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Race for a Wife

BY HAWLEY SMART

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

"Thanks; but you have not told me yet whether you enjoyed your ball."

"Yes, that I did; I got lots of dancing, and I do like that, you know. But how about yourself, Gram? I don't think you quite did your duty."

"Pretty fairly, I fancy. We can't be expected to consummate the amount of profligating that your sex delight in. I danced a good deal, and it was real pleasure to me to see the little sensation you made. I like to see my pretty cousin appreciated as she should be, and taking her legitimate position in the county."

"And what's that, pray?"

"Why, as the belle of all Hampshire, of course. I wish, though, you hadn't danced with that fellow Pearman last night. I've a sort of presentiment it will come of it."

"You stupid Greenville; what can come of it? I am not likely to see him again for months—perhaps never. At the worst, recognition of his existence on meeting is all that quadrille entails."

"Well, I suppose you are right, Maude; but it is time I was off. Good-by." And Greenville's pulse tingled a little, as his lips touched the fair cheek so quietly yielded to him. "Kind regards to my uncle and aunt; and drop me a line now and then."

"Don't be afraid of that," laughed Miss Denison; "don't I always write to you when I want anything?—and am I not always wanting something? I think the post might testify in my favor. Good-by; don't be long before you come and see us again."

Greenville rose before moodily over his visit, as he drove to the station. He had not quite mastered the fact that he was in love with his cousin, but he had arrived at some close apprehensions on the subject. He felt that he would have been a good deal better satisfied had his parting salute been much less easily accorded.

Maude, fresh as a rose, after a turn round the garden, comes in just in time to greet her mother on her return to the dining room. Petting her mother is one of the chief pleasures of Maude Denison's life. On this occasion she conducts her into the easy-chair next the fire, makes the tea, and then, drawing a stool near, seats herself at Mrs. Denison's feet, and with girlish delight recounts all her successes of the previous night; to which the fond mother listens with quiet happiness, as her hand plays with her daughter's silken tresses. That nobody could eclipse, that nobody could ever be worthy of mating with her peerless Maude, was a thing that Mrs. Denison would have deemed absurd to argue.

"And, mother, dear," said the girl, at last, "Greenville said, before he went away this morning, I was quite the belle of the ball. What do you think of your daughter now? Won't that satisfy papa, although he did grumble so about the expense of the dress?"

"Yes, love. He will be quite contented when he hears how thoroughly you enjoyed yourself. I am only so sorry that I was not strong enough to have been present myself at my darling's success."

Harold Denison entered the room in his usual listless fashion. He kissed his daughter carelessly, asked if she had enjoyed her ball, scarce listened to her affirmation, and then plunged at once into the letters and papers that lay piled alongside his plate. He was a tall, slight, handsome man, with a keen, cold eye and rather undecided mouth, verging on fifty years of age. The slightly grizzled eyebrows knit as he skimmed his correspondence. Duns, lawyers' letters, ancient mortgages and sundry other liabilities, formed the staple of the daily missives that constituted the accompaniment to his breakfast. Can it be wondered that the man's temper was soured?—that the william gay frolic squire of Glinn had become a cold, caustic and selfish man of the world?

"Things seem to be getting worse and worse, Eleanor," he observed, throwing down an epistle on the best superfine blue post, and sipping his tea moodily. "The old cry from Reynolds and Gibson—that that interest on the mortgage will be due next month, and begging prompt settlement this time, as the fellow is getting rather uneasy about the stability of the security, on account of the delay of last half-year. It will be hard to scrape the money together. Sheep, too, are down to nothing almost—so Thompson tells me—or else I have a hundred to sell that I looked to to help me through with this."

Mrs. Denison sighed. She had gone through a good many such breakfasts in her time, and felt as helpless as ever in suggesting expedients for the occasion.

"It's very unfortunate," she said at length. "Mr. Pearman is not pressing, at all events, I hope."

"No; he has the grace to remember that two-thirds of the property have already fallen into his hands. He is always tolerably lenient about his money. The fellow knows, moreover, that his is the first mortgage on the estate; and, I daresay, at times looks forward to being the eventual owner of Glinn. Shouldn't wonder if he was, too, some of these days," muttered Denison bitterly. "I used to grieve once, Nell, that we hadn't a son; I begin to think now it was all for the best. I should feel it more if I had to think that my boy would never be

master here. Yet that is pretty well how the case would stand if we had one."

"Providence knows what is best for us, Harold," returned his wife, softly; "it was a sore source of trouble to us once; but, as you say, it spares us some bitter thoughts now."

