

# A DEAD PAST

By MRS. LOVETT CAMERON

CHAPTER XXI.—(Continued.)  
 To save Kitten, or indeed to benefit her even in the smallest degree, there was nothing upon the face of the earth which Roy was not prepared to do, or dare, or endure. But the question was not what he would do, but whether Felicia would feel disposed to sacrifice herself to save the reputation of a woman, whom she knew but slightly, and to whom she owed nothing whatever.

By degrees, as he thought it over, as he pondered upon Margaret's suggestion, turning it over and over in his mind, an entirely new and original idea flashed into his brain.  
 Why should he not pretend to be engaged? And what good reason could Felicia bring forward to refuse her consent to a merely nominal engagement which should last a couple of months at the longest? There really seemed nothing impracticable to him in the idea. Felicia and he had always understood each other perfectly and were quite capable of keeping a secret between them.

The more Roy thought about it the more simple and easy did the whole thing seem, and the less it entered his mind to imagine that his cousin could refuse to co-operate with him.

Felicia Grantley went about all one summer's day with a cloud upon her brow, a burden of horrible uncertainty in her heart, and a most singular letter from Roy in her pocket.

Mr. Raikes had sat for half an hour in her drawing room, balancing his stick between his knees, and staring gloomily at the carpet.

"What do you think," he asked her for the twentieth time, "shall I go abroad with Brian, or no?"

"You must be the best judge of that, Mr. Raikes," Felicia had answered coldly—very coldly.

The measured tones struck ice into his soul. How could he possibly guess that her heart was in a tumult, and that she had a difficulty in keeping back her tears?

Edgar Raikes looked at her gloomily and miserably. She did not care then, he supposed, whether he stayed or went. It made no difference to her; and how, indeed, could he expect it, or now dare to frame in words the miserable thoughts that were surging in his heart; he who was a pauper, to this girl, whose money and whose fears of being sought for her fortune, seemed to stand like a forbidding angel between him and his chiefest desire.

"I suppose then I had better go," he said miserably, with an inflection that was almost a question in his voice, and something wistful in his eyes which it was a pity that Felicia was so engrossed with her red and yellow silks as not to see.

"That is for you to decide," she said coldly.

Her very coldness should, perhaps, have shown him that she did care, but he did not understand that. Few men know women well enough not always to take what they say for what they really mean. Edgar Raikes merely supposed that his case was hopeless. He shook hands with her in silence, and left her, and when the front door had been slammed upon his departing footsteps, Felicia flung her silks and her plush on to the ground, and laid her head upon the table in front of her and burst into tears.

All this took place in the morning. And then came Roy's letter, and Felicia went about her daily business, her shopping and her visitings, with a load of anxiety on her mind. In the evening she was to give Roy his answer.

They were to meet at some private theatricals, and it was there that he would ask her for her decision, to surely the strangest proposal which a man ever made to a woman.

When dinner time came Felicia was still undecided. For a wonder she was dining at home with her father. They took their places in silence opposite each other. And Mr. Grantley began his usual comments.

"Why didn't you ask Raikes to dinner?"  
 "He is staying with poor Mr. Desmond; I didn't like to ask him to leave him."

That very morning Mrs. Talbot sauntered down Bond street, when she almost stumbled into Brian Desmond's arms as he came quickly round the corner of Grosvenor street.

Here was a chance of mischief making which our friend Gertrude was not in the least likely to neglect. She laughed and stood still, so immediately in front of him that Brian had no chance but to stand still, too.

"You nearly knocked me down!" she cried playfully. Then asked quickly: "Any news of that naughty little truant, Mrs. Desmond?"

"I have not heard from my wife to-day," answered Brian frowningly.

"Oh! of course you know where she is," she cried lightly. "I tell everybody so. I've been fighting her battles for her everywhere. Of course, there is not an atom of truth in all the unkind things people say, as I tell everybody. No truth about her, that is to say. Of course, you are a very naughty, bad man indeed!"

Brian's brow grew black as thunder. No one had dared to breathe a word to him of scandal concerning his wife. It had been Edgar Raikes' constant care to see that no such reports reached his ears. Gertrude was pretty well certain that he had been told of nothing.

"Kindly explain yourself, Mrs. Talbot," he said haughtily and sternly. "What is it concerning my wife that you are kind enough to tell people, and what are the battles which you are generous enough to wage on her account?"

