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Attorney at Law
Klamath Falls, Oregon

The Merry Widow

By ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE

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"I must see his excellency," insisted a portly man behind them, his voice booming through the whole room. "He is here, and I— Oh!" he broke off on sight of Popoff. "Here you are! I"—

"My dear Nova Kovitch," peevishly interrupted the ambassador, "is it necessary to hunt for me with a brass band? Couldn't you"—

"I'm sorry to interrupt you," answered Nova Kovitch, "but here's a dispatch from the Marsovian ministry. It seemed to me important, and I brought it on."

Popoff took the slip of paper and read aloud:

"If Mme. Sadowa's twenty millions are allowed to leave Marsovia we are a bankrupt country."

"There, Prince Danilo," continued the ambassador, turning on the young man in melodramatic appeal, "you see it's right up to you! Your country appeals to you to save it! You are Marsovia's last hope. Marry the widow and"—

"I'll marry no one!" flared up Danilo. "To the deuce with matrimony and Marsovia and myself! I'm done with all dreams of love and all that nonsense. I'm free, and I'm going to make a night of it. I"—

He paused and stood silent, dumfounded. Down the little flight of stairs leading into the room a woman was advancing alone.

"Sonia!" exclaimed Danilo.

With a word of excuse to the others, he hurried across and met the widow as she reached the foot of the steps.

"You're here," he muttered in horrified wonder—"here alone?"

"Yes," replied Sonia coldly. "Is it any affair of yours?"

"First the summer house," he went on as in a daze, "then Maxim's."

"Quite so. Is that all you have to say?"

"No," he retorted; "I have one thing more. You should not marry De Jolidon."

"No? Why not, pray?"

"Because I"—

He checked himself. She finished the sentence for him.

"Because you love me?" she suggested.

He broke into a discordant, miserable laugh.

"Don't laugh that silly way!" she reprimanded sharply.

"I am sorry you don't like it," he observed. "It's the only way I know."

"Then don't laugh at all. The laugh is on my side, anyway."

"On your side?"

"Yes. You are angry at what happened this evening. But it wasn't I who was in the summer house with M. de Jolidon."

"But I saw you there," he declared. "I"—

"I took another woman's place to get her out of an awkward scrape with her husband—with M. Popoff. She was"—

"And I never even guessed it!" cried Danilo, his sullen face breaking into a smile of utter relief. "What a fool I was! I was green and yellow with jealousy. I"—

He caught himself up, but it was too late. Sonia's eyes danced.

"But since you don't love me," she asked, "why were you yellow and green with"—

"Because green and yellow are our national colors. I am nothing if not patriotic. You see"—

"Silence!" commanded Popoff in his most magisterial manner. "Madame, under section 4 of the Marsovian code I hereby divorce you. This fan is sufficient evidence."

As Natalie started back, dumb with horror, Popoff turned impressively to Sonia and, to the widow's amused dismay, sank on one knee before her.

"Mme. Sadowa," he declaimed, "I am free, and in the name of our fatherland I beseech you to become my wife!"

Sonia was seemingly blind to the white misery in Natalie's face and the look of angry surprise in Danilo's. She answered, with perfect composure:

"My dear M. Popoff, I am deeply honored by your proposal, but before I accept it is only fair to tell you that if I marry again I lose all my fortune."

"Mme. Sadowa—prince!" gurgled Popoff, trotting up to them, unable longer to restrain his anxiety. "I hope it is all settled. All nicely arranged, eh?"

"If you mean is madame to marry De Jolidon," answered Danilo, "she is not."

"But this evening," ejaculated Popoff, "in the summer house!"

"She took another woman's place," replied the prince, disregarding Sonia's warning gesture.

"Dear me!" squealed Popoff, his curiosity reviving. "Who was she?"

"Excuse me, your excellency," remarked Nish, who had entered with Nova Kovitch and had hovered aimlessly about waiting to get in a word, "but here is a fan that was picked up in the summer house after the party. You told me to search the place, and I did. If I may say so, I"—

"Same old fan!" commented Popoff, idly opening it. Then, with a jump as his eye vaguely caught the sentence Natalie had scribbled beneath De Jolidon's avowal, he screamed:

"My wife's handwriting! Then it was my wife after all!"

