

MARTHA MARBLEHEAD: The Maid and Nation of Chehalis.

BY MISS A. L. DUNWAY, AUTHOR OF "MARTHA MARBLEHEAD," "SAMUEL AND HIS BROTHER," "THE HAPPY HOME," "THE WORKS OF SPENCER," "LADY MORTIMER," ETC., ETC., ETC.

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CHAPTER XXVII.

Colonel Augustus Marblehead was not pleased. The position he held before the public required the sustaining of a considerable degree of domestic dignity, and it was not soothing to his feelings to have a grass widow, his own sister at that, as an inmate of his house.

"I'd like to know what you and sister Mat are up to!" he said, gruffly, addressing the partner of his joys and sorrows, whom he had once considered a sort of divinity, as though she were a very ordinary mortal indeed.

"You, darling, you can't think what a wretched Martha has been!" She's been wrought in every conceivable way, and now I'm determined to stand by her and see fair play."

"At this the Colonel smiled grimly, and the little woman assumed an attitude of virtuous defiance, which became her habit."

"I think I have improved her vastly. Indeed, I think a happy marriage is more conducive to real beauty than all the cosmetics and arts known to the best modistes the world has ever produced."

"A pure, true, and reciprocated conjugal love, that runs so smoothly that even the roughest surfaces of life, over which it moves, awaken no ripples upon its current, will cause the eyes to sparkle, the cheeks to glow, and the lips to ripen with happiness, while the glad voice will ring with melody. Reverse the conditions, and the converse of the proposition becomes an axiom."

"Gus, I don't believe you're pleased with me, but I don't care. I'm glad to see you smile, and your voice is hard."

"Well, pet, you mustn't be angry, will you?" "How should I know?" "Then, to come to the point, and talk plainly, I think it will not do at all for Mrs. Jones to remain an inmate of our house."

"Now it's my turn to say 'why?' "Because we have a reputation to maintain, in keeping with the dignity of our position. It will not be pleasant for me if the world of society discovers that we have a grass widow in the family, who is my sister."

"Don't you believe she's a worthy woman?" "Certainly I do!" "Would you be ashamed to countenance her if she were not your sister?" "Oh, no. It would not be the world's business then."

"Is it any concern of the public, as it were?" "Would make against my reelection?" "Colonel Augustus Marblehead? Would you be willing that the world should know how selfish you are?" "It is dignitary good necessity."

"Do you value my good opinion?" "He was astonished." "Why don't you talk?" "Because I've nothing to say. I've a reputation to be built by my own efforts. I have enough to do to look after myself. I never had anything to my credit, but what I earned myself."

"But that doesn't release you from a moral obligation to assist your sister, who has been robbed by laws for which she alone is responsible, of all the earnings of her life, thus far?" "That's not my affair."

"I ought to be." "The fact is, pet, the law recognizes the husband and wife as one, and that one the husband. Martha ought to have been in better luck!" "Augustus Marblehead, pride of my life, and love of my soul—I'm sorry to say it—but I'm ashamed of you. You wouldn't dare to go before the world and confess the narrow selfishness even to your weaned-and-crimed, even to have here admitted to me. Neither would you have been induced to say such a thing to me if we had not been married. Don't lower yourself in my estimation, I beg. I wouldn't think ill of you for the world, but you'll compel me to if you don't stand by your sister. You ought to be ashamed of any law that recognizes and enforces such barbarism as you have described. Were I a man, I'd never rest a minute till all such one-sided justice was repealed."

"What?" "What?"

The New Northwest

"What would you have me to do?" "Allow me to install your sister in our house as our honored guest and friend. We are in a position to place her in the best society, and help her to get an honorable release from the bondage that has withered and warped her very existence."

"And would you thus feed the tongues of gossip?" "We can by this means best still them, dear. Do you think the public is ignorant of the fact that she is your sister?"

"I think she is very little known." "Then you are very much deceived. The private history of all persons in public positions becomes public property."

