

A DEAD PAST

By MRS. LOVETT CAMERON

CHAPTER VI.

"And pray where have you been hiding yourself for the past week? Why were you not at Ascot? I hear you threw over three invitations for the week without ever giving a reason. Do you not know that the whole London world—the female world, I mean—has been laughing and pining without you? The Park has been a wilderness and Hurlingham a desert waste. Rumor says you have been away making love to a rustic beauty among the roses, and all the women have cried their eyes out for spite and envy!"

"You are bright enough, at any rate," said Desmond, in answer to the above speech, as he sank down into a chair by the speaker's side, and looked at her with a flattering smile of admiration.

"Ah, you can't tell the state my heart has been in, though," replied the lady. She was a handsome woman, with dark locks arranged in a wonderful shock over her broad brows. To know Mrs. Talbot was to know a woman of fashion who was certain to amuse you, who was ready to flirt or to pick her most familiar friends' characters to pieces, who was a walking encyclopedia of the sayings and doings of all the men and women about whom there was anything worth knowing; and who had that kind of impulsive and delightfully affectionate manner which leads one to suppose that you are the only person of her acquaintance against whom she could never utter a word of disparagement.

Even as she sits now in the summer sunshine of the park, with her white lace parasol tipped well over her head, and her large, unflattering eyes turned fully upon him, she is wondering whether this absence of his in any way connected with the serious part of his life, or bears upon the secret she is bent upon unraveling.

"What have you been doing?" she repeats.

"Eating cherries, principally," he replies, smiling. "I was assisted by several thousand birds and one tree elf."

"And what was she like? Young and pretty, I suppose."

"She may have been," she said, and adroitly turned the subject.

"Thanks, very much. I shall like to go extremely. And, by-the-way, how is Miss Kitten?"

"When I left her she was quite well, Desmond, if I die, you will be kind to my little girl, will you not?" he said wistfully.

"Kind to her! Of course, I shall; but you are not going to die, Mr. Laybourne."

"I don't know—I don't know—life and death are mysteries; who can tell how soon the one condition may be over and the other entered upon? It is a great weight on my mind that you are to be my child's lawful guardian; that thought should make me live."

The lecture hall in Burlington House was crowded that night, when, somewhat late, in spite of a hurried dinner, Brian came in to take a seat. The professor had already begun his lecture, yet his eyes flashed a momentary greeting toward him as he sat down.

Then, without listening over much to the subject matter of the discourse, Brian looked at the crowd of eager, venerable faces, watched the straining eyes and ears, and wondered at the hushed silence as the great man around him hung upon the naturalist's words. He heard the voice, which was at first somewhat feeble and faltering, suddenly warm to the work. He saw how the face of the pale old man fired into a glow of glorious enthusiasm for his subject; how his eyes shone and gleamed, how his thin hand trembled as he stretched it forth, how the man became forgotten in the age!

Then, of a sudden the slight, bent figure upon the platform swayed and tottered. There was a cry, a smothered murmur from the crowd, a rush of hasty footsteps, and the sound of a dull, heavy fall.

Brian, with the rest, sprang upon the platform and forced his way among the frightened throng. There went up a great wall of terror and lamentation from the bystanders.

Brian sank upon his knees and pillowed his white, still face upon his breast.

The glass and silver glittered under the rose-shaded lamp. The chairs were set in their places round the table; three chairs, for Kitten did not mean to be sent away to-night, and by the side of the professor's chair there lay his easy slippers just as he liked to find them when he came home.

Everything was ready; would the travelers never come? All at once the door-bell rang. The bell! Where was her father? He would never ring at his own door, he had but to turn the handle and walk in.

She ran into the hall; Kesiah was opening the door. Brian Desmond came in alone. In a moment she saw that something was wrong. Desmond was as white as ashes; he came up to her without a word and took her hand in his.

"Where is my father?" she said. "Is he not coming? Could he not come?"

"Oh, my poor child, my poor child!" was all that Brian could utter; "how am I to tell you?"

"Do not," she said simply; "I know, my daddy is dead."

CHAPTER VIII.

He had expected a terrible scene of grief and anguish—he had pictured to himself how she would cast herself down and weep; how the small, childish frame would be shaken with sobs and the beautiful, grave eyes dimmed and blotted out with her tears. All the way down from town he had dreaded what was before him, for he was one of those men to whom the sight of woman's tears is terrible.

