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WASHINGTON, D. C.

ROSA AND HER SUITORS.

By EMILIE F. CARLES.

TRANSLATED BY ELBERT PERCK.

CHAPTER XV.

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It was striking half past ten, on the forenoon of the 1st of January, when Burgomaster B. seated himself upon the massive judgment seat, the hall of justice. The different corners had likewise taken their places, and a considerable number of listeners had assembled about the hall in groups, when the great speaker, Widen, with downcast looks, and dejected and agitated demeanor, approached the table where the first authority of the town presided. He made a respectful bow, and laid a large, business-like bundle of papers, which he carried under his arm, before him, and what did these papers contain? Well, it was the petition of the apprentices and domestics complaining thereto. So capricious and changeable is the gleam of fortune, especially in the mercantile horizon! When the great Merchant Widen, that proud and stately man, before whom, up to this moment, the entire town of B. had stood had in hand, now turned to leave the hall of justice, to return to his house, he scarcely found above one or two clerks who showed him this civility. His family he was unwilling to see; so, as soon as he reached home, he shut himself up in his own apartment, where his slow, heavy steps, as he paced the room, sent their dull echoes through the house.

And now let us look into Madame Widen's room. All there was dark and lonely; the curtains had been drawn, so that no inquisitive eyes, either of neighbors or passing acquaintances, could pry into what was passing there. Every trace of that lady's self-indulgent fortitude had utterly vanished, as their misfortune stood in its cold, hard truth before her eyes; and during the long fainting fits, which dulled for a time her painful feelings, the ominous words of evil sounded in her ears— "Is she who you heard, then, that the Merchant Widen has stopped payment?" She was a heartily good and sensible woman, and she had the object of it. But Madame Widen's heart was full, even to bursting, and it was a severe effort for her to sit upon his chair—he felt a desire to rush out, and be alone with the air of heaven. His heart was free—free from his father's will—and, moreover, she was now poor; there was no other rival in the field, and—Rosa's heart and Rosa's warmest feelings, had been thrown into the air, and, in sweet reflections lightened up the dark night which had spread its veil over his heart—his head grew confused—there was a singing in the ears, and he was unable to get round the room—his very knowing where he was, and what he was doing.

"Mr. Mannerstedt," said the Professor, after silently regarding his guest for a while, "what the deuce is the matter with you? Are you out of your wits? Or is it the deuce that has got you?" "Pray forgive me," he begged, in a low voice, "I was so astonished—for some days past—for what I saw, and I had heard nothing whatever of this."

"So it seems, indeed," hinted the Professor, with a significant smile; Mr. Mannerstedt has not, then, I suppose, made his farewell visit to the ladies?" "Ah! no indeed, I had left it until the last moment; now, however, I can hardly hope to be fortunate enough to meet any of the family; really, I regret very much for it. All these so many tokens of kindness and good will in their house."

"The ladies, I dare say, you may see—at least Rosa," said the Professor, with an air of confidence, "but I am not sure of it. I have myself in her, if she gives way upon the occurrence of a blow like this."

"Now, then, my dear Mannerstedt, do you recollect the subject of our discourse on the morning of New Year's day? I think I then said that I was not sure of it. I have myself in her, if she gives way upon the occurrence of a blow like this."

# THE NATIONAL ERA

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1855.

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The wretched man was attired in a light blue dress coat, with frosted buttons, a white vest and nankin trousers, with patent boots. He was around his neck a variegated satin scarf, black and white, and a few feathers, awaited him. In front of the scarf was inserted a breastpin, of conspicuous dimensions.

Having descended the staircase with a quick step, entered the apartment where his brother and sister, and a few friends, awaited him. He then shook hands cordially with all present, and on being asked how he slept, answered, "very well." And to the further demand as to the state of his mind, he said that he "felt happy." One of the party hereupon suggested that it would be as well to take something before the melancholy ceremony was gone through; he accordingly served for him, with a French roll, a large round toast, two decidedly good and three great breakfast cups of tea. In reply to an expression of astonishment, on the part of persons present, he declared that he had never felt happier in his life.

Having inquired the time, and ascertained that it was ten minutes of eleven, he remarked that he would soon be over. His brother then inquired if he could do anything for him, and he said he would take a glass of ale. Having drunk this, he appeared to be satisfied.

The fatal moment now approaching, he devoted the few minutes of his time to distribute those little tokens of love and regard. To one he gave his cigar case, to another his tobacco stopper, and charged his brother Henry with his latch key, with instructions to be delivered to the poor widow, with due solemnity, to the landlady. The clock struck twelve, and at the same moment he was informed that a cab was at the door. He merely said, "I am ready," and allowed himself to be conducted to the vehicle, to which he got with his brother, his other friends following on behind, in others.

Arriving at the tragical spot, a short but not unimpressive moment was spent, after which they were joined by the lady and her friends. Little was said on either side; but Miss Gale, with customary decorum, shed tears. She was endeavored to preserve decorum, but a slight twitching of the nose, and eyebrows proclaimed his inward agitation.

All necessary preliminaries having now been settled, and the prescribed necessary formalities being observed, the ceremony was about to commence. "Wilt thou have this woman to be thy wife?" He then put the fatal ring on Miss Gale's finger, and, as the ceremony was about to commence, the poor fellow was launched into matrimony!

