

MISS MILNE AND I.

CHAPTER XVI—Continued.

"Colonel Pelham," I broke in, "would you mind leaving all these details to me? Daylight is rapidly breaking, and Warren and I should be returning, for all our sakes. Miss Pelham will be safe in the hands of the sailors for the rest of the journey. If I might advise you as to where to go, I would ask you to make straight for the house of a great and good friend of mine, the Rev. Dr. May, who lives on the esplanade at this end of the village, and from whom the mention of my name will be sufficient to insure for Miss Pelham every comfort and attention. Now, I must not go near the stretcher again for daylight is breaking, and Miss Pelham is fast regaining consciousness. I will only ask that I may have some news of her."

The old Colonel (or, I ought to say, the new Colonel, for his manner and bearing were new to me), rose to his feet, and motioning me to remain where I was, joined the other party, taking one glance at his daughter and giving her a kindly, paternal nod, which was returned by her. He then took Warren a few steps aside, spoke to him for a moment, shook him heartily by the hand, and bid him join me. I, too, shook him by the hand, for I had much to thank the noble fellow for.

"Let us wait and see them start, Warren," I said, when we had taken a few steps into the scrub, and together we stood and saw the sailors, under the direction of the Colonel, lift the stretcher, and with him leading, proceed on their way. Then Warren and I started on our journey homeward, fortunately arriving at our destination without being detected.

CHAPTER XVII.

"Manly, N. W. S.
"My Dear Rigby.—At ten minutes to four this morning a rap that conveyed, as raps always do, the prevailing emotion, as well as some of the inherent characteristics of the rapper, came to my door. This time it was an anxious, nervous, hurried, and yet self-assertive rap that said, 'When I have time, I am a man that thinks a good deal of himself and stands upon his dignity, but just now I have not the time.'"

"I hurried on my dressing-gown and slippers, to find at the door the remarkable cortege you had directed to my house. Now I know all the apologies you are dying to make for the unkindness of liberty, etc. My dear boy, don't trouble; the game was worth a good many candles.
"The pompous old colonel, breaking down every moment over the lovely girl, the lovely girl gradually recovering under the administration of hot coffee that Tilly in a miraculously short time had ready for her, the sailors in the kitchen, not knowing I was near them, going through the wreck and its details, and constantly wondering what they would 'get out of it'; the everlasting apologies of the old gentleman—well, it was, to cut it short, a most interesting and busy night—principally interesting.

"Now I dare say you will want to know something of what became of your friends.
"Well, about 6 o'clock the old colonel went into the kitchen and had a long talk with the sailors. He told me afterward they got five pounds each out of him. Then he came back to the dining-room, and by dint of such persuasion consented to go to the spare room. His daughter went to Tilly's room. They soon fell asleep, and did not wake till nearly noon; then he went out and took rooms at the hotel for the night.
"I wrote a letter to their lodgings and also a short paragraph for the paper.
"Now, if there is anything else I can do for them that you can think of, send me a telegram worded so as to be safe.
"In the meantime, good-by. I smell a rat—I smell a rat; and I don't wonder. She is very beautiful. Yours sincerely,
J. M. MAY."

This letter reached me the day following the memorable night just recorded. I had, in the meantime, shown myself a good deal during the afternoon to the people on the flat, talked of my fishing, the good sport I had found on the ocean side, etc. Then I went down to Warren's cave and talked of the wonders of last night. Warren, by intuitive sight, understood the motives of everybody—that he, of course, with the one exception of the nurse; she was a standing puzzle to him; he would have done anything in the world for her, but not from any of the impulses that usually inflame men in their dealings with women. Not knowing anything of our past associations, he naturally accounted for her obvious influence over me by supposing that I had the same dread of her.
"Wynyard St., Sydney, New South Wales.
"My Dear Doctor Rigby.—It is in compliance with my daughter's wish, as it is my own, that I now make some effort at thanking you for all your great kindness to us. She had learned so much from her own observation that it became necessary for her quiet's sake, to tell her the full extent of your efforts and sacrifices on our behalf. And we both feel that your care of us during our stay, your successful scheme to hide us, and, lastly, but principally, your heroism when the boat foundered, entitle you to our lasting gratitude. When you do get released from your imprisonment, I trust you will give us the opportunity of thanking you in person. My daughter's health, I am thankful to say, has not suffered from the excitement and exposure she underwent; a day or two of rest, and the kind care of your friends at Manly, have done very much to avert any evil consequences. Our medical man has done nothing beyond insisting on her remaining indoors for three or four

days. Will you convey to the man Warren our heartfelt thanks, and assure him that he shall not be allowed to go without some token of our gratitude? Trusting you will soon be released from your most undesirable position, believe me, dear Doctor Rigby, sincerely yours,
"W. PELHAM."

