



CHAPTER XVIII.—(Continued.)

A moment's silence followed, broken by the sound of Tom's hearty laugh, with Agnes' somewhat shrill treble mingled with Lady Nevil's thoughts were abruptly changed. Now she wanted to be on shore to interrupt that tete-a-tete. She hated nothing so much as to see Tom and Agnes together; it was a certainty that her cousin was infusing some poisonous drop into her husband's mind.

"Let us land," she said to Dallas; but he had no desire to leave his charming hostess just as they were discussing such interesting subjects.

"Oh, not yet," he implored; "don't go in yet. Do you really want to?" And June, who always felt it difficult to oppose any one who asked anything urgent of her, forced a smile, and said:

"I will stay here if you like. It is very pleasant here."

Two or three minutes later her mind was immensely relieved by hearing Madge's voice join Tom's, and presently she saw that young lady hanging on Tom's arm, while Mr. Carslake and Agnes walked at some distance behind. The change of companionship had been brought about in this way: When Dallas and June betook themselves to the boat, Madge and Mr. Carslake had made their way to the avenue—the place par excellence at the Hall for lovers and love-making, the place to which in former days Tom had always tried to inveigle June as being private and cut off from the rest of the company.

Madge had talked away in her usual bright fashion, and her companion had listened to her with that sense of pleased amusement which he always felt at her quips and pranks. His own disposition was grave, though the reverse of morbid, but he had a strong sense of humor and a keen sympathy with bright and happy young people. His greatest drawback to the enjoyment of their society was his extreme diffidence in himself, his fear lest he should be a kill-joy and spoil their fun. On Madge, however, he produced anything but this effect; his gravity, leavened as it was with an evident appreciation of her sallies and high spirits, rather stimulated than sobered her love of fun.

They had begun by laughing, and were inclining to a more sentimental mood under the influence of moonlight, and the charm of the evening, when Mr. Carslake, with the very best intentions, made a singularly unfortunate remark:

"What a very sweet woman that sister of yours is!"

It acted on Madge like a douche of lead water. The moment before she had been full of gaiety, slightly tempered by a most agreeable sentimentality, for she was undeniably in love with her companion; now she was frowning, piqued, annoyed, she felt angry indeed with her friend for not having more discernment.

She stopped short; the color came to her face, and she said, with extreme decision:

"She is not at all a sweet woman, and I should not have thought you were the sort of man to be so easily taken in."

Mr. Carslake was astonished; he was rather shocked, too, and he looked it.

"Oh, yes," exclaimed Madge, "you are horrified, I see. You think the mere fact of a person being one's sister ought to make one adore her; but I assure you the theory won't hold water. You are much more apt to dislike people who belong to you than any one else, because you are obliged to see so much of them and they have such immense opportunities of aggravating you."

The pair were standing face to face, Madge talking herself angry, Mr. Carslake preserving his scandalized expression.

"Pray, why do you think she is a sweet woman?" asked the young lady, slightly raising her voice and looking at him with rather an aggressive flash in her eyes.

Mr. Carslake's face relaxed into a smile.

"Well, really," he remarked, "she seemed to me very sweet and kind and anxious to please every one. I caught some of her remarks to our host during dinner, and I confess they gave me the idea that she was a very charitable, good person; and then I thought she behaved so nicely in offering to remain with him afterward and to go and see the child upstairs."

"That shows, then," retorted Madge, "how little any one not behind the scenes is able to judge. She only stopped with Tom and talked about going up to see little Tom to aggravate June."

"Really?" with evident incredulity. "I thought Lady Nevil seemed quite disposed for a tete-a-tete with Broke, and your sister good-naturedly offered to stay and amuse Sir Thomas."

"Oh!" exclaimed Madge, growing still angrier, "that is just the delightful way Agnes has of giving people wrong impressions. Do you suppose," with some vehemence, "that June cares two straws about Dallas? She is simply wrapped up in Tom and the child."

