

THE CHARITY GIRL

By EFFIE A. ROWLANDS

CHAPTER XVI.—(Continued.)

The Duke of Marlborough was making an almost regal procession with his new daughter-in-law. He had come up just as Audrey was clasping her mother's hand, and when he caught sight of the girl's face he whistled.

"Jack, my boy, you're in luck," he cried, and then he would do but Audrey must walk away with him and be introduced all round.

"The girl is a lady from head to foot, and what a face! Charity girl, indeed! Where's Gladys, I wonder?" and then the wicked old man chuckled to himself as he meditated a plan to annoy Lady Daleswater.

So with Audrey, laughing heartily at his sallies, he walked straight up to his daughter, whose cold eyes were resting with distinct approval on the slender, white-robed figure.

"Gladys, my dear, here is some one you must know. This young lady has quite taken my heart by storm! I don't believe I'll leave a whole one when she goes away."

"That is easily understood," remarked Lady Daleswater, graciously giving Audrey sincere admiration, "but you have not told me this young lady's name, papa."

"No! Haven't I? Dear me! Well, you really ought not to need an introduction, since she is your new sister, Jack's wife. Come along, my dear. I want to take you up to that old woman over there; she is not beautiful, but she is clever, and that is a great thing."

Sheila Fraser had not been with Lady Daleswater when the duke brought up his son's wife, but she knew in a moment that her rival had come on to the field, and she could scarcely contain her bitter hatred and jealousy, as she heard nothing but admiration expressed for Audrey all the way round.

She was carefully attended by her cavalier, the Honorable Lancelot Twist, brother to the Earl of Daleswater, who was as strongly inclined in favor of obtaining her fortune as his sister-in-law could desire. He was a mean little man, very like the earl in appearance, but Sheila did not care about this; she only remembered his rank, and was glad to have some one to attend her so closely, if only to show the world that she was not breaking her heart for Lord John Glendurwood. Miss Fraser walked straight up to the lovely girl's form.

"I am very glad to see you," she said, with great warmth and extending her delicately gloved hand. "You have not quite forgotten me, Lady John, I hope?"

"Oh, no, I have not forgotten you, Miss Fraser," she said, simply, and then she added no more, for to say she was glad to see Sheila would have been to utter an untruth, and Audrey was not versed sufficiently in the world's ways to speak falsely.

CHAPTER XVII.

Jack had explained very gently to Audrey that there was a quarrel going on between his mother and his sister.

"It is all about some nonsense, darling," he had said, "but mother is quite right to hold her own. Gladys has a wretched temper. I—I am afraid you must not expect her to be too kind to you."

"That is why she looked so coldly at me when your father took me up to introduce me, then?"

"Be ready for me at five, darling. I shall take you for a drive then. What are you going to do all day while I am down looking at these horse whips Sinclair?"

"I am going shopping with mother, but I will be ready and waiting for you by five."

What long, happy, sunny days those were. It seemed to Audrey as though the hours were not half long enough to cram in all the delights that came following one another so quickly.

"If only Miss Ives and the matrons could see me now. How funny it all is! I have often heard some of the older girls say that when I first went to the home I was supposed to be very lucky, because Lady Biddulph was going to look after me, but I never thought my luck would be as great as this. Mother, Miss Fraser is very kind to me."

Constance's brow contracted angrily. "There is no reason why she should not be, Audrey."

"Is she really going to marry that horrid little man, mother?"

"Who is the horrid little man?" inquired Jack's voice at the door. "Don't go, Constance, dear," Jack continued, kissing her affectionately, and then sitting down beside his wife and gathering her bodily into his arms.

"This is the children's hour, so I think I had better take my departure," said Mrs. Fraser. "Audrey, if you are going to this ball to-night, have an hour's rest. No, Jack, there is no occasion to come down with me."

But Lord John insisted. "Didn't she look lovely?" he exclaimed, as they went down the stairs. "Everybody is raving about her. My little darling! Oh, Con, dear, what have I done that I should be so blessed?"

"Take care of her, Jack. Be good to her always!" The words broke from the mother's lips suddenly.

"Do you not trust me?" he asked, reproachfully, and then he looked at her gently. "Do you know, you are very pale and worn, Mrs. Fraser? What have you been doing to yourself? I think I must have a long chat with you, madame."

Constance Fraser put her hand on the young man's arm.

"Jack, dear Jack, don't you know what my pale face means?" she said, so low as almost to be inaudible.

"Nothing very serious, I am sure," he answered quickly, though he felt a sudden pang at his heart.