"Then I don't want any public position." "Again you make me ashamed of you." "Don't talk that way, please."

"Then don't give me cause to do so." "It was fortunate that these married lovers that the door-bell rang and voices were announced, else I should be compelled, right here and now, to chronicle their first quarrel. But Colonel Marblehead gained his point. Men always do in such cases, for the might is theirs."

There was something in the appearance of one of the callers, who gave his name as Martin Page, that seemed to the Colonel strangely familiar, and he was not surprised to hear his wife say, when formally introduced:

"I must have met you somewhere. I don't know but I have dreamed of you, sir."

Yet he did not express his own opinion. Evidently he had good reason for considering the intruder a stranger.

"Are you recently from the East?" he asked, in a careless way. "No. I am a forty-niner, just in from the Salmon River mines. Came to see you on important business. Should like a private interview."

The little wife took the hint and politely excused herself. Entering Martha's room, the guest chamber overhead, and throwing herself exultantly into a chair, she exclaimed:

"Sister, I believe the very atmosphere of this house is bewitched. I'm sure I've seen the man in my dreams who is in the parlor now holding private conference with Gus, and his visit bodes no good to you."

"Do you mean that little fellow, with black whiskers and overgrown joints, who came on the walk a while ago?" "Yes."

"How do you know that?" "By the disagreeable way that the very thought of him affects me. I am sensible of a shuddering, shivering sensation whenever anybody from Tom's atmosphere enters my presence. No matter if I cannot see them, I can feel their presence all the same."

"But what does Tom want of you?" "A divorce."

"Of course you'll grant it!" "I do not know."

"He may demand a divorce upon a false charge. In that case I will resist it to the bitter end." "I wouldn't."

"Well, we're foolish to be arguing thus concerning that of which we really know nothing. I dread to meet that fellow, and yet I know I must."

from her sympathy. It was near the close of an autumn day, and she was busily engaged in washing the supper dishes, when the postman came, bearing a letter that had an official look. Upon opening it her eyes were riveted to a document bearing the court seal of Multnomah, declaring her divorced from Thomas Jones, and her name changed to Marblehead. The news was too good to be true, she thought. Such luck had never come to her before.

But, on reading further, her heart stood still. "You are to yield the four children to the care of their father, who will send for them at once. The court decides that the father is their legal custodian. Have them ready for the journey by the fifteenth proximo."

"Have them ready to go where? O, my God! I'd rather drown them than give them up!" she exclaimed. Then, with dry eyes and nervous demeanor she went about her duties, feeling that hope was dead and expectation a disaster.

Catherine of Arragon. There is scarcely a character in English history around which more of interest clings than that of Catherine, the first wife of Henry VIII. And the one who gives his attention to this lady's unhappy story, yields her all the more of his sympathy, inasmuch as her misfortunes are so manifestly innocent through any fault or indiscretion of her own.

Catherine was the fourth daughter of Ferdinand of Arragon and Isabella of Castile, whose names are inseparably linked with that of Columbus, the discoverer of America. In her fifteenth year she was united in marriage with Arthur, Prince of Wales and son of Henry VII. Her youthful husband was but a boy of fourteen, and some months younger than herself.

After various negotiations, in which Henry VIII. managed to make a good bargain with the Spanish monarch, the marriage was pronounced in London. Henry, her brother-in-law, now heir apparent to the throne, was much younger than herself, and as the marriage could not be solemnized until he had reached the age of majority, she was retained during the years of waiting as a hostage of the good faith of Spain.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER. TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW NORTHWEST: There is no day more interesting, in some respects, in Congress than that on which adjournment takes place, and Saturday last was no exception.

The eagles hold arrows and olive branches in their talons, and a wreath of oak and laurel encircles the lower portion of the coin. Only a very small number of the dollars have been struck, and these are only specimens, but the demand for them from collectors is very great, ten dollars having been refused for one.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21, 1877. Women's Rights in Law. THE PROPERTY AND OTHER RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.

