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Select Story.

The Story of a Year.

Very handsome looking Linda Brent on this brilliant New Year's day, as she moved like a queen through her aunt's handsomely furnished drawing-room.

Not one of all the throng whom she welcomed so cordially and wished her a happy New Year could have imagined the disquieting thoughts pressing on her mind, for to-day she was to give her final answer to Denham Edwards, and she loved him.

He was poor; she looked down on him; it was a brilliant visit. The bright lights, the marbles, the mirrors, the exquisite blue and silver furnishings, the waving lace curtains, with glimpses of the conservatory beyond—could she give it all up? Although she was here on sufferance, and subsided into a life of poverty in narrow apartments with Denham Edwards?

The struggle was sharp and bitter, for there was nothing in her character; but she was poor and dependent, and she hated poverty, although one would think that the poverty of three thousand a year would not be too hard to bear for the man she loved. The question had not yet been decided in her mind when she heard a low, musical voice at her side.

"A happy New Year, Miss Linda," and raising her eyes, she saw an elegant, loving look on Denham Edwards' face; it was gone in an instant, it was wanted but for her.

"A thousand thanks! And shall I wish you many in return, or is it only necessary to wish you one at a time, and wait until next year for a repetition?" she gayly replied.

"If you wish to make this one a happy New Year for me, Linda, it will last for all time," he replied in low, earnest tones.

"I'll be glad," she said, and again there was a short, sharp struggle, which she saw quite plainly on her face and was prepared for the answer:

"No, it can never, never be."

Her voice sounded far away and dim to herself; was she really saying that? But looking up, she saw a proud, scornful look on her lover's face, as with a profound bow he left her.

Mechanically she left the house and entered the carriage. The driver respectfully, "Where next, sir?" which she replied fiercely: "Anywhere, and drive fast."

"Fool that I was," he thought, "and I have thrown a feel to the wind, she would be different from the rest. It's all money, money, money, and yet I believe she has noble impulses and that she loved me, but not enough to marry on three thousand a year."

Twenty thousand—ah, that would have made the difference. Is it or is it not a fortunate thing for me that no one knows that Uncle Alec's heirs cannot be found?

But underneath his thoughts was a bitter longing that she had not known a wish that he had been deceived, and that his eyes had never been opened.

Wrapped in his musings, he never noticed where they were driving, but was disagreeably awakened by feeling a dull thud, then a shout and the carriage suddenly stopped.

Jumping hastily out, he found that his driver had run over a little blue-coated messenger—that was all.

"He won't be missed; plenty more left," some one said heartily.

Denham stopped not to answer, but picked the little fellow up and asking him where he lived, bade the man drive quickly, and was off before the crowd knew what had happened.

It was a long way they had to go, and Denham patted the little fellow, who was trying to bear the pain so manfully.

He had a pale, thin face, with large earnest eyes and a commanding manner. It was not very difficult to get him to tell his history.

His name was Harry Winton. His mother had been dead a long time; his father died two years ago. His oldest sister, Emily, taught school, and there were two little sisters, Margaret and Edna, who were going to school; and he was a messenger boy, and helped his sister.

And then he shut his eyes; but the tears would force their way through, and Denham knew that he was thinking that now he could not help.

"Never mind, my little man, I will see that you shall be no loser by this accident. I will pay your wages just the same."

But the kind words were not heard, for the child had fainted.

By this time they had arrived at the house the child had directed them to. Tenderly lifting the boy out, and sending the driver and carriage after his old friend, Dr. Black, Denham carried him in, and, inquiring his way, was directed to the third floor.

The door was open, and three frightened-looking faces were peering out; reassuring them that the child was not killed, but in a faint, he entered and placing him on a bed, assisted the eldest sister in restoring him. It was not long till the doctor arrived. He pronounced the wound not at all dangerous; one leg was broken, but all he needed was good care and attention.

Denham's quick ear caught a suppressed sigh, and, turning quickly, saw a very thoughtful look come over the elder sister's face; and, stepping back into the shadow unobserved, took a close survey of the room and its occupants while the doctor was giving his directions.

With the exquisite neatness and the general air of refinement which the room possessed, he had not noticed the poverty; now, as he looked closely, he saw how threadbare and worn everything was.

He was aroused from his observations by the doctor turning to him, as he had given his final directions. Stepping up to the bedside, he said: "Now, my little man, you must not allow this to worry you too much. I will see that you do not lose anything, and if the situation be lost, why, we'll try if a better one cannot be found; so do not fret, or I shall, too, and I know you would not like that. Then, turning with his winning grace, he said—

"Miss Winton?" an interrogation in his voice.

She bowed.

"I shall take the liberty of coming to see my little friend again, and I am sorry indeed that I have been the means of giving you such a bad beginning for your new year."

What was there in his voice that moved her so strangely to pity, not for herself, but for him?

Raising her large brown eyes she attempted to say something commonplace; but failing, she merely bowed, and they parted.

Denham and the doctor made their way down stairs, and getting into the carriage, drove off together.

"A rather nice family, but pretty hard pushed to get along, I should think," said the doctor. "Did you notice the table?" Not much there for a festive repast. It will need all your tact to help them, too; for although, Miss Winton has a sweet face, there are some very haughty lines about that mouth. Did you notice her?"