"P. S.—It is my intention to visit Manly this evening, that I may have the opportunity of thanking your good friend, Doctor May, as I ought to thank him."
This was the promised letter, and it came the morning following that which brought the one from my dear old friend May. And what did it mean? In the first place, it meant that the past was gone, the evil undone, the good restored; and the invitation to come and see them could mean nothing else than that the colonel himself was willing that I should be placed upon my old footing in the family.
If only I could go, not to meet him, but to have a chat with May afterward, and learn something of what was said! The more I thought of it, the more I longed to go.

About three that afternoon I, contrary to custom, wandered cautiously in the direction of Warren's cave. All was quiet, and I therefore slipped in. He was carving something from a piece of soft wood with a pocketknife I had lent him. He started up from his work as I entered, and tried to hide it.
"You might let me see it, Warren."
"I did not want you to until it was finished, Doctor. It's for you. I may as well show it now, though."
He took from behind him an inkstand, or, rather, the frame of an inkstand most exquisitely carved—a boat being wrecked upon a stormy sea; it was a memento of Edith's second wreck. It is on the table before me now, and has throughout held the ink for the writing of this narrative.
"Do you say this is for me, Warren?"
"Yes; if you'll take it, sir."
"Take it, Warren! Indeed, I will; I shall value it as one of my choicest treasures. But I came down this afternoon to ask you if you can direct me as to the easiest way to Manly, and also if you think it safe for me to go early?"
"What do you call early?"
"About half-past seven."
"If you are very cautious. You must start with your fishing rod along the ocean side; then, when well past the old man's house, make for the telegraph line. There will be no danger after that until you get within 'eight of Manly; then you must beat down to the harbor, and by keeping well under the cliff you will avoid the police. Once past them you are right. Would you like me to come with you, doctor?"
"No, thank you, Warren."
A quarter past nine found me opening the gate that leads to the back premises of my friend, Dr. May. Once in May's garden, I paused a moment to decide whether I should go straight to the back door or climb up some other way. The latter course, I soon decided, would be the better one; 'twas well to keep the servant out of our secret, so I made for the consulting room window. It was wide open, and from the shadow of a coral-tree I could distinctly see the doctor talking to some one on the other side of the table. To see who this was necessitated my moving nearer, and this not only revealed Colonel Pelham to be the second person, but also brought me within hearing distance.
"I should not have opened my heart to you in this way, Doctor May, had not your extreme kindness to us and your friendship for Doctor Rigby tempted me; and then the fact of being in a strange country and among strange people inclines me to take the full advantage of what friends one does find."
"But," asked May, evidently full of interest, "from what I can gather, Doctor Rigby, throughout this unfortunate affair of which you have told me something, did nothing that was really blamable?"
"No; beyond sticking rather tenaciously to his engagement after I thought he ought to have given it up."
"If from his point of view there was no reason why he should give it up, that in itself was simply evidence of his sincerity; but, may I ask, are these impediments removed?"
"I have no reason to suppose they still exist."
"And therefore you would not any longer withhold your consent?"
Colonel Pelham paused for several moments before replying, and I came nearer involuntarily, for the loud throbings of my heart rendered even May's last words almost inaudible. At length the answer came, and every word, pregnant with desperate import, burned itself into my memory.
"The impediments that existed in London were so full of danger to my daughter's happiness that I should have to assure myself beyond all shadow of doubt that they had disappeared; then, if that were so, my daughter's deep attachment to Doctor Rigby, the debt of gratitude we owe him, and my own great regard for him, would secure my readiest and my heartiest sanction, and the day that made him my son-in-law would be a very happy one for me. I am not the man I was, Doctor May; the troubles of the last twelve months have knocked all the remnants of youth out of me, and I would gladly see my only child settled and happy."
"Quite so, quite so," replied my good old friend, with a ring of true sincerity in his voice, and added: "Of all the men I know, there is not one to whom I would trust a daughter's happiness with more confidence than Doctor Rigby."
Then there was a pause in the conversation, and thinking I had heard enough, I silently crept away round to the other side of the house. There I

