



CHAPTER XIV—(Continued.)

is not acting, though a good deal of temper; she would never bring in sacred name for the sake of getting own way. But the effect is magical; Tom; remorse stirs his heart; he recalls the tender injunctions of that mother about her darling, and his broken like a reed at the remembrance. It is true he is all she has; never defender, her support, her shield, not trouble and sorrow; it is not for to thwart and grieve her. She is er than ever, though her lover's first ion may have worn off; she shall be y, cost what it may!

She kneels beside her, he pours out every aring word he knows upon her, he sers her hair, her throat—for her face erted from him—with kisses, he prom- her that he will go and fetch little to-morrow, and in due course June, triumphantly, but secretly a good ashamed of herself, is lying with her d on Tom's breast, his arms about her, all his kind, honest heart bent on oring her to peace of mind and happi-

the morning, when her maid brought tea and letters, she eagerly opened one from her lord. Having finished she laid it down, and a cold chill came r her. She stared blankly into space a minute or two, then took it up and ead:

Darling Wife.—I got down here all it, and found the boy all right except the bit flushed, and" (here two letters ily deciphered to be "Ag" were atched out) "we thought he might e another tooth coming, but, anyhow, thought it better to wait a day and . Don't be frightened, darling; he is apital spirits, and I hope to bring him to-morrow, though I do hate the idea London for him. I hope the dinner I go off all right. Of course you will and do the right thing about me. I dare say as long as they get you 'll be very happy to dispense with my anpany. You can't think how heavenly down here after London. I've got an old shooting-coat, and I feel as ay as a king; at least I should, darling, I had you here.

I had to break off here to see Jones, he tells me there are two or three ings I ought to see to to-morrow, ould you mind if we don't come up till day?—it will give the boy another y's respite, and you can go about and e your friends and amuse yourself for at little time longer, can't you, dearest ey?

"Always your most loving and devoted sband,
T. N."

When she had read that affectionate if t well-expressed epistle, all pleasure and piness took flight from June's heart. it was nothing to Tom; he could dispen- perfectly with her society, as long e he had the baby, and the country, and a old shooting coat, and—with a fierce asm—Agnes.

CHAPTER XV.

June had a fine spirit, and it was now used to the uttermost. During her ourney in the train she made a great ert to conquer the anger that was seeth- ing and bubbling up in her heart—anger artly excited by Tom, but chiefly by Agnes.

When they reached the house Lady evel signed to the driver to let her out efore he rang the bell. The hall door as ajar and she ran first into the morn- igh-room. A pleasing sight greeted her hrough the window. Tom was sitting on a garden-chair, with the boy in his arms, Agnes was kneeling at their feet, angling something in front of the baby's yes.

It was too much for poor June. She ad just time to say to the footman, who ame rushing in great surpris through he hall, "Tell Sir Thomas I have gone o my room," and she flew upstairs, lock- e door to keep her maid or any in- ruder but Tom out, and burst into a passion of tears. She was thoroughly up- et; she felt that she had made a fool of erself, and that she would appear in the very worst possible light before the eyes e the man she loved.

She heard Tom flying up the stairs, and had just time to unlock the door when he burst in with an astonished but beaming face.

Then that happens to her which fre- quently happens to high-spirited, impu- sive people; she does the very thing against which she has cautioned herself —which she has resolved most positively that she will not do. She reproaches Tom for leaving her, for his letter, for his in- difference in having remained away from

her, for his untruthfulness in pretending the child was ailing, and, last and crowning folly, for which she is furious with herself even while she is committing it, she twits him with preferring the society of Agnes to her own.

Tom stands overwhelmed and silent, not because he is convinced of guilt, but because he is shocked at this outburst from his wife.

Tom went gloomily out and downstairs, not forgetting first to order luncheon to be sent up immediately. Poor little girl! no doubt she was overdone; but that did not quite account for and excuse the bitter and unjust things she had said to him. He went out on the lawn, where Agnes was playing with Tom junior and exhibiting increased fervor and devotion to- ward him.

"Poor, darling June," says Agnes, sweetly. "How unlucky! But what made her come? Was it because she was so anxious about this treasure? Oh, Tom, I begged you to be careful not to frighten her."

Tom has taken his heir from her arms and is proceeding toward the house. June has recovered herself. She has lunched, had had her say out and now feels herself quite capable of behaving with the dignity and sweetness on which she has resolved in the train. To the immense relief of Sir Thomas, who has been longing but not daring to beg an audience for his cousin, she asks in quite an amiable tone if Agnes is still there, and volunteers to go down and see her.

Sir Thomas and Lady Nevil have dined, and are sitting at the open window in her ladyship's boudoir. June is on his knee, with one arm round his neck, and a little white hand prisoner in his.

"Kiss me, darling," she says, and he, nothing loath, obeys.

