

he Wife's Secret, OR A BITTER RECKONING

BY CHARLOTTE M. BRAEME

CHAPTER X .- (Continued.) She began methodically to remove every article singly, placing them neatly quiesce in your wish." in a heap on the table, after reading or looking at them. Then she turned to the was, seeing that his neglect had led to to be found in a lady's desk. With a dis- feelings were too real to bear dissecappointed air, she began to replace the tion, and she avoided the discussion. articles, when Miss Mailing's address book fell from her shaking hand on to ly; "herter let it rest."

pressed violets on to the table. paper, for it was the photograph of a calm gaze, and his respect for her was

the candles were still burning, to read termoon express back to Mallingford the name of the photographer at the Park, he could not shake from his mind back of the card. The printing was in a the fable of the dog and the shadow. language she did not understand; but she guessed it must be Spanish. She turned to the picture again, and in the strong of the inscription on the plain headstone. the letter "P." In order to assist her,

"P-a-u-l-l-n-e" she could clearly trace; and now this rain comes and spoils the then came a blot, followed by "l-l-in-g, whole thing. It is annoying, you must d-l-e-d M-a-y 18—," The remainder of allow." the inscription was undistinguishable.

tress? An adventuress-a usurper! And I shall have a hand in dethroning her!" She wiped the perspiration from her Glad I'm a woman!" white, quivering face, placed the photograph in her dress, and locked the desk.

CHAPTER XL

Jack was by no means heartless, and his conscience pricked him more often than was pleasant with regard to Ethel Mallett. He wondered a little if she had really ceased to care for him, if she had yet found a successor to him, or if pique alone had led her to offer him his freedom. She had sent him back the little ring he put on her finger when they were so happy together, and, with a strange consistency, he carried it about with him continually.

Just about this time Jack began to think that he ought to call in Buckingham street, if only to show his gratitude for Mr. Mallett's many past kindnesses, for the old gentleman had often been able and always willing to do Jack a good turn in past days. Once convinced that he ought to do a thing, Jack did it.

The morrow would be the first of Sep tember, and the house was full of peo number of amiable young men were room all day, who talked of nothing but 16 Leman street, E. C." carried his point.

and I cannot get what I want without as usual until breakfast was finished, going to town myself."

as usual until breakfast was finished.
"Will you help Mrs. Sefton and me going to town myself."

that he would find out something if he the breakfast room. she was far from feeling as she auswered:

"Of course, if you must go, there is lutely necessary? If I don't know where you are, I have such a feeling of unrest and anxiety that life becomes a sorrow for the time being." There was honest truth in these words,

and Jack was flattered and grateful for her love. He kissed the beautiful lips, and promised to be back at the very few mo

When Jack was in the train, with a quiet half hour before him for thought, be felt curiously cloyed with the sweets of love, and was ungrateful enough to wish that Pauline would leave the lovemaking a little more in his hands, and that her affection was of a less assertive character.

rushed through the business of the day and stood in the Malletts' sitting room, daughter and exchanging cordial greetings, he felt as if he had been living in hot house of affections for the past weeks, and had just regained the invigorating open air, where the hardier, healthier class of feelings flourish.

He wondered a little at Mr. Mollett's geniality, knowing nothing of Ethei's enerosity in taking the entire responsibility of their separation upon herself, and still less of her father's hope that she had got rid of a nameless nobody just in time to leave the road clear for a suitor more worthy of her in every way; and Jack felt somewhat piqued that Mr. Mallett should make so light of the

But he did not let his annoyance appear upon the surface. He told of the for this ball." success of the paintings for Lord Summers, of his hopes for the future, of the gay life at Mallingford, and impressed his hearers with the fact that he was brimming over with good fortune and

Ethel did not say much; but she appeared to be quietly, kindly interested; and, though she was paler than she used to be, she did not give one the idea of a love-lorn damsel. She sat listening

When Jack was about to leave, Mr. Mallett decided to walk part of the way with him, and accordingly went down-

the engagement; but equally of course there was nothing for me to do but ac-

Ethel felt how ungenerous this remark "That is all passed," she said, grave-

Though she did not say one word in She stooped to pick it up as it lay self-defense, there was a world of re-open; and, in doing so, she saw the edge proach in the subdued tones of her adscattering, as she did so, some dead right to be considered more than blame She less throughout the affair.

shuddered when she raised the tissue | Jack felt miserably small under her vastly incremed by this little passage at She went to the dressing table, where arms; and, as he was carried by the af-

CHAPTER XII.

