

The Doctor's Dilemma

By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER XVI.—(Continued.)

"You are looking rather low," she said triumphantly—"rather blue, I might say. Is there anything the matter with you? Your face is as long as a fiddle. Perhaps it is the sea that makes you melancholy."

"Not at all," I answered, trying to speak briskly; "I am an old sailor. Perhaps you will feel melancholy by-and-by."

Luckily for me, my prophecy was fulfilled shortly after, for the day was rough enough to produce uncomfortable sensations in those who were not old sailors like myself. My tormentor was prostrate to the last moment.

When we anchored at the entrance of the Creux, and the small boats came out to carry us ashore, I managed easily to secure a place in the first, and to lose sight of her in the bustle of landing. As soon as my feet touched the shore I started off at my swiftest pace for the Havre Gosselin.

But I had not far to go, for at Vaudin's Inn, which stands at the top of the lane running from the Creux Harbor, I saw Tardif at the door. He came to me instantly, and we sat down on a low stone wall on the roadside, but well out of hearing of any ears but each other's.

"Tardif," I said, "has mamma told you her secret?"

"Yes, yes," he answered; "poor little soul! and she is a hundredfold dearer to me now than before. But mamma's will is not hers. She is gone!"

"Gone!" I ejaculated. I could not utter another word; but I stared at him as if my eyes could tear further information from him.

"Yes," he said; "that lady came last week with Miss Dobree, our cousin. Then mamma told me all, and we took counsel together. It was not safe for her to stay any longer, though I would have died for her gladly. But what could I do? We knew she must go elsewhere, and the next morning I rowed her over to Peter-port in time for the steamer to England. Poor little thing! poor little hunted soul!"

"Tardif," I said, "did she leave no message for me?"

"She wrote a letter for you," he said, "the very last thing. She did not go to bed that night, neither did I. I was going to lose her, doctor, and she had been like this for some time. She was deathly pale, and she was terrified at death at the thought of her husband claiming her. I promised to give the letter into your own hands. Here it is."

It had been lying in his breast pocket, and the edges were worn already. He gave it to me gingerly, as if I were to part with it. The outlines were coming up in greater numbers, and I made a retreat hastily towards a quiet and remote part of the cliffs seldom visited in Little Sark.

There, with the sea, which had carried her away from me, playing buoyantly amongst the rocks, I read her farewell letter. It ran thus:

"My Dear Friend—I am glad I can call you my friend, though nothing can ever come of our friendship—nothing, for we may not see one another as our friends do. I am compelled to flee away again from this quiet, peaceful home, where you and Tardif have been so good to me. I began to feel perfectly safe here, and all at once the refuge falls me. It breaks my heart, but I must go, and my only gladness is that it will be good for you. By and by you will forget me, and return to your cousin Julia, and be happy just as you once thought you should be—as you would have been but for me. You must think of me as one dead. I am quite dead—lost to you.

dear aunt knew of it she could not rest in her grave. Martin, cannot you guess? Are men born so dull that they cannot see what is going on under their own eyes?"

"I have not the least idea of what you are driving at," I answered. "Sit down and calm yourself."

"How long is it since my poor, dear aunt died?"

"You know as well as I do," I replied, wondering that she should touch the wound so roughly. "Three months next Sunday."

"And Dr. Dobree," she said in a bitter accent—then stopped, looking me full in the face. I had never heard her call my father Dr. Dobree in my life.

"What now?" I asked. "What has my unucky father been doing now?"

"Why," she exclaimed, stamping her foot, while the blood mantled to her forehead, "Dr. Dobree is in haste to take a second wife! He is indeed, my poor Martin. He wishes to be married immediately to that viper, Kate Daltrey."

"Impossible!" I cried, sitting up the quick by these words. I remembered my mother's mild, instinctive dislike to Kate Daltrey, and her harmless hope that I would not go over to her side. Go over to her side! No. If she set her foot into this house as my mother's successor, I would never dwell under the same roof.

