

A DEAD PAST

By MRS. LOVETT CAMERON

CHAPTER XVIII.

Rosamond Earle had spent one of those nights of wakeful agony which assuredly leave their stamp upon the health and constitution more certainly than many a week's indisposition which our friends reckon as a legitimate illness.

She knew very well what was before her, what struggles with her own heart, what battles to regain her peace of mind, what frequent and pitiful relapses into abject despair and misery; this is always the woman's portion when man sins against her; and Rosamond, with bitter experience understood that it was her fate.

Worn out and exhausted, mentally and bodily, by the long hours of agony she had undergone, she lay upon the stiff hot sofa with closed eyelids, and face as leaden-hued as any corpse. Her boxes lay packed and strapped up in the adjoining room. Everything was ready for departure; but Mrs. Earle did not yet know where she was going.

"I must have peace," she said to herself half aloud, "rest and peace."

Poor woman, she had to learn that there is no such tranquil spot under the face of the sun where a heart that carries about its own mortal wounds within itself can know either rest or peace.

She was tired of trying to settle where she was to go. Then some one came with a quick step across the room and knelt down beside her sofa.

"Mrs. Earle! Rosamond! You are running away from me! Is this treating me fairly or like a friend? But—what is the matter—surely you must be ill."

"I am ill," she repeated, in a dull voice, striving very hard not to break down under the kindness of his voice and eyes.

He knew instinctively that this trouble was of the mind and not of the body. Lovers find out these things.

"And you are going away? Where?" "I don't know—I don't care; somewhere quiet—anywhere. I can't settle on any place."

He got up from her side and walked impatiently about the room.

"Oh, this will never do!" he cried in much distress. "I cannot let you go away in this state of uncertainty. You are evidently ill—not fit to be alone; you want a man to take care of you."

"Men, men!" she repeated, a little wildly. "What is the good of a man? Are they not all alike—false and cruel and treacherous?"

"Dear Rosamond," he said, holding her hand with reverent tenderness between his own. "Is this home-coming alone so very terrible to you? Pour out your heart to me, my dear; do not consider me; I shall not be hurt by anything you can say. Do you miss your poor husband so very dreadfully? Do not think of me."

How blind—how almost stupid he was! She, who was breaking her heart for the love of her life, and he talked to her about her husband! She could almost have laughed.

"Oh, don't you understand—don't you see?" she cried, despairingly. "You think me good and faithful; you look upon me as a model wife; you imagine that I am like the typical widow in St. Paul's epistle. Should I grieve like this—sorrow so wildly—so desperately—if it were merely death that had stricken me down? Ah, death would have been nothing—nothing at all! Cannot you guess that it is not because I am a widow, but because I have always loved one man—always—all my life; and I have come back free—free to love him, to claim his love—to be happy at last—and I have found him—married!"

And in the wildness of her sorrow she flung herself back again face downward upon the cushions, convulsed by an agony of sob and tears.

Colonel Trefusis sat still—quite, quite still. He felt numb and cold. His fingers, that were loosely locked together between his knees, did not tighten their grasp upon each other, neither did they tremble. His kindly blue eyes did not contract with pain nor open with dismay, only they fixed themselves a little blindly upon the pattern of the carpet. For a minute or two he did not speak.

"You see that I must go," she cried despairingly. "Oh, help me to get away—to go where I cannot see him! Tell me where to go. Help me, I entreat you!" This appeal touched him and went straight to the earnest, practical nature of the man.

"Yes, my dear. I will help you," he answered simply. "You shall go to Dunsterton."

"To Dunsterton! In Yorkshire, do you mean?" she cried.

"Yes. I have a cottage there, merely a six-roomed cottage with a tiny garden, upon the outskirts of a village green. I had an old aunt who lived there, and who has died lately and left it to me, furniture and all, just as it stands. I should never go there, it is utterly useless to me. It will hold you, and your child, and your servant. You shall go there, I will lend it to you."

"But—but—" she cried, confused and trembling. "I know it very well. It is but three miles from my old home—from Keppington."

Col. Trefusis continued to plead for his cottage, and Rosamond pondered. Finally she accepted his offer, on one condition only; she must pay him rent for his house. To this he was constrained to agree. There came back a little animation to her, when this was at last settled. It seemed so much better for

her than to go to some strange place where she had never been before. Some few poor people would, she thought, remember her.

"You will come down and see me sometimes?" she asked him, as they were travelling northward.

"No, I think not," he answered, without meeting her eyes. "I will write to you; but I will not come yet. After a month or two, perhaps, but not now, unless you are in trouble."

For where now were John Trefusis' hopes and dreams of happy and successful love? In the selfishness of her own trouble Rosamond forgot the strong and tender love, to whom her confession had brought the hopelessness almost of despair.

CHAPTER XIX.

