

BY MISADVENTURE

BY

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CHAPTER I.

My name is Keene—Anthony Keene. I am a lawyer; sixty-four years is my age. You may see what kind of man I am by my portrait; not over pleasant with anyone.

George Flexmore and I were friends. He was my first client when I set up in Coneyford, a small town just large enough at that time, as I believed, to keep a lawyer of his own; there are a couple of us now, and we have as much to do as we need. Flexmore had just then come into a fortune and he did not know what to do with it. I prevented him from losing it, as he certainly would have done without proper direction, for he was an easy-going man, of a credulous disposition, such as your needy adventurer and shifty speculator love to take in hand. For every man that has money there are ninety-nine who are anxious to spend it for him.

"If any one asks you for money, Flexmore," said I, "don't refuse him; send him to me." And he did so, with this result—he never lost a penny by these good-natured friends.

He had a great respect for me—more than I deserved doubtless. He seemed to think that whatever I did must be right, and I believe it was the sheer force of example that kept him out of matrimony so long; because I did not care to take a wife, he thought it best to keep single. But the conditions were different. I am not an easy-going man, and marriage would have been purgatory for me or my wife, and the result must have been equally bad for both of us in either case. But Flexmore had nothing to do from morning to night that might not very well be set aside to attend to the wants of somebody else. He saw that he ought to have some other object in life than to eat and sleep and kill time—that his life was incomplete in fact. But he still made pretense of being content with a bachelor's existence.

One day I caught him singing his old song, "When a man's single he lives at his ease," but in such a lugubrious strain that it would have made me laugh if it had not irritated me.

"That's humbug, Flexmore," said I, "and you know it. A man's happiness consists in making other people happy—unless he's a lawyer. You're not a lawyer, and you ought to be making somebody happy. You'd be more at your ease if you had somebody else to think about, and somebody else to think about you."

"Do you mean that I ought to marry, Tony?" he said, blushing like a girl.

"That is exactly what I do mean, George. There's little Miss Vaughan, who has been waiting to be asked these three years; there are dozens of girls to be chosen from."

"Do you think she would have me?" he interrupted eagerly.

"Well, the best way of deciding that point is to go and ask her this afternoon," said I.

The result of this advice was that Flexmore married Miss Vaughan just six weeks after.

She was much younger than he, as a wife should be. A happier couple I never saw. He lived to please her, and she to please him—that was the chief object of their lives.

A year after their marriage they had a child, and a nice fuss they made about it. She grew up a pleasant little thing, shy and timid, with a clinging affection for lovable persons and things. I never saw anything like the passionate attachment that existed between her and her sweet-tempered mother. Poor Mrs. Flexmore had never been a robust person, and—well, to cut short a story that is too painful to dwell upon, she died when little Laure was eleven years old.

Flexmore was then sixty-two, but he was not too old to suffer. The loss unmanned him completely. He took on like a woman; and he would have been less a man if he had not, perhaps.

"My poor old friend," said I, "it would have been better to let you live on an old bachelor."

"No, no," he replied. "After such happiness an eternity of suffering would find me still a gainer."

"You have your child—your little Laure," said I; and then, to turn his thoughts from the past, I talked about the future, and what he should do for the child's welfare. Indeed the child's grief gave me almost as much concern as the father's. It was not a passionate outburst, that spends itself like a summer shower and gives place to peace and smiles, but a continued fruitless yearning for that loved one to come back who was gone forever.

"You must have a woman here to comfort her," I said to Flexmore.

He agreed to this, and sent for his deceased brother's widow, who had married again and been a second time left a widow, as being his nearest female relative, and she came readily enough—a woman of fifty, hard as nails, and stringy as an old crow. She looked upon little Laure's distress as unnatural in a child, and her morbid condition as the result of defective education; and she set about correcting all this by setting the little thing to read some instructive and moral books which no conceivable creature could find interest or pleasure in.

After she had been there three days Dr. Awdrey had to be sent for. Laure was feverish and couldn't hold herself up properly." Dr. Awdrey ordered her to be put to bed at once, gave directions respecting treatment, and sent physic to be administered every two hours.

