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SOME TIME.

Sometimes, when all life's lessons have been learned, and sun and stars reverse their places...

mine, I found the sweetest of sweet encouragement in such a bright anticipation of future bliss. It showed how utterly artless...

liberties she permitted to another as an open proof of guilt. That dog! that dog! the whole Potomac...

the spokesman; why that ere dog is the very best hunting dog on the whole Potomac...

land over, he would give me a chance to make more money in a day than I ever made...

fred. There was a crash, and as the cat did not run, I concluded that it was killed.

bell began to indicate our approach to Mount Vernon. It so happened that as I approached the stairway...

MY LIFE'S LESSONS.

BY M. F. HIGNEY. Chapter III. AT WASHINGTON—I SECURE A PLACE IN THE TREASURY—GO TO NATURE FOR INSTRUCTION—MOLLIE'S MARRIAGE—MY RELECTIONS—A DAY'S SPORT—MY THREE SHOTS, ETC.

Being a good person, and having maintained a good reputation throughout the period of my military service, I applied at Washington for employment in the Treasury Department...

The regular routine of the office was soon mastered, and I settled down into my new vocation with a full intent to remain in it as long as possible.

I soon acquired the good opinion of my fellow clerks, so far as I was thrown in contact with them, and began to study on every possible opportunity what in Washington is so emphatically known as "society."

Finally I became acquainted with Miss Mollie Ray, a young lady who appeared to me the very personification of refinement and purity.

In the presence of so much purity I felt that I too was becoming purified. Strong drink no longer proved a tempter, and the doubts which possessed me disappeared.

I dressed myself with more care than usual, and turning my steps in the direction of Georgetown, where my charmer resided, found in the brightness of the sky and the beauty of nature such cheering omens as made my prophetic heart almost palpitate with gladness.

With a self-education I am now sincerely ashamed of, I congratulated myself on the possession of a delicately responsive heart, rendered fonder by absence—one whose amusements were all innocent and even whose melodies were mine.

About eight months after the idol I had worshipped fell from the radiant pedestal erected for her in my holy of holies, a fashionable marriage occurred in Georgetown.

At this time I occupied a single room in a house kept by Mrs. Murray, a widow with four children, and the cheerful, faithful way in which this poor woman fought the hard battle of life, tended to elevate the whole of the gentler sex in my estimation.

Having arrived at the coal wharf in Georgetown I employed an eccentric Hibernian named Patrick Seedy, who was proprietor of a little flat-bottomed skiff, as an essential part of my day's amusement.

There was a stir among the rushes. My first shot for the day had evidently done some execution. The swan had not flown, and we had only to pull around the corner to secure the prize.

There being nothing in the shape of a bird when I supposed I had killed the swan, and as the dog was freshly wounded, it soon became evident that I was unconsciously the offender in the premises.

Before any more game came in sight I loaded the discharged barrel of my fowling-piece, and told Pat to let the boat drift along at its own will, so that if any ducks should happen to fly over they would not be alarmed by our movements.

With another hitch forward I elongated myself so far that the bill of the bird was firmly grasped, but as soon as I undertook to pull the body toward me I lost my balance, and falling forward, descended several feet head foremost into the black marshy mud, burying my arms at the same time to an unknown depth.

While yet speechless I motioned to Pat to get the whisky. He comprehended the situation in a moment, knocked the top of the bottle off with the skill of a headman, and turning his back toward me, deeply tested the virtue of the medicine before he ventured to administer it.

"I landed in New York," he replied, "in April, 1862, and the few shillings I had carried away into whisky before I was twenty-four hours older. I couldn't find my brother Mike, who wrote back from New York that he had been elected a city collector, and promised, if I came from Ire-

"I was dogged," says Pat, "if I haven't got a schwan this time. There'll be no ten dollars for you for that shot, anyhow."

By this time Biddy reported the clothes on the "harse," and finding the whisky bottle empty, complained that she had not been fairly "treated." "A drop of the creature's was the very thing she wanted after her 'dhurty job'."

When I had slept I know not how long I was awakened by tumbling off from the bench on which I had stretched myself, and in the fall my nose was badly damaged. It was then pitch dark. The noise of my fall awakened Pat and Biddy, whereupon we all got up, and I proceeded to exchange Pat's clothes for mine, with a view of getting to my own bachelor lodgings as soon as possible.

The patient spring mattress beneath me became vocal with complaint. If I turned over it piped in tremulous treble. Each attempt to secure ease was followed by one note or other of the gamut of uneasy wails, which twined like serpents beneath my Procrustean bed.

"The thought came to me that the poor man wouldn't want his bundle any more, so I took the liberty of holding a crowner's quest upon it. I found in it a fine pair of black pantaloons, a dirty shirt, a German book, and half a loaf of bread. Poor fellow, says I, 'was gone' to California, you were, just like myself. One way, I'll follow you no further; but I'll take the liberty of making myself your heir, an' so, wishin' you a safe passage through purgatory, I bid you good-by till doomsday."

When I advanced more money for supplies, when she went out and got a pint of whisky in a pitcher, together with a loaf of bread and half a dozen smoked herrings.

When I returned to duty in the treasury buildings, and though I kept myself as free as possible from the entanglements of society, the busy murmur of scandal would sometimes reach my ears. Though chaste as ice, a handsome woman in the Treasury Department can not escape calumny.

Going down to the foot of Seventh street, I took passage on the steamer Arrow, and conveyed passengers to Mount Vernon, and from that point extended her trips to Marshall Hall. The air on the bay was delightfully fresh, and the trees, as if in honor of the occasion, had put on their brightest robes of verdure.

"I owe you so many thanks," exclaimed the mother, "so many, many thanks. And you a stranger, too. Romantic, isn't it? Just think how wonderfully things are ordered in this world. There was my Cora, poor darling girl, as innocent and sprightly as a gazelle. I never knew her to fall before since she was a little child; and here she must slip on that nasty, smooth brass plate, and you, my dear sir, as a merciful Providence would have it, were there to catch her. It's almost a miracle, isn't it? If you hadn't been there, my dear, good sir, she might have had her neck broken at the least, and that would have been so sad, so sorrowful and so ridiculous. It's far better as it is. I'm so glad that you were there. Cora, my dear daughter, thank the gentleman for having saved your life."

Here Cora intervened—the gentle, fascinating Cora—with such a precious flow of precious thanks that I was bewildered with my own good fortune. I felt that I had never before met with any one so pure, so lovely, so attractive. The doubt and distrust which had come to me as a part of my worldly wisdom, disappeared in the presence of the fresh young divinity which had descended to me as a spirit from supernatural realms.

It is needless to tell how we formally introduced each other; how, when most of the other passengers got off at Mount Vernon, we—that is, the mother, daughter and I—proceeded to the Marshall Hall, and how delighted we all were at the romantic mischance which gave each an interest in the other's fate.

The two ladies, Mrs. and Miss Simon, clung to me as to a guardian angel. I felt honored by their confidence, and was delighted to guard them in their rambles and assist them at their picnic dinner.