"I am sorry I have offended you by

saying what I thought would naturally please a sister," remarked Mr. Carslake, gravely.

"You have offended me very much," retorted Madge, with unwonted petulance. "I thought you had more discernment. All our lives June and I have suffered from Agnes' sweetness which had the delightful knack of making us look in the wrong. No doubt," a little quiver coming into her voice, "when you have seen a little more of her sweetness, you will come to the conclusion that I am not at all a nice person."

"That I shall not," he answered, and made as though he would take Madge's hand, but she eluded him.

CHAPTER XIX.

Madge, who meant to atone for her misconduct by behaving very prettily to him, was much disconcerted at not being given the opportunity. She felt rather crestfallen, but worked herself into a fit of anger before she finally went to sleep, and resolved to punish him for being vexed, although she had done her utmost to provoke him.

A picnic had been arranged for the following day; it was to be held in the same spot as the one recorded much earlier in this story—the picnic which, as far as June was concerned, had been such a dismal failure. Two girls from the neighborhood and two soldiers were to swell the Hall party. Tom could not possibly leave his harvesting operations, and Agnes had declined to join them—a circumstance for which June would have been devoutly thankful but for the uncomfortable suspicion that her cousin would find her way up to the Hall in quest of Tom senior under pretense of a visit to his son. However, she did not allow the thought to trouble her seriously.

It was as lovely a day as that former one, and the party was very cheery, to all appearance. Before starting Lady Nevil had taken Madge aside and said to her:

"My dear child, do not carry this any further. I am sure it is not wise. Leave Dallas alone and keep with Mr. Carslake. He is not a man to be trifled with, I feel convinced."

But Madge tossed her head willfully, saying:

"I mean to punish him. What business had he to go off last night without wishing me good-night?"

"You would be very sorry if you lost him."

"I don't mean to lose him," answered Madge. "Now, Juny darling, you let me manage my lover my own way; you know I am rather successful in these little affairs," with an arch glance.

"One may sometimes be a trifle too clever," answered June. "I dare say your system might answer with some men, but I doubt its success in the present case."

"We shall see," smiled Madge. "Besides, darling, I am not going to let any one think that Dallas is making up to you."

"You are very kind," returned June. "But I fancy I can take care of myself."

"I don't know," returned Madge. "Lad-di-da is very seductive. I can't help rather feeling the influence of his fascinations myself."

Here their conversation was interrupted, and five minutes later they were en route.

Madge, having arranged her plan of battle, proceeded to carry it out. Nothing would please her but that Dallas should be her squire, and she would not allow him to leave her side or to speak to any one else.

Though it was against Mr. Broke's principles ever to repel the advances of a pretty woman, he yet, being actuated by gentlemanlike feelings, thought it not the proper thing to interfere with a friend in a genuine love affair, and, though he did not at all object to the fact of being made a cat's-paw of by a lady who was willing to divert and be agreeable to him, he thought it very hard lines on Carslake to be punished for an apparently imaginary offense.

Madge, while she flirted ostentatiously with the Guardsman, gave an occasional sidelong glance at the real object of her affections, and was exasperated by observing that she was making him unhappy.

Luncheon over, Madge insisted on a stroll in the woods, which only meant that she took Dallas a little away from the rest of the party and sat with him under a big tree while he smoked cigarettes, in which, for the sake of bravado and with a wicked hope that Mr. Carslake might see her, she joined him. She was not altogether very happy, so she talked volubly and feigned higher spirits than usual.

"Here you are!" cried Lady Nevil's voice gayly, as she appeared close at hand with Mr. Carslake. "Come with us for a stroll."

Her ladyship tried to maneuver to leave Madge and her lover together, and Dallas was fain to second her, but Madge was willful and linked her arm in June's, and Mr. Carslake made no effort to overcome her perversity.

