



MRS. FORRESTER

CHAPTER III.

In the twilight June and her mother were sitting. June was by the window, trying to work in the fading light.

"Come here, my darling," said her mother. "I want to talk to you. It is about Tom."

"Has he been talking to you?" cried June, flushing up. "How unfair of him! He promised me not to say a word to any one for six months."

"Do you want to have any secrets from me?" asked Mrs. Rivers gently.

"But," said June, in a troubled voice, "how can I promise anything when I do not know my own mind? I like him—I am very fond of him. I wish he was my brother; but I am sure," with a little involuntary shudder, "that I do not love him."

It was impossible to approach the subject of Tom any more that evening, but as Mrs. Rivers had invited him to come and hear the result of her embassy, she felt it absolutely necessary to have something to tell him. She therefore attacked the subject when June came into her room next morning, and the result of the interview was that June promised to weigh and consider the matter seriously for the next few months, and that on Christmas day she would either consent to be engaged to Tom, or would finally tell him that she must abandon all hope.

Tom came to the Rose Cottage in the highest spirits and went away crestfallen; he had expected wonders from the interview, but he had almost dared to hope that June would be waiting with smiles and blushes and her mind prepared to accept him. Now he was absolutely not one step nearer than before. June had already promised that six months hence she would consider the matter; it was the thought of that harassing delay, and the uncertainty at the end of it, which had prompted his appeal to Mrs. Rivers. He was dreadfully mortified at what she told him.

Mrs. Rivers felt for him—felt, too, as if she had been to blame in not having been a more successful mediator.

"You must remember, Tom," she urged gently, "that June is only eighteen, and has seen nothing of life yet."

"I suppose it will never be," he said, at last, turning with a sigh that seemed to reach his broad chest.

"I should be sorry if I thought so," answered Mrs. Rivers, softly. "But," with an encouraging smile, "I cannot share your gloomy views."

"Is there anything in the world I could do to make her like me?" he said.

"You will be rather surprised if I tell you what your best plan would be."

"Try not to let her see that you are so devoted to her."

"I could not act a part," he answered. "And surely deceit is not the way to a good woman's heart."

Not long afterward Tom took his leave. He was going to the rectory to ask his aunt to give him some luncheon; he could not keep away from June any more than the moth can help circling round the light. At first he walked slowly, and with downcast eyes, but as he drew nearer the spot where his love was, his feet involuntarily stepped out faster and hope began to smooth his ruffled brow. Just within the gate he met Agnes, basket and scissors in hand, cutting flowers. She smiled at him very sweetly, for she had two smiles, one when she was really pleased and happy and another when she was jealous or annoyed and wished to conceal her feelings.

"I am so glad you have come," she said, and pulled off a garden glove to give him her hand. "You won't mind holding this basket for me, will you?"

Tom took the basket. He always felt obliged to do what Agnes asked, because, utterly devoid of vanity though he was, he could not help being aware that she was fond of him in something more than a cousinly way; so he was especially careful not to slight her.

"By the way," he remarked, "I have brought you and Madge a fairing from London. I may as well give you yours now." And he produced a gold bangle wrapped in tissue paper.

"Oh, Tom, how kind you are!" said Agnes. "You never forget any one. How beautiful! It is really too much."

But all the time she was jealously wondering what he had brought June; for, if June's present were handsomer or costlier, it would take all the pleasure out of hers.

"Put it on my arm," she said; and then, looking up and letting a little tremor steal into her voice, she murmured:

"You know, dear Tom, how I shall prize this."

"Oh," replied Tom, briskly, "it is quite a trifle. I am glad you like it. I'll go and find Madge and give her the spot where June and Madge were playing lawn tennis. Madge greeted him with loud welcome, June was a trifle distant. She wished him to know that she was displeased at his having presumed to speak to her mother, and he noticed the change in her manner, guessed the cause of it, and, foolish fellow, was much cast down and humbled.

"Tom brought me a locket," said June, blushing a little.

It had been decided by her mother that she might keep it, but had better not wear it for the present.

"Then, why haven't you got it on, you ungrateful wretch?" cried Madge. "Or," suspiciously, "perhaps you have, inside your frock."