Now, with respect to these two women, each doomed to suffer, because Brian Desmond had committed a thoughtless and selfish error, while the one wept and wailed, and bemoaned herself with all the abandon of a strong and passionate nature, the other had done nothing of the kind.

Kitten had come in from her bail, to find her husband sitting up for her. With one quick glance she had taken in his haggard, grief-stricken face; the lines about his mouth, the dark circles round his miserable-looking eyes. A sickening gasp of pain had cut through her heart at the sight, but she had said nothing. She went to bed, and all night long she, too, like Rosamond Earle, had lain awake. All night long she had faced her agony in tearless silence, and she had said to herself over and over again: "He loves her, he has always loved her; I am nothing to him. What can I do for him?" For it was for him, and not for herself, that she thought. What could she do to lighten his burden and to diminish his woe? That was her only thought. Her utter selfishness, and the very strength and force of her love made her long to sacrifice herself; so that in some fashion or other she might bring back happiness to the man she loved.

She rose in the morning as usual, and at the ordinary hour Brian and his wife sat down to breakfast together. The servant brought in the silver-covered dishes and the steaming coffee. Brian's paper lay as usual by his plate. Kitten mechanically opened the little pile of letters by her side, that were chiefly invitations, written upon dainty tinted and crested paper; everything to all outward appearance was exactly the same, and still this strange, self-contained woman uttered never a word. Just as her husband was rising from the table she looked up from her plate and uttered his name:

"Brian?"

"Yes, Kitten."

"Mrs. Earle is in London."

He flushed darkly red, then turned pale.

"What do you mean? How did you hear her name? Why should she not be in London? Remember, I will not be dictated to about her," he stammered half guiltily and half angrily.

"Have I dictated to you?" she asked gently.

"Who told you about her?" he asked in a low voice, after a short silence.

She looked up at him with one of those rare, shy smiles which, in the days long ago, he had once thought so sweet and so delightful; and instead of answering his question, she said to him softly and dreamily:

"Do you remember the cherry tree in the old garden, Brian; and how I asked you to teach me the secret of happiness?"

"Oh, Kitten!" he murmured abashed, covering his eyes for a moment with his hand.

"Pope was right," she said with a grave, and little nod of the head. "No one can teach that, because no one is happy; only for a little while one fancies it." And then she stole up behind him and passed her tiny white hands round his neck, standing behind his chair, so that he should not see her face, and leaning her cheek, that was very white and hollow, against the dark curls of his close cropped head.

He tried to draw her round so that he might see her face, but she kept her place behind him. And she spoke a little brokenly, perhaps, but still very gently: "I am not very old—or very wise—but I think I have learned one thing; to each man and woman there is only one other soul that can give content, so that no other person on earth can bring any happiness to us, but that one only. And when a man who loves one, by some sad mistake, marries another—"

"Kitten! Kitten! do not say that!" he cried, but she laid her fingers upon his lips and went on. "Then with that other he cannot find happiness; oh, never! Do you not think I feel it? But then, what is the meaning of love if it cannot sacrifice itself?" He did not understand her fully, nor see what she meant, nor what she wished to imply; but he saw that somehow his love to Rosamond was a thing which she had fathomed; and protested that she was mistaken, that he loved her and always should love her best.

That Mrs. Earle was but an old friend of his youth, whom he had met again and who was nothing to him, oh, nothing at all. Perhaps, indeed he did "protest too much," for Kitten only smiled sadly to herself. Of what avail are empty words to one who knows, as Kitten knew, that he did not love her?

Then at last, he got up, and made as

though he would have taken her into his arms and comforted her; for she was always a child and never a woman in his eyes, and it seemed to him that a few kisses and a few tender words might make it all right again between them, and drive away this suspicion which, surely, some ill-natured mischief maker must have been at pains to create in her mind.

"Dear little Kitten, silly little tree-elf!" he said half-jestingly to her. "What foolish notions have you not taken into your small head! Come and kiss me, and don't talk nonsense any more, tree-elf," he said, trying to take her into his arms.

But Kitten pushed him back with her small white hands.

"Go," she said, with an odd little gasp in her voice, which he only remembered long afterward. "Go now—no, we won't talk any more nonsense, as you say—it was all—a mistake."

And so he went and left her. He turned back to nod to her before he left the room. Years and years afterward he could see again the breakfast table, daintily decked with little ferns in china pots and bunches of summer flowers, just as Kitten always loved that her table should be.

Half an hour later a hansom carried up a note to a certain house in Connaught Square, addressed to Sir Roy Grantley.

"You said if ever I wanted a friend, you would be one to me. I little thought I should claim your promise so soon. Come to me, Roy. I want you."

"KITEN."

It will be imagined that Roy was not long in responding to this appeal. Soon after he was sitting with her in the shadowy coolness of her pretty drawing room, holding her tiny thin hand in his, and listening to her in dire dismay.