Mrs. Yeames had studied medicine from a shilling handbook that she carried with her as if it were an amulet; she diluted the physic and administered doses when she thought fit. Little Laure was very much worse when the doctor called the next day; and it was not long before he discovered the reason. He came down into the library where I was sitting with Flexmore.

"Your child is in a very dangerous condition," he said firmly.

"Heaven have mercy upon me!" exclaimed my old friend, clasping his hands. "What's to be done?"

"She must have a proper nurse, to begin with," said Dr. Awdrey. "I can get you one whom I can rely on implicitly, and who can do more than all my physic for the poor child. She is in the hospital for little children at London, and I believe she would come at once if I asked her."

"Then for mercy's sake, telegraph for her at once."

When the doctor was gone Flexmore in some embarrassment turned to me.

"It will never work, Tony," said he despondently. "The nurse will never be able to put up with Mrs. Yeames."

"Yes; she's turned the whole place upside down in putting things in order, and left not a bit of comfort anywhere."

"Yes, yes; all the things that my darling loved she has packed away—the little trifles with which she made these rooms so bright and pleasant. I can't bear to see the place altered; and those trifles, Tony, I miss them—I miss them."

"We'll have 'em all back again in twenty-four hours."

"I asked her to come and live here. How can I get rid of her?"

"Don't bother about that, George. You leave her to me. Give me full authority to act in your behalf, and stick to my directions."

He gave me his word most impressively that he would. I went into the sitting room and sent at once for Mrs. Yeames. Then we had it out. She was a tough one to deal with, but not nearly so tough as I am. I tried to be polite, but I fear I insulted her. She certainly said I did, and went into the library to know if her brother-in-law would tolerate such a want of respect on the part of a mere attorney; and the question being put directly to Flexmore whether she or I were to leave that house at once and forever, he replied that he felt convinced, taking all things into consideration, that he could better afford to lose her than me.

After that there was nothing for the indignant widow to do but to pack up and pack off—which she did, happily, before her fury gave place to more prudential considerations.

CHAPTER II.

I expected to see a comely, motherly, middle-aged woman, and was taken altogether by surprise when Nurse Gertrude presented herself in the person of a slight young woman of twenty-two or thereabouts.

Of course I am no judge of female beauty, but I don't think Nurse Gertrude at that time could be considered handsome, or even very pretty. If I have any predilection, it is for large women with round, full figures; and I think I rather like a saucy eye and a nice little turned-up nose.

Now Nurse Gertrude, though by no means short, was, as I have said, slight and thin. She had a very delicate, fair complexion and pretty, dark hair, to be sure; but her nose was long, and her eyes were by no means saucy, but calm and deep and thoughtful. Her expression was cheerful, and she had a pretty trick of blushing, but in repose her face was full of intelligence and solicitude. One could not look at her without being impressed with the belief that she was essentially a pure and honest girl, with a very earnest purpose, an amiable disposition, and a clear-seeing, right-feeling mind. Her eyes were so true and frank and loyal, that one was attracted towards her as to a friend whose fidelity and love could never be doubted.

One thing struck me, and this was that in some peculiarity—I know not what—she bore a resemblance to Mrs. Flexmore as I had known her in her younger days. And this seemed also to have struck Flexmore, for more than once I saw him, forgetful of the table, looking at her with the tenderest interest on his poor old woe-begone face.

"Oh, I see how this will end," said I to myself. "He'll marry that girl if she'll have him."

Mrs. Yeames, like an old buzzard that has missed its prey, hovered about the neighborhood, watching the quarry with the jealous intention of preventing any other creature of her own species clawing up what she had failed to secure. She took a cottage at the other end of the town and joined a clique of ladies famous for their ability in picking to pieces the reputation of a fellow-Christian.

Meanwhile Nurse Gertrude fulfilled her duties with the calm self-possession of one conscientiously doing what she feels to be right. What she had come there to do, she did—and as if by magic. With Dr. Awdrey's help she got the fever under in a week, and after that she brought a smile back to the poor child's wasted face, which was of still greater importance; for when one can smile, one can eat and enjoy food. She gave little Laure something to love, and nourished her heart with kindness. That was what

she needed; that was what she got. She had been craving for love since her mother was taken away, and must have died without it, as surely as a plant must die without sunlight.

