A Race for a Wife

—BY—

HAWLEY SMART

CHAPTER XX.

Sam Pearman had received the writ of service of this heriot claim with apparent equanimity. It must be borne in mind that practiced speculators on the turf, as elsewhere, are accustomed to take their reverses with much outward nonchalance. But, nevertheless, when his visitors had departed he commenced pacing the room after the manner of a caged tiger. It was not likely Denison, whom he had deemed so entirely in his power, would have ventured upon such a bold stroke as this except under very high legal opinion, and whatever it might suit him at the time to say in disparagement of Rumford, he was quite aware that no counsel's opinion in London stood in higher repute. He foresaw, at one sweep, the upset of all his forthcoming schemes. His father had told him how Harold Denison had first taken his pretensions to Maude's hand. He knew, none better, how, under the pressure brought to bear upon him, the squire of Glinn's self-interest had been enlisted in his behalf. He was far too keen a judge to think that he had any hold upon Maude's affections; his idea was that she just liked him sufficiently to marry him if her parents made a point of it. He was entirely ignorant of there being a favored lover in the field. He felt little doubt that if Denison could extricate himself from his power—and should he establish his claim he would go near to do so—his marriage would be postponed to the Greek Kalends.

Now for the other point. If he disputes this "right of heriot," could they prevent his running Coriander for the Two Thousand? That became a question of great importance. He had backed the horse heavily—yes, taking last Monday's work into consideration, very heavily—for the race; and if he was not to run, there at once was a loss of some thousands, to say nothing of the big stake he had hoped to win over that event.

"Ah!" he exclaimed, "that's it! There is some inkling of this in the turf market, and that's the reason the horse has been so much laid against lately. This accounts for Piyart's determined attack, and his betting me a hundred even that he don't start. I'm off to town by the three train."

Pearman drove straight to his solicitor's, from Waterloo Station. Office hours were over, but he contrived to catch one of the firm—as shrewd an attorney as one would often meet with. He shook his head over the case more especially when he heard of Rumford's adverse opinion.

"I don't like it, Mr. Pearman, at all, but I will look over the Mannersley title deeds the first thing to-morrow morning, and then go over to Hawk, Sparrowbill and Co. and ask them if they will let me see Rumford's opinion. But these unenfranchised heriots are the very deuce to deal with if the right, as in your case, is of great value, and the opposite side are aware of it."

"Well, you must make out all you can for me. What time shall I be at your office to-morow?—the earlier the better, mind. Time in this case is worth something like half a sovereign a minute to me."

"Certainly, sir. Say ten; and you mustn't mind if you have to wait for me; I shall be conferring with the enemy, but I'll be back at the office as near that as I can."

"That'll just do. I must catch the eleven train from Waterloo, if possible. Good-night."

Sam Pearman strolled into his club. He was, as one may naturally suppose in no great humor for conversation. It is one of the drawbacks of these pleasant caravansaries that the old adage of "Save me from my friends" is unattainable therein. You always run the chance of some garrulous acquaintance discoursing upon that amusing case in the divorce court, utterly unconscious that you are one of the parties implicated. You are asked, perhaps, after your wife, by some old friend of bygone years who is entirely ignorant that you have either buried or separated from her. Our taciturn British reserve has its advantages. Why should there not be a small coffee room instituted for sulky members, where attempts at conversation should be penalized with expulsion? There are times when we hate even ourselves—much more our fellow creatures.

Pearman was imbued with a considerable amount of this latter feeling as he strolled into the Theatine and ordered his dinner. His Nemesis was awaiting him. Ere he had finished his soup, a blue-eyed, fair-haired, vacuous member had greeted him, and asked him what the deuce was the matter with Coriander?

"Nothing. The horse is well enough. Why?"

"Why, haven't you seen the evening papers?"

"No; I have only just got to town. What about it?"

"They are laying all sorts of prices against him. He is quoted at fifteen to one offered, and rumor says, in some cases twenties have been laid."

