

THE DEBTS OF THE LADY'S. MARRIAGE: OR, THE SPIRIT OF '73.

CHAPTER I. PRELIMINARY. "We must discourage Roger's visits, husband," said Mrs. Hartwell, "or Lucy will be lost."

"Married, you mean, my dear." "And would that be the same as lost, Mr. Hartwell? Only think, a daughter of ours married to a shoemaker! You would turn Roger's office of doctor into a place for his politics."

"Why, wife, I have often heard you praise his industry and excellent character, and he deserves it—for he is really a very clever, sensible young man." "So he is, husband, good enough in his way, and as his trade; but can you think him company for our Lucy, the only child of a Justice of the Peace?"

"Now Squire Hartwell happened to be in a self-complacent mood. He was seated in his deep-cushioned, high-backed elbow-chair, a ponderous machine, containing sufficient material to frame a modern fashionable cottage, smoking in the open window, the operations of his reaper in the broad field of wheat which covered many an acre of the gently rising ground east of his dwelling." Here were two sources of satisfaction—the reaper and the prospect of his property. Then his wife had touched on another most agreeable vein, his magisterial dignity. Luckily for Roger, she did not urge this to the utmost. Squire Hartwell was a man of years, and had, only the week before the commencement of his story, received the additional honor of "Quorum" to his justiceship. Like all other novelties, this honor seemed to redouble his importance in the eyes of his wife. Had his wife only said "Justice of the Peace and Quorum," poor Roger would have been a lost case. But now, after deliberately shaking the ashes from his pipe, Squire Hartwell took up his chair with a bearing of a man who is intending to give impartial judgment, let the matter terminate as it may.

"I fear, wife, you are indulging too much pride. Are we not every day complaining of the arbitrary distinctions of rank, and the insolence of the Lords? and shall we now cast aside, as of no account, a vessel which may have been made into honor, merely because it is not as fashionable in the same manner as ourselves? No, no, wife; such pride will never do for Christians."

"And you are willing that our Lucy, a good and lovely girl as the Colony of Connecticut can show, should marry a shoemaker? I think I did not say that, my dear. Surely, I can like Roger, without wanting him for a son-in-law; though I think Lucy might look farther and choose worse."

"The might marry Squire Trumbull." "Probably." "I have heard you say that he was a promising young lawyer." "Yes, he promises well; but it is performance make the difference between a man and a woman. Then Dr. Walker is dying for her." "If he is a good doctor, then he can cure himself."

"But only think of the difference between him and Roger!" "Yes, Roger is three inches the taller." "How you talk, Mr. Hartwell! I never like to hear joking on serious matters. I think Dr. Walker would be a good match for Lucy. This evening practice very few, and you know he belongs to a respectable family." "Of Tories."

The object of the rivals seemed to be who should first reach the gate. Dr. Walker had the shortest and smoothest path; but the long and rapid strides of Roger were; and he was not slow to avail himself of every moment. Roger had opened a store in the neighboring town. He worked no more at shoemaking, but pursued his business as though his life depended on his diligence.

"Lucy!" said Roger. She turned towards him; a gleam of moonlight streamed through the lattice, lighting the peach tree, beneath which they were passing, and fell strongly on her upturned face; the wavy outlines of her eyelashes was distinctly to be traced in shadows on her fair cheek. Roger thought she was very pale.

"Lucy, will you grant me one minute's attention?" She looked towards the door of her dwelling, where Anna Minot and Mr. Trumbull were then entering—their footsteps and the pleasure of speaking with you." "It is about five or six weeks." "By you not like your business?" "I did like it because it afforded me the hope of rendering myself worthy of you. It has been told me (he spoke low and rapidly) that you are inclined to favor Mr. Trumbull. (She did not speak.) I am poor, Lucy—I must labor with my own hands, and must make my own way. It may be years before I shall take the station in society which Trumbull now occupies, but as sure as I live, Lucy, I will be passed, for I shall have a right to be judged in the eyes of the world, yet be shrank from expressing this anticipation. It seemed like a vain boast.

"You do not believe me, then, Lucy?" he continued, after a long pause. "I have never better gone! My cousin will wonder what detains us." "Perhaps Mr. Trumbull will likewise wish to know." "If he does, I shall not take the trouble to tell him." "Lucy, will you tell me—are you engaged?" "No." "And—may I hope that you never will be engaged—that is, not to me?" "I love you." "The abruptness and impetuosity with which he spoke, seemed the effect of feelings which he could not repress. Lucy was so surprised, so confused, that she was obliged to lean on his arm for support; so there was no opportunity for her to show much anger at his presumption. Roger soon forgot that he had been poor and a shoemaker. The first consciousness of being beloved, secured to a young man, as the crowning point of his ambition. He feels elevated for he has secured the empire of one heart, which he would not forego for the sceptre of Napoleon.

Roger walked into the parlor of Squire Hartwell that evening, with the air of a man who has no further care for what may befall him in this life; and Anna Minot said that he asked consent that very evening. "I shall say nothing against the match, but he has left his shoemaking. A merchant's wife has a very respectable station, but nothing very great. However, if she has no objection, I do not go to a young man, as the contrary has been too anxious about her marrying well." "I think, my dear, she is going to marry well," said Squire Hartwell. "Roger will be a good match for her." "Yes, your husband, I have heard you say a thousand times he would be a great man; but I never saw any prospect of it, for my part. Now Anna Minot, in my opinion, does marry well. Mr. Trumbull is a lawyer, and may yet be a Judge."

"And so may Roger." "Oh, that is impossible. He has never been educated, Mr. Hartwell." "I can educate himself." "Well, well, well, I don't care what I shall ever live to see Roger Sherman a Judge!" "But they did live to see ROGER SHURMAN a Judge."

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BUSINESS CARDS. SHERBIDGE & CO., J. H. Ship Agents and Commission Merchants, 250 Canal St., New York. ARTHUR & CO., I. W. Commission, Provision and Grocers, 100 Broadway, New York.

RESOLVED—That the Controller sell at public auction, on Monday, the 11th of January, at 12 o'clock, a certain lot of land, situate in the City of New York, containing about one acre, more or less.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES. Ohio Fire and Marine Insurance Co. United States Life Insurance Annuity and Endowment Co. Tennessee Marine and Fire Insurance Co.

Franklin Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Hudson River Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Crescent Mutual Insurance Company.

Home Mutual Insurance Company of New Orleans. Merchants' Insurance Company of New Orleans. Mutual Benefit Life and Fire Insurance Company of Louisiana.

REMOVALS. REMOVAL—J. O. PIERSON, Real Estate, 100 Broadway, New York. REMOVAL—WOLFF, SAMUEL, Importer of Wines, 100 Broadway, New York.

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MEDICAL CARDS. BYRNE, MRS., Midwife, 166 Noyales street, opposite the Hay Station, New Orleans. DR. HUBERWALD has recently arrived from the East, where he has resided for the last seven years, and is well acquainted with the treatment of all the most difficult cases of the most fatal diseases.

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