"I was naughty to-day," she proceeds, with a charming, contrite little air, "and now I am sorry."

Sir Thomas gives a squeeze to her slim waist to intimate that whatever she has done is condoned, and that no more need be said about it.

"Do you think I have a bad temper?" coaxingly.

"No, my pet, certainly not. But," diffi- dently, fancying, good, honest soul, that he is speaking a word in season, when he is doing exactly the reverse, "I think you were a little hard on poor Aggie."

June sits bolt upright in a moment.

"Don't mention her name!" she says, in a tone of exasperation. Then, check- ing herself, and sinking back on his shoulder, "Let us forget that she or any- body else exists in the world but our- selves."

"Except the boy," amends Tom.

"Except the boy, of course," says June, smiling. "Let us go and look at him, shall we?"

And as, a minute later, Tom stands with his arm round his beautiful wife, looking at the cherub face of their child sweetly asleep, he offers up a reverent thanksgiving, and something for the moment prevents his seeing that lovely pic- ture quite clearly.

If there were only no such place as London!

CHAPTER XVI.

The Nevil family have been established in London for the space of a fortnight. Tom junior is in the most robust health and spirits, and seems vastly amused and interested with all he sees. He is nearly nine months old, and is not only a beautiful and good-tempered infant, but has the most intelligent face in the world. He is, to Tom's intense delight, the living image of his mother; nay, Tom is almost affronted if anyone pretends for civility's sake that his heir resembles himself.

Dallas, who is a frequent guest in Eaton Square, mischievously asks June if she thinks Tom is making love to the nurse, from whom he seems inseparable, and declares to Tom himself that no doubt he is taken for a Life-guardman in plain clothes. Dallas and June are the best of friends; they have both completely forgotten that episode three years ago. For Dallas is absorbed in his hopeless passion for Lady Jane Wyldrose, daughter of the Earl of Sweetbrier; hopeless, not as far as the young lady herself is concerned, but only as regards her parents.

It wanted two days to the 15th of June, when Madge was to join her cousins in London. Lady Nevil came in from her drive in radiant spirits; she had spent a delightful day, and was looking forward to one of the balls of the season, to be given that night. Her maid met her in the hall with a scared face.

"Oh, my lady, don't be alarmed," she said, while her look and manner were enough to terrify a nervous and imaginative person to death, "but Master Tom has been taken ill. Sir Thomas and the doctor are with him now."

June's heart stood still, her knees knocked together. In one instant the thought traversed her brain that her own selfishness was the cause of this awful calamity, that the child would die, that she would never forgive herself, that Tom would never forgive her. Then, without

waiting for another word, she flew up stairs to the nursery.

Tom stood by the bedside with an agonized face. The doctor was bending over the child, who was waxen pale and with closed eyes.

A sort of paralysis crept over June. Tom did not move forward to greet her; his eyes, having met hers as she entered, returned to their agonized watch. She went mechanically toward him.

"What is it?" she whispered.

"I knew it from the first," he muttered. "I always said so. I knew London would be the death of him."

A sense of guilt and despair stole over June. Ten minutes ago there had scarcely been a happier woman living than she, and now terror and misery ingulfed her, every pleasant thing in life seemed irremediably gone from her forever.

All night she and Tom watched by the child's cot. Not satisfied with one opinion, Tom sent for the first physician in London. He, too, looked grave, but spoke reassuringly and hoped the boy might take a favorable turn.

Once during that long and miserable night June went and put her arms round her husband's neck and leaned on his breast with stifled sobs, and he clasped her kindly, but she felt instinctively that he was holding her responsible for this awful calamity.

When she was alone for a moment with the doctor she asked him in imploring tones whether London was the cause of the child's illness, and he answered distinctly in the negative. It might have happened anywhere.

But June did not dare even to say this to Tom; she knew it would be waste of time and energy to attempt to convince him, so firmly was his mind fixed on this one idea. Oh, please God, they should get the boy over this, and never, never again should he set foot in the accursed city!

Young Tom got over the crisis, and, with his father and mother, returned to the Hall on the fifth day after his attack. Though most of the servants were left behind in Eaton Square it was almost an understood thing that neither Sir Thomas nor her ladyship would go back there. Sir Thomas was perfectly certain that he would not, and her ladyship did not feel as though, after the misery of those few days, she should ever care to see London again. It was only by Mrs. Ellesmere's persuasion that they decided not to give up the house and move the whole establishment back at once to the Hall.

In a week's time Tom junior was restored to his usual robust health, and Tom senior to happiness and his wonted level spirits. He felt like a prisoner let loose; it was almost worth while to have suffered the discomfort to enjoy this blessed freedom.

June, her mind being reassured about her child, began to feel somewhat dull, and to think with a certain regret of the pleasant things she had left behind; and as for Madge, her eyes were red with crying, and she wore a woebegone look quite unusual to her bright face.