But how was she to be weaned of this love-food in order that Nurse Gertrude might in time return to her hospital? Every day her appetite grew by what it fed on. All the clinging affection she had borne to her mother she now exhibited towards Nurse Gertrude. The child had recognized the likeness that had struck me; mother and nurse alike, in some respects, were still of the same type of woman—and an excellent type, too. After a time it became obvious that Laure was not to be weaned and that to take away Nurse Gertrude would inflict the same terrible suffering the child had endured in losing her mother. Thereupon there were consultations between Flexmore, Dr. Awdrey and me.

"It is obvious that Nurse Gertrude is very strongly attached to your child," said Dr. Awdrey.

"She is not unhappy here; she looks better than when she came," said Flexmore.

"Oh, undoubtedly she is better," Dr. Awdrey agreed. "The confinement of the hospital and the air of London were telling upon her—in fact, I must admit that in recommending her I was influenced by the consideration that the change would be to her advantage as well as your daughter's."

"If she would only consent to stay here as a companion to dear Laure—in any capacity, on any terms!" said Flexmore. "Do you think she would?"

"Go and ask her," said I.

She was asked; but Dr. Awdrey was the negotiator, for Flexmore had not the courage of a mouse. And Nurse Gertrude acquiesced—setting aside all other considerations for the sake of the child whose love had won her heart. So Dr. Awdrey put it; for my own part I could not see what sacrifice she had made in exchanging a close hospital ward for a pleasant and airy house, and an ill-paid slavery for a very remunerative position where she was free to do just as she liked. No; I looked upon it that the young lady, together with other very good qualities, had a very clear perception of her duty to herself, and that she foresaw as plainly as I did that sooner or later she would become Mrs. Flexmore.

However, to stick to the facts of the case; that day Nurse Gertrude came down to dinner without the becoming little cap which had previously distinguished her as an official nurse; and if we had come to think her pretty in her cap, we were bound to admit that she looked still nicer without it—her pretty hair drawn neatly up and coiled plainly on her head.

We have a flower show in our town once a year. The first day is the best, of course, and the prices excluding the poorer kind of people, only the upper sort are there. There was a rumor that titled visitors were staying with the Caselys, and that probably they would visit the show in the afternoon; wherefore you may be sure that Mrs. Yeames and her "superlah" set were all there in full feather.

About three o'clock I saw Miss Dalrymple come in with Laure; she never missed an occasion of giving pleasure to the child, or of taking it herself for that matter. She was plainly dressed; but, to my mind, there was no more elegant young lady there. Mrs. Yeames with three of her finest friends stopped them, and with the most distant patronizing inclination of their heads to Miss Dalrymple, bent down to kiss Laure, and ask after her poor, dear papa. Then Mrs. Yeames, taking the child's hand, led her to a bank of cut flowers, asking her whether she could spell the labels attached.

In the midst of this instructive display of her own acquirements, there was a flutter amongst the visitors, and word was whispered that Mrs. Casely had arrived and had brought Lord Dunover with her. And there, sure enough, was Mrs. Casely with a tall, white-haired, aristocratic old gentleman, coming right down upon the little party. There was not time to get away from little Laure and that horrid nurse Gertrude, when Mrs. Casely met them and introduced his lordship. Dunover bowed stiffly, but suddenly catching sight of Miss Dalrymple, his face became illumined with a smile of heart-felt pleasure, and exclaiming, "What, Gertrude, my dear, you here!" he took her by both hands and kissed her pretty lips. Then turning to Mrs. Casely, he said:

"Mrs. Casely, let me introduce you to my niece—a little democrat who almost shakes my class prejudice, for she prefers independence as a hospital nurse to sharing the fallen fortunes of her family."

Then it was known that Miss Dalrymple was actually the niece of an earl. And she and Laure spent a week at Casely Manor, where Mrs. Yeames and her "superlah" set had never been allowed to stay longer than half an hour.

(To be continued.)

First Aid.