The rain was coming down in torrents. light she could almost make out part and there was a general expression of disappointment on the men's faces round The first name, she was sure, began with the breakfast table at Mallingford Park. "But you know it is really too bad," she procured Miss Malling's magnifying Cecil Danesford observed to Miss Mallglass, and, with the aid of that, she ing. "Your head man had fixed to-day spelled out the name, or as much of it for the north end covers, and he says they are the best on the whole estate;

"Poor creatures-men!" said the Hon. "I never expected this! The grave of Miss Collins, reflectively. "The comfort Pauline Mailing! Then who is my mis- of their lives depends upon the one amusement of the hour. Deprive them. of that and they are stranded helplessly.

"Well, I hope you will have got over the first rush of slaughter by the 17th," Pauline Interposed, bringing the conversation back to the original object

"Why by the 17th?" several asked. "Because I shall then attain my longdeferred majority, and dear old Lord Summers insists that there will be a big affair on the happy occasion. "A ball? Delightful!" exclaimed the

"And I shan't be here!" muttered Ce-

His attention was suddenly arrested by an advertisement in the Times, which he held in his hand. "By all that's mysterious?" he exclaim-

ed; and then he sat gazing at the newsper in mute astonishment. Bertha Collins leaned across, and looked at the place he was pointing at.

"How extraordinary!" she exclaimed. "For pity's sake, let us into the mystery!" Pauline said; and Bertha read out the following advertisement

ple who had been invited to enjoy the "'Mallingford Park-If this should abundant sport Mallingford offered. A meet the eye of Sir G. M., he will hear " 'Mallingford Park-If this should of something to his decided advantage lounging about the corridors and billiard by applying to Messra. Daws & Raven.

the probable weather on the morrow, the There was general astonishment and chances for and against good sport, and various were the surmises as to what the respective merits of their own and it could mean. Jack, glancing at Pauother men's guns. Jack obtained a few line, was surprised to see her agitated words with Pauline before breakfast, and and white to the lips. She motioned to him not to notice it, and fought deter-"I must have several things for to- minedly with her emotion. The others morrow," he said. "I know you would were too much absorbed by their curiosity not wish me to be different from others, to take much heed, and she bore herself

Pauline would have dearly liked to go to finish filling in the cards for the sevwith him, for she had a horrible fear enteenth?" she asked Jack, as she left

should call on the Malletts. She was Jack promised to join them in the not supposed to know of the existence boudoir in a quarter of an hour. He did of such people-for Jack had never not like to think of Pauline's look. He spoken of them to her—so he could not was a poor struggling artist, who had well as him not to call on them; and hitherto lived by the exercise of his unshe could not leave her guests without sided talent, and Pauline was a rich, she was forced to feign a complacency things that count in this world; yet he would not make her his wife if he did not believe her life to be spotless and without flaw. This was the idea that hauntnothing more to be said; but you will not ed him as he recalled her look at the stay one half-hour longer than is abso- breakfast table. If ever a woman's face expressed suddenly aroused fear, nisns read that advertisement in the Times. | ried.' He went back to the breakfast room before he joined Pauline, read the advertisement again, and copied the address into his note book.

"If I am in the neighborhood with a ments to spare, I may look them up and see what it means," he decided. Then he followed the ladies to the boudoir. Pauline, still looking unlike hersaid nothing to them, but went straight to his work of filling in the invitatious from the list of names given him. Mrs Sefton left the room after a time; and Two or three hours later, when he had Pauline, turning to Jack, put her hand

entreatingly on his arm. "I know what you are going to ask shaking hands with both father and me; but I can't talk about it just now -not to-day. I will tell you to-morrow, or the day after; but don't speak of it now. I ask it as a favor."

Jack felt perplexed. He had expected he moment they were alone together that she would tell him what had caused her disquiet. He felt unhappy and worried, yet he could hardly force her to holds over, has actually done. It may speak upon a subject that evidently dis-

"Of course, I don't want to worry you, darling," he answered; "but I must coufess I am curious, and I shall be glad when you can tell me all without distressing yourself."

"Thank you vary much, dear. And now I want to ask you if there is any one you would like me to send a card to

Jack flushed as he replied: "Yes; there are two people I should lke you to invite-Mr. Mallett and his daughter. They are everything desirale, or I should not suggest it; and the old gentleman was very kind to me in the days that are gone."

"Was the daughter kind, too, Jack?" playfully.

