

The Doctor's Dilemma

By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER I.

I think I have nearly said as I could be; never mad, I believe, that I shall ever be again. Three weeks of it had driven me to the very verge of desperation. I cannot say here what had brought me to this pass, for I do not know into whose hands these pages may fall; but I had made up my mind to persist in a certain line of conduct which I firmly believed to be right, whilst those who had authority over me were resolutely bent upon making me submit to their will. The conflict had been going on, more or less violently, for months; now I had come to the end of it. I felt that I must either yield or go mad. There was no chance of my dying; I was too strong for that.

It had been raining all the day long. My eyes had followed the course of solitary drops rolling down the window pane, until my head ached with the monotony of it. There was nothing within my room less dreary than without. I was in London, but in what part of London I did not know. The house was situated in a highly respectable, though not altogether fashionable quarter, as I judged by the gloomy, monotonous rows of buildings which I could see from my windows. The people who passed up and down the streets on fine days were well-to-do persons, who could afford to wear good and handsome clothes. The rooms on the third floor—my rooms, which I had not been allowed to leave since we entered the house, three weeks before—were very badly furnished. The carpet was nearly threadbare, and the curtains of dark red moreen were very dingy. My bedroom opened upon a dismal back yard, where a dog in a kennel howled dejectedly from time to time, and rattled his chain as if to remind me that I was a prisoner like himself. I had no books, no work, no music. It was a dreary place to pass a dreary time in; and my only resource was to pace to and fro—to and fro from one end to another of those wretched rooms.

A very slight sound grated on my ear; it was the hateful click of the key turning in the lock. A servant entered, carrying in a tray, upon which were a lamp and my tea—such a meal as might be prepared for a school girl in disgrace. She came up to me, as if to draw down the blinds.

"Leave them," I said; "I will do it myself by and by."

"He's not coming home to-night," said a woman's voice behind me, in a scolding tone.

I could see her in the mirror without turning round. A handsome woman, with bold black eyes, and a roused face, which showed coarsely in the ugly looking glass. She was extravagantly dressed, and not many years older than myself. I took no notice whatever of her, but continued to gaze out steadily at the lamp-lit streets and stormy sky.

"It will be no better for you when he is at home," she said fiercely. "He hates you; he swears so a hundred times a day, and he is determined to break your proud spirit. We shall force you to knock under sooner or later. What friends have you got anywhere to take your side? If you'd made friends with me, my fine lady, you'd have found it good for yourself; but you've chosen to make me your enemy, and I'll make him your enemy."

"I set my teeth together and gave no indication that I had heard one word of her taunting speech. My silence served to her fury.

"Upon my soul, madam," she almost shrieked, "you are enough to drive me to murder! I could beat you. Ay! and I would, but for him. So then three weeks of this hasn't broken you down yet! We shall try other means to-morrow."

She came up to where I stood, shook her clenched hand in my face and flung herself out of the room, pulling the door violently after her. I turned my head round. A thin, sleek streak of light, no thicker than a thread, shone for an instant. My heart stood still, and then beat like a hammer. I stole very softly to the door, and discovered that the bolt had slipped beyond the stop of the lock. The door was open for me!

no, and the stranger who had not passed on, turned pleasantly to me.

"You have no change, mam'zelle?" he asked slowly, as if English was not his ordinary speech. "Very well are you going to Southampton?"

"Yes, by the next train," I answered, deciding upon that course without hesitation.

"No am I, mam'zelle," he said, raising his hand to his forehead; "I will pay this expense, and you can give it me again when you buy your ticket in the office."

I smiled gladly but gravely. I passed on into the station. At the ticket office they changed my Australian gold piece and I sought out my seaman friend to return the sixpence he had paid for me. I thanked him heartily.

He put me into a compartment where there were only two ladies, touched his hat and ran away to a second-class carriage.

In about two hours or more my fellow-passengers alighted at a large, half-deserted station. A porter came up to me as I leaned my head against the window.

"Going on, miss?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," I answered, shrinking back into my corner seat. He remained on the step whilst the train moved on at a slackened pace, and then pulled up. Before me lay a dim, dark scene, with little specks of light twinkling here and there, but whether on sea or shore I could not tell. Immediately opposite the train stood the black hulls and masts and funnels of two steamers, with a glimmer of lanterns on their decks. The porter opened the door for me.

"You've only to go on board, miss," he said.

"No," I answered. "I would do all my own work. What sort of a place do you and your wife live in?"

