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The Doctor's Dilemma

By Heba Stretton

CHAPTER XXII.—(Continued.)

That same evening I received a note, desiring me to go and see him immediately. He was looking brighter and better than in the morning, and an odd smile played now and then about his face as he talked to me, after having desired Mrs. Foster to leave us alone together.

except being too many of 'em 'p'ra, and my old woman won't own to that. But there's something in the wind as concerns Dr. Doby, as I thought I'd better come and give you a hint of it.

"To be sure," I said. "Well, doctor," he continued, "the very last Monday as ever was, a lady walks slowly along the stand, eyeing us all very hard, but taking no heed of any 'em, till she catches sight of me. The lady comes along very slowly—she looks hard at me—the node her head, as much as to say, 'You, and your cab, and your horse are what I'm on the lookout for; and I get down, opens the door, and sees her in quite comfortable. Says she, 'Drive me to Messrs. Scott and Brown, in Gray's Inn Road.'"

"No!" I ejaculated. "Yes, doctor," replied Simmons. "Drive me," she says, to Messrs. Scott and Brown, Gray's Inn Road. Of course I knew the name again; I was vexed enough the last time I were there, at showing myself so green. I looks hard at her. A very fine make of a woman, with hair and eyes as black as coals, and an impudent look on her face somehow. She told me to wait for her in the street; and directly after she goes in there comes down the gent I had seen before, with a cane behind his ear. He looks very hard at me, and me at him. Says he, 'I think I have seen your face before, my man. Very civil; as civil as an orange, as folks say. I think you have, I says. 'Could you step upstairs for a minute or two?'"

"For her sake?" he said, with a sneer. "For her sake, simply," I answered; "I will employ a lawyer to draw up the deed, and as soon as you sign it I will advance the money you require. My treatment of your disease I shall begin at once; that will fall under the care of your doctor; but I warn you that fresh air and freedom from agitation are almost, if not positively, essential to its success. The sooner you secure these for yourself, the better your chance."

"So you went in, of course?" said Jack. "Doctors," he answered solemnly, "I did go in. There's nothing to be said against that. The lady is sitting in a office upstairs, talking to another gent, with hair and eyes like hers, as black as coals, and the same look of brass on his face. All three of 'em looked a little under the weather. 'What's your name, my man?' asked the black gent, 'Waler,' I says, 'And where do you live?' He says, taking me serious. 'In Queer street,' I says, with a little wink to show 'em I were up to a trick or two. They all three looked at me among themselves, but not in a pleasant sort of way. Then the gent begins again. 'My good fellow,' he says, 'we want you to give us a little information that 'ud be of use to us, and we are willing to pay you handsome for it. It can't do you any harm, nor nobody else, for it's only a matter of business. You're not above taking ten shillings for a bit of useful information?' 'Not by no manner of means,' I says. 'Go on,' I said impatiently.

The progress of his recovery was slow, but it was sure. I felt that it would be so from the first. Day by day I watched the pallid hue of sickness upon his face changing into a more natural tone. I saw his strength coming back by slight but steady degrees. The malady was forced to retreat into its most hidden citadel, where it might lurk as a prisoner, but not dwell as a destroyer, for many years to come.

"Off with him to the carriage," said the doctor. "What's your name, my man?" asked the black gent, 'Waler,' I says, 'And where do you live?' He says, taking me serious. 'In Queer street,' I says, with a little wink to show 'em I were up to a trick or two. They all three looked at me among themselves, but not in a pleasant sort of way. Then the gent begins again. 'My good fellow,' he says, 'we want you to give us a little information that 'ud be of use to us, and we are willing to pay you handsome for it. It can't do you any harm, nor nobody else, for it's only a matter of business. You're not above taking ten shillings for a bit of useful information?' 'Not by no manner of means,' I says. 'Go on,' I said impatiently.

CHAPTER XXIII. Julia's marriage arrangements were going on speedily. There was something ironical to me in the chance that made me so often the witness of them. We were so merely cousins again, that she discussed her purchases and displayed them before me, as if there had never been any notion between us of keeping house together. Once more I assisted in the choice of a wedding dress, for the one made a year before was said to be yellow and old-fashioned. But this time Julia did not insist upon having white satin. A dainty tint of ivory was considered more suitable. Captain Carey enjoyed the purchase with the rapture I had failed to experience.

"Dear Doctor and Friend"—this day I received a letter from man'zelle; quite a little letter with only a few lines in it. She says, 'Come to be. My husband has found me; he is here. I have no friends but you and one other, and I cannot send for him. You said you would come to me whenever I wanted you. I have not time to write more. I am in a little village called Ville-en-bois, between Granville and Noireau. Come to the house of the cure; I am there.' "Behold, I am gone, dear monsieur. I write this in my boat, for we are crossing to Jersey to catch the steambot to Granville. To-morrow evening I shall be in Ville-en-bois. Will you learn the law of France about this affair? They say the code binds a woman to follow her husband wherever he goes. At London you can learn anything. Believe me, I will protect man'zelle, or I should say madame, at the loss of my life. Your devoted FARDIE."