"Sir," quoted Nova Kovitch, "Caesar's wife should be above suspicion."

"But Caesar never brought his wife to Paris!" wailed Popoff. "This is bad for me."

"No, no!" pleaded Natalie, who at sight of the fatal trinket had left her table and run forward. "It's all a horrid mistake. I can explain. I"—

The ambassador scrambled hastily to his feet.

"I—I was perhaps just a wee bit hasty," he stuttered, looking sheepishly about for a way of escape.

Natalie came forward and handed him the fan.

"Did you read the words I wrote on it?" she asked timidly.

"I—am—a—dutiful—wife!" spelled out the ambassador. "Forgive me! I didn't understand. Shall we let bygones be bygones?"

Danilo, who had stood silent during the odd proposal, now stepped past Popoff and faced Sonia, a new light in his eyes.

"Is it true you will lose all your money if you marry again?" he asked in a voice he tried in vain to keep steady.

"Yes," she admitted; "it is true."

"Then why shouldn't I say now what I want to?"

"Why not?" she agreed demurely.

He drew a step nearer.

"I love you, Sonia," he whispered.

Steadily, happily, she met his burning eyes as she answered:

"I love you, Danilo. I have always loved you."

"Tut, tut!" fretted Popoff, pushing peevishly between them. "This'll never do. You can't marry her, prince. You'll both be paupers."

"Not quite," gently corrected Sonia. "I shall lose my money, it is true, but—only because I am going to give it all to my husband."

[THE END.]

"I LOVE YOU, SONIA," HE WHISPERED.

"Madame, I hereby divorce you."

Merrill Valley the heart of Klamath.

Notice For Publication

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Lakeview, Oregon, June 20 1908. Notice is hereby given that Asa Fordyce, of Ft. Klamath, Oregon, who, on August 24, 1901, made homestead entry, No 2433, for Lots 11, 12 and 13, Section 4, Townsite 33 S., Range 7½ E., Will. Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final five year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before County Clerk, Klamath County, at his office at Klamath Falls, Oregon, on the 1st day of August, 1908.

Claimant names as witnesses: James Gardan, E. M. Lever, H. J. Savidge and Chas. Martin, all of Ft. Klamath, Oregon. 6-23

J. N. WATSON, Register.

Petition for Liquor License

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR KLAMATH COUNTY.

We the undersigned, residents and legal voters of the precinct of Wood River, in the County of Klamath, State of Oregon, and actual residents therein for more than thirty days immediately preceding the date of signing and filing this petition, do hereby respectfully petition your honorable body to grant and issue to James H. Wheeler, a residence of said precinct, a license to sell spiritous, vinous, fermented or malt liquors in less quantities than one gallon, in the precinct aforesaid for a period of six months, from the 3rd, day of July, 1908.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, that this petition will be presented to the County Court aforesaid at the court room in the city of Klamath Falls, Oregon, on the 1st, day of July, A. D. 1908, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day or as soon thereafter as said petition can be heard.

Dated this 16th day of May, 1908.

James H. Wheeler.

NAMES	NAMES
C. E. Hoyt	J. M. Emery
Roy R. Wise	H. B. Loosley
N. J. Johnson	O. B. Bunch
David Ramley	Asa Drope
S. B. Gardner	Ralph H. Langston
J. E. Vose	L. W. Copeland
G. F. Vose	Ira Eagle
F. X. Dompier	Wesley Cole
Paul Pirsons	D C. Courtney
Frank Dompier	Wm. M. Skeen
J. H. Smart	H. J. Savridge
M. P. Morgan	D. E. Noah
W. M. Thomason	W. H. Norton
Louis Brannan	A. L. Melhase
L. C Drake	J. A. Gibson
R. A. Moon	Clark
G. T. Gray	Wm. Denton
Walter Dixon	F. M. Denton
C. Gray	Lee Denton
M. H. Hess	L. C. Sismore
G. C. Hill	J. H. Hessig
G. S. Hoyt	F. J. Oden
W. J. Jamison	Jos. Hessig
R. M. Jamieson	Rube White
J. L. Vose	Frank Silvers
John Gray	D. Ryans

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