"Hum," grunted Pearman. "You'd better lay it, Curzon, if you think he's gone. I can only say, when you see he's about to start for the Two Thousand, I recommend you to hedge every shilling, if you do."

"Thanks," drawled the other, and walked away to disseminate what he had gathered from Coriander's owner.

His solicitor the next morning gave Pearman little satisfaction. Messrs. Hawk, and Sparrowbill had been most courteous; they had allowed him to see the deed, and also Sergeant Rumford's opinion thereon. In his humble opinion, the case was very strong; the writ of seizure they had issued would hold perfectly good; they might take Coriander when they liked. "And I am afraid, sir" he concluded, "that we should only get cast if we tried to upset."

"Then they can prevent my running the horse next week, if I contest this claim legally at once?"

"I should be afraid so, really; but in negotiation you had better insist upon your right to, of course, do what you like with the horse till their claim to him is established."

"Very good. Now I am off."

On arrival at Xminster, Pearman proceeded direct to Glinn, and inquired for Mr. Denison. He was shown into the library, and speedily joined by that gentleman.

"I have come over, Mr. Denison, to have some conversation with you about the somewhat preposterous claim of yours as to 'right of heriot' over Mannersley."

"I am advised," replied the squire, "that the claim is a perfectly valid one, and of course, just now valuable."

"My dear sir, I am not alluding to the right or wrong of the case; but, situated as we are to each other, it seems rather absurd our going to law with each other."

"Better, Mr. Pearman, say, situated as we were. Moreover, the nearer and dearer the relationship, the more acrimonious the law suit; for a bitter quarrel commend me to brothers, from Cain and Abel downwards."

"Then I am to understand that my engagement with Miss Denison is at an end? May I ask upon what grounds it is broken off?"

"If you wish to know upon what terms you stand with Miss Denison, see her, and don't trouble me."

"You said 'situated as we were.'"

"Of course I did. I owed you £10,000, and hadn't got it. Now, it seems, you also owe me £10,000, which, of course, makes my not being able to pay you of very little consequence."

"But you consented to my engagement with your daughter."

"And would now, if I thought you'd ever want it."

"I don't understand you."

"Then it's no use continuing this conversation."

"Will you answer me a straightforward question? May I ask you if my engagement with your daughter is still to hold good? I care little about this other affair, if that remains as it was."

"And don't I keep telling you that that being an arrangement between Maude and yourself if you have any doubts upon the subject, you had better see her?"

"I will ask leave to do so presently. In the mean time, Mr. Denison, to return to this claim of heriot——"

"Excuse me, Mr. Pearman; that I can't touch upon. I have put myself completely in my nephew's hands regarding that subject; but I will send him to you at once, and merely remark that any arrangement you may make with him has my cordial assent."

CHAPTER XXI.

Grenville Rose, meanwhile, had early cognizance of Pearman's arrival, and prepared at once for the encounter. He first ordered a horse to be saddled, and a groom to be in readiness to take a message to Xminster. Next he summoned his cousin to come to him in his uncle's sanctum.

"Maude, dearest," he said, as she entered "the crisis of our fate is at hand."

"What is it Gren?" And the grey eyes opened wide as she saw the grave, earnest look upon her lover's face.

"Pearman is here, and your father is gone to see him. But in a few minutes I shall be sent for. I'm playing for a great stake this morning, Maude; to wit, the freeing your father from his difficulties, and to win your own sweet self for mine own love. Listen. James has got a horse all ready to go for me to Xminster. You see these telegram sheets: I shall come here for one minute, and fill one up with a message. Mind James has it, and is off with it at once. You see he does not linger. It is of the utmost consequence to us."

"I understand, Gren. Anything more?"

"Yes; you may as well write Pearman a polite dismissal, unless you would rather see him."

"Oh, no! I'd rather write."

