

A DOCTOR'S MISSION

BY EMILY THORNTON

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CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

"Things began to mend with him after this and business prospered, and before six years passed away, speculation had so enriched him that he found himself the possessor of millions. Retiring then to private life, he bought this place in Yonkers, in order to enjoy himself in a quiet way. But ill health visited him; a stroke of paralysis rendered one side comparatively helpless, while the asthma, which he had been subject to for many years, increased to an alarming extent.

"During all this time one wild wish has been his, and that was to solve the mystery of his brother's fate, and so clear his own good name of the unjust suspicions that still cling to it. Lately this wish has become uncontrollable. He prays that he may not die with this stain still clinging to his name. He has therefore decided to ask you to undertake the case for him."

"But," here interrupted the amazed listener, "there must be some mistake. I am no lawyer, simply a physician; and as such, what can I do?"

"Everything. We think far more than a lawyer," replied Mr. Gray. "Of course, you would have to sell your practice in New York and settle in England. There you, as a growing physician, would gain the confidence of the people. You would be admitted to places where no one else would, and could study the characters of rich and poor.

"Sir Reginald Glendenning married, two years after the disappearance of his brother, the same lady who was to have been his bride, Miss Constance, and they now occupy Glendenning Hall. You will probably be called to attend their family, and so can see the room where poor

of the hour, but at the breakfast table he met her.

"Good morning, my son," she said, pleasantly, on his entrance; "so you have returned in safety!"

"I have; and in a pecuniary point of view, the visit brought a great change for the better. From this day I am to receive five thousand dollars annually, as I have entered into an engagement to that effect."

"My dear Earle, you do surprise me!" "This engagement obliges me to sell my practice, and sail in about one week to settle in a country village in England."

"Oh, Earle!"

"Mother, dear, you shall have your choice now; whether to accompany me at once, or allow me to board you at your brother's in this city for a few months, until I survey the ground, and fully establish myself. In case you remain, I can any time come for you, after I see whether it will be a permanent home. Perhaps I shall not care to remain after a few months."

"Earle, I dread the ocean, and I shall dread a foreign home. Perhaps I had best remain, as you say."

By the close of the week Mrs. Elfenstein was comfortably established in a room furnished with her own familiar things, while the son succeeded in disposing of the rest, as well as his practice, and had engaged a passage on the Oceanica.

A short visit was then paid to Mr. Rappelye, who gave him full directions how to proceed, and many minute details of the place and inhabitants. Promising to write weekly, keeping him informed of every movement, the young man a few hours later was upon the outward bound

matter with my aunt. Do you think there is a physician on board?"

"I am one myself. My name is Elfenstein, of New York. Shall I see her?"

"If you will be so kind."

Stepping inside, our young friend advanced immediately to the berth, where he found Mrs. Nevergall in a fainting condition, caused by extreme exhaustion. With the greatest sympathy, the doctor at once applied proper restoratives, which fortunately had the desired effect, and soon the young girl's fears were calmed.

"Your aunt is better now, and I think immediate danger has passed. But I will not deceive you; her case is beyond human skill to cure."

"I know it, doctor, and she also is well aware of her condition. My uncle died in New York a few months ago, and in taking care of him she contracted the cold that has ended in consumption. Our family physician thought she might live to reach the only relatives we have on earth, residing in Liverpool and vicinity. Do you think, doctor, that she will survive until our passage is made?"

"I trust so. Good nursing often accomplishes more than medicines. We will do all we can. Our staterooms are fortunately near each other, so any time that I can be of service, do not hesitate to inform me," said the doctor, as he bowed and left the narrow quarters.

One afternoon as Earle was standing upon deck, looking out upon the vast ocean, he became conscious that a light step had approached and halted quite near. It was Miss Nevergall. While hesitating to consider whether his presence would be acceptable to her, an exclamation of terror startled him, and glancing toward the spot where she stood, he saw that she was striving to steady herself, being dizzy from a sudden lurch of the steamer. Springing to her side, he instantly offered his arm, saying, as she gratefully accepted it:

"Allow me to assist you to a more quiet place, where motion will not be so perceptible."

"Thank you," returned the young girl. "I suppose I ought not to venture upon deck alone, unless as I am to the sea, but I am so completely fascinated by all this restless scene. Aunt is sleeping."

