

# THE PILLAR of LIGHT

... By ...  
**Louis Tracy,**  
Author of  
"The Wings of the Morning"  
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Edward J. Clode

"Nanette," he said, with utmost gentleness, "do not be distressed. Indeed there is no reason why our meeting should be painful. It is better that we should have a quiet talk than that we should part again in anger and bitterness."

She caught his hand in both of hers. Still she said nothing. Her large eyes gazed up at him as if she sought to read in his face the thoughts he might not utter, the memories he might not recall. Her lips distended. He saw her mouth twitching at the corners.

"Nanette," he said again, though his voice was not well under control and something rose in his throat and stifled him. "I appeal to you not to give way to emotion. You may become ill again—and I would never forgive myself."

Still clinging to his hand, she sank on her knees by his side. But there was no wild burst of tears. Her sorrow was too deep for such kindly aid.

"Stephen," she whispered faintly, "I cannot ask you to forget, but you have spoken of forgiveness. Can you forgive?"

He bent over and would have raised her. She clung to him with such energy that he desisted.

"My poor wife," he murmured, "who am I that I should deny that which I hope to obtain from my Creator?"

"But," she muttered in that unassuming whisper, "I treated you so vilely. I left you to join the man you had fought to save me. I deserted my husband and my child for the sake of the money he bequeathed to me. In the last of wealth I strove to crush you out of my heart. And now that God has humbled me I must humble myself. Stephen, I am not your wife. I obtained a divorce."

"Nanette," he cried, "I cannot bear to see you kneeling at my feet. I ask no revelations. I forgive you any wrong you may have done me fully and freely, as I hope to be forgiven."

She yielded to his pleading and allowed him to raise her. For an instant she was clasped to his breast.

"It would be happiness to die in your arms, Stephen," she said wildly. "I do not deserve it, I know, but heaven is merciful."

The dreadful idea possessed him that in her weak state this passionate wish might be granted.

"Nanette," he cried, "you must control yourself. If you will not promise to sit down and talk quietly I will leave you."

She obeyed him instantly.

"I don't care how much you scold me," she said, "but you must not go away. I meant to see you before I left Penzance. I came here that night. I looked through the window. I saw my daughter and her adopted sister listening to you and weeping because of a mother's shame. Then I must have lost my senses. I ran away. I remember nothing else until I woke up to find Constance caring for me—in your house."

He tried to break in upon the trend of her thought. This was by no means the line he had intended to pursue. His hope was to soothe and calm her, to part from her in amity and without giving her cause to deplore a loss of dignity.

"I am only too pleased that when illness overtook you you were committed to my care and to Constance. Poor girl! She thought you were dead."

"Did you tell her that?"

"No, but I allowed it to be assumed, which is the same thing."

"When did she know the truth?"

"In the hotel—after you left the room. I had to say something. It was better for you—that I should say you were my wife."

"So even in that trying moment you strove to shield me from unjust suspicions. Stephen, how could I have acted toward you as I did?"

Again he endeavored to lead her to talk of the future rather than the past.

"There is one great surprise in store for you," he said. "But it is a pleasant one in every way. Enid is Mr. Traill's daughter."

"I am glad," she said simply. "I do not understand, but you must tell me another time. Just now I can think only of you and of myself. You must listen, Stephen. I will do all that you demand, hide myself anywhere, but you must know everything. When we parted, when I deserted you to nurse a dying man, I was foolish and willful, but not wholly abandoned. Nor have I ever been. I was rich enough to gratify my whims, and for a time I lived in Paris, on the Riviera, in Florence and in Biarritz. But I was always meeting people who knew you, and, although my wealth and perhaps my good looks kept me in a certain set, I felt that our friends invariably took your side and despised me. That embittered me the more. At last your father died, and I saw some vague reference to your disappearance from society. I employed agents to trace you. They failed. Then I went to America and lived on a ranch in Nebraska, where I obtained a divorce from you on the ground of desertion. Desertion, Stephen! That was the plea I raised."

She gave a mocking little laugh. Brand, thinking it best to fall in with her mood, sat in silence on a chair which he had drawn close to the window. From his house he could see the wide sweep of Mount's bay. The

trinity tender was steaming out from the harbor. It struck him as an extraordinary fact that this was the day of his relief had he served his full two months on the rock.