"I know I am very silly and very selfish," she said to June one day, "but it has been such an awful disappointment to me."

And with this she burst into tears. Tom came in at the same moment.

"Why, Madge?" he cried, with sincere concern, "what's the matter, my dear?"

"Poor child," answered June, "she is so disappointed about her visit to London."

The same evening at dinner Sir Thomas observed to her ladyship:

"I've been thinking it over, Juny, and it seems rather a shame to disappoint Madge, poor little girl. Why should you go back to town with her for a fortnight or three weeks? The servants and horses are there doing nothing, and we shall have to pay for the house all the same. And," looking at her, "you enjoy it so much yourself, it seems a pity you should be done out of it."

"I do not feel as if I should care for it now," June answered.

Tom, however, broached the subject to Madge; implored and entreated so earnestly that her ladyship yielded. It is understood that Tom will not accompany them, or even go up to London for a single day, and this in June's eyes deprives the prospect of any pleasure.

Once there, however, Madge is so wildly pleased and happy that her spirits are infectious, and June, if half the girl is stripped from her gingerbread, still manages to be tolerably happy and amused.

June and Madge were particularly fond of the play. One evening Colonel Alford, Mrs. Ellesmere's brother, and Dallas were to dine with them and take them to see a popular piece.

Just before dinner a note came by a hansom for Lady Nevil.

"Will you excuse me from dining?" it said. "I will join you at the play. I am so very sorry, and hope I am not putting you to inconvenience."

This was from Dallas.

The piece had begun some time before he made his appearance, and June was startled to see how white and unlike himself he looked.

"Are you ill?" she whispered, as he sat down by her. "Why did you come, if you don't feel up to it?"

"I am all right," he answered in the same key. "At least, I hope so. I have had rather a facer. Don't, like an angel, ask me any questions."

Certainly he was not at all himself, nor did he exhibit his usual spirits during the whole evening. He sat gnawing the ends of his mustache and looking intensely preoccupied, and June, who had a good deal of tact where her affections were not engaged, left him to himself, and between the acts talked chiefly to her other companions.

"What a bore you must have found me!" Dallas whispered, as he put her into her brougham. "I am awfully sorry. If I could tell you, I know you would feel for me."

"Nothing about Lady Jane," I hope?" she said in the same key, for he had confided in her occasionally on the subject of his last love.

"No," he answered, "nothing to do with her; at least, I hope not."
(To be continued.)

CANAL TREATY SIGNED.

Colombia at Last Agrees, Giving United States Full Police Control.

Washington, Jan. 23. — The treaty between the United States and Colombia for the construction of the Panama canal by the United States was signed yesterday in this city.

No details of the signing of the treaty were obtainable, but at the presidential reception at the White House last night the news that the treaty was an accomplished fact at last leaked out. Later the news was confirmed in official quarters. It had been intended not to make the signing of the canal treaty public until today, but the news apparently was too good for some of the friends of the canal to keep. Fears had been entertained until this week that Colombia would not be willing to accede to the wishes of the United States in the matter and that recourse to the Nicaragua canal project might be forced on the government of the United States.

But this week events took a more favorable turn, and Colombia transmitted instructions to Dr. Herran, its representative in the United States, that made possible a conclusion of the long negotiations. The principal obstacle for some time to the conclusion of the treaty, it is understood, has been the price that the United States was to pay in the shape of a cash payment and by way of annual rental for the strip of territory along each side of the canal right of way. It could not be learned last night what was the price finally agreed upon.

Some time ago there was a hitch over the question of the extent to which control by the United States over this strip of land should go, Colombia objecting on the ground that the provisions required in the treaty by the United States would mean a relinquishment of sovereignty by Colombia over part of her territory; but this matter was amicably settled, as was a difference as to the lifetime of the lease of the strip of land in question, the final result being a practical cession in perpetuity to the United States for canal purposes and incidental police control and protection of the canal right of way.

AMENDS PHILIPPINE TARIFF.

Senate Committee Gives Heed to Sugar and Tobacco Men.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The senate committee on the Philippines today authorized a favorable report on the Philippine tariff bill, which recently passed the house, but with important amendments. The house bill carried a more uniform reduction of the tariff on Philippine goods imported into the United States, making the rate only 25 per cent of the rates imposed by the Dingley law.

The senate committee amended the bill so as to provide for the admission of all Philippine produced articles free of duty except sugar and tobacco, and on these two commodities fixed the tariff at 50 per cent of the Dingley schedules. This change was made to meet the objections of the sugar and tobacco producers of this country, who have claimed that a duty of only 25 per cent on those articles would result in ruinous competition.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY EARTHQUAKE.

Mysterious Underground Explosion Makes Cracks in the Earth.