"I never look upon a scene like this," said Earle, thoughtfully, "without feeling my own littleness, when compared to the All-ruling hand that holds the bolws in its grasp, and rules the winds and storms. But it seems quite calm again. Will you not join me in a prome-



A FLASH OF LIGHTNING REVEALED A FRIGHTFUL SPECTACLE.

Sir Arthur met his sad fate, and can study the location of the place.

"For all this trouble Mr. Rappelye, as we will still call him, will pay you handsomely. Five thousand per annum shall be yours as long as he lives; and at his death you will, if successful, be munificently rewarded, as his will, still unsigned, can testify.

"Are you willing to serve him as he wishes? Will you undertake the task of clearing his good name of the foul aspersions cast upon it?"

There was a long pause, during which the pale face of the invalid seemed to grow a shade paler under his eager gaze. At length the silence was broken by Dr. Elfenstein, who said in a calm, steady tone:

"I will undertake it."

"Thank you," murmured the sick man, as he reached forth his hand to clasp that of his visitor. "For this your solemn pledge, I as solemnly promise to place in your hands, through my banker, the yearly sum of five thousand dollars, and I will also provide for your future, should my death occur before your task is completed. This will of mine is already dictated, and only awaits my signature. Mr. Gray, I will now summon Mrs. Stebbins and one of my servants to act as witnesses, while I write my name to my last will and testament."

Mrs. Stebbins and Harriet Bevier then placed their names opposite as witnesses to the solemn transaction, and again withdrew, after Mr. Rappelye had desired them to bid the coachman prepare to carry Dr. Elfenstein back to the depot, as he had declined passing the night with them.

"When shall you be ready to leave for England?" asked Mr. Rappelye, as he held his hand at parting.

"In about one week's time I think I can settle my own affairs, and arrange a home for my mother during my absence. I shall take the first steamer I can, and will come again to receive further instructions before I leave, if you wish it."

Thus ended an interview which was destined to be the cause of bringing to light events of the most startling character, the developments of which would place our hero amid scenes and circumstances so terrible and tragic in their nature that they have been foretold might have caused many moments of hesitation.

steamer. Surrounded by strangers, it is not a matter of surprise that a feeling of weariness and almost desolation crept over him. He turned away from his post of observation on deck and sought the more lively saloon. Taking a book from one of the tables, he affected to read.

Presently his eyes rested upon a middle-aged lady, who seemed in feeble health, as she leaned back languidly in an easy chair, while her pale face and attenuated figure spoke of prolonged sufferings, but a patient spirit. Her dark eyes continually wandered towards the door.

Dr. Elfenstein looked at her with increasing interest.

Suddenly a brighter look floated into the lady's eyes. Following the range of her vision, he was surprised at beholding the most perfect picture of youthful beauty he had ever yet beheld. It was all embodied in the person of a young girl of about twenty summers, who smilingly drew near. She spoke, and the melodious accents of her voice filled Earle with delight.

"Aunt Gertrude, are you weary? I stayed out longer than I intended, but I could not bear to lose sight of the faintest speck of the land we have left behind us. It has all disappeared now, and 'the sea, the sea, the deep blue sea,' at this moment is on every side, rising and sinking in all its beauty. Shall I lead you to your stateroom, auntie? Perhaps it would be as well for you to lie down before you become seasick and faint."

"I feel rather dizzy now, my love, and will take your advice."

Rising slowly, the feeble woman leaned on the strong young arm of her niece, and so passed to a stateroom quite near the one engaged by himself, and the young physician smiled contentedly, that they were to be close neighbors during the voyage.

Several days passed in rather an uneventful way, brightened occasionally by a glimpse of the young girl, whose name he found to be Ethel Nevergall.

One rough and stormy day was drawing to a close when, leaving the damp atmosphere of the deck, where he had passed a couple of hours watching the leaden sky and the storm-lashed waves, Dr. Elfenstein, in passing to his stateroom, was startled by a low cry of dismay coming from the room of Mrs. Nevergall, followed immediately by the pale, frightened face of her niece, who exclaimed:

"Oh, sir, something dreadful is the

nade? The fresh sea breeze will do you good after your confinement to the sick room of your invalid aunt."

Dr. Elfenstein found his young companion an intelligent and brilliant conversationalist. The fascination of her cultivated manners imperceptibly wove a feeling of intense admiration around his heart, of which he was ignorant, until too late to avert what, had he realized the mischief it would bring to future feelings, he would have made a duty at once to suppress.

(To be continued.)

Outwitting the Police.