Today by his own design the second era of his checkered career would have come to a peaceful close. Within a little while he would have taken Constance and Enid, if unmarried, on that long contemplated continental tour. But the hurricane came when "the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm," and the pillar, the refuge of his distress, became the center of influences destined to mold his life afresh.

What did it all mean? He bowed his face into his hands. He heard his wife's low, sweet voice continue:

"I lived there nearly six years. Then my manager died. He was an Englishman named Vansittart. Within a month his wife died. There was some fever about the place, and I became frightened. A longing for the old life seized me, and I went east, but not as Mrs. Brand, the name which I always bore in Nebraska. I had done with it and with you, as I thought—Constance never entered my mind save as a feeble memory—so I became Mrs. Etta Vansittart."

Brand raised his head and looked at her again. She was speaking now in a seriously subdued tone. She was giving evidence against herself and giving it truly.

"In Newport, Saratoga and the Adirondacks in summer, in New York during the winter, I lived in a drowsy content. People who take drugs must reach that state, but their condition is pitiable when they are aroused. Many men asked me to marry them, I laughed at the idea. At last I met Mr. Traill. We were friendly for quite five years. I came to Europe, to the Engadine, where I found that Mrs. Stephen Brand's troubled life was forgotten, but Mrs. Vansittart, the rich widow, was popular. There I saw Mr. Traill again. He offered me marriage, and I fancied it would be well to ally myself with a man so distinguished and widely known on both sides of the Atlantic. I did not love him. I respected and admired him—that was all. I accepted him, but stipulated that I should go back to the States and wind up my affairs there, returning to Paris for the wedding. That was necessary if I would maintain my deception. So, Stephen, after a lifetime of vagary and wandering this is the result. I am bespattered by the mud of my own acts. I see my forgotten daughter grown to beautiful womanhood. I meet my husband, whom I might have loved and honored, patiently following the path into which my neurotic impulses drove him. Stephen, do you think my punishment is complete?"

The bitter self condemnation in her voice was not defiant, but subdued. She had traveled far in spirit through the vale of tears since the Gulf Rock barred her onward progress.

"Though she asked a question she seemed to expect no answer. Brand, thinking to render her task less trying, was still looking through the window and watching the steady churning of the tender toward Carn du and thence to the lighthouse.

At last he spoke.

"When I entered this room," he said, "I meant to avoid a scene which must have been as exhausting to you as it is painful to me. Yet as it happens it is well for both of us that you have lifted the veil from what has gone before. Now it should be dropped—forever."

"Tell me what you wish to do. I will obey."

"Don't you think it will be better if we defer a final settlement? You have already taxed your frail powers beyond their limit."

"No, Stephen. Speak now. I will not faint nor yield to weakness. I will live. Have no fear. Death does not come as a skillful healer of the wounded conscience. It may be sought, and I have thought of that. But Constance would suffer, and if it will spare her pain I will endure to the end. Surely I owe her that reparation. I committed moral suicide once in my life. Let it suffice."

The fixed plan of the study, with its carefully arranged phrases, was not so readily acceptable to the man now. What would become of his wife if he drove her forth this time of his own accord to live in mournful solitude, brooding over a wasted life and looking forward only to an occasional visit from her daughter?

A host of impossible ideas jostled in his brain. He strove desperately to find some easy way of suggesting the settlement which appealed to him as the fitting one, but his soul revolted from the notion of formulating a decree of banishment against this ethereal, ghostlike creature who had been thrust back into his very keeping from out the heart of the storm.

He stood up and faced her, careless whether or not the stress of inward conflict in his eyes belied the calm gravity of his words.

"Perhaps you are stronger than I," he said. "We must meet again, tomorrow or next day. Some of the young people will be returning soon. If you wish it I will not tell them I have seen you."

"It is for you to decide, Stephen."

She seemed to be quite homeless, re-

signed to any twist or turn of fate. Here was a broken woman indeed, and the spectacle was torturing. He had never understood her as a bright young girl and a bride of nineteen. He did not understand her now. A man of his oaklike qualities could not grasp the nature of a woman who bent as a reed before each puff of wind.