Tom's heart beat a shade faster. How he would like to think of his offering lying nestled against her fair neck!

But June shook her head.

CHAPTER IV.

One morning, about a fortnight later, Madge was crossing down the road to the Rose Cottage to meet June. Almost before her cousin came within earshot Madge shouted out, "I have seen him!" and when she arrived within reasonable distance, she continued, still in a high key:

"I have seen the lovely seraph!"

"Well," said June, in her usual voice, "and what is he like?"

"I deeply regret to say," she answered, "that he is a good-looking, and that he does not resemble a hair-dresser's dummy. But," she added, "I have all ways from the first moment intended to call him La-di-da, and I shall, whether it's appropriate or not."

"Oh!" said June, looking rather disappointed. She had quite made up her mind not to like Mr. Broke, because she considered that he stood in Tom's light and was a sort of treacherous Jacob in diverting the affections from their legitimate source.

Later in the morning, when the cousins were engaged on a French exercise, Agnes being also of the party, Madge looked up suddenly and said:

"I say, June, I wish I was going to dine at the Hall to-night. It will be awful fun, I expect."

June rested her chin on her hand reflectively.

"I don't know about fun," she answered. "I think I shall feel dreadfully nervous, as I have never been to a real dinner party before."

"Don't you think you had better go on with your exercises?" said Agnes, acidly.

"Butter-exercises!" retorted Madge, plunging both hands into her curly hair. "I never heard of a dinner party at the Hall every night. Juny, I wonder if La-di-da will take you in to dinner? Tom can't, of course."

"I suppose," remarked Agnes, looking at June with what Madge called her crocodile smile, "Tom will be cast off like an old glove now."

"Why?" asked June, looking her cousin full in the face.

"Oh," returned Agnes, "people who are so fond of excitement and flash faces generally treat old friends like old gloves."

A flash came into June's eyes and a slight tremor to her voice, always a sure sign with her of rising temper.

"I think that is a very poor simile at the best," she said. "People generally discard old gloves when they have done with them. I never heard of a virtue to go on wearing them after they were torn or dirty."

"Yes," echoed Madge, "and Tom isn't likely to get old, or torn, or dirty."

"And," continued June, now that her blood was up, "I think a person must have a very small heart or mind who can only like or be amused by one friend or one set."

"As this is supposed to be lesson time," said Agnes, coldly, "I think it would be more conscientious to work than to argue."

The evening arrived, and June, equipped for her first dinner party, was awaiting with nervous impatience the advent of her uncle's carriage. She was to go with Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Edmonson and Agnes, her mother having declined the invitation on the score of her health.

did not mean to lose it again just yet. He had seen that she wished to avoid him, and, being unaccustomed to such treatment, was piqued.

"What a charming old place this is!" he said, plunging into conversation with the first remark that occurred to him; and June replied by the monosyllabic "Yes."

"I had no idea it was so pretty," continued the Guardsman. "You know I have not been here for ages—not since I was quite a little chap. There was a family quarrel or something, and my mother and Aunt Vi didn't speak for years. You are—don't think me inquisitive—but you are a sort of cousin of Tom's, are you not?"

"No," answered June. "His uncle and aunt are mine, and that makes us forget sometimes that we are not actually related."

"What a good chap he is!"

"Yes," she answered, with enthusiasm, "that he is. We missed him so dreadfully when he was away, and we were so delighted when he came back."

"How nice you look!" he whispered, with a gaze of devouring admiration—"much nicer than any one else here. I wish you had worn my locket, though. But you will some day," in a happy, confident tone.

"Hush!" said June, smiling, but involuntarily feeling a little shiver of coldness. "You must all come up and play lawn tennis to-morrow afternoon—Madge, too. I have got another court marked out; and when Jack comes home" (the rector's son) "we are going to have a cricket match. Dal was in the Eton eleven, you know."

"What an Admiral Crichton your cousin seems to be!" remarked June, with the nearest approach to a sneer which she had ever accomplished in her life.

"Come, you must not set yourself against him," said Tom. "That would be almost as bad as if you liked him too much."