Whitman, Miss., Jan. 24.—Two fissures in the earth about three feet deep and a few inches wide and running for a distance of a quarter of a mile are the only evidences of a mysterious explosion which shook this town just before daybreak today. Houses were shaken violently and crockery was broken in several residences. A number of persons, aroused by the explosion, began searching for the cause at daylight. In a meadow they found a crack in the earth's crust about three feet in depth and two or three inches wide. They followed it for three-quarters of a mile before they reached the end. Later they discovered another fissure of the same description about 75 feet away from the first and parallel with it. An explanation of the explosion is lacking.

Big Tunnel Plan.

Chicago, Jan. 24. — A broad, well-lighted underground driveway, passing beneath the bed of the Chicago river and stretching from the art institute to Illinois and St. Clair streets, is formally announced to be the plan finally agreed upon by the park boards of the North and South sides to make the long-talked-of connection between the boulevard systems of these two portions of the city. A bill authorizing a \$2,500,000 bond issue containing a referendum clause will be prepared by committees from the two park boards.

To Become a Coal Hulk.

Victoria, Jan. 24. — The steel bark Baroda, which stranded on August 28 off the Oregon coast and was floated after much work and has since been lying at San Francisco, has been purchased by R. Dunsmuir's sons, of this city, and will be towed north by the steam collier Tellus on her next voyage. The Baroda will be converted into a hulk for the coal carrying trade between the island mines and Vancouver.

TREATY SIGNED

Panama Canal Negotiations Satisfactorily Concluded.

COLOMBIA GETS ANNUITY OF \$250,000

United States Has 100-Year Lease, with Privilege of Renewal—Full Control of Right of Way and Ports.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Yesterday's meeting of the cabinet was one of the most important held in several weeks. Subjects of great moment were discussed fully, the session continuing for two hours. All the members of the cabinet were present. Secretary Hay presented a draft of the Panama canal treaty, and both the president and his associates in the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the results achieved through the long and difficult negotiations.

The treaty is identical with that drawn by this government several months ago and at that time submitted to the Colombian government, with the single exception of the amount of annuity to be paid Colombia for the right of way. This government proposed an annuity of \$100,000, while Colombia demanded \$650,000. The Colombian government's demand was based, it is said, upon the ascertained returns from the Panama railroad company in duties, etc., which Colombia did not desire to have reduced.

During the several months of negotiations, Colombia agreed to all points in the treaty proposed by the United States with the exception of the annuity. That has been the point of difference for many weeks, and at one time it threatened to break off negotiations entirely. Secretary Hay communicated directly with the Colombian government, intimating that some agreement must be reached soon, as the United States desired to enter on the construction of the canal, if it were to be constructed by the Panama route.

For several days active efforts have been making to secure an agreement, until finally they were successful. The Colombian government, through Mr. Herran, charge d'affaires here, agreed to accept an annuity of \$250,000. This was entirely satisfactory to the president and Secretary Hay, and, while it is a larger amount than was offered at first, it is believed by administration officials that the senate will undoubtedly accept the figure named in the treaty, particularly after the smaller amount would deprive Colombia of income which she is now actually receiving.

All other points than this one of money compensation remain as they stood in the original draft of the treaty, and are completely satisfactory to the United States government. The United States will have control of the canal practically in perpetuity, as required by the Spooner act, this result having been attained by the adoption of a plan for a lease of 100 years, renewable at the pleasure of the United States, Colombia having nothing to say about extension. The matter of police and judicial control is settled by a scheme of joint action, although it especially is assured that no citizen of the United States will be tried by any other than his own courts. Control of the waters of the ports of Colon and Panama is vested in the United States just as far as may be necessary for the operation of the canal, and it is assured that our extra-territorial jurisdiction will be unquestioned as to waters and streams pertaining to the canal. All port dues on vessels passing through the canal are to go to the United States by way of offset to the annuity payments.

Soon Ready for Business.

New York, Jan. 26.—Marconi arrived here today. He says that his system will be ready for commercial use by the public in an exceedingly short time, within two or three months at least. This statement was made at the office of the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy company of America, at the close of a meeting of the board of directors, called in order that Marconi might personally acquaint the members of the board with the result of his recent experiments and work at Wellfleet.

Hurrying Coal Trial.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—The fight of the indicted coal men to clear themselves of guilt of "conspiracy to do an illegal act injurious to public trade" was begun before Judge Horton late today. Motion to quash in behalf of each of the 18 corporations composing the association were quickly overruled and pleas of "not guilty" entered. A stipulation of facts was then presented to the court, and it was announced that a date for the hearing of the argument and taking of briefs would be fixed early this week.

Cattle Without Food in Montana.

Great Falls, Mont., Jan. 26.—Report comes from Popular that the range in the northern part of the state is in very bad condition and that stock are dying for lack of grass. The snow has crushed the grass and cattle are unable to do any picking. Unless a thaw comes at once there will be great loss within the next few days.