She associated herself with him in his career of extravagance as if she had been equally to blame, though, as far as her gentle nature dared, she had entered more than one meek remonstrance at his reckless career. But Mrs. Denison was not the woman to throw her husband's faults continually in his teeth. It was all done now, past recall; still, as far as it lay within her power, the wife was willing to bear her share of the burden Harold Denison's folly had entailed on his family.

"—and pray, Maude, did Mr. Pearman honor Ximister with his presence last night?" inquired her father, sarcastically.

"Young Mr. Pearman was there, but not the old man. He seemed to know a good many people there, Mr. Hrisden—"

"Yes, it's the old story. The old county families are swept away by these spinners, brewers, solicitors, and such like. Another hundred years, and there won't be one of the old names left in the neighborhood."

Breakfast is over. Maude fits away to her own little sanctum, with its piano, books, and budding camellias; Mrs. Denison goes off for a conference with the old housekeeper; while the squire betakes himself to his study, to struggle with figures and hold gloomy converse with Thompson, his farm bailiff. The mother and daughter do not feel much mental perturbation about the difficulties that threaten them. For the last five years have they not heard Mr. Denison discourse in the same melancholy strain? Constant reminders lose their effect; they thought little of the growling of the storm. But Harold Denison, as he sat puzzling his head in his room over that complication of figures, knew that things had pretty well reached their climax, and that it would be hard to predicate even how many months he should still remain Denison of Glinn.

CHAPTER III.

In the very modern but extremely comfortable dining room of Manserley, the Pearman father and son, are sitting. The old man has turned seventy, and can hardly be said to look as if his money-grubbing career had agreed with him. He is shrunk and worn, with a stoop in his shoulders. Altogether, he wears the aspect of a man whose constitution is beginning to break up. Wealth is not amassed without much wear and tear of mind and constitution, and your great turf speculators seldom attain a patriarchal age. He draws his chair closer to the blazing grate.

"I think I've got a bit of a cold, Sam," he remarked. "Better me than Corlander, though, isn't it?"

"Well, father, I am sorry for you; but I don't suppose it will be much harm in your case."

"How did he go this morning?"

"Well, I wasn't there; but Stephen tells me he did a good steady gallop. If he keeps right, he'll about win the 'Two Thousand.'"

"Yes," chuckled the old man. "I've been racing now getting on fifty years, and I don't think I ever saw my way into a much better thing than this looks like. We've got on, too, at a very pretty price, take it all round. It will be a hotish Monday for some of them."

"I hope so; but there's one or two things I want to talk to you about. There's young Sheffield; he's a crack-brained young fool, and I've got him down in my book to the tune of a loser of twelve hundred if Corlander wins. Now, you have done business with him—is he good for that amount?"

"Yes, Sam—yes. We'll get that from him in time; but I doubt there'll be a bit of waiting for it. Don't take long odds from him again. What else?"

"Well, Flashington stands to lose a thousand to us. He doesn't bear the character of a very good pay."

"He's the biggest thief in England; but he'll pay me, though he don't everybody."

"And why you, in particular?" inquired his son.

"Because he made a mistake about his name in early life, Sam; and he is quite aware that I know it, and could rake up evidence enough against him, if he irritated me, to make things, to say the least of it, very unpleasant, as far as he is concerned."

"Good! Then, with a little pressure, that'll be good money, if it's won, eh?"

"Just so," nodded the father.

"Now, we'll come to something else. Just listen to this. I've pretty well come to the conclusion that I had better get married."

"I don't see any reason you should not; on the contrary, I should like to see it. Not going to make a fool of yourself, I suppose?"—and the old man looked keenly at his son.

"Tell you more about it when it comes off; but certainly not, I think, in the design. We've made a good bit of money between us. I'm not going to say it isn't a son; I begin to think now it was all for the best. I should feel it more if I had to think that my boy would never be

In marriage is connection, more than money."

"Yes—yes, I think you are right; but there will be difficulties—difficulties, I fear."

"Of course there will, to a certain extent; there always is about getting anything worth having in this world; but money is a key to most things nowadays. Tackling coronets must be propped by wealthy allies. The parson or doctor marries the rich tall chandler's widow. Marriage is a social contract in those times. A hundred thousand pounds from Manchester stands out for strawberry leaves in the coronet, while a fifth of the money from Birmingham is quite content to put up with an Honorable. Well, to return to what I was saying, you agree with me that I must look out more for connection than money, don't you?"

"Yes, I think that's the best; but it would do no harm if you could see your way into a trifle of property besides."