"My poor little wife is dead," he answered. "We live in Sark, my mother and I. I am a fisherman, but I have also a little farm. It is true we have one room to spare, which might do for mam'zelle; but the island is far away, and in the winter Sark is too mournful."

"It will be just the place I want," I said quickly; "it would suit me exactly. Can you let me go there at once? Will you take me with you?"

"Mam'zelle," he replied, smiling, "the room must be made ready for you, and I must speak to my mother. If God sends

us fair weather I will come back to St. Peter-port for you in three days. My name is Tardif. You can ask the people in Peter-port what sort of a man Tardif of the Havre Gosnell is."

"I do not want any one to tell me what sort of a man you are," I said, holding close upon my hand. He took it with an air of friendly protection.

"What is your name, mam'zelle?" he inquired.

"St. Peter-port," he answered. "Mam'zelle, then, does not know our island?"

"No," I said. "Where is St. Peter-port?"

"In Guernsey," he replied. "If you were going to land at St. Peter-port I might be of some service to you."

I looked at him steadily. His voice was a very pleasant one, full of tones that went straight to my heart. His face was bronzed and weather-beaten, but his deep-set eyes had a steadfast, quiet power in them, and his mouth had a pleasant curve about it. He looked a middle-aged man to me. He raised his cap as my eyes looked straight into his, and a faint smile flitted across his grave face.

"I want," I said suddenly, "to find a place where I can live very cheaply. I have not much money, and I must make it last a long time. Can you tell me of such a place?"

"You would want a place fit for a lady?" he said.

"No," I answered. "I would do all my own work. What sort of a place do you and your wife live in?"

"My poor little wife is dead," he answered. "We live in Sark, my mother and I. I am a fisherman, but I have also a little farm. It is true we have one room to spare, which might do for mam'zelle; but the island is far away, and in the winter Sark is too mournful."

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EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

Germany will soon establish a colonial army.

The United States may send more warships to Colon.

An Ecuadorian force is preparing to invade Colombia.

Von Waldersee hopes to become chancellor of Germany.

General MacArthur has arrived at San Francisco from Manila.

The results of the gulf storm were not so bad as at first reported.

Hayden, the embezzling treasurer of Swift & Co., cannot be found.

A force of Colombians invaded Venezuela, but were driven back.

San Francisco retailers have made a move towards ending the strike.

Kruger urges the British Nationalists to continue their efforts to secure peace.

Venezuelan officials blame the Colombian government for the present trouble.

The steel trust is landing non-union men at Monessen and will start up the mills there.

A Chicago trolley car collided with a passenger train, killing four and injuring 11 people.

Explosion of two cars of powder wrecked an entire train on the Southern Pacific near Glendale, Or.

The Alaska steamer Islander struck an iceberg and sank immediately, carrying down about 60 of the passengers and crew and \$250,000 in gold.

Both sides are making gains in the steel strike.

The Shamrock II is being put in order for racing.

There is little change in the San Francisco strike situation.

Crispi's remains were taken by a warship from Naples to Palermo.

A. J. Montague was nominated for governor by Virginia Democrats.

The gunboat Machias has been ordered to Panama immediately.

The German Crown Prince may be engaged to the Princess of Battenberg.

The fishing season on the Columbia has closed and the pack will be about 337,000 cases.

Over a dozen lives were lost by the burning of the waterworks crib in the lake at Cleveland, Ohio.

Chicago steelworkers who would not obey the strike order were put out of the Amalgamated Association.

River and harbor recommendations for the coming year are about the same as in the bill that failed to pass last winter.

Burglars who attempted to rob an Ohio bank were frightened away before they secured anything and are now surrounded in the woods near the town.

The Union Pacific Railroad has notified its employees that habitual drinking or even the mere frequenting of saloons will in future be considered cause for discharge.

A coal famine in San Francisco is imminent because of the strike.

Two men were asphyxiated and others nearly so in a Montana mine.

Colombian insurgents are operating along the line of the Panama railroad.

The remains of Dowager Empress Frederick were interred at Potsdam.

A passenger train was robbed on the M., K. & T. road in Indian Territory.

American looters in China were sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Heavy rains in Arizona are doing much damage to railway and other property.

Efforts for the settlement of the San Francisco strike are making good progress.

President Mellen, of the Northern Pacific, denies that his company will build to the Clearwater country.

An effort will be made to induce Western members of the Amalgamated Association to reconsider their refusal to go on strike.

Revenue officers have discovered that large numbers of Chinese have been smuggled into San Francisco on lumber schooners from British Columbia.

