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Race for a Wife

BY HAWLEY SMART

CHAPTER VI.

The solicitor drove away, fuming with indignation. "Pompous, poverty-stricken!" were the epithets he applied to the squire, in these first moments of his wrath. Even a uxorious solicitor is possessed of pride of some kind, and though he may hold it in tolerable subjection during the early stages of his career, like other men's, it waxes fat and thrives wonderfully under the accumulation of wealth. Harold Denison had trampled it remorselessly under foot. Then the irritation subsided, and the astute old head once more began to reckon up the chances of the game. He played it all over again in his own mind. "No," he muttered; "don't think I made any mistakes! I was a fool to lose my temper, though. Hadn't I made up my mind, all along, that he'd take it pretty much in that way, to start with? When I think how many of 'em I've seen run rusty about their family names, places, and plate! It was foolish—ay, very foolish—to be annoyed at Denison's tantrums. Names?—bah!" continued the old man, contemptuously. "If it came all the way from the Conqueror, its worth on stamped paper is the only valid test."

Samuel the junior had so far been a fortunate man in pursuit of his ambitions. Though not so successful as he could have wished, yet, to a certain extent, he had worked his way into the county society. There were many houses that he was occasionally asked to, as an odd bachelor to make up. Despite all his father had said at the time, a man with Sam Pearmann's eye to the main chance could not conceive a man in Harold Denison's position rejecting a proposal so very much to his own advantage. He might recognize a certain amount of difficulty on the part of the lady, but much of his age are not wont to be diffident about their own powers of attraction on these occasions, and Sam Pearmann was one of the last to entertain apprehensions on that score.

"He don't know what's good for him, and that's about the size of it," was that gentleman's remark, as his sire related the account of his interview with Denison. "We shall have to exercise a little gentle pressure. I'm not going to be choked off my game, at all events at this stage of the proceedings. Invalids often require coercion to make them take the tonics necessary for their existence, and it will be for you to make Denison understand that he will cease to be Denison of Glinn, at all events, unless he is prepared to welcome me as a son-in-law."

"Leave it to me, Sam, and don't be in a hurry. I made up my mind about it the other night. I don't say all, my boy, but a good many things I have made up my mind to have come to pass in course of time. Leave me alone to work my oracle just now, and, depend upon it, I'll give you due notice when it's time for you to make a move."

The son acquiesced. If at times he thought his father was getting a little slow at turf tactics—a pursuit from which he had in great measure withdrawn—he still held a firm belief that his parent was difficult to beat in the great game of life, more especially when he held a winning card or two in his hand.

Some two or three weeks elapsed; and then, one spring morning, Harold Denison received a letter to the effect that Mr. Pearmann of Mansleyfield felt incumbent on himself to call in his money lent on mortgage, a more favorable opportunity for investment having offered.

That this would probably be the result of their last interview, the squire had foreseen. Yet, as days went by without any such notice, he began fondly to hope that the attorney had seen the presumption he had been guilty of and that things would still jog quietly along in their old way. How ephemeral that way had now become, under almost any circumstances, he still kept locked within his own breast. But as he read that letter the squire knew well that the rubicon was passed, that his ships were burnt, and himself defeated. He knew, too well, that to raise that ten thousand anywhere else would result in an exposure of his affairs tantamount to ruin. He was quite aware that Pearmann was equally conversant with the fact. He prepared himself for the impending crash.

But there is a certain amount of notice requisite on the calling in of a mortgage, and this gave Harold Denison time to reflect—whether for good or evil the readers of this story must determine. Had the blow fallen at once, he would have abandoned Glinn, grimly, and set up his lonely tent in some remote watering place. But the crafty solicitor had measured the strength of his prey with great accuracy. It was not without design that the notice of the foreclosure of the mortgage had been delayed. "Give it time—give it

time," quoth that fisher of feeble humanity. He was right; and day after day did Harold Denison ponder over the old fisherman's terms; at first contemptuously, then moodily, until at last he began to think that it was his duty to retain Glinn at all hazards. Once arrived thus far, the speciousness of the reasoning became easy and rapid. "The lands I received from my ancestors it is my duty to transmit to my descendants." A fine country gentleman's sentiment, that would have invariably insured a round of applause at the farmer's ordinary in any market town of respectable dimensions. Now, of course, it was all plain sailing, morally. As a personal matter, the nearest lodgings at Hastings or St. Leonards would have sufficed. It was better than to see a Denison of Glinn so vilely treated. But there were other ties to be considered. He, Harold Denison, had undoubtedly betrayed the trust of a long line of ancestors.