(To be continued.)

NO WONDER SHE KILLED IT.

A Mischievous Pet That Doodled a Young Girl to an Old Maid.

And so you never heard why Miss Elden killed the parrot? said the kindly old lady to a reporter. Well, I'll tell you.

Miss Elden's father, you know, had been a seafaring man. He was a big man, had a hot temper that he never curbed, and a voice like a fog horn. He was not choice of his language and seemed to care little for anything in existence except his daughter and a parrot with a temper like his own, which he had brought with him from the East. That bird seemed to have human intelligence. It not only picked up sentences with the ease of most children, but uttered them in the tones of those from whom they had been learned. It could imitate them all.

As a young girl Miss Elden was very pretty, though a little self-willed and haughty. Because of these qualities and because the captain thought no one was good enough for her, none of the young men found things very comfortable for them at her house. The captain thought nothing of making them get out and stay out. At length she rebelled against this way of treating her beaux, for her chance of marrying were dwindling. In the city she had met a very desirable gentleman and they were so congenial that he came out here to spend a few days so as to be near her. He went to the house with some fear, for the captain had a reputation. They were scarcely in the veranda when that bird, seated on the veranda when that bird scolded: "Get out of here, you scoundrel; I'll break every bone in your body." The youth never waited for his hat and before morning was out of town. She promptly wrung the bird's neck, but that was her last bean.

Rivals Rip Van Winkle.

Near the city of St. Charles, Minn., resides Herman Harms, a farmer 50 years of age, who for the greater part of the past 18 or 20 years has been sound asleep and although expert medical men have done their best to arouse him all efforts have been in vain. When Harms left his Eastern home 20 years ago and went West he took up farming. Gradually drowsiness began to grow upon him and ere long he fell into the deep sleep that has held him fast during all these years. Last summer he awoke and was as wide awake as he ever was. His friends were overjoyed at the prospect of the spell being broken, but it was only a few days till it came on again. Frequently he jarrily awakes and talks rationally. When the sleep came on he was a strong, vigorous man, weighing 180 pounds, but he has so wasted that he now weighs not more than 90 pounds. His skin is drawn tightly over his bones and he is really a living skeleton. It would seem from his appearance that his cheek bones would cut through the skin. Physicians who have examined him have differed widely in their decisions as to the ailment that causes his great affliction.

When Greek Meets Greek.

Hold-Up Man—Your money or your life.

Book Agent—I have no money—but here is a copy of the "Life of a Millionaire" that I am offering at the low price of 5¢, payable in weekly installments of 5¢ cents. May I have the pleasure of adding your name to my list?

When the Chinese emperor dies the fact is communicated to all the provinces in blue writing, blue being the mourning color. All persons of rank take from their caps the red silk ornaments, with the ball or button; all subjects forbear for 100 days from shaving their heads, and in that time no marriages may take place and none may play upon musical instruments.

Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706 and died in 1790. His active labors, political, scientific and literary, covered a period of about sixty years.

SNOW IN THE ROCKIES.

Fell Over Large Area and is Gladly Welcomed in Most Places.

Denver, Dec. 17.—The entire Rocky Mountain region from Northern Wyoming to Southern New Mexico has been visited by a storm during the past 30 hours. The ground in the plateau section is covered to a depth of six inches, while the fall in the mountains has been much heavier. The greater portion of the precipitation fell yesterday and last night. Today about two inches of snow fell during the morning in most sections of Colorado, but tonight the weather has cleared. No snow fell in Western Wyoming today, although blizzard conditions and in the region immediately north of there a light snowfall was experienced. In Southern New Mexico a light rainfall was reported, with snow in the north. In some parts of Colorado, particularly in the San Luis valley, in the south the snow was the heaviest for years.

For the past three years drouth has visited the San Luis valley, and the present moisture has brought rejoicing, assuring as it does good conditions for next year's crops. Railroad traffic is experiencing no serious interruption as a result of the storm, because of the fact that the snow drifted but little. For the same reason there is no fear for the safety of stock on the ranges, and no losses have been reported. The storm originated in Arizona, and the temperature at no time has been uncomfortably cold.