"Exactly. I was at the Ximister ball last night, and the prettiest girl in the room was the daughter of old Denison of Glinn. I got introduced to her; danced with her, and did quite as well as anyone could expect to do in a first dance—just made her acquaintance, in fact. Now that's the lady I've marked down as my intended."

"Yes," said the old man musingly, "that might do if we could bring it about; but he's a proud man, the father—very."

"We'll come to that presently. Just listen while I reckon up all the advantages. First of all, I have taken a fancy to the girl. She's a real beauty, every inch of her. In the next place, she's an only child. Consequently, it's only fair to suppose that Glinn and what's left with it will eventually fall to her. We have got most of the old property now, and that would insure the whole thing being in our hands at last."

"Yours, Sam, yours. It is not likely I'd last to see it. Harold Denison is full twenty years younger than I am, and his wife is younger again; they'll see me out, boy."

"Well, father, it's no use denying it may be so. Still, in days to come, I should be Pearman of Glinn; and with a wife of their own class, it would be hard if I didn't take my place in the county."

"Yes, you should manage it, though I have failed; but you've had advantages I hadn't, Sam. You've a pull, you see, in education; I hadn't much. The art of making money I taught myself, and it didn't leave time for learning a deal of anything else. You start with a tidy lot made; and I think I have shown you enough to insure your not making ducks and drakes of it."

"No, I don't think I shall hurt. I can take care of myself pretty well at most games on the board. I never dabble in anything I don't understand. Don't you make yourself uneasy about me, governor. Now, Denison is a poor man, is he not?"

"Yes; he has well on to three thousand a year nominal rental left still; but there's more than one mortgage on the property, let alone other charges."

"Haven't you some money on the property yourself?"

"Ten thousand, Sam, and I'm first mortgage; but I know there's a second mortgage of the same amount, and there may be more for all I know."

"Well, there, you see, are all points in my favor. We could make this first mortgage quite easy for him, at all events."

"It's a deal of money—ten thousand pounds; but of course it would be different if the whole property looked like coming to you at last."

"Well, then, we must take that second mortgage also into our own hands, and let it stand at very easy interest. It will be only virtually allowing Denison so much a year during his lifetime, and in the long run will fall principally upon me."

"Yes; but I don't follow the meaning of all this, Sam."

"That's just what I am about to explain to you. My chances of meeting Miss Denison are so extremely few, that it is quite impossible I can arrive at asking for her hand in that way. My only chance is your proposing it to her father, and asking him to accord me permission to try if I can win his daughter's hand. Mind, that is the way you must put it; but don't forget that you will have to bring your pecuniary hold over him into play also—only, do it gently."

"You may trust me; I have pulled the strings in so many ways in my time, that I've learnt to be pretty cute about doing it with a delicate touch. I'll help you all I can when I've made my mind quite up about it."

How to Grow Peanuts.

Peanuts only thrive in a warm climate. The plant requires a limy, sandy loam, and yields from two bushels of pods planted an acre to as much as 40 or 50 bushels of pods and two tons of straw. The seed is planted about one inch deep in rows from 28 to 36 inches apart, and from 12 to 19 inches in the row.

Bombarded.

"Ah, my man," said the good old parson, "you should always be 'looking up.'"

"Not me, parson," responded the farmer with much emphasis. "Not with all these here chaps in airships and balloons throwing over and snip and cigar stinks."

Pianophile.

"The trouble with this tooth," said the dentist, probing it with a long slender instrument, "is that the nerve is dying."

"It seems to me, doctor," groaned the victim, "you ought to treat the dying with a little more respect."

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

A Kentucky judge has decided Sunday treating illegal.

A snow storm has just swept over Colorado. Eight to ten inches fell.

The saloon question will probably have to be taken into court for settlement in Michigan.

A tidal wave swept over the New Hebrides islands March 29, destroying practically all crops.

President Gomez has warned Cubans against the great tendency toward revolutions in that country.

Several members of the Japanese diet will visit the Pacific coast to study the situation at first hand.

A retired captain of the army committed suicide at New York because he hadn't enough money for himself and wife.

Ether Mitchell, central figure in the "Holy Roller" murders at Seattle in 1906, has been released from the asylum on parole.

Smuggled furs were brought in on the naval mine laying ships which made the trip from New York around the horn to San Diego.

The Colorado legislature has adjourned without passing a direct primary law, railroad commission law or an initiative and referendum measure and the governor will call a special session.

Naples has made great preparations to welcome Roosevelt.

Portland's new city directory places the population at 255,000.

There is a Civil war veteran living in Missouri who is 110 years old.

Fire at Dallas, Tex., destroyed property worth \$250,000, nearly all residences.