It was hard to utter even a commonplace farewell. She held him by her very helplessness. But the rapid trot of a horse caught his ears, and while he stood irresolute he saw Constance alighting from the dogcart. His wife looked out too. They heard their daughter laughingly regret that she could not ask Mr. Pyne to luncheon—meals were irregular events just then.

Brand felt a timid hand grasping his, and a choking sob proclaimed that Constance's mother was crying.

He stooped with a motion that was almost a caress.

"Don't cry," he said. "I cannot bear it."

"I can bear anything, Stephen," she sobbed, "if only you will let me stay with you forever."

"Do you mean that, Nanette?" he gasped incredulously.

"I have prayed, yes, dared to pray, that it might be so ever since I saw my child. She has brought us together again. Let us not part, for her sake and for mine, Stephen, if it is not too late."

So Constance, hastening up the garden path, could not believe her eyes when she saw her father lift her mother into his arms and kiss her.

Mary, the maid, never ceased wondering why every other member of her sex in Laburnum cottage should be tearful yet ridiculously happy that afternoon. Mrs. Vansittart wept and Miss Constance wept, and Miss Enid wept when she came in, while Mrs. Sheppard was weeping at intervals all day.

Nevertheless they were all delighted in their woe, and Mrs. Sheppard, although she cooked a tremendous dinner, never scolded her once.

It was also a remarkable thing that the invalid lady should insist that she was strong enough to come downstairs that evening. She did not eat a great deal, poor thing, but she looked ever so much better and seemed to find all her pleasure in gazing alternately at the master and Miss Constance and in listening to every word they said.

In the garden next night, the moon being now very brilliant indeed, Pyne said to Constance that, the step-uncle idea having flizzed out, he guessed that the lady who figured in that unclassified degree of relationship would pose more satisfactorily as a mother-in-law.

He said other things that have been said in many languages since men began to woo women, but the phrases are hackneyed save to those who listen, and need not be repeated here.

But why two marriages should take place after extraordinarily short engagements no one in all Penzance knew save Lady Margaret Stanhope, and she, mirabile dictu (being a woman), kept her counsel. It created no end of a sensation when Constance was described in the London newspapers as "only daughter of Sir Stephen Brand, Bart., of Lesser Hambleton, Northumberland." Local gossip quickly exhausted itself, as both weddings took place in London, the only available items being the magnificence of the diamonds given to Enid and Constance by Mr. Traill and the fact that in Constance's case "the bride's mother" was described as "looking charming in a silver gray costume trimmed with point d'alecon lace."

Even when confronted with this momentous statement by Mrs. Taylor-Smith, Lady Margaret only shrugged her shoulders and purred:

"A romance, my dear—a romance of real life."

On the day following the departure of two happy couples for the continent—Mr. and Mrs. Pyne to Italy, Lieutenant and Mrs. Stanhope to the Riviera, with intent to meet in Rome at Easter—a quieter and more sedate couple took train at Waterloo for Southampton, bound for the far west.

Although a Nebraska decree of divorce does not hold good in English law, Lady Brand wished to be married again in the state which sanctioned her early folly. Her husband agreed readily. Everybody, including Mr. Traill and Lady Margaret, had arranged to turn up at the north country mansion in May. Provided there were no hurricanes, Sir Stephen thought his wife's health would benefit by the double sea voyage, and he was personally delighted to see the new world for the first time in her company.

Their steamer sailed from Southampton at 11 a. m. After dinner that night they were abreast of the Gulf Rock, and Brand pointed out to his wife its occulting gleam from afar.

"It makes me feel very humble," she said after they had watched its radiance darting out over the tumbling seas for a long time in silence.

"Why, sweetheart?" he asked.

"It is so solemn, so intense in its energy, so splendidly devoted to its single purpose."

"Now, it is an odd thing," he replied, as watchful to check her occasional qualms of retrospect as he had been during many a long night to keep that same light at its normal state of clear eyed brilliance, "but it does not appeal to me in that way. It is winking portentously, as much as to say, 'You old humbug, there you are, leaving me after all these years and running away with your own wife.'"