Before the picnic party started, for

home Madge had partially come to her senses, and if Mr. Carslake had made the smallest overture to her would have kindly consented to forgive and restore him to favor. But he made no such overture, and again the young lady's ire was kindled. They had to pass the rectory on the way back, and Madge insisted on wishing them good-by and going home. June, being exceedingly vexed with her, did not press her very eagerly to return to the Hall.

Mr. Carslake uttered not a word. Dallas was the only one who made any effort to shake her resolve.

The willful young lady passed a very unpleasant evening and night with her own reflections. She had overacted her part—had vexed and hurt the kindest, dearest, best man that ever lived; she would like to throw herself at his feet and beg his forgiveness; she began to despise her own cleverness, and felt quite spiteful against Dallas for having lent himself to be her tool. Never mind! all should be changed on the morrow. She would make the handsomest of amends, and would never, never behave so badly again.

The next morning her eyes unclosed on a tear-stained landscape; the rain was coming down in torrents. She intended to have gone up to the Hall the instant after breakfast, but the weather made it impossible. At 12 o'clock there was a slight cessation of the downpour and she made a valiant start. Down came the rain again, but nothing daunted, she pursued her way and arrived dripping with wet at her destination. June met her in the hall and beckoned her into Tom's room.

"Now," said her ladyship, with quite unaccustomed severity, "I hope you are happy."

"I'm not at all happy," answered Madge, rather flippantly. "I feel like a drowned rat."

"Mr. Carslake," proceeded June, too much displeased to offer, with her usual hospitality, to assist her cousin in her uncomfortable plight—"Mr. Carslake left twenty minutes ago. And it is quite certain that you will never see any more of him."

Madge turned ghastly white. "Gone!" she stammered.

"Yes, gone. He made some bald pretext about a letter he had received, but I have since ascertained that no letter came for him this morning."

Madge flung herself into a chair and sobbed as if her heart would break. Her case was hopeless. He had not asked her to marry him, though she had felt certain he meant to; there had been no quarrel between them that would admit of her writing to explain or to ask for explanations. She felt that she had been too clever and had outwitted herself and broken her own heart.

CHAPTER XX.

The year was waning, Christmas not a great way off.

Sir Thomas and Lady Nevil had spent two months at their northern place in entertaining a succession of shooting parties. June had enjoyed this immensely; she had, no doubt, a great love of pleasure and excitement.

Madge had been a guest the greater part of the time. She was not the same willful, mirthful, mischievous creature that we have hitherto known her. No need to check the exuberance of her spirits now. She laughs and talks; outwardly she does not give any particular impression of wearing the willow; but, as a matter of fact, she is desperately unhappy.

Three weeks before Christmas, Sir Thomas and Lady Nevil, with their heir and suite, left the north and returned to the Hall. Tom was rejoiced to get back to his beloved home. June was almost equally pleased, and only one thought crept in to dampen her enthusiasm. That was the thought of Agnes.

Several times during the homeward journey June had hoped she would be spared seeing Agnes on their arrival; it was with a feeling of unfeigned vexation that, as they drove up to the Hall door, she saw her cousin on the step to meet them, arrayed in her sweetest smiles. Tom greeted her with amazing heartiness, and, to behold her reception of his son and heir, one might have imagined her a mother parted from her long-lost child. Tom insisted on her remaining to dinner, and she accepted this invitation without the smallest demur or any reference to June. Her ladyship's home-coming was completely spoiled; the shadow which had disappeared entirely from between her and her husband loomed ominously over them once more; she felt angry and impatient with him.

At dinner Tom was in the highest spirits. Agnes evinced considerably more than her wonted chastened gaiety, and it was only June who felt vexed, discontented, out of sorts. She could not be pleasant to her cousin, and she was angrily conscious that Agnes infinitely preferred her displeasure to seeing her in her usual mood.

At ten o'clock her ladyship hoped, with some coldness, that her cousin would excuse her, and Agnes jumped up, exclaiming, with an air of regret:

"Is it really ten o'clock? How the evening has flown! I did not think it could be more than nine. Did you, Tom?"