SHIP-BUILDING IN THE UNITED STATES.—We find in the Philadelphia Inquirer a table, purporting to be from the forthcoming report of the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the number and class of vessels built, and the tonnage thereof, in the several States and Territories of the United States, from 1815 to 1855, inclusive. So many errors are committed in the compilation, that it is almost impossible to give a list of the errors.

DEATH OF LADY WORTLEY.—The steamship America brings us intelligence of the death of Lady Emma Stuart Wortley. She died on the 29th of October, at Beirut, Syria, where she had resided for several years. This lady was the second daughter of the Duke of Rutland, and the widow of the late Charles Stuart Wortley. As a graceful and pleasing writer, she has been distinguished by her country.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT as to the fact of the tombstone case alluded to. Why should we doubt the Philadelphia Bulletin, when in another part of New Jersey, the same thing is reported? The following is the comparative summary:

Domestic produce	\$7,489,377
Foreign merchandise, (free)	48,498
Foreign merchandise, (dutiable)	3,295,172
Specie and bullion	3,465,173

Domestic produce	\$4,650,607
Foreign merchandise, (free)	116,884
Foreign merchandise, (dutiable)	3,295,172
Specie and bullion	3,538,001

Domestic produce	\$8,638,281
Foreign merchandise, (free)	48,498
Foreign merchandise, (dutiable)	3,295,172
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ALABAMA, Harris of Illinois, Herbert, Hickman, Houston, Jewett, Jones of Tennessee, Jones of Pennsylvania, Keitt, Kibbel, Letcher, Lumpkin, Marshall of Illinois, Maxwell, McMullen, McQueen, Miller of Indiana, Millson, Oliver of Missouri, Orr, Peck, Phelps, Powell, Quigg, Ryan, Seward, Seward, Seward, Seward, Smith of Tenn., Smith of Virginia, Stephens, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor, Vail, Warner, Watkins, Wells, Winslow, and Wright of Tenn.

THIRTY-FOUR CONGRESS. First Session. Tuesday, December 11, 1855. SENATE. Mr. Cass gave notice that he would, after the reading of the Journal to-morrow, move to proceed to the election of the Standing Committee of the body.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Clerk called the House to order at twelve o'clock, and the Journal of yesterday was read. The fourth ballot for a Speaker was then had—Messrs. Benson of Maine, Dowell of Alabama, Hickman of Pennsylvania, and Washburne of Illinois, continuing to act as tellers. The following was the result:

Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts	107
Mr. Richardson, of Illinois	74
Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania	27
Mr. Zollicoffer, of Tennessee	4
Mr. Carlile, of Virginia	2
Scattering	12

No election having been effected, the House proceeded to a forty-eighth ballot, with the following result: Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts—105; Mr. Richardson, of Illinois—74; Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania—27; Mr. Zollicoffer, of Tennessee—4; Mr. Carlile, of Virginia—2; Scattering—12.

There having been no election— Mr. Etheridge moved that the House adjourn to-morrow, to be disagreed to—ayes 62, noes 34. A fifth ballot was then had, with the following result: Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts—105; Mr. Richardson, of Illinois—75; Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania—23; Mr. Zollicoffer, of Tennessee—11; Mr. Carlile, of Virginia—2; Scattering—11.

Mr. Banks's vote on this ballot was the same as on the first ballot of to-day, excepting that he did not receive the vote of Mr. Edwards. Mr. Richardson added to his first vote the support of Mr. Stuart, and the result was as follows: Mr. Banks's vote was the same as on the first ballot.

Mr. Seward thought it a small matter; but suggested that the committees, when they met, might arrange the relative order. Mr. Hale thought it was not that, at the last session of his service, he had been placed at the tail end of an unimportant committee, as not belonging to a "healthful organization," and that his name was not on the list.

On Finance.—Mr. Hunter, Chairman; Toucey, Pearce, Stuart, Brodhead, and Crittenden. On Commerce.—Mr. Hanlin, Chairman; Dodge, Stuart, Seward, Clay, and Benjamin. On the Post Office.—Mr. Wright, Chairman; Allen, Harlan, Wilson, and Trumbull.

On the Judiciary.—Mr. Butler, Chairman; Hunter, Waite, Thompson of New Jersey, and Harlan. On Military Affairs.—Mr. Welles, Chairman; Fitzpatrick, Johnson, Jones of Tennessee, Iveson, and Pratt.

On the Militia.—Mr. Houston, Chairman; Dodge, Wright, Thompson of Kentucky, and Bell of New Hampshire. On Naval Affairs.—Mr. Mallory, Chairman; Thomson of New Jersey, Fish, Slidell, James, and Bell of Tennessee.

On Public Buildings.—Mr. Stuart, Chairman; Johnson, Foor, Clayton, Pugh, and Mallory. On Private Land Claims.—Mr. Benjamin, Chairman; Biggs, Thompson of Kentucky, Foster, and Wright of Tennessee.

On Indian Affairs.—Mr. Sebastian, Chairman; Rusk, Toombs, Brown, Reid, and Bell of Tennessee. On Claims.—Mr. Brodhead, Chairman; Geyer, Wright, Yates of Tennessee, and Wright of New Hampshire. On Revolutionary Claims.—Mr. Evans, Chairman; Reid, Hale, Foster, and Durkee.