"Oh, I was so ashamed!" she said. "You see I had not the faintest shadow of an idea. I had left them in the drawing-room to go upstairs, and I thought of something I wanted, and went back suddenly, and there they were—his arm around her waist, and her head on his shoulder—his with his gray hairs, too! She says she is the same age as me, but she is forty if she is a day. The simplicity and the what she says, or how to look, I could not get out of the room again as if I had not seen, for I cried, 'Oh!' at the first sight of them. Then I stood staring at them; but I think they felt as uncomfortable as I did."

"Julia," I said, "I shall leave Guernsey before this marriage can come off. I shall take tea at eight o'clock to-morrow. I had them good-night with a lighter heart than I had felt for a long while. I held Julia's hand the longest, looking into her face earnestly, till it flushed and glowed a little under my scrutiny."

"True heart," I said to myself, "true and constant! and I have nothing, but shall have nothing, to offer it but the ashes of a dead love. Would he heaven, I thought as I paced along Brook street, 'I had never been fated to see Olivia!'"

"I was punctual to my time the next day. I sat among them quiet and silent, but revelling in this partial return of olden times. When Julia poured out my tea, and passed it to me with her white hand, I felt inclined to kiss her jeweled fingers. If Captain Carey had not been present I think I should have done so."

"I lingered over the pleasant meal. At the close Captain Carey announced that he was about to leave us alone together for an hour or two. I went down to the boat with him, for he had made me a mysterious signal to follow him. In the hall he whispered a few incomprehensible sentences into my ear."

"Don't think anything of me, my boy. Don't sacrifice yourself for me. I'm an old fellow compared to you, though I'm not fifty yet, but I've got me out of the question, Martin. There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip! That I know quite well, my dear fellow."

He was gone before I could ask for an explanation. I returned to the drawing room, pondering over his words. Julia and I were sitting side by side on the sofa, in the darkest corner of the room.

would be willing to become my wife. But if ever that day came she would require me to give up my position in England, and settle down for life in Guernsey.

Fairly, then, I was launched upon the career of a physician in the great city, as a partner with Jack and his father. The completeness of the change suited me. Nothing here, in scenery, atmosphere or society, could remind me of the fretted past. The troubled waters subsided into a dull calm, as far as emotional life went. To be sure, the idea crossed me often that Olivia might be in London—even in the same street with me. I never caught sight of a faded green dress but my steps were hurried, and I followed till I was sure that the wearer was not Olivia. But I was aware that the chances of our meeting were so small that I could not count upon them.

Even far away from me as though the Atlantic rolled between us. If I only knew that she was safe, and as happy as her and destiny could let her be, I would be content.

Thus I was thrown entirely upon my profession for interest and occupation. I gave myself up to it with an energy that amazed Jack, and sometimes surprised myself. Dr. Senior, who as an old veteran loved it with ardor for its own sake, was delighted with my enthusiasm. He prophesied great things for me.

So passed my first winter in London.

CHAPTER XVIII. Early in the spring I received a letter from Julia, desiring me to look out for apartments, somewhere in my neighborhood, for herself and Johanna and Captain Carey. They were coming to London to spend two or three months of the season. I had not had any task so agreeable since I left Guernsey. Jack was hospitably anxious for them to come to our own house, but I knew they would not listen to such a proposal. I found some suitable rooms for them, however, where I could be with them at any time in five minutes. On the appointed day I met them at Waterloo station, and installed them in their new apartments.

It struck me that Julia was looking better and happier than I had seen her look for a long time. Her black dress suited her, and gave her a style which she never had in colors. Her complexion looked dark, but not sallow; and her brown hair was certainly more becomingly arranged. Her appearance was that of a well-bred, cultivated, almost elegant woman, of whom no man need be ashamed. Johanna was simply herself, without the least perceptible change. But Captain Carey again looked ten years younger, and was evidently taking pains with his appearance. I was more than satisfied, I was proud of all my friends.

"We want you to come and have a long talk with us to-morrow," said Johanna; "it is too late to-night. We shall be busy shopping in the morning, but can you come in the evening?"

"Oh, yes," I answered; "I am at leisure most evenings, and I count upon spending them with you. I can escort you to as many places of amusement as you wish to visit."

"To-morrow," she said, "we shall take tea at eight o'clock to-morrow. I had them good-night with a lighter heart than I had felt for a long while. I held Julia's hand the longest, looking into her face earnestly, till it flushed and glowed a little under my scrutiny."