Her Wolf von Schierbrand, for a long time chief correspondent of the Associated Press in Berlin, tells a story of his last weeks there. The Argonaut repeats the tale. Schierbrand had given information of a too intimate nature about the kaiser, and was ordered to leave.

The American ambassador secured a respite of two weeks for him, during which he could wind up his affairs, but he was a marked man, and the police shadowed him night and day.

At last he hit upon the expedient of placing a stuffed dummy of himself on the front porch, with its back toward the street, and while the police zealously watched the dummy he was daily slipping out by a side door and going unmolested about his business, disguised in a pair of blue goggles and an old slouch hat.

The manikin sat in the chair, with occasional interruptions, from nine in the morning till ten at night, and was pulled inside by a string at bedtime.

On the morning of Herr von Schierbrand's departure for the United States it was turned with its wooden face toward the street, displaying a small placard for the edification of the police, reading:

"Thanks; I'm off."

Eye to Economy.

Mother—Do you think that young man has matrimonial intentions, my dear? Daughter—I certainly do, mamma. He tried to convince me last night that I looked prettier in that two-dollar hat than in the one that cost twenty.—Judge.



Kinds of Corn to Raise.

The Iowa Agricultural College at Ames gives the following list of varieties of corn for the State:

Reid's Yellow Dent, average length 9 to 10 inches, average circumference 7 to 7½ inches, average time to mature 120 days; **Leaming**, average length 9 to 10 inches, average circumference 7 to 7½ inches, average time to mature 125 days; **Iowa Gold Mine**, average length 7½ to 8½ inches, average circumference 6½ to 7½ inches, average time to mature 125 days; **Legal Tender**, average length 9½ to 10½ inches, average circumference 7 to 8 inches, average time to mature 125 days; **Boone County White**, average length 9 to 10 inches, average circumference 7½ inches, average time to mature 130 days; **Silver Mine**, average length 8½ to 9½ inches, average circumference 7 to 7½ inches, average time to mature 120 days; **Calico**, average length 9 to 10 inches, average circumference 7 to 7½ inches, average time to mature 115 days.

These are the varieties that are generally grown in the State, although there are several other varieties in different localities in the State receiving favorable mention. Among the earliest of these are Longfellow's Yellow Dent, Farmers' Reliance, Pride of the North, and Minnesota No. 13; and among the later varieties, Mills County Prize, St. Charles White, Brown's Choice, Iowa Cropper, Iowa King, etc.

In our judgment the Boone County White Legal Tender, Leaming, and Mills County Prize are better adapted to the southern part of the State, say as far north as the Rock Island Railroad. Here again elevation must determine. The higher divides south of the Rock Island will not grow as early a corn as some of the river bottoms north of the Rock Island. The Gold Mine, Reid's Yellow Dent, Silver Mine, and Brown's Choice will do well in the territory between the Rock Island main line and the main line of the Illinois Central, while the earlier varieties are to be preferred north of that line and in the corresponding latitude east and west.

A Dirt-Hoisting Device.

Mr. J. H. Arthur, of Macon County, Missouri, writes to the St. Louis Republic as follows: "I send you a sketch of a device with which dirt can be hauled out of a well while digging or cleaning out. The same can be used for lowering brick or stone in walling a well. It is cheap and is far



better than a windlass. Take a post 14 feet long, set it in the ground 18 inches and fasten the top with guy wires, each 30 feet long. Make a triangle of pieces of 2x6 and bolt or hinge to the post. A screw eye is fastened at one end of the angle on which to hang a pulley and another is fastened at the foot of the post. A rope passed through these pulleys on which is placed a bucket completes the device, save a singletree to which a horse can be hitched. By placing the triangle high on the post the dirt may be unloaded in a wagon and drawn off out of the way."

How to Keep Milk Cool.

A good milk cooler on the gallery or under the shade of a tree is a pleasure during the summer to every housewife. It is so hard to keep milk at a low temperature during our hot summer weather. It is hot from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 in the evening. There is no place about the house that is cool enough unless we have a cooler.

Water tends to keep everything cool so long as it evaporates. Wrapping milk vessels in porous wet cloths will temper the hot air. The Mexicans cool all their drinking water in this way. A number of devices have been patented for keeping milk cool and are sold to people who cannot use ice in cooling milk while it is creaming. Milk must be kept at 60 or 70 degrees to cream well. Every housewife who troubles with milk during the summer and makes butter of any sort would do well to use one of these milk-cooling devices unless a hand separator is kept which creams the milk while it is hot and fresh.