"Well, then do so at once; and I think there will be no necessity for your seeing him. But if you must"—and he looked a little anxiously towards her.

"I shall know what to say—don't be afraid of that—though I would much rather not."

Here Harold Denison entered the room, jubilant and triumphant.

"The overture is played out, Grenville, and the real business of the piece is about to begin. I've told him you are my representative in this matter, and that I am entirely in your hands."

"Thanks, uncle."

And Rose went off to encounter Pearman. He found that gentleman restlessly pacing the library. A curt greeting passed between them.

"Now, Mr. Rose, we had better proceed to business at once. Time is valuable to me upon this occasion."

"The sooner the better," rejoined Grenville.

"Since I last saw you I have been to town in connection with this affair, and am prepared to admit that you have a better case than I at first thought you possessed. Under these circumstances, and standing as I do with regard to Miss Denison——"

"Hadn't we better confine ourselves solely to the business in hand, and not advert to contingencies that may never happen?" interrupted Grenville, quietly.

"That's it, then?" said Pearman coarsely. "Miss Denison intends cancelling her engagement, as part of the program? I thought as much."

"Excuse me if I suggest the propriety of keeping Miss Denison's name entirely out of our conversation. That is a matter upon which I have nothing to say. The question lies in a nutshell. Do you intend to ransom your horse, or is that writ of service, of which you received notice yesterday, to be carried into effect?"

"I shall dispute the whole thing, and place the affair in the hands of my solicitors."

"Very good. Under these circumstances it is only right to tell you that I have already applied for an injunction to prevent your running Coriander for any race till the case is decided."

"Ridiculous! Upon what grounds, pray?"

"Upon the grounds of possible injury, and probable deterioration of value."

"What do you mean?"

"What I say. He might be injured, or he might be beat; in either case, he would not be so valuable a horse as he is now."

Pearman said nothing for a minute or two; at last he exclaimed abruptly, "Do you ever bet, Mr. Rose?"

"Certainly not!" was the Jesuitical reply; for, though Grenville Rose never did meddle with turf matters, though he had not made a single bet on the forthcoming "Two Thousand," he was yet aware that Dallison was betting for him; albeit he neither knew nor cared to know, so far, the particulars of the transaction.

"You can hardly suppose I shall pay such a sum as £10,000. Perhaps you will state what compromise you really intend to offer me?"

"I have none other to propose, than that you sign Mr. Denison a release of the mortgage you hold to that amount upon Glinn."

"Ah, well! I am afraid you price the horse a little too high."

"Not at all! We value the horse at £5,000, and the stakes of the 'Two Thousand' at £5,000 more."

"And who tells you he is going to win that race?"

"Well, you see," rejoined Grenville, smiling, "we are guided there entirely by your own opinion. We are credibly informed that you have thought it worth while to invest a large sum of money on his chance, and we have a high opinion of your judgment in such matters."

(To be continued.)

Having Fun with the Pastor.

The Rev. Charles E. McCormick, D. D., pastor of the Farmington Avenue Methodist Church of Hartford, Conn., and one of the best known Methodist clergymen in the State, is a student of human nature. He likes to frequent public places in a layman's garb and study his fellow men. One warm day this spring, while on a visit to New York, he was sitting in Madison Square when a neatly dressed stranger accosted him from a bench across the walk. Soon the two were engaged in conversation.

"Are you interested in horse-racing?" asked the stranger.

"I like a good horse," was the noncommittal reply of the clergyman, whose business suit, crush hat and negligee shirt belied his profession.

"Say, I'm a telegrapher and get some dandy tips every day. Maybe you could use some. They're regular 'sure things.'"

Needless to say, the offer was politely declined, but as the stranger began to press the matter, Dr. McCormick, with a twinkle in his eye, told the fellow who he was. The stranger's discomfiture was as pitiful as his departure was awkward and ludicrous.