Again Jack flushed a little. "I think you are a bit of a witch," the conversation, and wondering if he said, with a laugh. "I may as well her father would touch on the subject tell rou, and then there will be no secret of their identity during Jack's visit; but in my past for you to find out by and Mr. Mallett did not wish to be made the by. Yes, she was kind to me, and once tople of gossip among Miss Malling's I thought I liked her well enough to guests, and therefore kept his own coun- make her my wife; but that was before

"You don't think so now?"

"If I did, should I be here?" stairs first. Jack turned, with the door steadily, and the scratch, scratch of the show. handle in his hand, to thank Ethel for busy pens went on without interruption. what she had done-yet hardly to thank Pauline finished her list first, and sat back in her chair, with a thoughtful, "I can't go without thanking you for chastened look on her face which was being so candid with me, Ethel." he strangely unlike her usual imperious air. said. "Of course I was very surprised Jack noted it, and thought her more when I received your letter breaking off beautiful, if that were possible, although blouses that button at the back."

he wondered what had brought about so ····· great a change. He felt a forewarning that this was the little cloud in their sky that would darken the whole heavens. "At last!" he exclaimed, as he threw

lown his pen.

********************* other side, going through it in the same what had happened; but she would not I must discover how much they know, or and more toward becoming automatic way, and reached the bottom without be driven into repreaching him, and so how can I fight them? I can't trust wheels in the great industrial organidiscovering anything more than is usually give him cause to justify himself. Her another; I must do it myself;" and, with zation. The new industrial order has

Babette's eyes flashed with a quick nection with his fellows. of a photograph peeping from the pocket in the cover. She took it out hurriedly, ferent, her whole manner asserted her ed instantly, and she answered, meekly: ively fill his place in this new order of

'Certainly, mademoiselle." ing; so I want you to run down to the willage during juncheon and bring back whirl of the industrial machine, how-

'Very good, mademoiselte. the foom.

Messieurs Daws & Rayen and show your pretty face, and maybe a ten-pound note States, all the great powers of the civor so, and they will tell you all about the person who sent them that advertisement! But you do not ostwit a French woman so simply, my good friend! Mr. Daws is quite prepared to receive you with politeness, and to tell you that he really knows nothing more than that his lient, whom he is not at liberty to name, is auxious to obtain the address of the present Sir Geoffrey;" and the girl chuckled grimly as she went along, "That old Daws will hardly risk losing his share of the plunder, even to oblige a sweet, so handsome, so soft-voiced a lady as you, madame!" and she laughed again as she pictured the meeting between her mistress and the lawyer. "I wish I could e there to see!"

Pauline stopped to speak to Jack as they cross the hall after luncheon.
"I shall lie down for the whole afternoon; my head is aching so dreadfully. What will you do with yourself, Jack?

A wet day is such a terrible infliction country house!" "I shall work. It's a week to-day since I touched a brush; it will be a grand opportunity. I should advise your taking a good rest while you can get it,' Jack responded, in a matter-of-fact tone,

"At all cost I must be in a position to tell him something that will not be contradicted. I must find out how much recognize the principal of a civil penthose people know before to-night." (To be continued.)

******** that principle. REFORM THAT WAS TOO THOROUGH

Old Lady Colburn was giving her Without a single exception these corgranddaughter some good advice, the porations which have adopted such a week before her wedding. "Now it's plan expressed the opinion, after havall very fine for you to have these ing had an opportunity to note its efplans for making John over-if he feets, that it was a wise business pracneeds it," said the old lady. "He may tice. As a rule those American corhave some ideas about reforming a porations which have adopted the old few little habits of yours, my dear- age pensions system have treated the but you don't want to go too far, matter in the light of deferred wages, either of you, and you want to be the corporation bearing the entire expretty careful what you say.

some very serious reason; consequently high-born woman, his superior in most intemperate smoker, and he missed employe to the service and thus de-

fiancee's had done so when Bertha Col- piges or smoking when we were mar- dispense with the elderly and ineffi-

self, was sking with Mrs. Sefton, Jack thing to do with pipes or smoking, creased wages for a temporary period. and this comes under both heads."

"And she had to go for the stove man berself, though he was a real Reputed to Have Been Made by considerate man, most ways, her husband was. You just bear in mind that ing John over."

Merely for Hinstration. good memory, says that she sometimes 1842, at Eversham, England. A four some delinquent, whose punishment be that the child's mother has been sent for, to talk about the matter, and then the way is plain. The teacher summons the little culprit, and says to her severely, "Now, tell your mother exactly what happened." The child, fearful of correction, tells, and the teacher's memory is refreshed.

A certain officer, when his men were at rifle practice, became exasperated at their clumsiness.