THE END.

### Wonderful Paintings.

It may not be generally known, perhaps, that the highest price paid for a picture has not been in modern times, but was at so remote a period as that of Alexander the Great, who gave Apelles a sum equal to \$211,000 for painting his portrait. The king was represented holding thunder, which, they say, was so massive that the

hand seemed to come out of the picture. Alexander was delighted with the portrait, had it placed in the temple of Diana, at Ephesus, and forbade any one but Apelles thenceforth to draw his likeness.

Apelles attempted another portrait, which at first sight did not please his royal patron, but while it was being inspected, says the voracious Pliny, a horse passing by neighed at the horse represented in the piece, supposing it to be alive, upon which the painter remarked that the horse was a better judge of painting than the king.

### Oak Grove Notes.

Miss Ella Howard of Albany was calling on friends at Oak Grove last week soliciting for the Pacific Homestead.

James Helmick and family of Parker were Albany visitors Saturday.

W. A. Williamson has finally got his hay crop baled and put under shelter. He has about 1300 tons baled.

Oak Grove school is now running in full blast. The daily attendance is large, there having been as high as eight scholars.

The potato digging season is now on and the farmers are all mad; their potatoes won't turn out, and the trouble is, they can't find them.

Miss Mable Williamson and Mattie Carter of Wells attended church at Oak Grove Sunday.

John Johnston of the capital city came up Tuesday. He is negotiating a deal for some real estate and if the deal is made, he will become a permanent resident of this part of the county.

The heavy rains of the last few days have wet the ground sufficient for ploughing and farmers are getting things in shape to begin field work. But little farming has been done so far but if good weather continues there will be many acres seeded in the next few weeks.

Several of our young people attended the ball at the Artisan hall at Wells, Saturday evening.

Miss Pauline Karstens left Sunday for Albany where she goes to spend about three months as a seamstress.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Knapp are preparing to move to Albany to spend the winter.

Barney Cady who is an old resident of Benton county intends moving to Linn county to reside. We learn that he has bought a farm near Riverside where he intends making his future home.

Dr. Bailey has gone to Tillamook to spend the winter. He will make his home with his son, David Bailey.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Yates and daughter, Goldie, of Albany, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Williamson of Oak Grove, Sunday.

Oregon is a wonderful country. Strawberries from the 25th day of May until the 15th day of October with plenty of green berries and vines still in bloom is the record of Mr. Wentz' strawberry patch. He has been selling berries gathered from his patch during all this time in the local market and will still continue to do so until Jack Frost says stop. He sent in a crate Saturday to Shaw & Beam of Albany.

The little town that is springing up near the Lake Bridge has chosen the name of North Albany and it is about the only town in Oregon which has a novel way of raising revenue for current expenses. The city dads saw fit to turn the public square into a hog ranch and have a Mongolian to tend to gathering swill from the senior town to fatten said hogs. When ready for market they are sold by the city poundmaster and the proceeds turned into the city's exchequer which has been sufficient so far to meet the current expenses—but they think of enlarging their business so as to be able to put in their own water system and electric light plant.

### Additional Local.

Bruce Barnett came up from Portland Saturday to visit relatives over Sunday and to play in the alumni football game.

T. G. Brown and son arrived Saturday from Hot Springs, South Dakota, for an extended visit with the former's sister-in-law, Mrs. F. O. Gray and family. The

visitors hope that the Oregon climate may prove beneficial to the son's health, as he is afflicted with rheumatism.

Mrs. Clarence A. Reams of Jacksonville arrived Saturday for a visit with Corvallis relatives.

License to wed was issued yesterday afternoon to William H. Hamm and Gertrude Davidson.

The late Reno Hutchinson was laid to rest in Riverview cemetery at Portland, Friday afternoon. There is nothing definite as to who the murderer is, although several theories are advanced by the police and one clue is being closely followed.

Sunday was an ideal day at the seaside and the fishing excursion that went from Albany was liberally patronized, the coaches being crowded going over. The fishing was not quite up to the standard but those who went for fish bought salmon at 4½ cent per pound in the Newport market and brought it home. The day was a very enjoyable one for all who went, as the weather was perfect. One hundred and thirty-three tickets were sold in Corvallis for the trip.