"No," answered Sir Thomas, heartily, only too anxious to make up for her ladyship's visible coldness. "Time flies, you know, Aggie, when it's spent pleasantly."

"It does indeed," responded Agnes. "I must go home. Of course, Tom, you are tired after your journey, and I must not be selfish enough to take you out to-night."

But Tom swore he was as fresh as a daisy, and that he should like nothing better than to stretch his legs a bit.

Then Agnes deposited a bird-like kiss on June's cheek, which made that fair lady grind her teeth with disgust and repugnance, and the pair set off gayly together.

(To be continued.)

Sir Isaac Newton's house in St. Martin's street, London, which Macaulay said would forever be an object of veneration, is threatened with demolition.

EAST SUSPICIOUS.

Feeling that Germany Will Be Our Next Enemy is Growing.

Washington, Feb. 7.—There is unmistakable feeling in the East, and particularly in Washington, antagonistic to Germany, a feeling that has been somewhat intensified by the attitude of Germany in the Venezuelan incident. Nowhere is this sentiment so strong as at the war and navy departments, where army and navy officers are free to declare in private conversation that the next war of the United States will be with Germany. On this point they are agreed. In these two departments there has been much ill-feeling towards Germany as a direct outgrowth of the action of the German admiral at Manila and the subsequent attitude of Von Waldersee in China.

Without exception, all members of the administration, when consulted, deny the existence of any antagonism towards Germany, and they only discredit reports to that effect. Yet it is known that among themselves and in private discussions more than one member of the cabinet has not only admitted the prevalence of this sentiment, but given indication that he himself shares it to some degree.

In New York the anti-German sentiment grows largely out of unsatisfactory trade relations with that country, the port of New York getting the bulk of German trade. In congressional circles here there is a feeling of distrust of Germany in the Venezuela negotiations. There is a general suspicion that Emperor William is looking for something more than a mere presentation of the German claims, and to some extent this distrust has spread in other directions.

Summed up, there is undeniably a feeling toward Germany that is not entertained towards any other foreign power, a feeling that is very generally experienced but seldom openly acknowledged. In some quarters it is believed that Germany at this time seeks only to see how far the United States will go in insisting upon observance of the Monroe doctrine. Elsewhere it is suspected that Germany is desirous of obtaining a coaling station in Venezuela in defiance of the Monroe doctrine. It is felt that there is something material behind the demand for a payment of German claims.

OVERCOME BY TUNNEL GAS.

Great Northern Crew and Passengers Have Serious Trouble.

Seattle, Feb. 6.—A special to the Post Intelligencer from Everett says:

Great Northern passenger train No. 4, known as the eastbound overland, stuck in the Cascade tunnel last night about midnight and 10 passengers in the sleepers and five members of the train crew were more or less seriously affected by the gas. No deaths have been reported at the division superintendent's office here.

The train left this city at 9:15, on time, last night. A helper is used to pull it through the Cascade tunnel. On the western slope of the tunnel, from some cause or another, the train stuck, and the helping engine broke away. It was run back, recoupled and broke away a second and a third time. On the third breakaway, Engineer Freeman ran the helper through to the east end of the tunnel. Conductor Weston and the fireman were both unconscious when the mouth of the tunnel was reached. When it was found that the helper was not going to return, the train was backed out and run to Wellington.

Engineer Sheerer, of the main crew, his fireman and head brakeman and ten passengers were more or less, though not dangerously, overcome by gas. The whole time the overland was in the tunnel, as stated by the Great Northern officers here, was about 30 minutes. The helper later returned and the train was pulled through the tunnel all right by the same crew.

Warships to Go South.

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—Active preparations are being made for the early departure of the flagship New York and the cruisers Boston, Marblehead and Ranger for the coast of Honduras. Stores for all the ships will be placed aboard the ships today, though the task is not a light one, and the work may run over into tomorrow. Admiral Glass has received no orders fixing a time to sail, and it is possible that he will be detained here until the arrival of written orders. There is a probability, however, that orders will be received here by wire, in which case the four vessels may get away tomorrow.