"Oh, my dear fellow, don't look so cross. I assure you I have contradicted it everywhere. Only just now I met some people who declared that Roy Grantley was still away; but it is quite untrue, for I saw Roy in a hansom not ten minutes ago (he looked as white as a sheet, by the way), but of all the false, wicked, cruel slanders on an innocent little darling like your wife! However, you and I know the world, don't we? and, after all, for you to complain would

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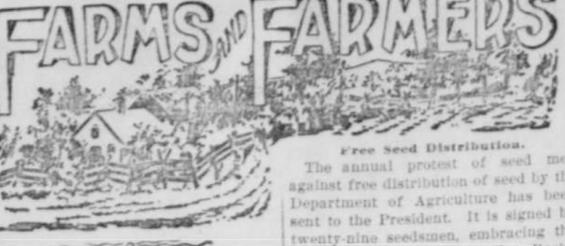
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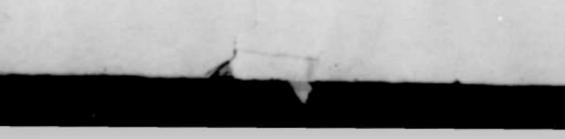
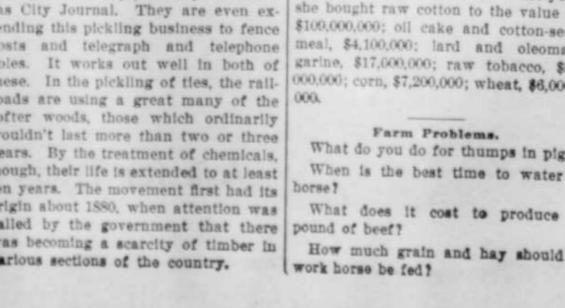
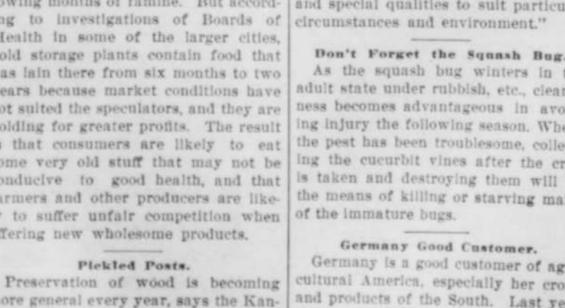
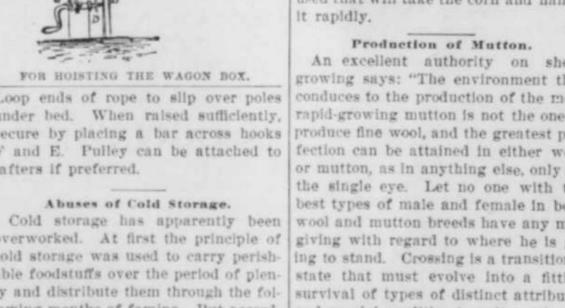
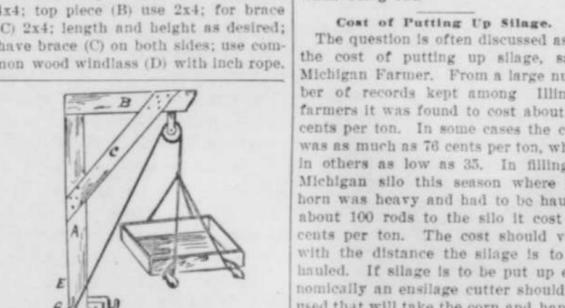
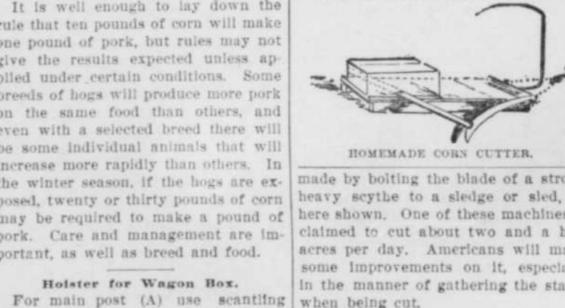
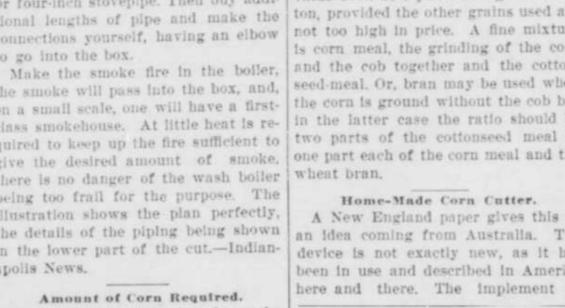
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## FARMS AND FARMERS

Free Seed Distribution.  
 The annual protest of seed men against free distribution of seed by the Department of Agriculture has been sent to the President. It is signed by twenty-nine seedsmen, embracing the whole territory between the Rocky Mountains and the New England coast. The protest states that the original intention of the law was to obtain seeds unknown in the United States that might prove valuable, and in this way increase our agricultural production, but that this statesmanlike proposition has been grievously distorted, with the result that in the main the most common kinds of garden seeds have been distributed.