"Do not let her know," she whispered, very softly; "her life is so happy, do not let me be the first to cast a shadow on it; time enough when—"

"When years hence you shall still be alive, and heaven grant, strong and well. Constance, why do you talk like this, dear?"

"Jack, my friend! As you have been that, my good, staunch, faithful friend! My son, the flat has gone forth; my days are numbered. This summer will be my last. I—no, I will say no more! Let us go on!"

Jack Glendurwood's face worked for a moment; he half yielded to a strong impulse within him to break out into passionate words of sorrow, incredulity, binding promises of everlasting, never-changing love, but the ashen pallor of her face, the expression round her lips, checked him. He led her gently to her carriage.

Constance tried to speak vaguely, but the tears rushed to her eyes, and she sank back into her carriage and gestured to him to let her drive on unmolested.

The season ran on its appointed course. The curiosity that had raged about the romantic Glendurwood marriage had had plenty of time to wane, but in its place the celebrity which Audrey's unclouded beauty and natural charm obtained for her. Constance Fraser ordered her trunks packed.

"I wish I could go with you," Audrey said, sorrowfully, as she sat watching these proceedings the last day her mother spent in town.

"Why, you little baby," laughed Constance. "Audrey, my dearest one," she said gently, "I am going to preach you a sermon. Heaven has been very good to you. You have been given all that in this world constitutes happiness; you must not grow used to this good fortune—always remember, my darling, that at any moment it could slip from you far easier than it came to you. Put before you the memory of Jean Thwait and others, who have not one tithe of the glances that have been bestowed on you, and never forget that however high your rank, you have certain duties to perform that are as necessary to your position as they are beneficial to your character. One of your duties is to do all to advise your husband wisely, to act with thought, and to keep good word of those around you. Lady Gladys Daleswater is his sister. No matter how cold and unsympathetic she may seem, you must try and cement by every means in your power the bond that exists between brother and sister. I like to think of my Audrey doing good to her life, not growing discontented, dissatisfied and luxurious, as alas, so many fortunate girls do. Now, my sermon is over; was it very hard to hear?"

"Mother," Audrey's eyes were luminous through her tears, "how sweet and good you are! If you are always with me, perhaps some day I, too, shall be like you."

"I am content with you as you are," the mother answered, fervently, as she held the slender form close to her heart, and clung to it. "God bless my darling! God guard and shield her now and forever!"

Jack Glendurwood had been astonished, but nevertheless much pleased, when his sister suggested that Audrey and himself should join her party on board the Daleswater yacht, *Mona*, for the *Coccyus* week.

"I think I shall have a pleasant party, and you may enjoy it," she had said, slowly, with a cold smile. And Jack accepted the invitation promptly.

"When do you think of going?" he asked, and then, when he learned the date, he puckered his brow. "What a nuisance. I thought the *Coccyus* would be well over before the twelfth, and I promised Sinclair I would run up north for about three days with him."

"And take Audrey with you?" asked Lady Daleswater. "Rather unwise, I think, my dear Jack," his sister observed; "a child like that won't enjoy seeing the birds slaughtered, and to leave her alone in a gloomy Scotch shooting box is little short of cruel. You had better arrange that she comes with me, and you can join her as soon as possible."

So it was settled. Audrey felt low and depressed when she heard of the arrangement; she had not been parted from her husband for more than a few short hours, and the prospect of being away alone with the Daleswaters, Jack in Scotland, and the duchess and her mother in Germany, was really almost a painful one.

The *Mona* was quite a large-sized vessel, fitted up in the most extravagant fashion. Audrey found the cabin allotted to her equally as dainty as her bedroom in London. She was much pleased to see among the new arrivals a Mrs. Hungerford, whom her mother had always regarded as a warm, staunch friend, and she immediately sat down beside this lady, who since she had been married, Sheila was flirting with several men, but her cold eyes went sharply across the water every now and then as though in search of some one.

The going sounded for dinner, when ringing, they went together along the polished deck to the cabin stairs.

Just as they reached the bottom they came upon a man who drew back with a respectful gesture to let them pass. Audrey was laughing softly at some witty remark of her companion's, but the latter died away as she beheld this man's face.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The sight of the man took Audrey back to the past. At once the memory of a horrible few months returned to her mind. She said again the cold, cheerless, empty, wavy, empty trees and was struggling to escape from the insulting presence of the valet Downs. What was this man doing on board the *Mona*?