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never conquer it. Do you think that this is true? He could do with us."

"Yes," I answered, "it is true. I could never love again as I love Olivia."

"Then, my dear Martin," said Johanna, very softly, "do you wish to keep Julia to her promise?"

I started violently. What did Julia wish to be released from that semi-engagement, and be free? Was it possible that any one else coveted my place in her affections, and in the new house which we had fitted up for ourselves? I felt like the dog in the manger. It seemed an unheard-of encroachment for any person to come between my cousin Julia and me.

"Do you ask me to set you free from your promise, Julia?" I asked, somewhat sternly.

(To be continued.)

GAT NOW IN FAVOR. Crippled, but She Helped to Find a Fortune.

"I recently filed a claim for the widow of a Mexican war veteran," said H. G. McCormick, of Cincinnati, "that has a rather funny story attached to it that I think will bear repeating, as it was brought about by a one-eyed, hobnobbed cat of no pedigree and of absolutely no worth, that is now petted as a priceless treasure by Mrs. Maggie Tuttle, an aged widow, residing at Harrison, about ten miles from Cincinnati. A small boy with a sling destroyed one of the cat's eyes, and a few days afterward, in an attempt to knock a train tain Carver. They were coming to London to spend two or three months of the season. I had not had any task so agreeable since I left Guernsey. Jack was hospitably anxious for them to come to our own house, but I knew they would not listen to such a proposal. I found some suitable rooms for them, however, where I could be with them at any time in five minutes. On the appointed day I met them at Waterloo station, and installed them in their new apartments."

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COLONEL R. C. JUDSON.

Devotes Himself to Developing Agricultural Resources of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The latest good work started by Colonel R. C. Judson, of Portland, is the holding of exchange fairs at central business points at frequent intervals. Farmers and stockmen attend these fairs and display their farm products, also cattle, horses and sheep, in the streets for a day or two. Sales are then made to local merchants. They in turn are patronized freely. Business moves briskly. Ideas are exchanged. The women folks enjoy shopping and a brief rest. Land sales are also made. The women folks are attracted by the newspaper publicity. Colonel Judson's efforts are always original, attractive and substantial. He believes in amity rather than animosity, a principle that makes friends and business for his railroad, the O. R. & N. The practical experiments conducted by Mr. Judson in encouraging diversified farming, and works of organizing farmers' institute meetings, have made him a familiar figure to all the progressive industrial workers of the United States. The United States agricultural department has been attracted by his work and used his methods as object lessons in encouraging the same kind of work in other states.

ABDUL HAMID ALARMED. Orders the Completion With All Speed of Defenses—Excitement Prevails. Paris, Nov. 4.—"The sultan has ordered the completion with all speed of the defenses at Smyrna and the entrance to the Dardanelles," says the Constantinople correspondent of the Echo de Paris. "Submarine mines will be placed and troops mobilized at points where disembarkations are likely. A violent anti-French feeling exists, and fears are felt for the safety of French residents in Turkish cities, Constantinople excepted."

"I have not come for pills this time, doctor," said the visitor, "but for advice. You have lived many years in this world of toil and trouble and have had much experience. I am young and I want you to tell me how to get rich."

The aged practitioner gazed through his glasses at the young man and in a deliberate tone, said: "Yes, I can tell you. You are young and can accomplish your object if you will. Your plan is this: First, be industrious and economical. Save as much as possible and spend as little. Pile up the dollars and put them at interest. If you follow out these instructions by the time you reach my age you'll be as rich as Croesus and as mean as I—"

Shamrock Not for Sale. Queenstown, Nov. 1.—Sir Thomas Lipton, who arrived here today on board the White Star line steamer Celtic from New York, said to a representative of the Associated Press that the report that the Shamrock II was for sale in New York was quite untrue, and he intended racing her in American waters next season. He reiterated his purpose to again challenge for the America's cup and expressed himself as being quite satisfied with the manner in which the Shamrock II had been sailed.