A day or two later the parson sat in the same seat, and another stranger, an old gentleman with a long gray beard and kindly face, sat down beside him. One remark led to another until the clergyman in a burst of confidence related his previous experience. It tickled the old man mightily. Chuckling in great glee and slapping the parson on the leg, he exclaimed:

"He-he-he! That's a corker, old sport! And he believed it!"—From Success Magazine.

Taking No Chance.

Borely—I got rather a cool reception when I called at the Smiths' last night, but they warmed up finally. Why, when I was leaving the whole family came to the door with me!

Griggs—That was because some one took three umbrellas out of their hall rack a few evenings ago.—Puck.

Mnemonics.

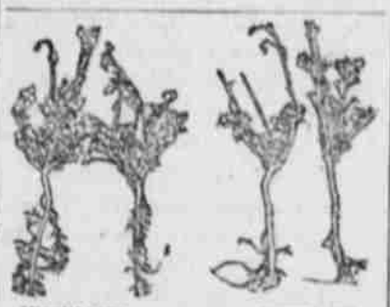
"I suppose there is a great deal of mental strain involved in the conduct of immense interests like yours?"

"I should say so," answered Dustin Stax. "Its mighty hard to go on the witness stand and remember the list of things your lawyer told you to forget."—Washington Star.

Inoculation of Clover.

Clovers do not always grow as readily or as vigorously as might be expected from the richness of the soil. In recent years it has been discovered by scientists that the growth of plants of this class (clovers, peas and beans) is dependent to some extent on the presence of small nodules or bunches on the roots. These nodules contain bacteria which in some mysterious way assist the roots in taking up food from the soil. If these bacteria are not present in the soil the clovers will be likely to make poor growth—indeed, alfalfa may not make any growth. If the proper kind of bacteria are supplied and the inoculation of soil and root is successful the plants will show extra vitality.

Cultures containing these bacteria have been sent out to farmers from the Ontario Agricultural College for the past four years, with directions



INOCULATED ALFALFA. UNTREATED ALFALFA.

for applying to the fields that are being seeded with clover. Last season 900 farmers reported that their alfalfa crops had been benefited by the application while 140 reported that there was no gain. With alsike clover the reports were equally favorable over 80 per cent of the experiments finding that the culture had improved the crop. With red clover the results were not so favorable, only 55 per cent having noted a gain. Peas and beans showed still less benefit from the application. As the work is still in its infancy it is probable that better results will be obtained as the methods of application are better understood. The illustration shows the comparative growths of inoculated and uninoculated alfalfa plants. In a bulletin just issued it is stated that the cultures will again be distributed for 1909 at a price of 25 cents for each bottle containing enough for 60 pounds of seed.—Montreal Star.

Soil Temperature and Seed Germination.

Scientists have discovered that the lowest soil temperature at which the process of growth begins in most cultivated crops is 45 to 48 degrees Fahrenheit, but the maximum results are attained only after the soil has reached a temperature of 68 to 70 degrees. The germination of wheat, rye, oats and flax go forward most rapidly at 77 to 87.8, and corn and pumpkins germinate best at 92 to 101. Corn will grow at a temperature of 51, requiring eleven days to come through, while it will germinate in three days at 65.3 degrees. Oats require seven days to germinate at 41, whereas they will germinate in two days at 65 degrees.

These facts emphasize the importance of so cultivating the soil as to develop heat at the earliest possible period. Our seep soils where irrigation has played hob can not warm up because they must first evaporate the water. Sandy soils warm more quickly than adobe for reasons which everybody understands. The depth of planting also has a great deal to do with the germination, and we are hoping that this spring will not linger long in the lap of winter as was the case with the last two or three seasons.—Denver Field and Farm.

Swiss Farm Profits.