Then he began to think once more of his daughter. He felt compunction at the idea of yielding his handsome Maude to this low-born squire. But then Maude had never been to him what an only child is to most fathers. He had never quite forgiven the fact of her not being a son, and she had ever been more her mother's pet than his. Again, this candidate for her hand had been brought up a gentleman, had the mark of the university stamped on his based composition, and, in short, had done much to compensate for the deficiency of birth with which he was afflicted. He had never quite forgiven the fact of her not being a son, and she had ever been more her mother's pet than his. Again, this candidate for her hand had been brought up a gentleman, had the mark of the university stamped on his based composition, and, in short, had done much to compensate for the deficiency of birth with which he was afflicted. He had never quite forgiven the fact of her not being a son, and she had ever been more her mother's pet than his. Again, this candidate for her hand had been brought up a gentleman, had the mark of the university stamped on his based composition, and, in short, had done much to compensate for the deficiency of birth with which he was afflicted.

But before Harold Denison could have reached this conclusion, there had been much grief at Glinn. He had told his wife of the contemplated foreclosing of the mortgage, and explained to her that it meant ruin—that is, ruin inevitable, as far as their still continuing the possessors of Glinn went.

"Yes, Nellie, it's all over," said the squire. "I'm beaten at last. Dear old Glinn must go through the hands of the auctioneer, and become the property of whatever greasy trader happens to have most money at his disposal just now. It's hard lines for you to have to leave the place wherein I installed you as mistress so many years ago."

"Don't think of me," replied Mrs. Denison, tearfully. "I shall be always happy as long as I have you and Maude with me. It will be sad to leave all our cottagers and almoners to the tender mercies of others; but oh! it will fall heaviest on you, Harold, to give up what has been the home of your people for so many generations!"

CHAPTER VII.

Very sad was Maude when she heard the evil tidings, and that she had but a short time left to look upon the grand old chestnuts, the groves of laurel, and the soft, pleasant, turf vistas amid which she had been born. Litterly she thought how the loss of all the accustomed surroundings would be felt by the gentle mother she adored; and well she divined what would be her father's sensations when, having left the home of his ancestors, he should find himself exposed to the monotonous existence of some watering place or dull continental town! How he would brood over the extinction of the Denisons of Glinn none realized more fully than Maude. She knew her father thoroughly; she was a clever girl, and fully recognized his foibles and weaknesses. She comprehended the shock it would be to his family pride—that the loss of country pursuits would be to him; what it would be to find himself a mere Mr. Denison on straitened means in some quiet place where gossip was rife, and your social status was pretty nearly gauged by the bills incurred at the butcher's and the wine merchant's. And then, the girl thought, sorrowfully, how little she could do to alleviate all this. To her mother—ah! yes, she could do much to lighten her troubles, and be a comfort to her; but for her father, nothing—the tears trickled through Maude's long lashes as she thought how little she could be to him.

Such, so far, were the results of the machinations of that experienced "fisher of men," Mr. Pearmann, on the unfortunate family at Glinn.

I have told the ingenious process of reasoning by which Harold Denison had, at last, not only soothed his conscience, but arrived at the conclusion that, like the grim old Grecian, his duty required him to sacrifice his daughter. I often think that old story a grand allegory. Agamemnon sacrifices Iphigenia, even yet, pretty constantly at St. George's, Hanover Square. We substitute the ring for the knife, and the wedding breakfast for the smoking sacrifice; and we wreath ourselves with flowers and silken raiment as we offer up our maidens at the shrine of Plutus. Who shall say that, after all, that was not the meaning of the fable?

But Harold Denison was conscious of an inward feeling that the newly formed idea was an extremely awkward subject to broach either to his wife or daughter. That he had never even alluded to Pearmann's proposal I need scarcely observe, and that it looked still less pleasant to touch upon now he had made up his mind to be an active supporter thereof, must be equally obvious. Still the clouds were gathering so thick over the house of Glinn that no time was to be lost; and at last the squire nerveed himself to the task, and sought his wife's boudoir, having previously ascertained that his daughter was out of the house.

"I want to talk something over with you, Nellie," he observed, as he entered. "I don't think that it will be quite pleasant to hear, but, at all events, it can't distress you, as you will have the power of deciding as you like about it." Mrs. Denison raised her face anxiously to her husband's. Denison, on any point, was painful to her, and she was too well aware, from former experience, that this was but the prelude to some scheme in which her concurrence had already been practically marked out by her lord and master. Harold Denison's consultations, at such times, generally comprised a mere synopsis of his intentions, revealing some minor unpleasantness which he looked to her to carry out. Poor Mrs. Denison might well be diffident about such confidences, as a rule, they had borne but bitter fruit.