"I" scornfully replied Denham. "No, I have done with women forever. This day marks an epoch in my life. I won't conceal from you, my oldest and best friend, that Linda has repented me, and for what? Money? I know that, and she knows it as well as I do. Another, and when a woman as noble, as truthful, and as high-minded, will deliberately turn against her best affections and noble impulses, what can you expect from the common lot of petty, gossiping women, whose minds are nothing but a reflection of the last fashion plate?"

The next fact Miss Winton would do the same. I warn you, too, before you get too deep, to beware of the charming Miss Elsie, although I know you will not rest until you sing your wings too, but I must say something about her, for she is a fairer beauty. How manfully she bore the pain. I wonder will she bear the wounds of the heart in future years as well? Her little knees, poor fellow, well? It's a long time to what he will have to endure some day."

The doctor was pained to see his friend in such a bitter mood. He had known him all his life; they were boys together, were in college together, and never had their friendship been broken. And knowing Denham's comfort in the summer, and his kind words over the good fortune of the difference it would have made in his life had the will been opened a year before—then Linda would never have refused him—a great longing came over him to see her once more.

While still musing, Doctor Black came in.

"I have come to congratulate you," said the doctor, cheerily. "I don't believe you look much like a man who has just come into half a million. I am not any richer by a red cent, but I am a happier man than you, Denham—Elsie is mine."

The doctor's voice lowered and softened as he grasped his friend's hand.

"You said your faith in woman nature would be restored if you could see one woman raised in wealth marrying a poor man. Now you know of one, Denham."

"I don't believe," said Denham, slowly, "that I ever lost faith but for one day; but I congratulate you most heartily. Your good fortune is better than mine, Arthur. Your Elsie is a winning little woman. I would like her to know Emily."

The doctor looked at him quickly, but seeing his saddened face, forbore to say what was in his thoughts, but merely said:

"Yes, I shall take Elsie to call on her very soon. They would probably like each other."

"When is the wedding to be?" said Denham, finally rousing himself from a long reverie.

"New Year's eve," said the doctor. "I am as well off as I probably will be for some time to come, and we concluded that there was no use for any longer engagement."

And now the wedding night was at hand, and after the excitement of the ceremony was over, and the happy couple were receiving the congratulations of their many friends, Denham, stepping aside to one of the windows, could not help taking a retrospective view of the past year—with what pain and suffering it had opened, and all that it had brought him.

Just then he saw Linda Brent, and—did his heart stand still? No, not one throed of feeling awakened at the sight of her. Beautifully and exquisitely dressed as ever, there she stood, and was powerless to affect him. Was love a delusion? he said to himself. Had he never loved her, or what was it?

He had carefully avoided her for a year, and now discovered that he cared no more for her than for a warm image. Then his eyes rested on Emily Winton standing near the bride, and like a lightning-flash it came over him—this was the woman he loved!

And he smiled to think how, for a

year now, every day he had thought of her, of what she was doing, of what she was thinking, and how she would act; and that he had never guessed he was in love with her, but had nursed the delusion that he could never more love any woman but Linda Brent.

The next day, New York's day, he went to see Emily Winton, not that he did not go every day, but to-day he went with an especial purpose, to find if he could ever hope to win her for his wife.

So he began by telling the story of the year; of his love for Linda Brent, and how it had faded away before the brightness of his true love for her.

Emily listened to the outpouring of his love, and for answer said softly: "I loved you, Denham, from that New York's day."

"I thought so," said the doctor, when told the conclusion, "but I long ago learned never to say all that I think to a man in love."

of the body itself is at this very unfavorable for meeting any animal vital processes are at lowest ebb. It is in these times that those who are enfeebled by cause most frequently die. Young critics often consider these critical, and forewarn anxious in respect to them. From memorial those who have accustomed to wait and attend sick have noted these hours, usually, so that they have been called by one of our old writers, "the hours of fate." In this space of time the influence of the life-giving sun has been longest withdrawn from man, and the hearts that are even the strongest beat then with subdued tone. Sleep is heaviest, and death is nearest to us all in "the hours of fate." The feeble, therefore, are most exposed to danger during this period, and they are most exposed to one particular danger, that is, the bronchial surface of the lungs that is most exposed to the action of the chilled air; and, in the aged, that exposure is hazardous.

Dr. B. W. Richardson in "Good Words."

Blushing and Blanching.

Blushing is occasioned by sudden dilatation of the small blood-vessels, which form a fine network beneath the skin and when they admit an increased volume of red blood cause the surface to appear suffused with color. Blanching is the opposite state, in which the vessels contract and squeeze out their blood, so that the skin is seen of its bloodless hue. The change effected in the size of the vessels brought about by an instantaneous action of the nervous system. The action may be induced by a thought, or unconsciously, by the operation of impressions inducing the phenomenon. It is a habit, and is therefore, you do not control the will, except in so far as the will can generally, if not always, conquer any habit. It is almost always useless, and is a habit of this class directly. The most promising course is to try to establish a new habit, which shall destroy the old. It is desired to remedy. For example, if blushing is, as generally happens, associated with self-consciousness, we must establish the sway of the will over that part of the nervous system which controls the action of the vessels, by calling upon the will to control the will, which shall destroy the old. It is desired to remedy. For example, if blushing is, as generally happens, associated with self-consciousness, we must establish the sway of the will over that part of the nervous system which controls the action of the vessels, by calling upon the will to control the will, which shall destroy the old. It is desired to remedy. For example, if blushing is, as generally happens, associated with self-consciousness, we must establish the sway of the will over that part of the nervous system which controls the action of the vessels, by calling upon the will to control the will, which shall destroy the old. It is desired to remedy. 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