A Washington doctor was recently called to his telephone by a colored woman formerly in the service of his wife. In great agitation the darky advised the physician that her youngest child was in a bad way.

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked the doctor.

"Doc, she done swallowed a whole bottle of ink."

"I'll be over there in a short while to see her," said the medico. "In the meantime, have you done anything for her?"

"I done give her three pieces o' blotin' paper, doc," said the negress doubtfully.—Harper's Weekly.

No Arctic explorers have ever had colds until they returned to civilization. Then, one and all, they are prostrated by severe influenza.

UNITED STATES NOW WEALTHIEST NATION.

Treasury Figures Show that the Per Capita Is in Excess of \$1,310.

VAST GROWTH OF FINANCES.

Money in Circulation on Jan. 30 Last Was Nearly \$3,000,000,000.

Major Alfred R. Qualffe, vault clerk of the United States treasury, who has charge of Uncle Sam's money, called my attention the other day to the almost incredible growth of the business of the Treasury Department since he came into the service, forty-two years ago, and he furnished me with some very interesting and rather startling comparisons, writes William E. Curtis, the Washington correspondent. For example, the wealth of the country, which, of course, has kept pace with the transactions of the treasury, is three and one-half times greater to-day than it was in 1870. The total then was \$30,068,518,000. The estimated total to-day, based upon the census reports and information received by the Agricultural Department, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency, is \$107,104,211,917.

The wealth per capita of citizens of the United States, based upon similar estimates, has increased from \$779.83 in 1870 to \$1,310.11 in 1907, which makes the United States, with its enormous population, the richest country in the world.

The money in circulation has increased four-fold since Major Qualffe came into the treasury. The total in 1870 was \$675,212,704, while on Jan. 30, 1907, it was \$2,914,342,256. The circulation per capita has almost doubled, notwithstanding the present money famine, and has increased from \$17.50 to \$33.86 during the last forty-two years.

When Major Qualffe came into the cash room we had only \$25,000,000 in gold; to-day we have \$756,635,899 in gold coin in the treasury alone, not counting that in circulation and hoarded away.

Uncle Sam's working capital on Dec. 14, 1907, amounted to \$1,756,491,494.31—all of which is hard cash. Of this amount \$1,253,705,869, in coin is held on deposit to secure the payment of \$756,635,899 gold certificates, \$471,325,000 silver certificates, and \$5,515,900 treasury notes outstanding. The treasury reserve, which is kept by law, amounts to \$150,000,000. The cash balance available to pay the current expenses of the government on Dec. 14 was \$259,762,809.65.

Uncle Sam does not keep all of his money in Washington, although there is a good deal of it here. The remainder is scattered among the different subtreasuries, mints and national bank depositories as follows:

Treasury, Washington	\$175,971,844.79
Subtreasury, New York	270,623,997.87
Subtreasury, Baltimore	16,027,023.41
Subtreasury, Philadelphia	18,968,820.00
Subtreasury, Boston	19,928,271.90
Subtreasury, Cincinnati	13,417,882.59
Subtreasury, Chicago	55,083,802.72
Subtreasury, St. Louis	18,000,862.40
Subtreasury, New Orleans	23,650,620.80
Subtreasury, San Francisco	33,430,083.79
Mint, Philadelphia	354,178,511.72
Mint, Denver	58,370,907.19
Mint, New Orleans	33,392,871.34
Mint, San Francisco	322,483,714.10
Assay office, New York	79,858,325.27
National banks	246,284,453.69
Treasury Philippine Islands	3,795,899.59
In transit between offices	496,789.45

In addition to the working balance and the reserve, there is a total of \$811,736,128 in bonds in the vaults at Washington, of which \$633,535,970 is to secure circulation of national banks and \$178,200,158 to secure deposits in national banks. An additional sum of \$103,751,389 is deposited for similar purposes in the subtreasuries of New York and San Francisco, making a total of \$915,487,518 of other people's money in Uncle Sam's charge.

Flexner Transfers Vital Organs.

A paper read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the University of Chicago reveals the fact that Dr. Simon Flexner of New York City has succeeded in transplanting arteries from one animal to another successfully. The experiments have thus far been confined exclusively to the lower animals, but the favorable results in this field are believed to point the way to a successful application of the practice to human beings.