Audrey was not sorry when she could retire to her cabin; she felt tired and dreary; if it had not been for Mrs. Hungerford and Willie Fullerton she would have been wretched all the evening. Beverly had made no effort at conversation with her, for which she was glad. To her joy, when she went below she found a telegram from Jack waiting for her, brought across from the shore. The summer moon was high in the heavens when the rest of the party sought their berths.

"Good night, Mr. Fullerton," good night, Mr. Rochester," cried Sheila, as she descended the stairs, leaving the two men on deck. Beverly sauntered away and Downs followed him. Willie Fullerton, left alone, gazed after him curiously.

"If that chap is not an out and out scoundrel I'm not a man," he reflected. "His servant looks just another, too."

If Willie Fullerton could have heard the whispered conversation that passed hurriedly between master and man he would have been considerably augmented his belief. The interview was brief, but when they separated they seemed to have arrived at a good conclusion.

"To-morrow when I give the signal, and remember, let there be no mistake!" was Beverly's last word.

"Never fear!" returned Downs, savagely. "I'll make no mistake!" and with that he walked swiftly away.

Audrey woke very early the next morning with a start. The sun was just rising; she went to the door and gazed out. How pretty and picturesque it was! She longed for Jack to be there to share her pleasure.

"Never mind, there will be a letter this morning," she consoled herself.

This comforted her, and then she was given his letter. The cheery, tender, fond words consoled her beyond all description, and when she came to the postscript she felt her heart beat lightly again.

"I am delighted to hear that Willie Fullerton is on board; I am sure you will like him," Jack wrote. "He is quite the nicest young man of my acquaintance. Tell him for me that I expect him to do me a good turn, and look well after my dear, sweet little wife. He will make an excellent cavalier, and be delighted beyond measure to attend so lovely a lady. Look for me at the end of the week. Till then, and always, your devoted husband. "JACK."

She confided to her new friend the message her Jack had sent, and was greatly pleased at Willie's delight.

"And now I hope you will begin to look upon me as a friend, Lady John? I am sure you will if Glendurwood does," he said eagerly.

Sheila was almost gleeful over this "dilatation," as she insisted on calling it. "I always knew she was a bold thing," she declared to Beverly in an aside; "but I never thought she was so bad as this. She is carrying on most shamefully with Willie Fullerton."

There was a strained expression in Beverly's smile. He, too, was watching the boy and girl away at the far end of the deck.

"And she will not even speak one word to me!" he thought to himself, the hot tide of jealousy running like fire in his veins.

The day progressed. The dance was to begin about 9 o'clock. Just about dinner hour Willie Fullerton came to Audrey.

"I am in despair, Lady John," he said, really quite mournfully. "I shall not be able to claim you for our promised dance. I am compelled to run ashore. My mother has sent for me on important business. She is an invalid, poor old dear, and I must go."

"Of course you must," said Audrey, "but I shall miss you very much indeed. Mr. Fullerton, I don't think I shall dance many times to-night."

Lady Daleswater's dance was declared to be enchanting. The fairy lights, the delicious music, the select company, nothing was wanting in any one's estimation but Audrey's. She was very dull and very lonely.

"Go and dance, my dear," advised Mrs. Hungerford, cheerily. But to the great disappointment of most of the men present, Lady John Glendurwood persistently refused to join the dancers.

"Posing!" sneered Mrs. Fairfax to Sheila. "The girl is as big a coquette as she is a bumbler."

Lady Daleswater did not pay too much attention to her sister-in-law. For the first time in her arrogant career the countess was suffering from jealousy.

Why should this girl, this nobody, with all sorts of probable disagreeables hanging to her childhood, why should she be queen of the situation, while she, Gladys, Countess of Daleswater, was put on one side and forgotten?

GREAT SAVING TO FARMERS.

Valuable Discoveries Made at the Dakota Agricultural College.

The North Dakota Agricultural College is accomplishing for the farmers of the world through its patient and thorough investigations in plant life it is not easy to estimate. A single one of its discoveries—that of the formaldehyde treatment for smut—has already been worth many millions of dollars to the agriculturists of the United States and the entire world.

Thirteen years ago, he found that this hitherto unconquerable enemy of the grain grower could be effectually prevented by bathing seed in a simple and inexpensive chemical solution made by dissolving one pound of formaldehyde, 40 per cent strength, in forty-five gallons of water and using three-fourths of a gallon of this solution to a bushel of wheat, oats or barley and one-half gallon to a bushel of flax.

For many years he could not persuade a single farmer to adopt his plan. They looked upon him as a scientific dreamer, an impracticable experimenter, and laughed at his theories. It was in 1890 that the farmers first began to regard Professor Bailey and his ideas seriously. Then a few of the more progressive and wealthy ones, who owned large tracts of land and felt that they could afford to experiment, decided to test his prescription for wheat smut. This was the first time the treatment had been tried on an extensive scale with practical agriculturists.—World To-day.