For a Swampy Place in the Yard.

Many yards and lawns have low, wet or moist places, which it does not pay to drain, and in which ordinary plants will not grow. Such persons are to be envied, as they can have a class of flowers which are denied in their best form to others. For the wet spot use the Japanese and German iris, Montbretia, Heuchera, Sanguinea, Caladiums and Flaga. The soil can be well enriched by working in well-rotted manure and leaf-mould. They can be protected over winter by putting on brush first and covering it with straw.

A Good Grafting Wax.

For a good, all-around grafting wax, to be used for any purpose for which

such wax is used, try the following: Take four pounds of rosin, one pound of beeswax and one pint of linseed oil. Put these in an iron kettle, put over a slow fire and mix thoroughly while heating. Then pour in the mass some cold water and pull the wax with the hands until it is the color of light molasses candy—a light cream. Pull into the form of sticks and put away in a cool place until wanted for use. This wax is cheap and of the best quality, quite as good as that made from tallow in place of the linseed oil.

Rations for Horses.

The New York Farmer says the United States army feeds its cavalry and artillery horses 12 pounds of oats and 14 pounds of hay per day per 1,000 pounds of weight, and its mules 9 pounds of oats and 14 pounds of hay. The Wyoming station feeds its driving horses 21.25 pounds of alfalfa and 3.2 pounds of straw, and its carriage horses 10 pounds of oats and 12 pounds of hay per 1,000 pounds of horse per day.

The Boston fire company feeds its horses 9.33 pounds of grain and 18 pounds of hay, and the Chicago fire company feeds 4 pounds of oats and 15-pounds of hay, all per 1,000 pounds of weight, per day.

The Richmond (Va.) Express Company feeds its horses 4.67 pounds of corn, 5.33 pounds of oats, 8 pounds of bran, 4.16 pounds of corn meal, and 15 pounds of hay.

The Jersey City Express Company feeds 2 pounds of corn, 19 pounds of oats, 1.15 pounds of bran and 9.5 pounds of hay.

The Boston Express Company feeds 12 pounds of corn, 5.25 pounds of oats and 20 pounds of hay.

The Wyoming station feeds its farm horses 13.75 pounds of alfalfa and 2.25 pounds of straw per day.

The Utah station feeds its farm horses 25 pounds of alfalfa and 10 pounds of bran, or 22.8 pounds of timothy hay and 10 pounds of bran.

It will be noticed that at all these Western stations alfalfa hay is a preferred feed for farm horses.

At Chicago the daily rations of the draft horses of large companies is 7.5 pounds of oats and 20 pounds of hay, and in South Omaha 15 pounds of oats and 12 pounds of hay.

Early Peas.

The first crop usually planted in the farm garden is one of the earliest varieties of peas. On account of the hardness of the plant no amount of cold weather will do much injury after the peas are once up, but when planted extremely early a part of the seed will rot in the ground, causing many gaps in the row. Early in the season usually there is little nitrogen in the soil and the plants grow very slowly at first. A little nitrate of soda applied in the row at the time of sowing will hurry the growth of peas. The market value of the crop depends largely upon its earliness. The kinds which do not require bushing are most popular for farm use. The late kinds often do not produce a crop until warm weather comes, and for that reason are often attacked by blight, which may be prevented by spraying with Bordeaux mixture, same as for apple trees.

Cabbage Rot May Come from Seed.

Black rot has been very destructive upon cabbage and cauliflower in New York State, and any means of relief, even slight, will be welcomed by growers. Recent investigation by the station at Geneva have proven that the germs of the disease may be carried over winter on the dry seed, a fact previously doubted by scientists, and that these germs may produce the disease when inoculated into healthy plants. It is, therefore, a wise precaution to disinfect the cabbage seed, as removing one possible source of infection. This can be done very cheaply, easily and safely, by soaking the seed for fifteen minutes in corrosive sublimate solution, one to one thousand strength.

To String Barb Wire.

To string barb wire take two pieces 2x4, about 8 feet long; bore a hole through 1½ feet from the end, put the spool in between and run a broomstick through. Nail some strips across to hold them together. Start the wire from the underside of the spool. Then tie the rig to the wagon or fasten it anywhere and drive on. A man can also string out wire by hand this way, but when the spool gets small it will run heavy unless the rig is lifted up and let slide on the ends of the 2x4's back of the spool. If a man should not have 2x4 to make it out of he can use the stepladder.—A. S. Olsen, Surrey, N. D.