"Here," he said to one of them give me your gun." He shot at the target, but the ball

went wide. The men grinned. "There," said the officer to the man who had lent him the gun, "that's the way you shoot." Then he tried again, with the same

ll result. But he was undaunted. 'And that," he remarked to another man, "Is the way you shoot." In a third attempt the ball hit the

bull's-eye. "And that," he concluded, calmly, "is the way I shoot,"

Common Sight.

"Yes; my wife has one of those

PENSIONS FOR THE AGED.

porations to Make Provision. Frank A. Vanderlip, formerly As sistant Secretary of the Treasury, ad-"You have been a good boy," Pauline vocated in a recent address the estabsaid, with a smile. "We could not have lishment by large corporations of pen finished them to-day without your help." sion funds for old employes. In dis-"So I shall lose him, after all, if I can cussing the matter Mr. Vanderlip re not satisfactorily explain this morning's ferred to the great changes which have fright!" she reflected, alone in her dressing room. "He will not allow a secret her level going on in industrial life during the country of the countr tween us. What can I do? if I con- the past 25 years "There have become oct a lie to account for it, there may tendencies," he said, "toward speciali be an advertisement in to-morrow's paration and concentration. There has Three Trains to the East Daily per that will expose it. Who can want been a wonderful application of meto find Geoffrey Mailing after allowing chanical aids. We have been workme undisputed possession for the last six years? If they find him, they will tell all, and he will claim his inheritance; they cannot want him for anything else. these thoughts runing through her mind, made a new social order. There is toshe crossed to the bell, which Babette day no such things as industrial indepromptly answered. "Babette, I want to run up to London this afternoon, and He must work with others. He must become subject to regulations in con-

affairs this condition shows great im-"If the people see the brougham leav- provement in many respects. The mong the house, it will set them wonder- ment he gets out of harmony with the one of the public flies from the inn there, ever; the moment that sickness over-Tell the man to drive to the stable yard takes him and accident injures him or -in fact, you can come back in it; and old age reduces his power to keep in let it be there by a quarter past three," step with the industrial march, his "Very good, mademoiselle."

Babette's face gleamed with mruel deably more unfortunate 'than would light behind Pauline's back as she left have been the case under similar cir-So you think you have only to go to cumstances in earlier times.

"With the exception of the United



FRANK W. VANDERLIP.

Pauline set her teeth in her underlip filized world pension their civil serand left him, her mind racked with anx vants. The full working out of the merit system in civil service can never be accomplished, I believe, until we sion for superannuated government employes. There is no other important nation which has not recognized

"In an inquiry reaching nearly 2,000 corporations replies show that 70 have adopted some plan for retiring and providing for employes during old age. pense of the pension requirements.

"When I was a gift, somebody told "If I were to attempt to summarize me the story of a young woman who the reasons why institutions in the made the young man she married United States are beginning to adopt promise her he would have nothing to old age pension schemes I would say do with smoking. Well, that was all that they embrace such considerations right enough, but he'd never been an as these: The pension attaches the the little soothing he'd been accust creases the liability to strike. It makes tomed to get from his pipe once in a more certain a continuance of efficient men in the lines of work with which "But if ever she saw him looking they are perfectly familiar. Of quite at it she'd remind him, 'You promised as much importance is the fact that a me never to have anything to do with pension system enables employers to full of smoke. She said she thought the stovepipe needed cleaning; but he—be was kind of stubborn, same as most men are at times—he just sat here and said, I promised you when the were married never to have any ing to do with pines.

FIRST SEWING MACHINE

Charles Kyte in England. The cut is from a photograph of the little circumstance when you're mak- first sewing machine ever invented, now in the loan collection at the Victoria and Albert museum at South Kensington, London. It is reputed to have been made by Charles Kyte in 1842, at Eversham, England. A four A school teacher who has not a very have been made by Charles Kyte in



THE FIRST SEWING MACRINE.

legged stool supports the table on which the machine is carried. The treadle acts upon a crank axle, carrying a wooden fly wheel. The machine "Let us walt and see the lady contors is exceedingly simple in construction, The rain continued to pour down tionist," said the bachelor in the side and the results obtained could not have been especially cheering. Still "Wouldn't interest me," replied the the contrivance will make a lock benedict. "I see one at home every stitch, and there is even an attempt at a tension arrangement.

> When a man is chaperoned, he really being shadowed.

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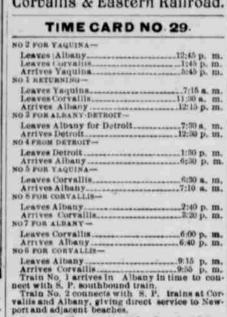
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