THE AIDED RAILROADS.

Only One Owes the Government, According to Commissioner Longstreet.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The annual report of General Longstreet, the commissioner of railroads, says that, of the railroad companies which have received government subsidies in bonds, all have settled their indebtedness with the government except the Central Branch railway company, the one censor of the Central Branch Union Pacific railway company. The reports of the bond-aided and land grant roads show an increase of \$20,000,000 in net earnings over those for 1901. There was an increase of over \$5,000,000 in gross earnings and of \$27,000,000 in expenses.

The report deals with detailed annual summaries of the operations of the roads, embraces the principal laws of congress that relate to the bond-aided and land grant roads, and includes abstracts of the decisions of the supreme court in cases affecting the bond-aided Pacific companies, and to which the United States is party.

THREAT TO RENEW STRIKE.

Coxe Brothers' Miners Demand Reinstatement of Union Men.

New York, Dec. 17.—More than 4,000 miners at Drifton, near Hazleton, will go out on strike unless their employers adjust grievances they complain of, says a dispatch from Scranton to the Press. The shipment of coal to New York will be decreased 10,000 tons a day if this strike is declared. The dissatisfied miners are employed by Coxe Bros. & Co., the large independent operators. They say that the company has repeatedly refused to re-employ all its union miners.

District Presidents Duffy, Fahy and Nichols, who are in this city, have had a conference regarding the question. Duffy upholds the attitude of the Drifton miners, but the other district presidents, together with their attorney representing the miners before the strike commission, are doing their utmost to prevent a suspension of work. They believe that the action of the Drifton miners in declaring a strike before they see whether the commissions intend to protect their rights in their decision will have a bad effect.

MORE SHOTS AT THE KING.

Leopold of Belgium Fired Upon as He Was Leaving the Royal Train.

New York, Dec. 17.—The American's correspondent at Brussels says: As Leopold, the king of the Belgians, was leaving the royal train at the station at Laken, two shots were fired at him, although neither took effect. When the sleep came on he was a strong, vigorous man, weighing 180 pounds, but he has so wasted that he now weighs not more than 90 pounds. His skin is drawn tightly over his bones and he is really a living skeleton. It would seem from his appearance that his cheek bones would cut through the skin. Physicians who have examined him have differed widely in their decisions as to the ailment that causes his great affliction.

The guards that surround the king have been doubled.

Snow All Over Kansas.

Topka, Kan., Dec. 17.—The first heavy snowstorm of the winter prevailed all over Kansas today. The fall in some places amounted to four inches on the level. No severe cold accompanied the storm, and great good to the wheat crop in Central Kansas will result. Trains on all roads were delayed today, the snow in some places preventing traffic. There has been no relief of the fuel famine in Kiowa county.

Logs to Increase in Price.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 17.—Another increase in the price of logs is expected by Coast loggers within the next few days. At the present time the ruling price is from \$7.50 to \$8. It is thought this will be increased by at least 50 cents before the end of the week.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Severe cold weather in Austria is causing acute suffering.

The strike commission may investigate freight rates on coal.

The Alaska salmon pack for 1902 will amount to 2,476,000 cases or more than the pack of 1901.

Martin Tower of Marshfield, has been appointed collector of customs for the Coos Bay district.

Hon. Solomon Hirsch, a pioneer merchant of Portland, legislator and ex-minister to Turkey, is dead.

A Columbian steamer, carrying a large number of soldiers, was wrecked and nearly all on board drowned.

New York continues without enough coal to meet the demands. At present 50,000 tons a day are consumed.

The Marselles strike is practically over. The men are returning to their old places without gaining any of their demands.

Three men attempted to hold up an Alford, Tex., bank. The officers had been notified and were waiting for them. One of the robbers was killed, another seriously wounded and the third is in custody.

Germany, though its claims are clear, is willing to arbitrate the Venezuelan trouble.

The new army staff bill, if passed, will not be effective until the retirement of General Miles.

Italy has taken a hand in the Venezuelan affair and has demanded the same treatment as England and Germany.

