# The Manager Of the B. Q. A.

By VAUGHAN KESTER

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(Continued from Saturday.)

She was unduly conscious pernaps that sound morality was on her side

"Let us leave him out of it. After all, it is no odds who told. The harm

"No. I shall ask Griff."

Dan smiled doubtfully,

"That will settle it if you believe what he tells you."

"His denial will be quite sufficient for me, Mr. Oakley," with chilly polite-

There was a long pause, during which Dan looked at the carpet and Miss Emory at nothing in particular. He realized how completely he had separated bimself from the rest of the world in her eyes. The hopelessness of his love goaded him on. He turned to her with sudden gentleness and said penitently: "Won't you forgive me?"

"I have nothing to forgive, Mr. Oak-ley," with lofty self denial, and again Dan smiled doubtfully. Her saying so did not mean all it should have meant to him.

He swept his hand across his face with a troubled gesture. "I don't know what to do," he observed ruefully. "The turf seems knocked from under my feet"

"It must have been a dreadful ordeal to pass through alone," she said. "We are so distressed for your sake." And she seemed so keenly sympathetic that Dan's heart gave a great bound in his breast. He put aside his mounting bitterness against her.

"I don't know why I came to see you today. I just wanted to, and so I came. I don't want to force a friendship."

Miss Emory murmured that no excuse was necessary.

"I am not too sure of that. I must appear bent on exhibiting myself and my woes, but I can't go into retirement, and I can't let people see I'm burt.

His face took on a strong resolve. He couldn't go without telling her he loved her. His courage was suddenly riotous.

"Once, not long ago, I dared to be-Heve I might level the differences between us. I recognized what they were, but now it is hopeless. There are some things a man can't overcome, no matter how hard he tries, and I suppose being the son of a murderer is one of these." He paused and, raising his eyes from the carpet, glanced at ber, but her face was averted. He went on, desperately: "It's quite hopeless, but I have dared to hope, and I wanted you to know. I hate to leave things unfinished."

There was a long silence, then Miss Emory said softly:

"I am so sorry."

eight hours earlier.

"Which means you've never cared for me," dryly.

But she did not answer him. She was wondering how she would have felt had the confession come forty-

"I suppose I've been quite weak and foolish," said Dan. She looked into his face with a slow

"Why do you say that? Is it weak and foelish to care for some one?" "Wasn't it?" with suddenly kindled hope, for he found it hard to give her

Miss Emory drew herself together

with a sigh. "I never thought of this," she said, which was hardly true; she had

thought of it many times. "No," admitted Dan, innocently enough, for her lightest word had become gospel to him, such was his love and reverence. "You couldn't know."

Poor Oakley, his telling of it was the smallest part of the knowledge. "I think I see now, perfectly, how great a difference this affair of my father's must make. It sort of cuts me off from everything."

"It is very tragic. I wish you hadn't told me just now." Her lips trembled pathetically, and there were tears in

"I've wanted to tell you for a long

time." "I didn't know."

"Of course you couldn't know," he repeated. Then he plunged ahead recklessly, for he found there was a curious satisfaction in telling her of his love, hopeless as it was.

"It has been most serious and sacred to me. I shall never forget you-never. It has helped me in so many ways just to know you. It has changed so many of my ideals. I can't be grateful

Miss Emory approved his attitude. It was as it should be. She was sorry for him. She admired his dignity and repression. It made him seem so strong and purposeful.

"You will find your happiness some day, Mr. Oakley. You will find some one more worthy than I." She knew he would be insensible to the triteness of her remark.

"No," generously, "that couldn't be. I'll not find any one. I'll not look."

"Oh, but you will!" Already, with the selfishness of her sex and a selfishness which was greater than that of her sex, she was regretting that she had allowed him to step



"You have heard the story from Mr. Ryder." so easily into the position of a rejected

"I don't want you to think it is going to ruin my life," he said quietly, 'or anything of that sort." An appeal to her pity seemed weak

and contemptible. "I have striven to win what I can't have, what is not for me, and I am satisfied to have made the effort."

Miss Emory bit her lip. He was going to put her out of his life entirely. It was ended, and he would do his best to forget her with what speed he might, for he loved her and was too generous to wish her to suffer. This generosity, needless to say, was too altruistic for Constance to fully appreciate its beauties. Indeed, she did not regard it as generosity at all. She resented it. She realized that probably she would not see him again-at least, the meeting would not be of his making or choosing. There was to be no

sentimental aftermath. He was preparing to go, like the sensible fellow he was, for good and all, and she rebelled against the decree. It seemed brutal and harsh. She was angry, hurt and offended. Perhaps her conscience was troubling her too. She knew she was mean and petty.

"I don't think it could have been very serious to you, Mr. Oakley," she murmured, gazing abstractedly from the

"I don't know why you think that. I can't say any more than I have said. It includes all." She wanted to tell him he gave up too easily.

"At any rate, we are friends," he

"Are you going?" she cried, with a ring of real longing and regret in her voice, lifted out of herself for the moment at the thought of losing him.

Dan nodded, and a look of pain "Yes, I am going."

"But you are not going to leave Antioch?"

well avoid seeing each other in a place the size of this."

He held out his hand frankly. "And I shan't see you here any more?" she asked softly.

"I guess not," a little roughly. The bitterness of his loss stung him. He felt something was wrong somewhere. He wondered, too, if she had been was beautiful. He would carry this Friday the 7th day of June, 1907. memory and a haunting sense of incompleteness with him wherever he

She placed her hand in his and looked up into his face with troubled, seri-

and flung it open. For an instant he wavered on the threshold, but a moment later was striding down the street, with his hat jammed needlessly low over his ears and his hands thrust deep in his trousers pockets.

At the window Constance, with a white, scared face, was watching him from between the parted curtains. She hoped he would look back, but he never once turned his head.

(To be continued.)

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"Probably," smiling. "We couldn't wall avoid seeing each other in a place statement No. 7889, for the purchase of the southeast quarter of section No. 12 in township No. 26 south, range No. 12 west, and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to quite fair to him, if her ability to establish his claim to said land beguard herself was entirely commenda- fore the county clerk and clerk of ble after all. He knew in the end his county court, Coos county, Oregon, only memory of her would be that she at his office at Coquille, Oregon, on

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He names as witnesses William H. Morgan, of Marshfield, Coos county, Oregon, George M. Sells, of North Bend, Coos county, Oregon, Earl Schrimsher, of North Bend, Coos "Goodby." It was almost a whisper, county, Oregon, George D. Mandigo, Dan crossed the room to the door of North Bend, Coos county, Oregon, Walter A. Haring, of North Bend, Coos county, Oregon.

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Register.

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