a Large Stock of Goods that we have no room to display.

"Golly, it's a watch!"

It isn't hard to make your boy happy on Christmas Day, but there are only a very few articles that will give him years of satisfaction and pleasure like a nice reliable Watch. It will teach him the value of time. We have a nice line of Boy's Watches at $2.50, guaranteed, and from this price on up. Our stock of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Gold and Silver Watches is complete and the prices we have put on them will meet the closest competition. Don't forget to take a look at the hundreds of pretty Gold Rings, Chains, Charms, Cuff Buttons, Collar Buttons, Studs, Sold Pins, Lock Bracelets, Gold Pens, Pencils, Tooth Picks, Spectacles, Eye Glasses and our big stock of Sterling Silver Novelties, Fancy Ciocks, Silver Mounted Leather Goods, etc.

Yours for a Merry Xmas,

J. H. SIDES,

CHESTERTOWN, MD. JEWELER.

Special Attention Given to Horseshoeing.

TILGHMAN SHAFER,

At the Old Stand, Kennedyville, Maryland,

IS NOW BETTER PREPARED THAN EVER TO DO ALL KINDS

Blacksmithing and Wheelwrighting.

REPAIRING A SPECIALTY!

— WE KEEP FOR SALE THE—

Genuine Oliver Chilled Plows and Castings!

AND ALL KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,

Carriages, Buggies, No-Top Buggies, Road Carts, Daytons, Sulkies, Carriage Tops, Carriage Poles, Carriage Harness, all Kinds; Farm Wagons and Dearborns, Power Feed Cutters and Shredders, Cucumber Pumps, Barbed Fence Wire, Belting of all kinds.

☞Our WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, both in the Materials used and in the Superior Quality of the Workmanship.

Also, Fire Insurance Agent.

SURETY BONDS FURNISHED.

FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND,

Home Office: — Northwest Corner Charles and Lexington Streets,

BALTIMORE, MD.

RESOURCES April 30th, 1897:

PAID UP CAPITAL		$1,000,000.00
SURPLUS		750,000.00
RESERVE REQUIREMENT		397,691.09
UNDIVIDED PROFITS		153,608.03
TOTAL		$2,301,299.12
Losses paid since organization	$199,413.33.	

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