

LETTING DOWN THE BARS.

BY SUE CHESTNUTWOOD.

From People's Home Journal.

CHAPTER IV.

There was an odd bit of a smile in his eyes—a smile that had a plan in it; and he amazed and delighted his stepmother by readily consenting to do his best.

A short time after, Mrs. Laurence went down to the hotel to call on the older members of the party, who had not come to the farmhouse, and Neil joined the young couple on the moonlit piazza.

The two newly affianced couples were strolling in the garden.

Cora was talking, in her merry, reckless way, to two gentlemen, quite enchanting them with her originality and freshness, whilst the two young ladies, whose escorts they were, stood hopelessly in the background.

Neil was well acquainted with them all; and in a few minutes Cora was actually mute with amazement to see him positively exerting himself to entertain "those stupid Merton girls." She had been accustomed to his sole attention; now he did not seem to see her; and with a sense of pique utterly new to her, she lent herself to the tiresome platitudes of the two fops.

That evening was a sample of every day and every evening for the next month. Cora, in that time, had fully succeeded in bewitching Messrs. Holmes and Norton, whilst the Merton girls felt convinced that either one or the other of them would crown the season by the victory of gaining this hitherto unattainable prize—Neil Laurence.

The days were devoted to fishing boating, and picnics; and the evenings to moonlight rides and dances at the hotel.

In that month Neil and Cora had scarcely exchanged a civil word. A morbid restlessness had taken possession of the usually happy girl. She seemed to herself sometimes to be made of eyes, for Neil could not make a move that she did not see it, no matter how much attention she was giving to others.

She said to herself a dozen times a day: "He is never any other than cross to me now. I hate him!" and as many times, seeming to feel that kiss on her hand, blushed crimson.

At length a day came when Mr. Holmes, out word of explanation, bade his party good bye and started for the city. Every one knew why, intuitively.

He was considered very eligible, and Mrs. Laurence was greatly excited, though she did not dare speak of it to her fractious niece, so begged Neil to investigate the matter for her. He acquiesced instantly, with that odd smile again.

He found Cora on the piazza alone and taking a chair beside her, rested his elbow on his knee and his chin on his hand, so as quite to face her.

"So you have refused Holmes?" It was coolly asserted, and she did not deny it.

"Yet, so far as your knowledge extends, he was no fair one's cast-off," he kept on tormentingly.

"What is it to you whom I reject?" she retorted, angrily, though there was just a slight mistiness in her brilliant eyes.

He smiled, but she, looking steadily beyond him, did not see it.

"Are you actually going to be an old maid?" he asked quizzically.

She glanced at him, blushed, and bit her lips, and said, defiantly:

"Perhaps I may have another chance. Mr. Norton has not gone yet. There he is, coming down the road this instant."

And she was about to arise, when he laid his hand detainingly on one of hers, in her lap. It was the hand he had kissed. She crimsoned.

"You know you wouldn't marry him—he would bore you to death," he said.

"He is quite as brilliant as the Merton girls," she retorted, then bit her lips at her own words.

He laughed lightly. He had seen her both piqued and jealous, and was satisfied. There was triumph in his laugh, in his eyes, in his whole bearing. She saw it and heard it, and, snatching away her hand, went down to the gate to meet Mr. Norton, bewildered, mortified, and, for the first time, fully conscious that she loved him.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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From Grand Rapids, Mich., Evening Press.



CHAS. H. HACKLEY.

The most beautiful spot in Muskegon is inseparably associated with the name of Hackley, and in all Western Michigan there is not a name better known, and among the studious and those interested in deeds of philanthropy, his name is known and admired. Chas. H. Hackley has been in the lumber business continuously since 1856, and in that time has amassed a fortune, which gives him a rating among the wealthy men of the nation. But with wealth there did not come that tightening of the purse-strings which is generally a marked characteristic of wealthy men.

There is no prettier spot in the State than Hackley Park in a square surrounded and pierced by stone walls, emphasizing with their whiteness the green of faultlessly kept lawns. Its crowning pride a towering soldier's monument on the top of which stands a bronze figure pointing ever in remembrance of the heroes who died that the nation might live. Surrounding this park are the magnificent Hackley Public Library—a poem in granite—with its 60,000 volumes, and the equally stately Hackley school, like a beehive with its 600 children. Other elegant buildings testify likewise to the liberality and munificence of this man who has pulled wealth out of the forests of Michigan.

It is no wonder then that the name of Charles H. Hackley is known at home and abroad. His munificence to Muskegon alone represents an outlay of nearly half a million. For the past twenty years he has been a constant sufferer from neuralgia and rheumatism, also numbness of the lower limbs, so much so that it has seriously interfered with his pleasure in life. For some time past his friends have noticed that he has seemed to grow young again, and to have recovered the health which he had in youth.

To a correspondent of the Press, Mr. Hackley explained the secret of his transformation, and to his friends who have known how he suffered, it is indeed a transformation. "I have suffered for over twenty years," he said, seated in his private office, "with pains in my lower limbs so severely that the only relief I could get at night was by putting cold water compresses on my limbs. I was bothered more at night than in the day time. The neuralgia and rheumatic pain in my limbs, which had been growing in intensity for years, finally became chronic. I made three trips to the Hot Springs with only partial relief, and then fell back to my original state. I couldn't sit still, and my sufferings began to make life look very blue. Two years ago last September I noticed an account of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

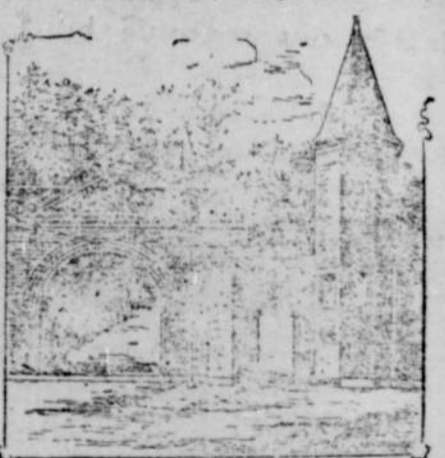
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and what they had done for others, and some cases so nearly resembled mine that I was interested. But I did not know whether the testimonials were genuine or not, and I did not wish to be humbugged, so I wrote to one who had given a testimonial, an eminent professor of medicine in Canada. The reply I received was even stronger than the printed testimonials, and it gave me faith in the medicine.

"I began taking the pills and found them to be all that the professor had told me they would be. It was three months before I experienced any perceptible betterment of my condition. My disease was of such long standing that I did not expect rapid recovery, and was thankful even to be relieved. I progressed rapidly, however, towards recovery, and for the last six months have felt myself a perfectly well man. I have recommended the pills to many people, and am only too glad to report that my health through the medium of this wonderful medicine. I cannot say too much for what it has done for me."

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