What really happened was so extraordinarily different to what he expected that it seemed to him that he must be dreaming.

"I know," Kitten had said; "he is dead." Then she turned round and went back into the dining room. He heard the loud wailing cry of the old woman behind him, but from the dead man's daughter not a sound. Her lips framed one word, which was barely audible.

"When?"

"Last night—it was quite sudden—he was lecturing at Burlington House. It was all over in one moment; he could not have suffered at all, Kitten; we must be thankful for that. He was speaking, and then he fell forward, and it was over."

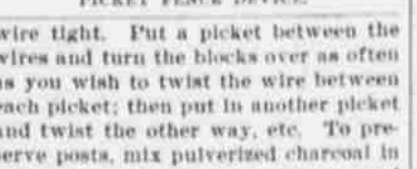
"And there was no time? I could not have gone to him?"



Picket Fence Device.

A simple effective plan for building a picket and wire fence without a machine is suggested by G. C. Schneider, of Ava, Mo. He says:

A device which will answer the purpose of a fence machine is made as follows: Take pieces of 2x4 a foot or so long, bore two small holes near the end of each, put the wires through these holes and fasten to post where you wish to begin. Then stretch your wire and staple to post some distance ahead, leaving the staples loose enough so the wire will slip when it is drawn tight. Let eight or ten feet of wire extend beyond the post and to those fasten heavy weights to keep the



PICKET FENCE DEVICE.

wire tight. Put a picket between the wires and turn the blocks over as often as you wish to twist the wire between each picket; then put in another picket and twist the other way, etc. To preserve posts, mix pulverized charcoal in boiled linseed oil to the consistency of paint and apply with a brush.

Cost of Silage.

We have from time to time laid before our readers the cost of putting corn in the silo, says Farmers' Tribune. Some men are able to grow the corn at a cost of about 50 cents per ton of green matter. They are able to put it in the silo for another 50 cents, making the total cost of the silage in the silo approximately \$1 per ton. Sometimes the cost goes as high as \$1.50, sometimes even higher.

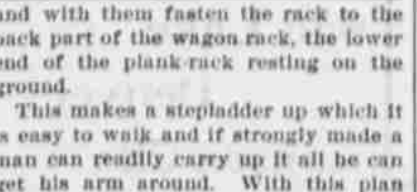
Sam Schilling, who is manager of Joel Pheatwell's heard at Northfield, Minn., kept an accurate record of the cost of putting sixteen acres of corn in his silo last year and these figures were given before the Minnesota Butter Makers' Association this spring by Mr. Schilling. They are as follows:

16 acres corn at \$8.00	\$128.00
Cost of cutting, \$1 per acre	16.00
Two men loading five days	15.00
Two men in silo	15.00
Four teams hauling five days	60.00
Engine five days and man	25.00
Fuel for engine	16.00
One man to feed machine	10.00
Cost of 200 tons silage	\$285.00

Cost per ton of silage, \$1.42 1/2. The average yield per acre in this instance was 12 1/2 tons of green corn. The cost of the ensilage, including the raising, which was estimated at \$8 per acre, was a little high. Consulting the table, however, it will be seen that it required four teams hauling for five days to draw the corn to the silo per day. This means that the silage had to be drawn from some distance or more could have been hauled, but even at \$1.50 per ton silage is a very cheap food.

Loading Corn Fodder.

Loading corn fodder may not be very hard work to the small farmer, but when one has the product of many acres to load it becomes a formidable operation. The work can be much more easily done if the following device is used: Make a loader by using a two-inch plank ten feet long with cleats of inch stuff nailed on one side at short intervals. At one end nail a cleat on the under side, which will be three inches wider than the board on each side. Tie small ropes to this cleat



FOR LOADING CORN FODDER.

and with them fasten the rack to the back part of the wagon rack, the lower end of the plank resting on the ground. This makes a step ladder up which it is easy to walk and if strongly made a man can readily carry up it all he can get his arm around. With this plan one man can do the work of loading a wagon easily without spending the time necessary to bind the bundles. The illustration shows how easily the ladder can be made.—Indianapolis News.

Crops Without Irrigation.