Highwaymen in Texas held up a passenger train, going through the coaches and relieving passengers of their cash and other valuables. Nothing was secured from the express car. Later seven men were arrested for the robbery and part of the plunder recovered.

An advance of from one to two dollars a ton has been made in all finished steel products.

Krupp, the German gun maker, has a fortune of nearly \$50,000,000, an income of nearly \$14,000,000 and a payroll of 80,000 persons.

Mrs. William E. English presented to the state museum a dead Jersey pig with one head and two bodies joined at the shoulders.

SERIOUS BATTLE IN COLOMBIA.

Engagement of July 28 Resulted in Heavy Loss on Both Sides.

New York, Aug. 17.—Details regarding the Venezuelan-Colombian conflict of July 28 have been received, and convey the first intimation that the battle was a serious one. The engagement was fought at Las Pillas, La Parada and Pirinos, and lasted 26 hours. The Colombian forces were compelled to retire, but not before 1100 men on both sides had been killed and wounded. Among those were General Rosendo Medina, of the Venezuelan side, and four Colonels. The army of 6000 invaders was divided into 28 regiments, some of which were of the regular Colombian army, commanded by government officers and using the army artillery.

Because of the strict postal, press and cable censorship exercised, the victories won by the rebels in several battles were until now given as mere rumors. A list of these battles was among the advices received by Dr. Resepo. July 19, according to insurgent advices, General M. Jose Castillo defeated the government troops under General Luis Velez at Palmar, taking many prisoners, arms and supplies. General Chodoma Castillo won a battle over a regiment that attempted to intercept his command in its march to Rio Haca. General Marin's troops have won several engagements and now practically control the Department of Tolima.

Two other battles with favorable results for the rebels took place at Canas and Gatun, Department of Panama. Four battles have been fought during the last month in the south of Cauca, which were also government defeats, though details are lacking.

Strength of Insurgents.

New York, Aug. 17.—According to the latest bulletin of the Colombian Insurrectionists, a copy of which has just been received here, the rebels have a fighting strength of 25,000 men.

English Warships at Panama.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 17.—H. M. S. Icarus, sloop-of-war, which has been ordered to England, will leave Friday morning. She will call at San Diego and at Panama, remaining at the latter point until the trouble there has been settled. H. M. S. Phaeton is now at Panama. H. M. S. Warspite, flagship of the Pacific station, whose commission concludes in January, will be succeeded by the first-class cruiser Grafion.

The government is concentrating troops from the more remote provinces. Telegraph communication with coast points is interrupted, and hence nothing is known here regarding the situation at Cartagena and Barranquilla. General Albuca has not yet returned to Colon, but is expected at any moment with reinforcements. Troops continue to patrol both ends of the Isthmus line at night.

Liberals' Chances Good.

Kingston, Jamaica, Aug. 17.—A large number of wounded men, belonging to the government troops, were taken to Colon Monday. This is regarded as an indication of the persistence of the rebel attacks.

The converted cruiser Namouna has been found to be practically useless, owing to the bungling attempt to mount heavy guns on board of her. The Colombian government is now negotiating for the purchase of the steamer Bernard Hall, of the West India & Pacific Steamship Company, Limited, of Liverpool.

The Darlen brought 40 passengers, who were obliged to leave Colon in order to avoid conscription. They say the chances of the Liberals are much better than ever since the commencement of the revolution. The British consul at Colon has entered a protest against Jamaicans being compelled by the Colombian government to fight against the rebels. Guards are still kept on board the trains running between Panama and Colon.

Both sides are committing atrocities. In the attack made on the government troops, Sunday, a few miles west of Colon, the rebels defeated the government force, and one of the latter was afterwards found shot in the abdomen, with both legs amputated. This was a reprisal for the torture by the government of political prisoners.

Raid Along Panama Road.

Colon, Colombia, Aug. 17.—Raiders continue almost daily or nightly along the line, owing to the entire absence of military protection. Last night Matachin was again raided and cattle and horses were stolen. Two women were kidnapped at Gorgon station Sunday night and the Chinese there were pillaged. On most occasions of this character, the Chinese are the chief sufferers. Consequently they are daily transferring provisions and merchandise to Panama, thus intensifying want and suffering all along the line. Armed guards consisting of 50 men still accompany each passenger train.

Sheriff Stood Off a Mob.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Aug. 17.—A mob of about 50 men entered the jail here tonight this morning, determined to free Henry Pratt, colored, charged with attempted assault on Sallie Dice, a little white girl. After some parleying, Sheriff Kyle worked his way to a closet, seized a loaded shotgun and told the mob that they must kill him before they could get the prisoner. In the face of the loading gun the mob left the jail and dispersed. It is rumored that the mob was also after a negro who was brought here from Coaling last night.

