

THE CHARITY GIRL

By EFFIE A. ROWLANDS

CHAPTER VI

The news of Mrs. Fraser's sudden increase of weakness and ill health reached Mrs. Thorngate the following afternoon, as the vicar's wife was returning from some of her parochial ministrations.

"What is wrong with her?" she asked Dr. Sutherland, anxiously, as she met him riding homeward.

"I confess she puzzles me," he answered. "I sounded the heart this morning, and, except for extremely weak action, I can trace no definite signs of a malady."

"I think I will go on to Dinglewood and see her," Mrs. Thorngate said to herself, as she was alone again. "Constance Fraser and she were warm friends. I want to see how that cold is getting on, too."

She was just passing her own gate as she thought of this, and was suddenly astonished by being confronted by a young man, who proceeded to fold his arms about her and kiss her cheek most heartily.

"Well, Aunt Agatha, here I am once again," said a soft, singularly pleasant voice.

"Beverley, my dear boy! How you startled me! Oh, dear!" said poor Mrs. Thorngate fairly gasping for breath.

"Poor Aunt Agatha! What a shame! I am awfully sorry, dear. I thought you saw me. Come in and sit down, you dear old thing. Where's Uncle Gus?"

Mrs. Thorngate allowed herself to be led up to the rectory by the strong arm. Her surprise was vanishing and only pleasure remained. Beverley came home once again! She could scarcely believe it. Beverley, that dear, handsome, scapegrace son of her dead and gone, yet still beloved sister, Margaret! Mrs. Thorngate's child-benefit heart tinged this young man with the tenderness of an ivy plant. He was, after her husband, her dearest and most treasured possession on earth. Once inside the cozy dining room she embraced him warmly.

"Let me look at you, darling," she said, holding him off at arm's length and feasting her eyes on his extremely handsome face, with its dark eyes, olive skin, clear-cut features and short-cropped beard. "Oh, my dear! I am glad to see you once more. You had creature, never to have written me a line all these months! And now you want something to eat, and there is nothing decent in the house."

"You will sit down and take your ease. I have already ransacked the larder, and will have good results. Your cold beef was beyond reproach, my dear aunt."

Mrs. Thorngate laughed.

"How good it is to see you in your old chair," she said, tenderly. "How I wish Gus was at home."

"He will be back in a few days, I suppose," Beverley Rochfort observed casually, after having learned the reason of his uncle being away. "To an onlooker it might easily have been perceived that the young man had no very great regret in the rector's absence; but Mrs. Thorngate did not observe it."

"And now you will make up your mind to stay with us, will you not, my dearest? I can assure you we are not very dull down here, now; we have the Duchess of Harborough, with the Marquis of Iverna, and Lord John Glendurwood at Craighlands. The Frasers are at Dinglewood; the Everests settled in Glasgow for the hunting; no end of smart people one way and another."

Beverley smiled complacently and stroked his short, silky beard. Since necessity would force him to make the rectory his headquarters for at least some few months, he was not at all averse to hearing his aunt's news.

"I am not surprised they should come here; it is a good country. I don't know a better, and I have traveled through a good many in my time. I suppose I can get a sort of mount in either Glasgow or Montberry?"

"No need to go so far," smiled Mrs. Thorngate. "Your uncle has two hunters in the stables, and he will be infinitely obliged to any one who will give them a little exercise, more especially as he cannot be here to use them himself. Would you like to go and have a look at them, my dear boy? You will find Potter still in the stables; in fact, very little is changed in the year and a half you have been away."

"I don't mind if I do. But where are you off to?"

Mrs. Thorngate explained her reasons for going to Dinglewood.

"I think I will leave the horses, and accompany you," he said; "it is just as well to resume acquaintance with the folk around."

And so, chatting languidly in his soft, musical voice, Beverley Rochfort walked through the muddy lanes to Dinglewood. He remembered he had made a distinct impression on Sheila Fraser when he met her before, and, although he had no definite plans in his mind, he felt he should do well to renew the friendship with this extremely wealthy young woman.

He let Mrs. Thorngate's cheery tongue run on, and was not very communicative about himself.

belonging to him at the house the day before.

Jack looked at the man. He had not had him long, and did not particularly care for him. He felt that Downs was lying at this moment. He whistled to the dogs scattered about, and turned down the avenue from which his servant had hurried. He had not gone many steps before he came to a standstill. There, just in front of him, her hands pressed close to her breast, cowered in the black cloak and veil in which he had first seen her, stood Audrey.

She was perfectly erect, and held her head proud and high. The light was fast growing dim, but he could see how white her face was, and how her eyes were glowing.