A big Chicago grain brokerage company has failed because of the advancing wheat market.

Canadian miners on strike believe the fuel shortage will force the mine owners to give in.

Students of Ruskin college, Oxford, England, have struck against the removal of the principal.

Admiral Cervera, one of the Spanish naval commanders during the war with the United States, is dead.

There is a report that Fairbanks has been offered the ambassadorship to Great Britain, but he refuses to discuss the proposition.

Philip Caine, a cousin of the novelist, is dead. He had existed for years by selling shoe laces, ignorant of the fact that he was heir to \$60,000.

Roosevelt and party have arrived at Gibraltar.

A contest is imminent on the estate of "Lucky" Baldwin.

Roosevelt denies that an attempt was made on his life while crossing the ocean.

The leader of a Chicago Black Hand society has been traced and informed on his confederates.

A New York broker has been arrested for swindling investors out of \$150,000 in mining stocks.

The French government may make formal protest against some of the provisions of the tariff bill.

It is said Harriman will make changes in the Union Pacific line and invade the Burlington's territory.

President Eliot, of Harvard university, has declined the appointment of ambassador to Great Britain.

Every coal mine in Western Canada, except the Crows Nest collieries, are tied up by a strike of the miners.

One hundred and fifty thousand Chicago women have signed a petition protesting against higher duties on gloves.

King Victor will meet Roosevelt on an Italian warship.

Thousands of men are going to the newly discovered gold fields near Phoenix, Ariz.

Professional gamblers are giving officers of the trans-Atlantic liners great trouble.

A Baltimore clerk, only 26 years of age, has been arrested for embezzling \$100,000 from the city.

Most of the oil wells in Oklahoma will shut down for four months on account of overproduction and adverse state laws.

ACTION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

Suit to Dissolve Standard Oil Will Go to Supreme Court.

Washington, April 6.—The hearing in the case of the United States against the Standard Oil company, of New Jersey, which will be begun before the United States Circuit court in St. Louis tomorrow, is one of the most important and far-reaching civil actions that has ever come up for trial in this country. The bill of complaint on the part of the United States, charging a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, was filed in November, 1906. The Standard Oil company, of New Jersey, the parent organization, together with its various subsidiary corporations; John D. Rockefeller, Henry M. Flagler, Henry R. Rogers, John D. Archbold, Oliver P. Payne and Charles M. Pratt are charged with having entered into an agreement, combination and conspiracy to restrain trade and commerce among the several states, to monopolize trade and commerce in the purchase of petroleum and in the distribution, sale and shipment of the products of petroleum.

The United States seeks perpetually to enjoin the defendants from doing any act looking to carrying out the alleged combination or conspiracy and to dissolve the Standard Oil combination.

The government concluded its testimony on January 21, 1909. About 400 witnesses were examined, approximately 200 appearing for each side.

The issue is so important, that whatever may be the result of the trial by the Circuit court, the case certainly will be appealed to the United States Supreme court.

SYSTEMATIZE NOTE DESIGNS. Government to Do Away With Many Now in Use.

Washington, April 6.—Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Coolidge has approved a plan for systematizing designs for United States notes and coin certificates, thus securing uniformity in portrait and general design.

At present there are 19 different designs for United States notes and coin certificates of various denominations, leading to confusion and uncertainty. Under the new plan there will be but nine.

The \$1 silver certificate will carry the portrait of Washington, the \$2 silver certificate the portrait of Jefferson. The \$5 note, whether silver certificate or greenback, will carry the portrait of Lincoln. The \$10 gold and silver certificate and United States note, that of Cleveland; the \$20 that of Jackson; the \$50 that of Grant; the \$100 that of Franklin; the \$500 that of Salmon P. Chase; the \$1,000 that of Alexander Hamilton.

The portraits of Hillegas, Monroe, Silas Wright, Lewis W. Clark, Mansfield and others will be eliminated. The eagle, the buffalo and the Indian head, which have proved to be easily counterfeited, also will disappear. All duplications will be done away with.

INDIANA ASHORE IN FOG. Pacific Mail Liner Founders in Magdalena Bay.

San Francisco, April 6.—According to advices received by the Pacific Mail Steamship company, the steamer Indiana, bound from Mazatlan to San Francisco, went ashore during a heavy fog in Magdalena bay last night and is still on the rocks. The passengers and their personal baggage and the mail were removed by the cruiser Albany, of the Pacific fleet, and the tug Fortuna and Navajo. The passengers have been placed aboard the ships of the fleet and will be picked up by the City of Sydney, which leaves Acapulco for Magdalena bay tomorrow.