\$120,000 Fire at Berkeley.

Berkeley, Cal., Aug. 19.—Fire late last night in the engine room of Niehaus Bros. company's planing mills at West Berkeley destroyed three acres of buildings, lumber piles and finished products of the mills, John Everding's starch works, Hare & Co.'s Eldorado Oil works, T. Haywood lumber yards and partially destroyed Everding's grist mill and his residence. The loss reaches \$120,000.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

A case of smallpox has been reported at Howell, in Marion county. Panthers attacked a band of sheep on the North Coos river and killed over 30.

A good sized porcupine, which had been killing numerous chickens, was slain in Moro, Sherman county.

Owing to the great number of buildings being constructed in Pendleton, contractors are having difficulty in securing enough carpenters to do the work.

The Grand Ronde river is lower at present than it has been for many years. Fishermen declare that there is not enough water above Hilgard for a fish to swim in.

The surveyors of the United States geological survey have found that Odell lake, in Lake county, is 4,900 feet and Crescent lake 5,025 feet above the level of the ocean. The summit of the mountains where they crossed is 6,850 feet above the level.

As an example of how the old donation land claims in Polk county are being divided into small farms, the Grant 640 acre claim, which for many years yielded a living for a family of only five, now affords homes for over 60 people, and there is yet much waste land in the tract.

Cherries are just coming to market around Enterprise, Wallawa county.

A street fair promoter is in Eugene trying to work up a carnival there for September.

There are five Ed Millers in Baker City, and each gets the mail of all the others, so it is said.

Between hot weather and harvest the valley towns are almost deserted and business is very dull.

It is estimated that 1,000,000 pounds of prunes will be dried in the vicinity of Dallas this fall.

A big prairie fire raged at Ella, in Morrow county, caused by small boys playing with matches. It burned several sections of bunelgrass.

A submarine diver has been engaged for about two months in placing buoys to blow up a reef outside the entrance to the Umpqua harbor.

Rabbit killing is the leading sport now around Paisley, Lake county. The pests are thick and do damage, when able, in the grain and alfalfa fields.

There is no apparent scarcity of harvest hands in the Weston neighborhood; neither is there a surplus, and those in search of work are not disappointed.

W. H. Brummond, of Connell, Grant county recently killed two coyotes with one rifle shot. One of the varmints was standing 100 feet to one side of the one he aimed at.

Grasshoppers are present in great numbers on both Birch creeks, above Pilot rock, in Umatilla county, and are doing considerable damage both to grain and gardens, the latter particularly.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, export value, 55¢@56¢ per bushel; bluestem, 57¢@58¢; valley, nominal.
Flour—Best grades, \$2.90@3.40 per barrel; graham, \$2.60.
Oats—\$1.15@1.20 per cental.
Barley—Feed, \$1.60@1.65; brewing, \$1.65@1.70 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$27 per ton; middlings, \$21.50; shorts, \$20; chop, \$16.
Hay—Timothy, \$11@13; clover, \$9@9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 17¢@20¢; dairy, 14¢@15¢; store, 11¢@12¢ per pound.
Eggs—17¢ per dozen.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 11¢@11½¢; Young America, 12¢@12½¢ per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.75; hens, \$3.75@4.75; dressed, 10¢@11¢ per pound; springs, \$2.50@4.00 per dozen; ducks, \$3 for old; \$2.50@3.50 for young; geese, \$4@4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8¢@10¢; dressed, 10¢@12½¢ per pound.
Mutton—Lamb, 31¢; gross; dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound; sheep, \$3.25, gross; dressed, 6¢@6½¢ per lb.
Hogs—Gross, heavy, \$5.75@6¢; light, \$4.75@5¢; dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound.
Veal—Small, 8¢@9¢; large, 7¢@7½¢ per pound.
Beef—Gross top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows and heifers, \$3.25@3.50; dressed beef, 6¢@7½¢ per pound.
Hops—12¢@14¢ per pound.
Wool—Valley, 11¢@13½¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@12½¢; mohair, 20¢@21¢ per pound.
Potatoes—90¢@\$1.00 per sack.

Senator Clark, of Montana, owns about 40 gold silver, and copper mines.

A species of wood that expands like rubber is one of the newly discovered products of the Philippines.

Andrew Carnegie has offered the city of Portsmouth, O., \$50,000 for a public library.

It has been judicially decided that women who pay rent directly to a landlord in Toronto are entitled to vote for aldermen.