Boer Commando Surprised. London, Nov. 1.—Lord Kitchener in a dispatch from Pretoria says Colonel Byng surprised a Boer commando October 25, and captured 22 prisoners, including Field Cornets Spanneberg and Onisthussen. Colonel Fortescue, the dispatch adds, had a day long running fight with Muelter's Boer command, October 27, northward of Balmoral. He killed four Boers and captured 54 prisoners, 36 wagons and much stock.

Lower Cable Rates to the Philippines. New York, Nov. 4.—The Commercial Cable Company today sent out the following notice: "We are advised that the following reduced rates to the Philippine Islands go into effect on the 15th inst.: Luzon Island, \$1.66 per word from New York; all other islands, \$1.75 per word from New York."

Welsh Miners' Threats. Cardiff, Wales, Nov. 4.—At a mass meeting of the Merthyr-Tydevel colliers today, the action of their representatives in agreeing to stop work last Friday and Saturday and threatening to stop on other days, in order to keep up the price of coal, and therefore wages, was confirmed and resolutions in support of the future action of the leaders was adopted. The situation is critical, as the employers are strongly inclined to resort to a general lockout.

To Help the Thing Along. "Yes, grandfather is 90 years and 6 months of age."

Commerce of the Thames. Five hundred trading vessels leave the Thames daily for all parts of the world.

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.

The cross examination of Admiral Schley has been concluded. Canada opposes the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The postal estimates for the coming fiscal year call for \$15,000,000. A French squadron sailed for Turkey to press France's demands. Six deaths from plague have occurred at Liverpool since September 2. New York city is flooded with light weight half dollars, which have been "sweated."

A force of British soldiers surprised the Boers, capturing 22 men and two commanders. Two men have been arrested at Roseburg for the Southern Pacific train hold-up. Anarchists throughout the world have held dances and other demonstrations in honor of Czolgosz.

Late steamers from Nome say that a reign of terror is expected in Alaska this winter as there are hundreds there who have no means of support. Ten states will vote for state officers this fall. It is believed at Sofia that Miss Stone is dead.

Ten persons were killed in the Louisiana race war. A heavy storm has been raging on Puget sound for two days. The Northern Pacific has insured its property for \$20,000,000. King Edward's physician attended him at an official reception. The Czolgosz autopsy proved that the murderer was perfectly sane. Noyes has made application for a postponement of the hearing in his case.

The administration will not suspend the reduction of the Philippine army. A large portion of the Siberian peninsula will be opened to miners next year. Preparations are being made for the return of the Duke of York to England.

Countess Russell demands an apology from the assistant secretary of the treasury. The race war in the South continues and it is feared that the militia will have to be called out. President Castro, of Venezuela, has declared that so far as his country is concerned, the revolution is ended.

Malvar appoints himself captain general of the Filipino army. His proclamation warns natives who aid Americans that they will be treated as traitors. Fourteen people were killed in a race riot in Louisiana. Lieutenant General Miles has submitted his annual report.

The state department is more sanguine of saving Miss Stone. Rains in Argentina have greatly weakened the wheat market. Chinese government is being reorganized on conservative lines.

The British barks Bowman B. Law and Glenogee were destroyed by fire. Admiral Schley will call two more witnesses and the prosecution about 15. Senator Hoar asks to be excused from delivering a eulogy on McKinley.

All preparations for the execution of Czolgosz, the assassin, have been completed. The Schley court of inquiry is slowly dragging itself along, with no definite time set for its closing. Crologosz, the assassin of President McKinley, was electrocuted. He went to the chair unrepentant and unrepentant.

If the rumors concerning the condition of King Edward are well founded, it is barely possible that he may never be crowned king of England. There is a scarcity of firewood at Salem. Chile and Argentina are preparing for war.

King Edward is suffering from cancer of the throat. Weyler denies that he aspires to a Spanish dictatorship. Two steamers have arrived at Port Townsend from Nome. Twenty-five insurgents were killed in a fight near Ilo Ilo. Nashville police attempted to arrest a Great Northern robber.

France has a soldier to every 59 inhabitants, Germany one to every 89, Italy one to every 14, Great Britain one to every 100. The Ganz system of electric traction uses 3,000 volts in each phase which is fed directly to two trolley wires, the track forming the third conductor. This system provides for hauling a 250-ton train of freight 30 miles an hour on a 10 per cent. grade by a 600-horse power locomotive.