The most widespread movement in the history of the country for the development of unirrigated lands in the West is in progress this spring. Hundreds of thousands of acres are being brought under cultivation as the result of government and other irrigation projects, but aside from this a plan far greater in its scope has been started for the successful use of farm lands without water.

Good Outside Paint.

A substitute for white oil paint may be made as follows: Four quarts of skim milk, 1 pound of fresh slacked lime, 12 ounces of linseed oil, 4 ounces of white Burgundy pitch, 6 pounds of Spanish white, to be mixed as follows: The lime to be slacked in an iron vessel in the open air at a time until it is dissolved into a fine dry powder. Put the lime into a wooden bucket or keg and mix it in about one-quarter of the milk; the oil in which the pitch must be previously dissolved over a slow fire and cooled, to be added a little at a time, then the Spanish white, and afterwards the Burgundy pitch. Mix thoroughly and strain through a common wire milk strainer and it will be ready for use. This quantity is sufficient for more than fifty square yards, two coats. By adding a very small quantity of lampblack first dissolved in milk and thoroughly mixed a very handsome lead color can be obtained. If stone color is desired, after tanning in the lampblack add a small quantity of yellow ochre and Venetian red separately, first dissolved in milk. While using, stir frequently to keep it in solution.

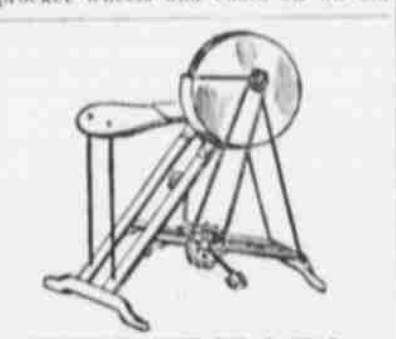
Fall Mulch of Trees.

If it is thought necessary to apply mulch around the base of trees or shrubs as a winter protection care must be used not to do the work too soon, particularly if anything in the nature of a fertilizer is used, such as coarse stable manure, for there is always danger of inciting renewed growth in the tree, just as it is beginning to go to sleep for the winter, and this growth, being extremely tender, will be killed by the first cold weather, probably with much injury to the tree. A better plan is not to apply the mulch until the ground freezes, applying more, if necessary, later on.

By far the best plan of all is to use earth with which to protect the roots of the tree or shrub during the first cold days; put it on several inches thick for three feet around the tree. Later, if it gets too cold, a little coarse manure may be put on over the soil. By this plan the tree or shrub will have full protection without danger of inciting a late growth.

A Good Grindstone.

A grindstone to turn with bicycle gear can be made after this cut, writes W. D. Watkins, of Athens, Ohio. Take sprocket wheels and chain off an old



GRINDSTONE WITH PEDAL GEAR.

binder or dropper. Gear so that stone will turn two revolutions to one of crank. You can grind anything on it with great speed.

Grinding Corn for Swine.

We believe in feeding swine so that they will have something to keep them busy as well as for the best results to be obtained from the grain, so we feed the corn whole and usually on the cob until it gets hard and flinty, when it is either shelled and soaked a little to soften it or soaked on the cob. All other grains are ground because it has been demonstrated that the smaller grains go through the animals and do them but little good. Carrying out the plan of keeping the swine busy, we always have something for them to chew on—cornstalks, squares of sod, apples, potatoes and other vegetables, and we do not see that they take on fat any slower because of this plan of feeding. Pure water is given them in clean troughs twice a day during the winter and we know they thrive better for having it.—Exchange.

Cottonseed as Fertilizer.

Cottonseed meal is used quite extensively in some sections of the country as a fertilizer. A good grade meal will carry about 6.8 per cent nitrogen, 2.9 per cent phosphoric acid and 1.8 per cent potash. Based upon the valuations that will be used by New England experiment stations in 1905 for computing the value of commercial fertilizers, a meal analyzing as above will be worth about \$20 a ton as a fertilizer. Notwithstanding its high value when used directly in this way it will usually be found more economical to use it as a food for stock and to apply the resulting manure to the land. When used thus, from eighty to ninety-five per cent of the nitrogen and phosphoric acid and practically all the potash will be contained in the manure.

Corn and Oil Meal for Hogs.