Smashes Baggage Safely.

"If you are a traveler who has suffered the pangs of seeing your precious baggage tossed hither and yon before finally finding a resting place in the hold of a vessel, then you have prayed for a system whereby luggage could be swung from the wagons at the docks to the hold of the vessel." So says the writer of an amusingly interesting article in the Technical World Magazine.

"Maybe you are owner of a freight vessel or a liner carrying a full-limit cargo. Ah, then you have spent sleepless nights figuring how some of those precious hours spent in loading and unloading your vessel could be cut down. You have longed for a machine which would handle a mixed cargo with expedition and safety. Or you may be manager of a large warehouse. Your problem then has been for years how to get your goods from floor to floor of your storage house without being obliged to handle it at every floor. Whichever of the two you are, or whether you belong to the merchants who import or export, the quick and careful handling of your goods is the all-important matter and it has never been quite satisfactorily adjusted."

The writer then goes on to describe a new invention for safe handling of all sorts of freight that is now in use on many large wharves, and his description is worth reading if only for the comfort one may derive from contemplating a future when the smashing of baggage will be no more. According to the writer, that blessed future is not far away.

"For This Relief."

Nervous Amateur Lecturer (who has just received a message from his lantern man that the oxygen for the lime-light will last only five minutes longer)—And now, ladies and gentlemen, I must conclude, as my gas is giving out. Harper's Weekly.

Worse than the Japanese.

"My dear, what is the brown pert?" "I guess it's the awful taste I had in my mouth after that reception we gave Johnnie Chumley."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.



New Method of Grafting.

Before a meeting of the American Pomological Society the following method of grafting was described by a gentleman from Colorado, who stated that it was the most successful method that he had employed in top-working old orchards, and that it could be used on branches as large as four inches in diameter with great success. It impresses one as being possibly better than ordinary cleft grafting for large stocks, from the fact that the surfaces of the union were all smooth and the scions held more firmly. The method of procedure is as follows: After determining where the graft had better go the stock is cut off with a fine saw and the cut made in the side of the stock, as shown at "a." This is then cleaned out with a knife, as shown at "b." A saddle knife is used for this purpose, outline of which is shown at "c." The scion is cut as usual in cleft grafting and is driven with some little force into the groove of the stock as shown at "d" and in.

"If you could keep the frost away from a tomato vine for a couple of years it would get to be a fair-sized tree," says the Texas Farmer. "This occurs sometimes in Florida—in years when the frost king leaves that State alone. By the same sign, you can plant tomatoes in the winter in Florida and have them grow all the spring and summer and fall, and under the right conditions they become very large. The midrib of the leaf of such a tomato plant will grow to be eighteen inches long, a veritable tree limb. * * * Six feet is the height to which the tomatoes should be trained, and pruned to a single stem. They can be made to grow ten or fifteen feet as well, but this is an inconvenient height."

Advertise Your Poultry. There was a farmer who had been breeding pure-blood chickens for some years, and he always sold what he had in poultry and eggs, without any trouble to his neighbors and little market town, but he had never thought about pushing this little by-business of his regular vocation of farming.

Finally it was suggested to him that he ought to advertise the poultry branch of his business and extend it somewhat, but he was timid about sinking a few dollars already in hand in printer's ink with the view of getting uncertain dollars. Finally, however, after talking the matter over with his wife, he invested a few dollars. He made \$40 out of this venture. He now advertises extensively and does a big business.

Testing Fertilizers. Before using fertilizers in large quantities it is well to experiment with several different kinds in plots. The diagram shows plots of uniform size which should be separated by a space of at least 12 inches. The squares

marked O are not fertilized and are used for comparison with the fertilized ones. If the squares are made 20 feet by 20 feet an application of one pound of nitrate will be equivalent to one hundred pounds to the acre.

Keeping Cocks in Condition. No animal can remain at a standstill without loss to its owner. If the animal is not gaining, then the labor and food are wasted. If the animal loses only a pound in weight, then the farmer suffers loss of that which he once had, and he must incur additional expense to recover that additional pound, but the time lost cannot be recovered. These facts show the importance of keeping the stock in good condition and having an animal make an increase daily. When there is a falling off in the weight, or the yield of milk is reduced, the cause should be sought, and if an error has occurred, or there is fault in the management, a change for the better should be made without delay.