"What should you say," continued the squire, "if I tell you that it is possible to save Glinn to us yet?" "Oh, Harold, can it be so?" cried Mrs. Denison, with clasped hands and beating heart. "No, you don't look like it; I see in your face there is more to follow. It is some bare chance, and your sanguine nature has led you astray concerning it."

"Nellie, don't be foolish. There is a way of arranging all these miserable money matters that has been submitted to me, and which, should I consent to, there is no doubt will prove perfectly satisfactory. I have turned it all well over in my mind, and though I have, as yet, come to no determination concerning it, yet I don't deem it altogether impracticable. Will you hear me patiently?"

"Yes, Harold," was the meek response. "Well, what I want to talk to you about is this. Of course you must be aware that Maude is not only grown up and handsome, but has arrived at an age when woosers may be expected."

"What do you mean?" asked the mother, her pale face flushing, and a half-anxious, half-frightened expression visible in her blue eyes.

"We will come to that presently. You know her admirers at the Xminster ball were numerous. A man of good property in this county solicits permission to pay his addresses to Maude. He can give her a good home and everything she can want now, while at the death of his father he will be the possessor of large landed estates in the county, besides considerable sums invested elsewhere."

The poor mother's heart beat quick to whom was she to be asked to yield her darling? Who in all the county side was worthy of her peerless Maude? She knew of none; yet she spoke not, but gazed eagerly into her husband's face, and waited with high-strung nerves till he should speak again.

"Maude can have no attachment as yet," inquired the squire, at length.

"No, I think not. How could she, Harold? The poor child has, as yet, seen so little of the world, and Maude is not one to give her heart away lightly."

"Maidens' hearts are stolen, sometimes, a good while before they are themselves aware of it," returned Denison, sententiously. "It is essential for my project that Maude should be fancy free."

"She is," returned the mother, anxiously. "But tell me, who is this you think good enough for her? There is no one I know," she continued, sadly, "fit to claim my darling's hand."

"It's no use fencing any more," replied the squire. "Young Pearmann was much struck with Maude at the Xminster ball, and solicits permission to win her, if he can."

"Pearman! What—the son of the lawyer?" cried Mrs. Denison. "You're joking, Harold, surely! You would never consent to such a match for a daughter of yours."

"Listen, Nellie," replied the squire, sadly. "Pearman has a heavy mortgage on the property; he has bought the best part of what has been sold, and Maude's marriage with his son would once more consolidate Glinn. Don't interrupt me!" he exclaimed, in answer to a despairing gesture of his wife's. "I don't say if things stood with us as they did in the old times I'd listen to such a proposal as this; but, Nellie, if Maude could make up her mind to it, Glinn would remain ours, and that would lighten the remainder of my time in this world, and yours, too, wife mine."

"Not unless Maude were happy," murmured the poor mother.

I can fancy the contempt with which a Belgravian matron might regard Mrs. Denison's last remark. A penniless girl offered wealth, country house, etc., and her mother maunders about her happiness. Oh, it is too absurd!

(To be continued.)

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.

Four cattlemen were lynched in Oklahoma for murder.

Roosevelt will make Mombasa his headquarters for ten days.

Massacres were stopped in Asia Minor after 400 were killed.

Calhoun lawyers charge Heney with coercion of witnesses, but this is denied.

The property of the Waters-Pierce Oil company in Texas is to be sold by the state.

The merger of Southern Pacific and Union Pacific lines is to have a hearing in Portland May 3.

Chief Justice Beatty, of the California Supreme court, subdued a bully by calling a bluff to fight.

The Japanese government is investigating the grafting by members of the diet and more arrests are expected.

The Great Northern and St. Paul are both struggling for the best route through a narrow canyon in Montana.

President Taft has completed all arrangements for his summer vacation, which will be spent at Beverly, Mass., in June.

Russia plans to deal directly with China in a settlement of the Harbin trouble and then hopes to arrange a treaty with the United States on the Far Eastern question.

Teamsters of New York are on strike.

Italy has sent a cruiser to Turkey to protect her interests.

A Philadelphia man left \$2,500,000 to establish a home for fatherless girls.

Dynamite has been used to break the ice jam in the Niagara river near the falls.

The Santa Fe road has a device which it is believed will prevent many train wrecks.