"What are you doing here alone?" he exclaimed, almost peremptorily, coming close up to her. As he did so he noticed that her breath was coming in great panting sobs, as from some one who had been mortally frightened. "What is it? What is the matter?" he asked, hurriedly.

"Will you not speak to my little friend?" "I have no friends," she said in a voice that was hoarse with agitation and excitement; "I—I am all alone in the world. Ever, Jean cannot help me now."

Jack Glendurwood moved a step nearer, and his foot kicked against a bag that was on the ground; but he did not notice it. "Something has happened," he said, earnestly and kindly. "Will you tell me what it is?"

Audrey stared before her in a sort, fixed dazed fashion for another moment or so; then she gave a little cry, and pressed her two hands before her eyes.

"Oh! if I could have only killed him!" she said, fiercely, yet kindly. "How dare he! How dare he!"

Lord John started and his pulses thrilled. He was about to question her, and then, like a flash of lightning, the truth came to him—Downs' stammering awkwardness, the girl's shame and misery. The man had evidently insulted her—perhaps had kissed her! A hot tide of color surged to Jack Glendurwood's face.

"It shall not occur again," he soothed her, and still clasping her hands; "you must not come out here in the dusk alone if you can help it; you are too young, too—too pretty, my child. Now you are going to be brave, you will not cry any more!"

But the tears were fast coursing one another down her fair, white cheeks.

"I am going away," she said, as well as she could speak. "Miss Fraser won't keep me any longer. She said I was to go at once. I—I know I am stupid, but if she would only give me a chance I should do better—but she won't, and now I must go back to the home and they will scold me, and—"

"Send you away like this—at this time of night? Oh, there must be some mistake!" Jack's voice was full of just indignation.

Audrey assured him it was only too true, and eased her sorrowful little heart by peering out her disappointment and misery until suddenly she remembered, with a start, that she was presuming dreadfully on his kindness, and came to a premature stop.

"I shall never, never forget all you have done for me!" she said in low, broken notes, and then she had kissed her hand and was out of sight.

He stood gazing after her, and then, a thought urged by some wild, unconquerable impulse, he lifted his arm and kissed the spot her lips had touched.

"I love her!" he said to himself, vaguely, yet with a rush of joy filled his heart. "I love her! My darling! My darling!"

(To be continued.)

THE REAL LINCOLN.

He Was Neither Ungraceful, Nor Awkward, Nor Ugly.

For many years it has been the fashion to call Abraham Lincoln homely, says a writer. He was very tall and very thin. His eyes were deep-sunken, his skin of a sallow pallor, his hair coarse, black and unruly. Yet he was neither ungraceful, nor awkward, nor ugly. His large features fitted his large frame, and his large hands and feet were but right on a body that measured six feet four inches.

His was a sad and thoughtful face, and from boyhood he had carried a load of care. It is small wonder that when alone or absorbed in thought the face should take on deep lines, the eyes appear as if seeing something beyond the vision of other men, and the shoulders stoop, as though they were bearing a weight. But in a moment all would be changed. The deep eyes could flash, or twinkle merrily with humor, or look out from under overhanging brows, as they did upon the Five Points children, in kindest gentleness.

So, too, in public speaking. When his tall body rose to its full height, with head thrown back and his face transfigured with the fire and earnestness of his thought, he would answer D. C. Las in the high, clear tenor that came to him in the heat of debate, carrying his ideas so far out over listening crowds.

It has been the fashion, too, to say that he was slovenly and careless in his dress. This also is a mistake. His clothes could not fit smoothly on his gaunt and bony frame. He was no tall's figure of a man, but from the first he clothed himself as well as his means allowed and in the fashion of the time and place.

In the same way he cared little for the pleasures of the table. He ate most sparingly. He was thankful that food was good and wholesome and enough for daily needs, but he could no more enter into the mood of the epicure for whose palate it is a matter of importance whether he eats roast goose or golden pheasant than he could have counted the grains of sand under the sea.

Their Brand.

"Did you know that politicians have a particular kind of sweets to which they are partial?"

FARMS AND FARMERS



Continuous Corn Culture.

In the spring of 1894 the Rhode Island Experiment Station decided to devote an acre of land to the continuous culture of corn.

The soil was partly a silt loam and partly a light sandy loam. The first two years only chemical fertilizers were used, the maintenance of soil humus being placed upon the corn stubble remaining upon the field. The following two years half of the area was sown with crimson clover at the time of the last cultivation of corn and half to rye, in order to compare the merits of a leguminous and non-leguminous crop as a means of maintaining soil humus. Beginning with 1898, after the experiment had been in progress four years, the first quarter of the acre plot was sown to crimson clover and the third quarter to winter rye at the time of the last cultivation of the corn, while the second and fourth quarters received no cover crop. In 1899 the land was limed to insure the success of clover. The history of the land is given and the fertilizer treatment and the results secured in each year are recorded.