Damp Beds Bad for Pigs.

Damp bedding is bad for pigs and yet there are many pig raisers who neglect providing dry beds for their porkers. Sunshine is one of the best things that pigs can have and it is not always possible to obtain it. Some years we are woefully short on sunshine. Sometimes we have the sunshine and no way for the pigs to enjoy it. It requires some planning to construct a good brood house for pigs. Cold drafts are damaging to pigs and cause a great deal of mortality.

Handling Costly Eggs.

A chick hatched from an egg that cost 50 cents does not need coddling any more than a chick hatched from a 3-cent egg. In the anxiety to raise the costly chicks they are often petted to death. Give the chick the proper food, keep it comfortably warm and always dry and the mongrel hen will raise a high-grade chick quite as easily as she will one hatched from a store egg. Give the chicks a chance, but don't coddle 'em.

QUEER STORIES

The bamboo has been known to grow two feet in twenty-four hours.

Alaska has paid for its cost to the government twenty times over.

There are over ten million people in Italy who cannot read or write.

Every square mile of sea is estimated to contain some 120,000,000 fish.

The great bulk of chalk is composed of eight different species of tiny shells.

The wings of the house fly vibrate 335 times a second; those of the honey bee 440.

All the cork used in the world in a year weighs a little over one thousand tons.

To form a rainbow the sun must not be more than forty-two degrees above the horizon.

A rifle bullet is traveling at its greatest speed not as it leaves the muzzle, but at about ten feet in front of the muzzle.

It is often said that there are seventy thousand known criminals in London. The whole records of Scotland Yard do not contain in all so many names, and many of these have been dead for years.

It is estimated that the Eskimo population of Alaska, Labrador and Greenland has declined from thirty thousand to fifteen thousand in twenty years, owing to the thinning out of seal, bear and walrus.

Statistics have been completed recently which state that the average life of an English express locomotive is twenty-five years, of a local passenger engine twenty-five years, of a freight locomotive twenty-six years and of a switching engine twenty-seven years. The total mileage of an express passenger engine was fixed at from seven hundred thousand to one million miles, and for each of the other classes of engines a mileage of five hundred thousand to eight hundred thousand.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reputed to be subjected to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuego, save for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow. On a line running round the world from four to eight or nine degrees, there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along with it with very little rainfall.

OUR AMERICAN HUSBAND.

Some Observations as to His Alleged Characteristics by a Londoner.

An American young man does not, as a rule, look forward to marriage nor prepare for it by saving any considerable portion of his ante-nuptial income. When he marries it is usually on short notice and because he has fallen very desperately in love with some one and cannot find it in his heart to wait until cold caution declares the venture advisable. Even when an engagement is a long one he usually squanders so much on gifts and entertainments for his fiancée that there is only a very moderate amount to begin housekeeping on. Thus before his marriage the young American of the middle class begins to give evidence of what is to be his chief national characteristic as a husband—his unfeeling, selfish and almost improvident generosity.

The middle class husband in America rarely interferes with the affairs of the household. He hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food. As a rule he does not make his wife a regular allowance either for household or personal expenses, but gives her as much as he can spare freely, but with a lack of system that is not conducive to the best outlay of their income.

The young American husband is also very indulgent to his wife's fondness of fine clothes. He would far rather have an extravagant wife than a dowdy one, and although he grumbles occasionally at a millinery bill, in reality he glories in the resplendent appearance of his wife in her fine feathers. The American husband is rare who does not concede his wife's right to expend a much larger sum with her dressmaker than he does with his tailor. Indeed, he often leaves his tailor altogether and cheerfully repairs to the ready-made clothing house in order that his wife may have more money for extravagant finery.—London Telegraph.

Acquiring a Specimen.

Mrs. Franklin had always spoken her mind, and she intended to do it as long as the gift of speech was spared her. Her children and grandchildren knew her habit, and found it not always cheering.

"I'd like to have you tell me what induced Edith to fall in love with that young man I saw last night for the first time," said the old lady to one of her daughters.

"I think she was attracted to him at first because he's such an athletic fellow and such a splendid swimmer," the mother of Edith ventured feebly, after a moment's casting about in her mind for a satisfactory answer.

"Humph!" snorted Mrs. Franklin. "Which does she propose to keep him after she's married him—a gymnasium or an aquarium?"

If adversity does not crush a man prosperity will not spoil him.