Coal shortage in Nebraska is causing intense suffering, aggravated by the extreme cold weather prevailing throughout the state.

A joint resolution has been introduced in congress changing the term of president, making the term begin at noon April 30, instead of March 4.

The president has appointed Lloyd Griscom, jr., now minister to Persia, to be minister to Japan. He has also selected Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, at present consul general at Teheran, Persia, to succeed Mr. Griscom.

The announcement is made that Marconi has another invention, which he expects will startle the world. He will not formally announce it until the wireless experiments are completed, which he says will be before the end of the year.

Spain is trying to buy warships from foreign powers.

The first blizzard of the winter has swept Iowa and Nebraska.

Ice forming on the "third" rail of the New York elevated roads has stopped all trains.

The Venezuelan gunboats captured by Germany and Great Britain are now manned by British sailors.

A Rock Island passenger train was wrecked by a broken rail near Terrill, Tex., and the engineer and fireman killed.

Fire destroyed a five story building at Scranton, Pa., in which was located a wholesale grocery firm. The loss will amount to \$175,000.

An automatic machine has been invented that will clean more salmon than seven men. It will revolutionize the salmon canning industry.

The dock laborers strike in Marcellus, France, continues unbroken. The streets are now patrolled by troops and riots are of frequent occurrence.

Ice in Lake St. Clair clogged the intake pipes for Detroit's water supply so seriously that many factories were compelled to shut down temporarily.

General Miles will visit the German emperor.

The reciprocity treaty with Cuba has been signed.

The California end of the Pacific cable has been laid.

MRS. GRANT DEAD.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant died at her residence in this city at 11:17 o'clock Sunday night. Death was due to heart failure, Mrs. Grant having suffered for years from valvular disease of the heart, which was aggravated by a severe attack of bronchitis. Her age prevented her rallying from the attack. Her daughter, Nellie Grant Sartoris, was the only one of her children with her at the time of her death, her three sons, who had been summoned here, all being out of the city. There also were present at the bedside when she died Miss Rosemary Sartoris, a grand daughter; Dr. Bishop, one of the attending physicians, and two trained nurses. Death came peacefully, the sufferer retaining consciousness practically to the end.

Julia Dent Grant was born January 28, 1829. She was married to U. S. Grant August 22, 1848.

Four children were born to her—three sons, Frederick Dent, Ulysses, Jr., and Jesse, and one daughter, Nellie.

The remains of Mrs. Grant will be deposited in the tomb at Riverside park, New York, where those of her husband now repose. Whether they will be taken there immediately or this ceremony postponed for a time could not be ascertained tonight.

GREAT FIRE IN OHIO TOWN.

Sheet Steel Company's Mills Burned at a Loss of \$1,000,000.

Canal Dover, O., Dec. 16.—The corrugating mills, the paint shop, the store room and the building containing the four mills on the west side of the American sheet steel company's mills, were burned to the ground here last night, and the company is confronted with a loss of over \$1,000,000, nearly \$750,000 is finished product and the remainder in buildings and machinery.

A strong wind was blowing over the burning pile toward the offices and the machine shop. Fear that these, too, might be doomed caused a call for help to be sent to New Philadelphia. The fire engines from that city rendered good service. The offices, machine shops, galvanizing department and the mills on the east side are all that remain of this great plant.

The loss is partially covered by insurance. A dozen railway cars standing at tracks were consumed.

REORGANIZE CONSULAR FORCE.

Bill to Classify and Provide for Examination of Applicants.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A bill has been introduced in the house by Representative Adams, of Pennsylvania, to provide for the reorganization of the consular service of the United States. Provision is made for the classification of consuls general and consuls, specifying the number and salary of each class, and for the examination of applicants and those now in the service. Of the latter, those who fall to pass are to be dropped, but none can be called for examination within six months of the day of the passage of the bill. Consuls general and consuls may be transferred by the president from one place to another of the same class. Special examinations are provided for those who may be sent where the United States exercises extra territorial jurisdiction.