But before they went a hint of treachery reached me, which put me down on my guard. One morning, when Jack and I were at breakfast, Simmons, the cabby, was announced. He was a favorite with Jack, who bade the servant show him in. "Nothing amiss with your wife or the boys, I hope," said Jack. "No," Dr. John, he answered, "there ain't anything amiss with them,

London's Cemeteries. London has twenty-one municipal cemeteries, and ten which are owned by private companies.

"Stay!" he said; "there is no chance whatever of going so late as this. Let us think for a few minutes." But at that moment a furious peal of the bell rang through the house. We both ran into the hall. The servant had just opened the door, and a telegraph clerk stood on the steps, with telegram, which he thrust into his hands. It was directed to me. I tore it open. "From Jean Grismont, Granville, to Dr. Doby, Brook street, London." I did not know any Jean Grismont of Granville; it was the name of a stranger to me. A message was written underneath in Norman patois, but so small and garbled in its transmission that I could not make out the sense of it. The only words I was sure about were "man'zelle," "Fardie," and "a steamer." Who was on the point of death I could not tell. (To be continued.)

WASPS BENEFIT THE FIGS. Insects Are Necessary to the Fruit's Successful Cultivation. The long-continued effort to produce the Smyrna fig of commerce in California has been crowned with success. The history of the experiment is interesting. It began over twenty years ago with importation of cuttings from Asia Minor. Figs have been produced from these and other imported cuttings, but they were not the famous white fig of commerce. The credit of producing the latter in California belongs to Geo. C. Roeding of Fresno. Until this summer every true Smyrna fig tree planted in California which bore fruit failed to mature it; the figs were unfertilized and withered and dropped. It was finally discovered that the fertilization of this fig depended upon the service of the blastophaga wasp, whose habit is to lay the capri, or wild fig. The latter was imported and thrived amazingly, but the blastophaga did not accompany it.



ELLEN STONE, THE STOLEN MISSIONARY.

Early in September last Miss Ellen M. Stone, an American missionary in Turkey, while riding with a party of 10 or 12, between Banks and Damala, was captured by a party of brigands, some 40 in number. Mme. Talika, who was of the party, was taken along as a companion for Miss Stone. They were carried to the mountains where they still remain in captivity. A ransom of 25,000 pounds Turkish (equivalent to practically \$100,000) was demanded, payable at Samokov within 18 days, Miss Stone's death being the penalty named for failure to receive that amount. A subscription was started in this country, but the full sum demanded was not raised. The time limit has been twice extended. Mr. Dickinson, U. S. consul at Constantinople, at once took the matter in charge and has since worked assiduously for Miss Stone's release, but thus far without success. His efforts have, to outward appearance at least, been seconded by the Turkish and Bulgarian governments. According to late accounts he has offered the brigands \$15,000 for Miss Stone's release, giving them six days in which to accept the offer, at the end of which time it would be withdrawn. Letters from Miss Stone indicate that she and her companion are closely guarded, but that they have been well treated and are in good health. It is not believed she is in serious danger.

NEW WARSHIPS.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The naval board of construction has completed the recommendations called for by congress relative to the two new battleships and two armored cruisers, and also covering many technical questions which have arisen as to naval architecture, armor, batteries, turrets, etc. The recommendations as to battleships call for two ships of 16,000 tons each, and two armored cruisers of 14,500 tons each. The battleships are to be heavily armored, and carry the following batteries: Four 12 inch guns in two turrets forward and aft, 8 8 inch guns in four separate turrets, 12 12 inch guns, 20 10 pounders and a large number of auxiliary machine guns.

RURAL DELIVERY A SUCCESS.

Washington, Nov. 29.—First Assistant Postmaster General Johnson, in his annual report, says the yearly increase in the postal revenues has resulted in the free delivery service becoming self sustaining. Of the gross postal revenues of the United States for the past fiscal year, \$74,295,394 came from 866 free delivery cities. The remaining 3,600 presidential offices yielded \$16,063,252, while the 72,479 fourth class postoffices produced \$18,913,519. Mr. Johnson says that the fact that the postal service in the largest cities is practically perfect is the explanation of why the annual percentage of increases in the revenue of the free delivery postoffices should be three times as large as that of the fourth class offices. As rural free delivery reaches out into the country, giving equal facilities without regard to locality, he says, it increases the revenues at a rate at least equal to that maintained in the free delivery cities, where, during the past five years, it has averaged 8 per cent.

Rogues of Wall Street.

The rogues of Wall street flourish. They are thieving brokers, promoters of mining schemes and disreputable speculators. Said a thieving broker on one occasion: "If the Postoffice Department would let me alone I would have to hire a cart to carry my money-laden mail. All you have to do is to appeal to the cupidty of the public. Promise to pay per cent dividends on a first-class security and you can't do business; but promise 50 per cent on a take, and you can get rich." Investigation proved this statement to be true. He is of the same class as the tipster trader who advertises that he knows exactly which stocks will advance and those that are going to decline.