Same in All S States.

Denver, Feb. 7.—An anti-trust bill, which, it is said, has the endorsement of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox, and is to be presented to the legislature of every state in the Union, was introduced in the senate this afternoon. Accompanying the bill is a memorial in its favor from the National livestock association. The bill provides heavy penalties for conspiracy to restrain or monopolize trade, for giving or accepting rebates and for continuing in business after failure to make annual returns.

A PORTAGE ROAD

Government Engineers Favor One at The Dalles.

STATE ENTERPRISE TO AID IN WORK

Might Have Been Built by Government but for Opposition to Government Owned Railroads.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Engineer officers in this city are not willing finally to commit themselves on the proposal of the state of Oregon to construct a portage railroad from Celilo around The Dalles rapids, on the Columbia river, until they are fully advised as to the details of the plan proposed. The government would have supervision over such a proposition only in so far as the right of way to be occupied by the portage road would lie upon land that has been acquired by the government under the old boat railway project, and where the state would seek to acquire wharfage rights in the river at each end of the proposed road. These matters would come under the supervision of the chief of engineers.

It is stated at the department that, so far as is known, there is no particular reason why a portage road should in any way encroach upon or interfere with the government work to be undertaken under the canal project, as there is much more land now owned by the government between The Dalles and Celilo than will ever be used for canal purposes. On the contrary it is pointed out that two engineer boards and a number of individual engineering officers have in the past recommended the construction of a government portage road at this point, and, in view of this past attitude, it is said there is little or no likelihood that the engineers would throw any obstacles in the way of a portage road to be built and maintained by the state. In view of the opposition in congress to the government ownership and control of railroads, it has never been possible to secure the sanction of that body for a government portage road, although many members believed that such a road would meet the demand and serve to force the desired reduction in railroad rates to the seaboard.

The engineering board that is now considering the Harts project, it is understood, is giving no thought whatever to the portage road project, and, in fact, is devoting its entire attention to devising a cheap, yet satisfactory, canal project that will afford a permanent open river. It is admitted by engineer officers that a portage road paralleling the river would prove of very great assistance to the engineers in the construction of the canal, and on this account the state's proposition will appeal more strongly to the department when it is presented in detail.

CAN'T MOVE BOWEN.

Allies Will Ask President Roosevelt to Settle Last Point.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The allies, hopeless of inducing Minister Bowen to yield on the question of priority of their claims, will ask President Roosevelt to decide the question. If he refuses, they will go to The Hague, as Bowen proposed.

Bowen has agreed to pay each of the allies \$27,000 in satisfaction for alleged indignities suffered by its citizens.

The terms of settlement agreed upon provide for adjustment of the claims of each power by a joint commission of one on each side, with an arbiter, to be appointed by the King of Spain, in case of disagreement.

The Venezuelan officials are then to pay the claims from 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello. In case of failure to pay for 30 days, Belgium is to take charge of the custom houses.

British Papers Worried.

New York, Feb. 9.—The news that the opposition of the Northwestern senators will probably prevent the passage of the Alaska boundary treaty is regarded here as very disconcerting, says a London dispatch to the Tribune. The Daily Chronicle considers that the failure of the treaty will mean the indefinite continuance of the deadlock. "Canada," it says, "will lose the chance of obtaining a free port in the Klondike district, and most violent friction must arise if gold should be discovered in the territory under dispute."

To Inquire Into Coal Combines.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Representative Small, of North Carolina, today introduced a concurrent resolution providing for the appointment by the speaker of a committee of 11 members of the house to inquire generally into the coal conditions in the United States. The resolution further directs the committee to "inquire whether any combinations exist between mineowners and operators and the transportation companies in violation of the law of the United States." A report is to be made to the next congress.