No doubt a great abuse has crept into this matter of free seed patronage. It has been used by a great many unscrupulous politicians to make themselves solid with certain voters. Like all other public questions, there are two sides. The distribution of sugar beet seed grown on the Pacific coast for experiment all over the country is a good feature that will offset some of the undesirable ones. Not all the seeds distributed are common garden truck.—Field and Fireside.



# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1555—John Philipot, Archbishop of Westminster, convicted of heresy and burned.
- 1582—The Gregorian calendar adopted at Paris, omitting 10 days.
- 1642—New Zealand discovered by James Cook.
- 1644—Christina assumed government of Sweden.
- 1648—Oliver Cromwell ordered all plays stopped in England.
- 1653—Oliver Cromwell declared himself protector of England.
- 1683—Isaac Walton, author of "Complete Angler," died.
- 1745—Dresden surrendered to Frederick II. of Prussia.
- 1754—Mahomet V. of Turkey died.
- 1764—T. H. Perkins, owner of the first railroad in the United States, born.
- 1770—Beethoven, the great musician, born.
- 1774—North Carolina adopted a constitution.
- 1775—American Congress first determined to build a navy.
- 1775—General Howe ordered the burning of houses in Boston for fuel and used for fire wood.
- 1776—Congress adjourned from Philadelphia to Lancaster.
- 1782—The British troops evacuated Charleston, S. C.
- 1787—New Jersey and Pennsylvania ratified the Constitution of the United States.
- 1796—General Anthony Wayne died.
- 1796—General George Washington bid mahogany to be exported from American vessels. Spain declared war against Great Britain.
- 1800—Divorce of Emma Josephine.
- 1810—Lucien Bonaparte and family place themselves under protection of England.
- 1816—First savings bank in the United States opened in Boston.
- 1820—Outbreak of Civil War in England.
- 1832—Treaty of navigation and commerce concluded between the United States and Russia.
- 1836—Patent office and postoffice at Washington, D. C., burned.
- 1838—Chartist meetings declared illegal in England.
- 1840—Remains of Bonaparte, removed from Cherbourg to Paris.
- 1848—Postal convention concluded between Great Britain and the United States. Destruction of the Theater, New York City, by fire.
- 1850—Many killed and injured in the explosion of the steamboat "Norman" at New Orleans.
- 1854—St. Lawrence River opened to American vessels. Several lives lost in sinking of "Westmoreland" in Lake Michigan.
- 1861—Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, died.
- 1862—Fredericksburg, Va., captured by Union forces.
- 1864—Fort McAllister captured by Union forces.
- 1865—Thirteenth Amendment to Constitution proclaimed.
- 1871—Alabama arbitration committee meets at Geneva. William Tweed, the Tammany "Boss," arrested.
- 1874—Edwin Booth made his first appearance on the stage following his retirement after the assassination of President Lincoln.
- 1884—World's Fair opened in New Orleans. Attempt made to burn London Bridge up with dynamite.
- 1891—Violent earthquake in Sicily. United States concludes agreements for reciprocity with Italy.
- 1894—Great loss of life in a volcanic eruption in the New Hebrides. Eugene V. Debs sentenced to contempt of court.
- 1895—Samuel Gompers elected president of the American Federation of Labor.
- 1897—Attorney-General McKim appointed Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
- 1901—Philippine tariff bill introduced in House of Representatives. Marconi signalled across the Atlantic by means of wireless telegraphy.
- 1903—The Cuban reciprocity bill comes a law. W. J. Bryan appointed United States ambassador to the republic of Panama.
- 1904—Three killed in explosion of the States battleship "Maine" at Havana. Ex-Mayor Ames of New Orleans, charged with negligence in office, set free after agreement of the jury at his trial.

This and That.  
 This being in love takes up more time than an aching tooth.  
 When a man is with a cross girl, he will do a lot of fool things.  
 "Old age," said an old man, "is the worst joke ever played on a man.  
 Man learns from every experience except an experience with a woman.  
 Are you as active in paying for you owe as you are in collecting due you?