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HAL'S ROMANCE.

The ball was over. Carriage after carriage rolled up to the magnificent portal, and each in its turn rattled off, amid the clatter and laughter of its occupants.

Leaving on the arm of an elderly gentleman stood a beautiful girl, hooded and cloaked. The two were evidently awaiting their carriage, for the old gentleman muttered irritably: "Well, well! will our turn never come? I told Joseph particularly to be here on time."

The girl paid little or no attention to her companion. Her eyes were directed toward a finely built young fellow who was talking earnestly to a friend.

"Will he not even bid me good night?" she thinks, tears starting to her eyes. At this moment the gentleman and his friend walked out into the street arm in arm.

At this juncture their carriage drove up, and after administering to Joseph a reproof for his tardiness the old gentleman handed his fair companion into the vehicle, followed, and slammed the door to. Joseph spitefully cut off the girl with his whip, and they were whirled rapidly away.

At the next street they passed the before mentioned gentleman and his friend; but he did not see the white face, with its quivering lips, nor the tear-laden eyes that looked out upon him for a second as the carriage flew past.

And yet, strange to say, the young man were at that very moment speaking of her. The younger was saying: "Hal, why the durn did you not see to it that I might see, about rubby - to Miss Thorneblade tonight? Why, it was the talk of the whole room. Do you know that in the lobby she waited for you to say good-night to her, when you dragged me off so precipitately?"

A sigh was Hal's rejoinder. "Can it be that you don't care for her? Can't you see, man, that she's head over ears in love with you?"

A pained expression passed for a moment over Hal's handsome face as he answered: "Yes, alas, I have seen it." "What?" exclaimed his companion. "You've known it and still treated her like a brute? Halstead Moore, you have a heart of adamant!"

"Chester, would that I had - would that I had!" "There was something in his tone so indescribably sad that his friend looked at him for a moment in astonishment.

"I say, Hal, what's up with you tonight? I've never known you to be like this before." No answer to this. The question was not pushed, and so they walked on in silence, until Hal's companion suddenly stopped.

"Well, here I am at home. Will you step in for awhile?" Hal evidently did not hear, for he returned no answer.

"Hal, you've something on your mind. Now don't deny it; your face shows it only too plainly. Mind, I don't ask your confidence; but if I can be of any use in extricating you from any trouble, pecuniary or otherwise, command me and I'll be in my power. It will be done."

Hal grasped his companion's outstretched hand, and said, fervently: "Thanks, old fellow, thank! You have been a true friend to me, Chester, and therefore why should you not have my confidence? Yes, I have something on my mind, something that is making me miserable, and life well-nigh unbearable."

Chester led the way to his apartments, and soon both were ensconced in easy chairs, pipes in hand, and brandy and soda within reach.

The friendship of these two men had originated in Florida, where both were studying painting. Their support depended entirely on their calling, both being special artists on a popular weekly. Halstead Moore lived with his mother in a neat little cottage in the suburbs. Little or nothing was known of the Moore or their past. On this subject Hal had never opened his heart to Chester, and the latter, with unassuming delicacy, forbore embarrassing his friend with questions.

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SETTLEMENT DOCKET. Probate Court of Holt County, Mo. Regular February Term, A. D., 1889.

Table with columns: NAME OF ESTATE, NAME OF ADMINISTRATOR, EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, EXECUTOR, SETTLEMENT. Lists various estates and their administrators/executors.

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