The statement issued by the Pacific Mail company says that the Indiana is ashore on Cape Tosco, the Southern extremity of Santa Marguerita bay. She is resting easily on a rocky bottom and protected from the sea and westerly winds.

The Indiana sailed from Mazatlan yesterday and carries a valuable cargo for this port. The messages received by her officers say that the water is 14 feet deep in hold No. 1, 16 feet in hold No. 2, 12 feet in hold No. 3 and 14 feet in hold No. 4.

The company estimates the value of the ship and cargo at \$60,000.

All Nations Present. Salt Lake City, April 6.—Every Western state and territory, Canada and Mexico have contributed citizens to the great crowd attending the 79th conference of the Mormon church, which opened here Sunday. The thousands in the tabernacle at the morning services were of many nationalities. There were a score of Indian Mormons, who came from Idaho in a special car. There were Japanese converts, believers from Hawaii, and the South sea islands, and a few negroes.

St. Paul Operates Trains. Wallace, Idaho, April 6.—The first train to pass through the St. Paul tunnel at Taft on the line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railroad, made the trip at noon today. Work trains are now run from the coast to a point near Missoula.

NICARAGUA GIVES IN

Ultimatum From Knox Produces Quick Result.

WILL COMPROMISE OR ARBITRATE

Central American Nation Expresses Desire to Settle Emery Claim for Damages at Once.

Washington, April 6.—Secretary Knox was given to understand today by Minister Espinosa, of Nicaragua, that the Nicaraguan government would make an early effort to settle either by compromise or by arbitration the claims for damages of the G. D. Emery company, whose concession for cutting mahogany was cancelled.

The minister told the secretary that a special commission would leave immediately for this city, carrying full instruction for the minister, which would empower him to reach a settlement. If a compromise is not reached the minister will sign a protocol submitting the case to arbitration.

The last communication from Secretary Knox to the Nicaraguan minister was in the nature of an ultimatum.

BRITAIN WANTS AIR FLEET. May Establish "Two-Power" Standard for Dirigibles Same as Navy.

London, April 6.—Great Britain seems to be awakening to the fact that the other nations of the world are leaving her behind in the race for command of the air.

While the members of the house of commons were drawing the attention of the government to the fact that Germany has built or is building dirigible airships and urging the government to take up with energy the construction of a British fleet, there was being held today a meeting in the Mansion House under the chairmanship of the lord mayor of London in support of the same subject.

Among those present were Admiral Charles Beresford, Prince Louis of Battenburg, Lord Curzon, Sir Hiram Maxim and Admiral Sir Percy Scott, all of who heartily supported energetic action.

Admiral Scott advocated a "two power" standard in airships as well as in dreadnaughts, and mentioned incidentally that the navy had designed a new gun which at a distance of 6,000 feet could be exceedingly destructive to war airships.

WISE ON PLUMS. Wizard Burbank Has 517 Varieties on His Place.

Santa Rosa, Cal., April 6.—That the several varieties of toothsome plums now known to fruit lovers are destined to be relegated to the list of forgotten delicacies is the belief of Luther Burbank, the plant wizard of this city.

"I am now experimenting with 517 distinct varieties of plums," said Burbank today, "any one of which I believe is superior to any plums now known to the world. For the past few months I have been working and experimenting with this fruit and in taking an inventory of the results I have found that I have on my ranch at least 517 plums of which the layman has never heard."

Burbank has recently evolved a five leaf clover and states that an additional leaf will be forthcoming in the near future.

Car Will Go Voyaging. St. Petersburg, April 6.—Preliminary preparations are being made for a round of state visits by the emperor to the Scandinavian capitals, and possibly to London in the early summer. According to the plans his majesty will leave in June aboard the imperial yacht Standart, escorted by a division of the Baltic fleet and torpedo boats, and will go to Stockholm, Christiansia and Copenhagen, and perhaps thence to England, to return King Edward's visit during the summer. This is the first extensive imperial trip projected since 1901.

Starvation or Massacre. London, April 6.—A special dispatch from Teheran, describing the situation at Tabriz, says there is no doubt that a great tragedy is close at hand. If Tabriz holds out against the invaders, the dispatch says, thousands must die of starvation. If Tabriz falls, probably tens of thousands will be massacred. The rest of the country, however, looks on with traditional Eastern apathy.

Kentucky Counties "Dry." Ashland, Ky., April 6.—Boyd county voted "dry" today by a majority of 107. In this city, the center of the iron industry, church bells were ringing hourly during the election. The victory of the "drys" here means that 96 of the 119 counties in the state are wholly "dry" under the county law.