Seventeen to nothing in favor of the OAC first team was the score in Saturday's annual alumni game. Of the alumni men only Nash, Emily, Hanley and Tharp came, and of the local old-time players only Major Edwards participated in the game. A small crowd witnessed the contest. A scoreless game between a downtown team and the OAC second team was played before the alumni event took place. The OAC first team goes to Seattle about Thursday to meet the University of Washington eleven on Saturday.

The Coffee Club dance Saturday evening was a very enjoyable affair. The music was good and the attendance large.

S. N. Wilkins returned Friday from a trip to Portland. While absent Mr. Wilkins purchased an undertaking establishment in Vancouver, placing Mr. Knapp in charge of the place. Mr. Knapp was in Corvallis recently on a visit. He is an undertaker of experience.

The Centennial meat market is now at home in the handsome new brick just completed for it, adjoining the F. L. Miller store.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Cameron returned yesterday to their home in Portland after a week's visit with Corvallis relatives.

The Epworth League of the M. E. church is to give a hallow'een social Friday night to which all young people are cordially invited.

Attorney W. E. Yates returned to his home in Vancouver, Wash., Sunday, having passed a couple of days in this city attending some legal business. While here Mr. Yates complimented our citizens on the appearance of the town, its cleanliness and the general air of progress which seemed to be in evidence on all sides.

George Houck of Eugene is a Corvallis visitor this week.

J. J. Cole of Oakville is hauling his prunes to Corvallis this week and loading them on cars for shipment to Salem. He has between 25 and 30 tons of the dried fruit.

Negotiations are in progress for the sale of the T. D. Campbell bakery to Claude Starr. The deal was not closed up to the Gazette press hour yesterday afternoon. Mr. Campbell's plans for the

future are not made known.

Those in charge of the Corvallis Lyceum course for the coming season are sanguine as to the outlook for a very successful series of entertainments. Tickets are selling readily, as these are the highest class entertainments that have ever been given in Corvallis, and all who attended the last winter course are eager to attend again this season.

Saturday night, October 14, there were more salmon caught from Alsea river than ever before in one night—18,000. Albert Barclay and Andrew Kent were high boat for two men, with 1200; Smith Brothers, with four men, 1500; Dick Evans, with three men, 1185. The cannery is, of course, blockaded.—Lincoln Leader.

James Baldwin, of Eugene, has been in this city visiting his mother, Mrs. Sarah Baldwin, the past few days.

Mayor A. J. Johnson and daughter, Miss Zeets, left Friday for a ten days' business trip to points in Washington.

C. M. Hollingsmith, government lighthouse inspector, was in Corvallis last week, leaving Friday noon for Portland. With him the gentleman had a Spanish lapdog which he stated was born in Peru, the mother and father having come from the royal kennels in Spain. The little creature mentioned is white, with hair six or seven inches long, and very wavy, resembling Angora goat wool. When the little dog walks it is like a ball of cotton rolling along, as no feet can be seen, and even the eyes are hidden under the fleecy "fascinator" of hair. Mr. Hollingsmith declared that the dog had traveled with him all over the United States and that it is the only animal of the sort in the states. With the white, woolly creature in his arms, the gentleman attracted the attention of everyone on the streets of Corvallis while here.

The snagboat, Mithloma arrived Saturday and has a few days work in the vicinity of Corvallis.

### New Town in Polk.

Every appearance of a new town is in evidence a few miles above Falls City, says the Independence Enterprise. "Black Rock" is the name already given to the prospective town. In the vicinity of Black Rock there are several logging camps, prominent among which are the big Spaulding and Gerlinger camps. Fred Oberer and McCready & Cooper are among others operating saw mills in this district.

A number of individuals and families have been going all summer and fall to Black Rock, the terminus of the Fall City R. R. line. During the warmer weather canvas afforded shelter for the inhabitants, but now since the fall rains have come, shacks are being built to take the place of the tents. The people of this place have asked for a postoffice and school. They are entitled to the same as is evident by the number of inhabitants and the number of children drawing school money, the latter number being about forty.

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