Setting a Hen. Don't put the eggs in a deep box, where the hen will be forced to jump down on the eggs to get to them, for she will be pretty apt to break some of them. Should any of the eggs be broken at any time, the balance of them should be washed as soon as discovered, for the proper dimensions for a hatch. The proper dimensions for a box in which to set a sitting hen are about 12 inches square. If smaller it is apt to crowd the hen and the eggs are liable to be broken; if larger, the eggs will scatter and will not all be incubated. The box should be placed on its side, so that the hen may have easy access to it.

Strawberries. There is one advantage in growing strawberries in that less capital is required and the crops come sooner. Plants set out this spring will send out runners and form matted rows full of berries next year. If kept clean the rows will give two or three crops, the rows will be ready for the market with a partial crop after the first day to-morrow. Of the various foods, however, a cow will eat from 40 to 60 pounds of mature corn ensilage, with from 5 to 10 pounds of grain with the ensilage, which may be given in place of the bran. Of clover hay, a cow may be allowed to eat as much as she wishes. The ensilage may be reduced and more grain given, ground, if preferred, but there is no rule to govern the feeding of a cow. Each cow must be studied and her wants satisfied. Those yielding milk should be fed more liberally than those that are dry, or nearly so.

Ritual of Beeswax. A substitute for beeswax has been discovered in the leaves of the raffia palm, a product of the island of Madagascar. The wax is extracted by the simple process of beating the dried leaves on a mat to small bits. The particles are then gathered and boiled. The resultant wax is kneaded into small cakes. Experiments are being made with the new substance to find out its commercial value—whether it may be used for bottling purposes, in the manufacture of phonograph cylinders, etc.

Feeding Animals. It is economical to feed only as much as may be required. If too much carbonaceous material be fed to an animal the excess will be a loss, for the reason that the animal will assimilate and appropriate only the actual amount necessary for the purpose required by the system; and even when the farmer feeds liberally of carbonaceous material he may starve his animals if they do not receive nitrogenous food, for which reason it may be noticed that on some farms, where the stock is liberally provided with certain kinds of food, the animals are not thrifty, the young ones do not grow, and the farmer is annoyed at the unsatisfactory results of what he supposes is good management, when the cause is a lack of perhaps only a single element, which, in connection with a less quantity of one of the kinds of food given, would produce a radical change. It is important then, in order to derive the best results from feeding animals, that the farmer thoroughly understands the quality of the materials used. Its feeding value depends upon the proportions of those elements marked O are not fertilized and are used for comparison with the fertilized ones. If the squares are made 20 feet by 20 feet an application of one pound of nitrate will be equivalent to one hundred pounds to the acre.

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Ritual of Beeswax. A substitute for beeswax has been discovered in the leaves of the raffia palm, a product of the island of Madagascar. The wax is extracted by the simple process of beating the dried leaves on a mat to small bits. The particles are then gathered and boiled. The resultant wax is kneaded into small cakes. Experiments are being made with the new substance to find out its commercial value—whether it may be used for bottling purposes, in the manufacture of phonograph cylinders, etc.

Feeding Animals. It is economical to feed only as much as may be required. If too much carbonaceous material be fed to an animal the excess will be a loss, for the reason that the animal will assimilate and appropriate only the actual amount necessary for the purpose required by the system; and even when the farmer feeds liberally of carbonaceous material he may starve his animals if they do not receive nitrogenous food, for which reason it may be noticed that on some farms, where the stock is liberally provided with certain kinds of food, the animals are not thrifty, the young ones do not grow, and the farmer is annoyed at the unsatisfactory results of what he supposes is good management, when the cause is a lack of perhaps only a single element, which, in connection with a less quantity of one of the kinds of food given, would produce a radical change. It is important then, in order to derive the best results from feeding animals, that the farmer thoroughly understands the quality of the materials used. Its feeding value depends upon the proportions of those elements marked O are not fertilized and are used for comparison with the fertilized ones. If the squares are made 20 feet by 20 feet an application of one pound of nitrate will be equivalent to one hundred pounds to the acre.

Keenly Cocks in Condition. No animal can remain at a standstill without loss to its owner. If the animal is not gaining, then the labor and food are wasted. If the animal loses only a pound in weight, then the farmer suffers loss of that which he once had, and he must incur additional expense to recover that additional pound, but the time lost cannot be recovered. These facts show the importance of keeping the stock in good condition and having an animal make an increase daily. When there is a falling off in the weight, or the yield of milk is reduced, the cause should be sought, and if an error has occurred, or there is fault in the management, a change for the better should be made without delay.

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