Transport Overdue.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The transport Buford, en route from the Philippines to New York, with two battalions of the Twenty-third infantry, is several days overdue. No apprehension is felt at the war department, however, as the severe northwest gales which have prevailed for some days past over the North Atlantic naturally would retard her progress.

What It Cost China.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The estimates for Germany's expenditure in China for the year 1902 are 39,500,000 marks, as against 12,500,000 marks expended in China in 1901. The pensions for widows and orphans resulting from the China expedition amount to 491,000 marks annually.

Russia Honors It.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 2.—The czar granted an audience to the Marquis Ito, the Japanese statesman, this afternoon, and later Count Lamsdorff, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, gave a gala dinner in honor of the visitor. An effective entente between Russia and Japan is regarded as the probable outcome of the audience, although it is not anticipated that permanent or binding obligations will be undertaken by either government.

His Words Fulfilled.

It was the worst domestic storm they had ever encountered. "You don't deserve even hanging," he said as he left the house. "I deserve it better than you do!" he sent after him as a parting shot—Philadelphia Times.

City of Mexico, Nov. 29.

The committee of the Pan-American conference are rapidly completing their work, with the exception of the arbitration committee and the committee on commerce and reciprocity. The latter is withholding action until it learns the stand which President Roosevelt will take on the subject of reciprocity in his forthcoming message to congress. The committee on future Pan-American conferences will recommend the holding of a conference every five years.

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Opening of Charleston Exposition.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Arrangements have been made for the opening of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian exposition by the president next Wednesday. At the close of the address by Senator Dewey at Charleston, messages of greeting will pass between the president and managers of the exposition, and at 2:30 o'clock the president will press the button which will set the machinery of the exposition in motion.

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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.

One of the convicts who escaped from Leavenworth, Kan., has been captured at Tusculum, Ala.

At St. Paul, Walter Bourne, ex-deputy county auditor, was convicted on a charge of false auditing and fraud.

While quelling a row in the gallery of a Chicago theater, George Harden, a special officer, was shot and fatally wounded.

A New York man has been arrested on a charge of having set fire to a tenement house in which 62 persons were asleep.

The coroner's jury found the officers of the Smuggler Union mine at Telluride, Colo., were not responsible for the recent disaster.

VALUE OF ADVERTISING.

I would as soon think of doing business without clerks as without advertising. JOHN WANAMAKER. Nothing, except the mint, can make money without advertising. GLADSTONE. When you pay more for the rent of your business house than for advertising your business, you are pursuing a rash policy. If you can do business, let it be known. FRANKLIN.

Gilbert Parker, the novelist, is coming to America.

There is danger of a serious water famine at Hong Kong.

The Illinois fund for the McKinley memorial amounts to \$6,342.

King Edward ignores the anti-British agitation in Germany.

Twenty-six men were killed by a boiler explosion at Detroit, Mich.

Santos-Dumont proposes to make ascents in his airship from London.

Frank Munsey has purchased a controlling interest in the New York Daily News.

The warship Missouri will be launched at Newport News, Saturday, December 28.

The switchmen's strike at Pittsburg was a failure. Only one railroad was seriously affected.

Queen Wilhelmina has recovered from her recent illness, and will be able to go out in a few days.

The General Carriage Company, of New Jersey, will be reorganized with a capital of \$2,500,000.

Kitchener has again applied for a number of staff officers from India to be sent forthwith to South Africa.

Shakir Paasha has been appointed governor of Sourati, Asia Minor.

Marquis Ito, the Japanese statesman, has arrived at St. Petersburg.

William Gwin, for 30 years chief messenger to the secretary of state, is dead.

Home Rule Republican party of Hawaii wants Chinese exclusion laws re-enacted.

Three masked men entered a gambling resort at Chickasaw, I. T., and carried off \$700.

Half a million people in the Yangtze valley, China, will starve unless they receive aid.

The monetary loss from the recent gale on the Atlantic is greater than at first supposed.

Traffic on the Panama railway was stopped, but marines from the Iowa soon re-established it.

North Weymouth, Mass., was visited by a disastrous fire which will throw many men out of employment for a time.

Johnston, Miss., has been practically destroyed by fire. Fourteen stores and six residences were burned. Loss, \$75,000.

According to a dispatch to the London Standard from Odessa, 130 persons perished in recent earthquakes at Errazoum.

Secretary Hay has just received from an unknown person, through the collector of customs at New York, a conscience contribution of \$18,668.

Americans captured a rebel camp in Bohol island.

Sousa's band is playing to overflowing audiences in London.

Fire destroyed the Crawfordville, Ind., wire and nail plant. Loss, \$150,000.

Lord Salisbury is said to be aging rapidly, and displays little interest in public affairs.

The hobby of Gov. Geor is a love of good horses. He is said to be the best judge of horses in his state.

Sixty-five thousand dollars have been offered for a seat on the New York stock exchange, establishing a new figure.

John Jay Jackson, judge of the United States court for the northern district of West Virginia, has completed the fortieth year of his service on the federal bench.