Hogs fed on corn and linseed-oil meal at the Missouri station ate more feed, made greater increase in weight, with a smaller amount both of food and of digestible nutriment, and at less expense than with any other grain ration tested in the dry lot feeding experiments, the balanced ration of corn and oil meal being the most efficient and profitable of the rations tested. The quality of the pork produced was unsurpassed, and the tendency of these feeds to make real growth, as well as fat, was greater than that of any other ration tested. One pound of oil meal replaced from 8.85 to 7.1 pounds of corn, according as it was fed with five or twenty pounds of corn. Bone meal fed with whole corn effected a marked saving in the grain requirements per pound of gain.



President Roosevelt is mapping out a lot of work to occupy the attention of Congress when it next assembles. Questions that are of great moment to the business world and the public in general are to be placed squarely before the legislators for action. The President's attitude on the railway rate question has not been modified since he first directed attention to the manifest evil that has grown up under the insidious system of rebates. Mr. Roosevelt strikes the keynote when he says the highways must be kept open to all on equal terms. The abuses of the private car line and the private terminal track and private side switch system must be stopped, the President says. There is little doubt that the majority of the people echo his sentiments in this regard. If the President has his way, power to revise and regulate rates will be invested in the Interstate Commerce Commission. Another measure of great importance that will be recommended by the President is a bill to prevent bribery and other forms of corruption in Federal elections. State courts have shown in a lamentable number of instances that they are not beyond the baneful influence of ward leaders, and attempts to punish violators of the sanctity of the ballot box have ignominiously failed. The absolute purification of politics probably will ever remain an iridescent dream, but there is little doubt that a Federal statute, asking the trial of offenders against the ballot out of the control of State courts, would be a long step forward in a commendable effort to free the ballot box of fraud. Federal control of insurance is another question that will be discussed in the President's message. The disclosures that are being made in the investigation in New York have aroused a storm of indignant protest from policy holders who demand that their interests shall be protected and safeguarded by Federal control.

The new Anglo-Japanese treaty differs from the earlier treaty in several important particulars. It runs for a period of ten years; it embodies a recognition on the part of Great Britain of the paramount political, military and economic interests of Japan in Korea, and on the part of Japan of the right of Great Britain to take such measures as she may find necessary for safeguarding her Indian possessions; it applies the principle of "the open door" for the commerce of all nations to Korea; and, most important of all, it pledges each power to come to the assistance of the other in war, not merely when its ally is attacked by two powers, as in the earlier treaty, but when it is involved in any war in defense of its territorial rights or special interests "in the regions of eastern Asia and India."

The folly of maintaining custom houses to serve the interests of politicians is clearly outlined by James R. Reynolds, second assistant of the United States treasury, who says that of the 157 custom ports in our country 111 do not pay expenses. Crisfield, Md., received \$22.70 in customs last year and \$2,700 was paid out for salaries. Beaufort, N. C., took in \$1.55 in revenues and the salaries paid to gather this tiny sum were about \$1,500. All told, these 111 offices, where the receipts fall behind the expenses, cost the government nearly \$300,000 every year.

Surgeon General R. M. O'Reilly of the army has submitted an exhaustive annual report on health conditions to Secretary Taft. The report says that the enlisted strength of the army, as shown upon the monthly sick report, was 58,740, and on the returns of the military secretary 90,159, and calculations are made up on the latter figures. There were 79,586 "admissions to the sick report" during the year, 248 deaths from all causes and 1,377 discharges for disability. The figures, Dr. O'Reilly says, show a steady and progressive improvement in the health of the army.

When the Civil War closed the Union army had an enrollment of a little more than a million. In June of this year the report of the Commissioner of Pensions showed more than six hundred and eighty thousand survivors on the pension rolls. There are probably many veterans who do not appear on the pension rolls, so that the number of survivors is remarkably large. Certainly the sentimental cartoons which the newspapers print each Memorial day of the "thin blue line" and decimated ranks does not represent the facts.

Because of the loss of submarine boats in Europe, the Secretary of Navy has ordered that no American submarine be allowed to go down unless accompanied by a convoy equipped with hoisting apparatus for use in case of accident. Every mother whose son goes aboard a submarine vessel will be glad that this order has been issued. And when the President went down in the Plunger at Oyster Bay in August, the nation rejoiced that the convoy was at hand.