Naval Training Station on Lakes.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Secretary Moody has transmitted to congress the report of the naval board, headed by Admiral Taylor, which was created to select a site for a naval training station on the great lakes. The report recommends that the station be located on Lake Michigan, below latitude 43:30, and asks for an appropriation of \$250,000 to buy the land and develop the station, leaving the exact location to be determined later by the board. Secretary Moody approved the report and points out that an immediate appropriation will prevent the raising of land values.

Union Men May Picket.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 16.—Judge Carter, in the supreme court today, issued an order restraining 20 union men by name from gathering at the plant of the Drop Forge company, where a strike has been on for several months, for the purpose of intimidating men who wanted to go to work. The court refused to interfere with the peaceful picket, which he held to be legal. The order is a modification of a former decision, which restrained the entire union from gathering at the plants.

Fatal Wreck in Missouri.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 16.—A special to the Star from Bucklin, Mo., says a serious wreck occurred on the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad tonight at 9 o'clock. A local freight was wrecked four miles west of Bucklin. A steam wrecker was sent from Bloomfield. The wrecker and engine went through the bridge at Yellow creek. Five men were killed and one other fatally injured and half a dozen others seriously hurt. All are railroad employees.

Contract for Rapid-Fire Guns.

Washington, Dec. 16.—General Crozier, chief of ordnance, has awarded a contract for the manufacture of 30 15-pound rapid fire guns and mounts to the Bethlehem steel works at its bid of \$3,930 for guns and mounts. The only other bid received was from the American & British ordnance company at a slightly higher figure.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

Eastern Oregon Wants Law Prohibiting Sheep Herding Within Two Miles of Habitations—Wasco Is Refused Rural Mail Routes—Linn County Sportsmen Favor More Stringent Game Laws.

Commissioner Hermann has recommended the repeal of the lieu land law.

The Multnomah club of Portland has commenced arrangements for holding a street fair.

Three men have been arrested at Ashland charged with the recent Grants Pass stage hold-up.

The present session of congress will not be asked for a government appropriation for the 1905 fair.

F. S. Ingram, who is circulating a petition asking for aid from the state legislature, is securing many signatures. He has in the neighborhood of 400. Very few people refuse to sign.

Linn county sportsmen are taking active measures to secure the enactment of better game laws. All concur in the opinion that hunting for the market should be entirely prohibited.

E. C. Clement, special agent of rural free delivery, after viewing two rural free delivery routes out of Wasco, states that he is not able to approve the petitions. The reason given is that there are not the required number of families within the 50 miles of territory covered by the two petitions.

There is a petition being circulated in the eastern part of the state asking the legislature to enact a law prohibiting the herding of sheep within a distance of two miles of any habitation. It is being pressed by cattlemen in the main although a great many business men who are not interested in stock are signing. Idaho and California have such laws.

Senator Mitchell called the attention of Commissioner of Pensions Ware to the number of applications for pensions under the Indian war veteran act of the last session which have not as yet been granted. The commissioner states that considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting the military service of the claimants but he hopes to have all straightened up shortly.

Free delivery of mail will commence in Albany March 1, 1903.

An Odd Fellows lodge has been instituted at Durken, Eastern Oregon. There are about 30 members.

The new Oregon code, compiled by Judge C. B. Bellinger and W. W. Cotton, has been issued. This code was authorized by the last legislature and will hereafter be used in the courts in place of the codes heretofore in use. One thousand copies will be delivered to the secretary of state.

There is a movement on foot to divide the Eighth judicial district, consisting of Baker, Umatilla and Wallowa counties, into two districts. Union and Wallowa will constitute one, and Baker county will be constituted a judicial district by itself, if the plan is carried out. The reason for the change is that the district is so populous that there is too much for one judge to do.

Probably the largest shipment of wool ever made from independence at one time occurred last week. H. A. Dooty shipped direct to Boston 120,000 pounds of wool. The shipment made up almost 10 freight cars.

The Linn county jail walls will be lined with three-sixteenths inch steel plates. The ceiling will also be covered with a network of steel bars. These improvements to the jail have been made necessary by numerous jail breaks in the past two years.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 71¢@72¢; blue-stem 70¢@80¢; valley, 74¢.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$24.00.