Taft wants to visit the Pacific coast and Alaska and will ask congress to provide the funds.

G. M. McCain, of Philadelphia, has been arrested in Turkey as a spy because he was taking photographs.

A New York man has been arrested for attempting to bribe a naval officer to get a recommendation for a patent.

Judge Hunt, of Montana, is coming to Portland to dispose of the remaining land fraud cases. He is expected about May 1.

Philadelphia has not yet decided definitely to let the Liberty bell come to the coast, but it is probable there will be no opposition.

Castro has been ordered arrested by Venezuelan courts for murder.

A pioneer miner of Sheridan, Mont., has been killed for his savings.

Famine in Macedonia and Serbia are adding to the revolutionary troubles.

Taft is having much trouble in finding suitable persons for foreign posts.

President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, is preparing to move against Honduras.

The Cudahy Packing company has been indicted for wholesale oleomargarine frauds.

The University of Nevada has just received two gifts, one of \$250,000 and one of \$100,000.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company, recently ousted from Texas, will pay the state \$2,000,000 fines and costs.

Mrs. Castro hints at revolution in Venezuela and advises present officials to "make hay while the sun shines."

It is reported on good authority that H. W. Scott, of Portland, will be offered the ambassadorship to Mexico.

A raid was made on a Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul diner while it was passing through Iowa and a quantity of liquor seized.

A Chicago man has married his stepmother.

A dispatch from Naples says Mount Etna is in eruption.

German East Africa has had 60 deaths from the plague.

Flour has advanced in price in all sections of the United States.

The first act of the new chief of police of Los Angeles was to throw the "king of Chinatown" bodily out of the station.

Poland is preparing to honor Modjeska's memory when her body is taken there for burial. A statue may be erected.

BREAD PRICES UP.

Bakers of Chicago Will Add Two Cents to Price of Loaves.

Chicago, April 20.—Following in the wake of the action of Jewish bakers of Chicago in increasing the price of bread and biscuits, definite announcement came today from President Matthias Schmiedinger of the Master Bakers' association that 1 cent and possibly 2 cents will be tacked onto the price of bread before May 1.

After a thorough canvass of the situation, Mr. Schmiedinger declared that bakers throughout the city face the alternative of charging more for their product or going into bankruptcy. The Master Bakers' association, which represents nearly all of the bread bakers throughout the city, will meet next Saturday, and it is said to be certain that at that time a decision will be reached to give bread prices a substantial boost.

The high cost of flour is not the only problem confronting the bakers of Chicago. Their employees, including the bakery wagon drivers, are demanding more wages.

More than 50 bakers in this city have been driven out of business within a comparatively short time, on account of the high price of materials and the enforcement of the ordinance pertaining to sanitation.

MARS MAY BE HAILED.

Professor Pickering Says It Would Cost Only \$10,000,000.

Boston, Mass., April 20.—"If mankind cares enough about it to put up about \$10,000,000, there is no very good reason why the human race should not be able to talk with Mars, and that as soon as next July."

This is according to Professor William Henry Pickering, Harvard university's celebrated astronomer.

Communication with Mars will be made possible, Professor Pickering declares, by adopting his method of flashing messages when Mars approaches the earth to within 35,000,000 miles, or about 5,000,000 miles nearer than ever before. Ten millions of dollars is a large amount, he admits, but he predicts that once this means of celestial communication is established, messages will be easily recognized and undoubtedly answered, if there is intelligent life on Mars; and that in such case, hitherto hidden mysteries concerning Mars will become an open book to the people of the earth.

More Than 1,000 Are Killed.

Beirut, Syria, April 20.—A terrible uprising has been going on for three days and at least 1,000 persons have been killed. The city has been destroyed by fire. American missionaries named Rogers and Maurer are dead. All the other Americans are safe. The British vice consul, Major Daughtry-Wylie, is among the wounded. At Tarsus there was less loss of life. The Armenian quarter, however, was destroyed. Four thousand refugees are housed in the American mission.

Funds Saved to Salonica.

Salonica, April 20.—The director general of the Ottoman bank, having ordered the Salonica branch to send all its cash to the capital, a measure designed to embarrass the organization of the forces there, the commandant of the Third army corps placed an embargo on \$300,000 which constituted the funds of the three vilayets.

Flour Advances in France.

Paris, April 20.—France is beginning to feel the effects of the prevailing high price of wheat in the United States. The price of flour has increased three francs per 100 kilos in the last fortnight and the bakers' association is considering the raising of the price of bread.