There has been recently made an interesting report of investigations carried on co-operatively between the Department of Agriculture and farmers in Switzerland as to the gross and net returns derived from farms operated under different systems of management in 1906, the returns being compared with those secured during the preceding five years. The average profits as ascertained from 230 holdings were: On farms up to 12½ acres in size, $21 per acre; from 12½ to 25 acres, $21.50; from 25 to 37½ acres, $17; from 37½ to 75 acres, $13, and from farms of more than 75 acres, $10.25 per acre. Nearly 80 per cent of the products raised on Swiss farms consisted of animal, dairy and poultry products, an enormous quantity of such products being annually exported. This shows the result of cultivating a small amount of land well.

Early Plowing.

The value of early plowing as a means of destroying weeds, especially rag weed, wild oats, artichokes, etc., is not appreciated fully by farmers. Similar weeds grow in a most discouraging manner, especially on low, moist land, during the summer, and in many instances take possession of the fields. They will appear on the scene next year, in multiplied numbers, if an effort is not made to destroy them this summer, which can best be done by early plowing.

The plow should be started in these weedy patches just as soon as the fields are cleared. Rag weeds are rank growing soil robbers which should not be permitted to ripen seed on any farm, but are now seen in corn fields, pastures and small grains in many sections. They are a special pest on some farms where careless methods of handling the soil have been employed. If such fields are plowed as early as possible the plants will be prevented from going to seed. Kingheads are now in possession of some very productive fields, and we believe this is due to spring plowing or no plowing, as such fields are often disked instead of plowed.

New Method of Keeping Potatoes.

A German publication, the Practical Adviser in Fruit Raising and Gardening, states that a new method for keeping potatoes and preventing sprouting consists in placing them on a layer of coke. Dr. Schiller, of Brunswick, who has published the method, is of the opinion that the improved ventilation by means of coke is not alone responsible for the result, but believes that it is due to the oxidation of the coke, which, however, is a very slow one. Coke always contains sulphur, and it is very possible that the minute quantities of oxides of carbon and sulphur, which result from the oxidation, mixing with the air and penetrating among the potatoes are sufficient to greatly retard sprouting. Potatoes so treated are said to keep in good condition until the following July.

Balancing Ration.

When one has corn, corn fodder, ensilage and clover hay, it is considered the best practice for one to procure a food rich in protein, such as bran, cotton-seed meal or linseed meal, with which to balance the ration. If one mixes bran, corn and cotton-seed meal in the proportion of 5 parts bran, 3 parts cornmeal, 2 parts cotton-seed meal, and feeds 10 pounds of the mixture each day, with 30 pounds of ensilage and 10 pounds of clover hay, he will get very good results. Molasses is ordinarily fed by sprinkling over the hay or ensilage.—Country Gentleman

General Age of Trees.

Inquiry as to the general age of trees being put to an authority at Washington, it was found that the pine trees attained 700 years as a maximum length of life; 425 years was the allotted span of the silver fir; the larch lived 275 years, the red beech 245, the aspen 210, the birch 200, the ash 170, the elder 145, the elm 130. The heart of the oak begins to rot at about the age of 300 years. Of the holly, it is said that there is a specimen 410 years old near Aschaffenburg, Germany.

Worms in Colts.

For intestinal worms in colts the following mixture is used by some veterinarians: Mix together as a base 1 pound each of salt and granulated sugar; in this mix ½ pound of tobacco dust of fine cut tobacco, 4 ounces of sulphate of iron powder, 6 ounces of powdered worm seed. Give a heaping teaspoonful in the feed at first once a day, then twice a day, and keep up for three weeks.

Guinea Fowls.

The flesh of guineas is generally dark colored, tender, juicy and in flavor equal to the ring-neck English pheasant. Many think it more palatable, for the flavor is not so pronounced, and there is considerably more of it. The flesh of the white guinea is light in color, and if they are crossed with the pearl variety the meat of the latter will become nearly as light.

Queen Bees.

It is said that bees usually supersede their queens before they are too old for service; and when an apiary is once stocked with a good grade of queens the bees can, as a rule, be depended upon to supersede their queens at the proper time.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

Muslin is being made from the fiber of the banana tree.