A summary of the results during the twelve years the experiment has been conducted shows that the gain from using clover as a cover crop, after deducting the cost of the seed, was \$20.24, or an average of \$4.19 per acre annually, as compared with \$4.28, or an average of 30 cents an acre annually from using rye.

Curling a Kicker.

An arrangement such as shown in the cut has been suggested as effective to curb a horse which kicks in harness. A heavy strap (P) is attached to the collar and extends back under the surcingle, where it is attached to a heavy ring.

Through this ring is passed a rope or strap (M), which is attached to

Nearly half the pop corn consumed in the United States is raised in the small county of Sac, in the northwestern portion of Iowa. There it has been found that the soil is particularly adapted to its cultivation. Before the shows and the street corner merchants took it up the hot-buttered pop corn wasn't very much in demand. Its cultivation was restricted to a few stalks on the farm that met the home demand. A small quantity might be bought at the store, but it was high in price and the sales were few.

The breakfast food manufacturers are now the largest consumers of pop corn in the market. Nearly half of the ready-to-serve foods have a considerable percentage of pop corn. One brand is practically all pop corn.

Hayfork Returns.

The illustrations show two devices for carrying back the hay fork when putting hay in the barn. In the first illustration the rope marked 1 is fastened to the end of the track and to the stake B. Rope 2 is about ten feet longer than the track and is attached to a stake fixed in the ground and continues so as to connect with the

hitching point. The stakes shown at the right and left should of course be fitted with pulleys.—Montreal Star.

lice on Horses.

The simplest remedy is to clip the hair, as lice will not stay on a clipped horse. Tobacco water made by boiling some strong tobacco in water is effective, but is somewhat poisonous if used too freely or made too strong. One pound of tobacco to four gallons of water is about the proper proportion, but as tobacco varies considerably in strength, this may be quite strong enough. Coal oil is too hard on the skin to use undiluted, but made into an emulsion by mixing with strong soapuds is very good. In places where fish oil can be obtained this is a good remedy, but makes the skin greasy and dirty for the time.

For a Hidebound Horse.

When a horse is hidebound it is usually caused by being in a poor and unthrifty condition. A horse in good physical health is not hidebound. There may be a number of causes for this condition in horses, such as worms, lack of the right kind of feed or the want of either food or shelter or both. A horse may have fairly good care and feed, but, on account of bad teeth, may not be able to secure nourishment from the food. Try to determine the cause and then remedy it. If the horse is run down physically a small amount of pulverized gentian and ginger in feed will stimulate the appetite and digestion.

Spills on Horses' Legs.

This defect is probably the most noticeable of all blemishes that come upon horses' legs in this country. Sometimes the splint must be blistered two or three times before remaining free from lameness, and in some cases must be fired before a cure is effected. Repeat the blister a third time, and if lameness still remains some other cause may be suspected.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1429—English defeated French at Harfleur.

1543—Catherine Howard beheaded in the Tower of London.

1554—Lady Jane Grey executed.

1630—"Ralph Rouser Doister," first English comedy, produced.

1690—The reign of William and Mary began.

1704—St. Louis, Mo., founded by a company of French merchants.

1796—Amoyans seized by the English.

1797—Spaniards defeated at battle of Cape St. Vincent... Island of Trinidad captured by British naval and military forces.

1842—Grand ball given in Park theater, New York, in honor of Charles Dickens.

1844—Thomas W. Gilmer of Virginia became Secretary of the Navy.

1851—Gold discovered in Australia.

1852—France and Turkey concluded treaty regarding the holy places of Palestine.

1853—Attempted assassination of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria by Labouch.

1856—John Sadler, member of British Parliament, committed suicide as result of revelations of gigantic frauds.

1869—Bridgetown, capital of Barbadoes, destroyed by fire.

1861—Jefferson Davis inaugurated President of the Confederate States at Montgomery.

1862—Assault on Fort Donelson, Tenn., began.

1864—Andersonville prison opened for the reception of prisoners.

1868—First session of the New Brunswick Legislature after Confederation.

1872—First session of the first Legislature of British Columbia.

1876—First telephone patent granted to Alexander Graham Bell.

1881—Baroness Burdett Coutts married.

1889—Boiler explosion in Park Central hotel, Hartford, Conn., killed 22 persons.

1890—House of Representatives adopted Speaker Reed's new rules.