Hailstones Are Heavy.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 20.—A terrific hail and wind storm struck Des Moines and Central Iowa today. Plate glass windows in down town stores were blown in and cellars were flooded. At Stuart, hailstones weighing half a pound fell, doing much damage to peach buds.

Massacre of 2,000 Reported.

St. Petersburg, April 20.—Advice to the Russ from Teheran report a massacre of 2,000 persons, including women and children, by Turcoman tribesmen at Astrabad. The Russian government is sending troops thither.

Sultan's Brother Succeeds.

Paris, April 20.—A special dispatch from Constantinople says that it is reported that Rehad Effendi, brother of the sultan, and heir apparent to the throne, has left to join the Young Turks.

Sultan Planning Abdication.

Vienna, April 20.—The Neues Tagblatt's Constantinople correspondents say it is reported that the sultan is negotiating with the committee of union and progress with regard to his abdication.

REPORT ABDICATION

Abdul Hamid Said to Have Given Up Turkish Throne.

CAPITAL IS FULL OF RUMORS

Abdication of Sultan Cannot Be Affirmed, but Appears to Be Not Improbable.

Constantinople, April 20.—With the Constitutional army steadily enveloping his capital and demanding his head, with a garrison unwilling to defend him, and with a cabinet ready to surrender to the demands of the patriot army, Sultan Abdul Hamid is reported to have abdicated and fled on a warship or sought refuge in a foreign embassy.

The report that the sultan had abdicated caused the greatest excitement in the lobbies of parliament. A rumor of the flight of the sultan on a warship followed closely on that of his abdication, but neither could be confirmed.

Large crowds gathered at the British embassy, where other reports had it that the sultan had taken refuge, and there were scores of inquiries at the Russian embassy concerning the truth of the rumor that the sultan was under the protection of Russia on one of its guardships. At both of these embassies all knowledge of the sultan's movements was denied and the Turkish Foreign office gave a strong denial of the rumors.

The abdication of Abdul Hamid, however, appears to be not improbable, and it appears that within a day or two the Constitutionalists may accept as his successor Prince Yuseff Izzedin, the eldest son of the late sultan, who is second in line, as they are strongly displeased with Abdul Hamid's attitude.

The Constitutional forces sent out small parties to reconnoiter this afternoon, and at 7 o'clock in the evening they were within sight of the gates of Constantinople. They encountered no resistance, nor does resistance seem likely, unless it is at the palace. The headquarters of the Constitutional army is at Dedeagatchi, and General Husni Pasha's forces, which now number between 20,000 and 30,000, occupy a range of hills about 20 miles from the capital.

LOEB AFTER SMUGGLERS.

Declines Offer of \$260,000 to Drop Government Inquiry.

New York, April 20.—The smuggling syndicate that first offered Collector of the Port Loeb \$100,000 to drop the government's investigation of the smuggling of "sleeper" trunks containing \$55,000 worth of Paris gowns increased its offer today to \$260,000, according to Mr. Loeb.

"The amount now offered the government to drop the investigation and probable prosecution is \$260,000," said Mr. Loeb. "The amount represents what would be the penalties of fully \$200,000 above the appraised value of the goods. All offers have been refused. We want the smugglers."

It is believed that worry over this case so affected the mind of William G. Bainbridge, confidential agent of the United States Treasury department in Paris, that he committed suicide. The Treasury department had fully approved Mr. Bainbridge's course in the case, but he left a note declaring he was the victim of a plot.

Mr. Loeb's investigation shows that the smuggled gowns had been made in Paris by famous designers for many women of social prominence and wealth in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington and that the reason for offering such a large sum to suppress the investigation was to shield the women from unpleasant publicity.

Hecate Matter Serious.

Ottawa, Ont., April 20.—The question as to jurisdiction over Hecate straits on the Pacific coast of Canada, between Queen Charlotte islands and British Columbia, is likely to become an active issue within a short time. As these waters lie between two Canadian stretches of territory, the Dominion claims that they are as much her exclusive property as Long Island sound is the property of the United States. The Hecate straits are halibut fisheries, and are resorted to by both American and Canadian fishermen.

Young Turks Will Depose Sultan.

London, April 20.—Interest in the Turkish crisis is now chiefly concerned with the fate of the sultan and there is little doubt that he will be deposed. Recent developments have served to emphasize the devotion of the whole country to constitutional government.

Cotton Fire Is Burning.

Little Rock, Ark., April 20.—The St. Louis express No. 2, with 1,200 bales of cotton, caught fire after midnight and its total destruction is expected. The loss will reach \$1,000,000.