Estimates place the amount of capital value of British investments in India at $2,350,000.

As game preserves, it is claimed that the northern regions and forests of Canada furnish the finest fur-bearing animals in the world.

Natives of Burma and parts of India prepare tea in a peculiar way, called "pickling." The leaves are boiled and pressed into bamboo tubes, which are buried in the ground until the material has matured.

Roughly speaking, it might be said that the annual importations into the United States of coffee, tea and cocoa amount to $100,000,000 a year; three-fourths coffee, and the remainder about equally divided between cocoa and tea.

Several years ago the late Sir Francis Lockwood got a prisoner off by proving an alibi. Afterward the judge met the eminent lawyer and said: "Well, Lockwood, that was a very good alibi." "Yes, my lord," was the answer; "I had three offered me, and I think I selected the best."

The River Indus in width during the year may vary by miles. Traffic for long distances cannot be guaranteed because the ever-shifting channel throws up mud flats and sand banks here and overwhelms good land there in a manner which defeats the wisdom of the ancient boatmen.

John Bright used to tell how a barber who was cutting his hair once said to him: "You 'ave a large 'ead, sir; it is a good thing to 'ave a large 'ead, for a large 'ead means a large brain, and a large brain is the most useful thing a man can 'ave, as it nourishes the roots of the 'air."

Baltimore is congratulating herself on the figures shown by the new city directory, just issued. A decided growth commercially and a gain of nearly twelve thousand in population in the last year are indicated. The population is placed at 691,128, which is a gain of 11,941, according to the directory editor's estimate.

R. A. Hudson, of Weddington, was here Saturday and sold to Messrs. Stack & Hudson, sixty bales of cotton for his neighbors, the Misses Ross. These ladies make in the neighborhood of one hundred bales each year on their lands in that section, and Mr. Hudson carried them a check for a clear $5,000.—Monroe (La.) Journal.

Cole Younger, former bandit, out on parole granted by the Governor of Minnesota, has taken to the lecture platform in Oklahoma. "A young man never made a more serious mistake than to suppose that the world owes him a living. It doesn't," says Younger. "The understanding with the Governor of Minnesota was that I might do as I pleased as long as I didn't do it in Minnesota," the bandit declares.

On the west slope of the Cascade mountains a giant red fir was recently blown across the tracks of the Northern Pacific railroad. Traffic was blocked by the monster log, which measured eight feet in diameter. There was no saw within miles that was big enough to cut the timber and as the railroad company could not wait the five days required to saw a section from the huge log, dynamite was placed in deeply bored holes and the aged tree blown to splinters. It was easier to repair ten rods of roadbed than to saw through eight feet of solid red fir.—New York Sun.

The total number of American regulars who served in Mexico and its borders during the Mexican war was 21,509; of volunteers, 23,027. In the assaults upon Mexico City, General Scott had on August 20, 1847, an available force of 10,738, nearly one-half of whom were recruits. After several onslaughts the city was finally taken on September 14, after which General Scott was reinforced to an aggregate of 20,000 men. The treaty of peace was signed on February 2, 1848. The total American losses in the valley of Mexico were 2,703, including 383 officers. The Mexicans had 7,000 killed and wounded and 2,730 Mexicans were taken prisoners of war.

Antietam is regarded as the bloodiest battle of the civil war. The losses were nearly equally divided. The total in killed and wounded in the entire Maryland campaign, September 12-20, 1862, being 22,891 for the two armies. The proportion of forces actually engaged in the fight is estimated by F. W. Palfrey in his volume, "Antietam and Fredericksburg," as three Union to two Confederates. This is based upon the exclusion from McClellan's strength of the Fifth and Sixth Corps and the cavalry division, numbering together 29,550, which were hardly used at all, losing but 2 per cent. The other corps of the Potomac lost about 26 per cent, and the Confederates over 25 per cent.