Ships to Use Gyroscopes.

It is reported that the Hamburg-American line, having bought the German rights of the Schlich gyroscope, intends to equip all its North Sea and channel boats with the apparatus, which it is expected will keep the ship steady in the roughest weather. The gyroscope will be located at the stern of the vessel.

LIQUOR UNDER BAN.

In Eighty Cities of the United States Prohibition Now Rules.

Under the strong tide of prohibition, which has so impressively demonstrated its power in Southern States, the "dry" area in America has been doubled in the last twelve months. Eighty cities in seventeen States are now enforcing prohibition laws on their 2,200,000 inhabitants, and of these eighty municipalities, thirty-three "went dry" in 1907. Some come under general prohibition statutes, as the Georgia cities, but many of them have voted dry under the provisions of a local option law.

Additions to the list of dry cities during 1907 include: Alabama—Anniston, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery and Selma. California—Berkley, Georgia—Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Brunswick, Columbia, Macon and Savannah. Illinois—Champaign, Jacksonville, Urbana. Indiana—Wagoner. Massachusetts—Haverhill, Lynn, Worcester. North Carolina—Asheville, Raleigh. Ohio—East Liverpool. Oklahoma—Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, Enid. Tennessee—Clarksville, Jackson, Knoxville. Vermont—Burlington.

Particular watch has been kept on Atlanta to discover just how the much-discussed Georgia law operates there. This watch was kept by the Atlanta Constitution, which did not favor prohibition, and that paper's testimony is believed to be unbiased.

In a special story the Constitution admits that the elimination of whiskey has "worked a revolution in the city's worst quarter, and as is almost invariably the case, the police records show that the public is actually saving money by the operation of the "dry" statute. In Atlanta, on January 4, 1907 when the high license law was in effect, there were sixty-three police cases, thirty-two of which were connected with drunkenness. On January 4, 1908, just eight days after the dry law went into effect, there were just seventeen police cases in Atlanta, not one being for drunkenness.

These facts will be used in arguments being brought to bear on Congress for legislation to make the District of Columbia dry and to forbid such interstate commerce which will dump "original package" liquor into prohibition territory.

Harlan Prophecies Race War.

That there will eventually be a conflict between the yellow and the white races that will shake the earth is the opinion of Justice Harlan of the United States Supreme Court, as expressed in an address before the Navy League at Washington. He said: "If I had the opportunity I would vote for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 a year for a period of ten years for a larger navy. There is no such thing as friendship between nations as between men. Nations make no sacrifice to preserve friendships, and do not forbear to do certain things because they do not meet with the approval of other nations. We refer to the people of Asia as the yellow race. There are 400,000,000 Chinese as strong mentally and physically as we are. We have no hostility toward them, but there will be a conflict between the yellow race and the white race that will shake the earth. When it comes I want to see this country with a navy on both oceans that will be strong enough."



In the agricultural districts of Italy wages are only 30 cents a day for a man, and less for women and boys.

The threatened strike of marine engineers at Honolulu has been averted by the acceptance of a proposition to arbitrate grievances.

The International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgemen has instructed a representative to visit the isthmus in the interests of the organization.

The California State labor convention has passed resolutions strongly condemning President Roosevelt and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Metcalf for their attitude in relation to Japanese.

At the Scottish miners' conference at Glasgow it was stated that wages had increased by 1s 6d a day, in some instances by 2s. The average wage now is 37s 6d a week, and it was determined that that should be the minimum.

Arthur W. Clark of Roxbury, Mass., former president and organizer of the grocery and provision clerks, has been named as the New England organizer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union.

On Jan. 1, 1907, there were 25,714 cooperative societies in existence in Germany, with a total membership of 3,800,143, the corresponding totals for a year being 24,652 and 3,658,537. The large majority of these were credit associations, with an aggregate membership of over 2,000,000.

One of the first fruits of the railway settlement in England is the action of the Midland Railway Company's order relating to Sunday duty. In a certain limited sense a six-day week is established; the grades required to work seven days a week are to receive extra pay for Sunday duty.