In Maine a married woman may become possessed of real or personal property by bequest, demise, gift or purchase in her own name and as her own property.

Before marriage she still retains the custody of the property owned by her before marriage, and the same is exempt from liability for the debts of her husband.

She may sue in her own name to recover back her separate property. In New Hampshire a married woman can hold property in her own name, and be sued, and can dispose of her property by will, and in case of her death without a will, her husband is excluded from any share in her estate.

A will requires three witnesses. In Vermont a married woman is entitled to the same rights of property as in New Hampshire. Wills require three subscribing witnesses.

In Massachusetts a married woman may hold property separate from her husband without the intervention of a trustee. A deed conveying land to a married woman must be recorded within ninety days of its delivery, or the land will be liable for the husband's debts.

Any married woman over twenty-one years of age may dispose of her property by will, provided her husband's consent is endorsed on the will in writing. If the devise is to her husband, his consent is not necessary.

Wills must be signed in presence of three subscribing witnesses. In Rhode Island a married woman is entitled to her separate estate, which is not liable for her husband's debts, nor can be controlled by the use of it.

She may dispose of it by will in presence of three subscribing witnesses. In Connecticut the wife is entitled to her separate estate which she owns before marriage.

The proceeds of a property granted to her after marriage are held by the husband as trustee for her and her children, but his executors must account for the same. With the consent of her husband she may dispose of her property by will, which must be signed in the presence of three witnesses.

In New York a married woman has absolute control of her separate estate, and is entitled to demand a conveyance of any property held in trust for her, provided she has a simple title to the same. She has a right to deposit money in a bank in her own name, and draw out the same by check.

A will requires but two attesting witnesses. In New Jersey the separate property of the wife is not liable for the debts of her husband.

Wills must be signed in presence of two subscribing witnesses. In Pennsylvania the separate property of any married woman, owned by her before marriage, or which she has become the owner of after marriage, is free from any liability except for her own debts, and then not until the creditor fails to obtain the amount of debt from the husband's estate.

If, however, judgment is obtained against the husband for the wrongful act of the wife, the creditor may then levy on the wife's separate property before he can levy on the husband's.

Wills must be in writing and signed by the testator, or by some one at his request, and must be proven by two competent witnesses.

real or personal, belonging to a woman before marriage continues after marriage to have a separate estate, and not liable for her husband's debts, and not liable for her husband's debts.

Wills must be in writing, signed by the testator, or some one at his request, and must be witnessed by two persons of legal age in his presence.

In Florida married women are entitled to all the property owned by them previous to marriage, and all that they may become possessed of after marriage.

A will must be in writing, signed by the testator, or by some one in his presence, and must be witnessed by three competent witnesses, who must subscribe the same in the presence of the testator.

The law in Alabama, as to married women's separate estate, is the same as that of Texas. It is not liable for her husband's debts.

Wills must be in writing, signed by the testator, or by some one in his presence, and must be witnessed by three competent witnesses.

In Mississippi married women have the same rights as to their separate property as is given by the law of Texas.

Wills must be in writing, signed by the testator in the presence of three subscribing witnesses.

By the Louisiana laws a married woman is entitled to her separate property, which is not liable for her husband's debts.

Wills must be signed by the testator in presence of three witnesses, and in presence of a notary. It may be signed by the testator, or some one in his presence, and then handed to a notary and acknowledged by the testator to be his will, in presence of the notary and seven witnesses, who must all endorse their names on the envelope.

In Arkansas the separate property of the wife is not liable for the debts of the husband.

Wills must be signed by the testator, or by some one at his request, and must be witnessed by two witnesses, who must subscribe their names to the will.

In Tennessee the separate estate of any married woman cannot be made liable for her husband's debts.

Wills must be in writing, signed by the testator, or some one in his presence at his request, and subscribed to by two witnesses.

In Kentucky the right of the married woman to her separate estate is the same as in Tennessee.

Wills must be executed the same as in Tennessee.

In Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan the separate property of the wife is free from liability for the debts of the husband.