was fortunate enough to find a door open; into this I walked, and then along the passage until I came to the consulting-room door. I rapped gently. It was instantly opened by May. "Halloo! halloo!" he exclaimed with pleasure, as he shook me by the hand. "Talk of the—you know!"
After returning his salutation, I walked over to Colonel Pelham.
"I am glad to see you Colonel Pelham—I mean Mr. Phillips."
"We need not keep up the disguise," he replied, laughing, as he greeted me warmly. "I have told Doctor May that we are traveling under a nom de guerre. I am very glad to see you, Doctor Rigby. We were just speaking of you and your troubles in quarantine. It is reported that you are to be released at an early date. You are glad, of course?"
Before I could reply, May had placed before me some cold beef, pickles, bread, cheese, a bottle of beer, and other items.
"Come, Rigby, you must be hungry. Here are all the scraps I can gather together. Now excuse me, is there anything else I can get you? No? Are you sure? Well, then, I wish you a good night. Colonel Pelham and you may like to talk of old times at home." Then turning to the colonel, "You know your room, Colonel Pelham?"
When he was half way down the passage, he called out to me, and as I found him, he, taking my arm, said, "Do you know my bedroom window?"
"Yes."
"Well, will you, when you have finished your interview, come outside and rap, and I will get up and join you; there are a few things I want to talk to you about."
This I promised to do, and then returned to the consulting room. I found the colonel in his favorite attitude, nursing one knee and staring into the fire.
"You had better take some food, Doctor Rigby; you must be hungry after your long walk; we can talk at the same time."
I was only too glad to fall in with this suggestion, for I was hungry. But in a few moments all hunger fled.
"My letter reached you safely, Doctor Rigby?"
"Thank you, Colonel Pelham, yes; but as you know, we have no legitimate chance of replying. Had I been able to reply, I should have thanked you very sincerely for it."
"We think the thanks are owing on our side. You reached the station safely, I trust, that evening, or morning rather?"
"Yes; we were rather tired, but an hour or two of sleep put matters right."
"Now, this man Warren. I trust you have made for us some arrangements with him; we are very deeply in his debt."
"I have tried to do so, but he will not hear of any reward. He is very determined, and I do not think there is any moving him."
"Dear me! dear me! I regret to hear this; but the man is strange in many ways. I remember asking him, on board the boat, who had sent him, and why. He replied: 'The nurse.'"
"I was here at this moment my power to swallow left me," and then he added, "she don't like this 'ere boat—thinks she'll go under." "But I don't know the nurse, do I?" I said. "I reckon you don't; she ain't one 'o them sort as only does things for people as knows 'er," he replied. Now, who is this strange woman that takes such an interest in us? Do you know her, Doctor Rigby?"

(To be continued.)

California is producing daisies a foot in circumference.
In Missouri, taking the entire State as the basis of calculation, the average annual salary of male teachers in the public schools is \$296 a year, and of female teachers \$306 a year.
In the cathedral of Hereford, England, there are still about fifteen hundred books with the chains that used to be attached to books in the sixteenth century in ecclesiastical and university libraries.
At Montalto, in the province of Genoa, in tearing down an old church, a small underground room was found full of art objects of the Roman time, chiefly chiseled silver amphorae and vases filled with gold and silver coins.
Charles M. Schwab, president of the United States Steel Corporation, is authority for the statement that steel has supplanted cotton in industrial kinship; that it exceeded the cotton industry in 1900 by more than \$100,000,000, and for 1901 it will exceed it by more than \$250,000,000.
A London physician has made careful calculations, and says the average waltz takes dancers over three-quarters of a mile. The square dance represents a distance of half a mile and the gallop between two and three miles. Therefore the evening ball means a tour of something like fifteen miles.
A new Russian apparatus for restoring hearing consists of a light rubber shell, furnished with a miniature microphone, which is connected to a small galvanic battery. It is claimed that the microphone causes even the softest speech to react on the auditory nerve of the deaf when the apparatus is placed to the ear.

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