1891—Dillon and O'Brien, Irish National leaders, surrendered to English police.

1893—Home Rule bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone.

1894—Forty German sailors killed by boiler explosion on cruiser Brandenburg.

1898—United States battleship Maine destroyed in Havana harbor.

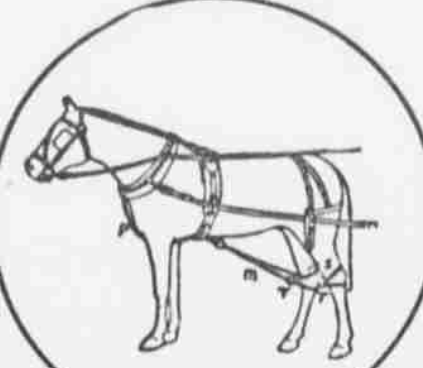
1899—Million dollar fire in Brooklyn navy yard... Emile Loubet elected President of France.

1900—Relief of Kimberley by Gen. French.

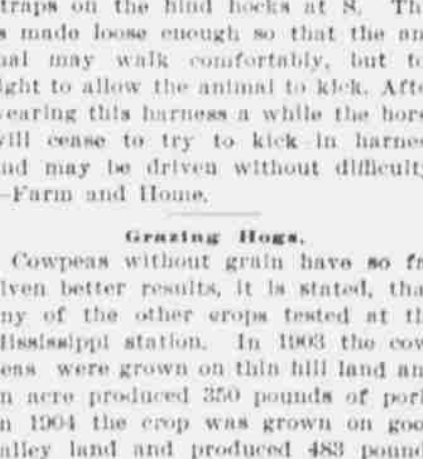
1901—Gen. Weyler proclaimed martial law in Madrid... King Edward VII. opened the first Parliament of his reign... Supreme Court of Michigan held public franchises to be taxable.

1902—British-Japanese alliance announced... Two thousand persons killed by earthquake in Transcaucasia.

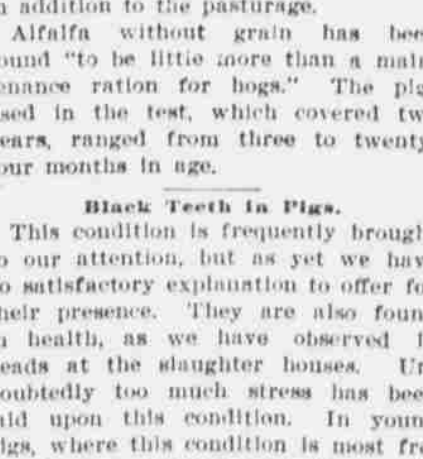
1904—Dr. Manuel Amador chosen president of Panama.



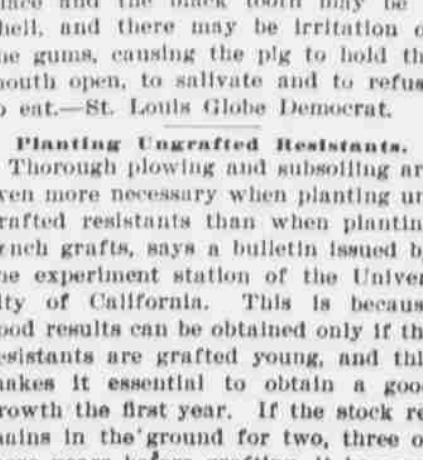
Curling a Kicker.



THE HAYFORK RETURN.



lice on Horses.



Spills on Horses' Legs.



The management of the Lehigh Valley railroad is so well pleased with the good work of those employees who are total abstainers that it intends to order that every person employed in the operating department take the pledge and keep it, on penalty of dismissal.

The completed short-cut line from ocean to ocean across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec was opened formally the other day, when President Diaz of Mexico started the machinery which carried the first load of merchandise from a ship to a car at Salina Cruz.

Travel by rail will soon be as luxurious for horses as for their owners. The New York Central lines have just ordered twenty cars to be used exclusively for the transportation of valuable horses. Each car will be lighted by electricity and heated by steam. The cars will be equipped with everything conducive to the comfort and safety of the aristocratic equines which can indulge in the luxury of private cars.

Under the new rate law the Louisville and Nashville railway declined to continue the issuance of passes to two persons who held contracts for life passes. Judge Evans in the Federal Court at Louisville now rules that the new law should be construed precisely as if in its general language there was an express exception excluding from its operation the complainants' contract. In no other way can the vested contract rights of the complainants be preserved. The general tenor of the opinion is that Congress did not intend to annul any previously made contract founded upon good consideration.