"Leave your home, Kitten? Can you realize what you would be doing? What will people say of you if you go away from your husband's protection?"

"I shall not, Roy. I shall still be in his house, only he will not know it."

"I don't see how it can be managed," said Roy.

"Do you mean that you will not help me? Oh, then, I am sorry indeed that I sent for you."

"Now, Kitten, you know that is unjust. Would I not die to serve you? But I cannot see the use of this strong step which you are contemplating. What is there to be gained by it? After all, are you not his wife? Why, if you fear the influence of this other woman, why play into her hands by deserting your post? How can you better your case by flinging aside your own rights and the security of your own position?"

"Ah, you do not understand," she said impatiently. "You talk about my rights—my position. What are they when I have not got my husband's heart? Will he not be happier without the perpetual reproach of my presence? Roy, only think how awful it must be to have to pretend to love a person every day of your life, when you are always hankering after some one else. Think if I had married you—and loved Brian."

He winced a little and turned away. Oh, women are very heartless to the men they do not love. It did not occur to her that she was causing him any pain, she was too full of the tragedy in her own life.

"I could not bear it," she cried; "and to see him strive and struggle to simulate a love for me that I know he does not feel, that is what I will not sit by and do. I want to set him free."

"You cannot set him free, not really. Kitten; it is a folly to fancy it."

He said, almost angrily, for this abnegation of herself filled him with a blind rage which he did not dare to give utterance to.

"Oh, why—why did he marry you?" he said, with a groan.

"That is my affair," said Kitten coldly, and rather loftily. If Roy had dared to utter one disparaging word against Brian, she would have ordered him out of the house, and Roy knew it. "We need not go into that, if you please, but you can understand once and for all that our marriage was entirely my own doing. Will you help me? And will you keep my secret?"

He promised to do anything and everything she told him.

"I don't see how it is to be managed," he said doubtfully.

Kitten rose and went to her writing table, and taking a letter out of a drawer, gave it to him to read.

It was from Mrs. Succurden, the housekeeper at Keppington, and was addressed to Brian. Roy read it through carefully, then he looked up at her.

"Well?" she said impatiently.

"I am sorry, Kitten, but I really don't see—" he said hesitatingly.

"Oh, Roy, you were always a stupid boy," she said, with a half-impatient gesture. "Cannot you understand that the housekeeper writes to ask Brian if she may have a girl under her, to take charge of the china and glass; she says she is getting too old to clean and dust it all properly herself. And Brian gave me the letter to answer, and—and I have written this morning to say that I am sending a girl down from London. Here is my letter, and you must post it for me."

But still Roy did not understand. He looked at her earnestly and fixedly, striving to make out her meaning.

"Roy, don't you see that I shall be the girl?"

(To be continued.)

Delights of Travel.

"Yes," he said, "for seven years I have been a mail carrier on the Cross-Cut rural route, and in all that time I have never missed a trip."

"Such a life must be delightful," rejoined the impulsive city girl. "I'm never so happy as when traveling."

Do not be self-opinionated, but listen with deference to the opinions of others.

CHRONOLOGY OF 1905.

BRIEF RECORD OF YEAR'S PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Internal Disturbances in Russia and Independence in Norway—Close of the War in the East—Many Great Names in List of Dead.

Most significant of the events of 1905, because it indicates unmistakably the inexorable advance of mankind toward high ideals of liberty, justice and perfect civilization, is the political and economic upheaval now taking place in Russia. Wearing under a load of taxation, rendered well-nigh unbearable by added burdens imposed by the prosecution of a disastrous war, the peasantry and common people started a revolt against the tyrannical aristocracy, and have been able to force from their unwilling ruler many concessions tending toward a free citizenship. Massacre and rapine, in which the Jews were the chief sufferers, are part of the price paid for the advantage gained. Another impressive proof of civilization's advance is the bloodless revolution by which Norway has dissolved its political connection with Sweden and seated a king upon its long unused throne. The recent exposures of graft and fraud in high financial circles and last summer's labor troubles in Chicago are only incidents of the constant conflict being waged for the establishment of justice and fair treatment between man and man.

The Russo-Japanese war, after a brilliant series of land campaigns, during which one after another of the strongholds of the Russians in Manchuria fell into the hands of their opponents, and a decisive battle on the Sea of Japan, that is said to have been one of the greatest naval contests of all history, has been brought to a close, and largely, we believe, by American influence.

The year's list of famous dead contains the names of many men and women noted in the arts, statecraft, philanthropy and business.

The principal events of 1905 are briefly summarized below:

January.
2—Surrender of Port Arthur.
3—Torpedo Defender blown up on Ohio River; 20 lives lost.
4—Death of Theodore Thomas, orchestra leader.
5—Admiral Rojestvensky's flagship Kniaz Suvoroff sunk off Madagascar.
6—Death of Louise Michel, French anarchist.
7—Combes' ministry in France resigns.
8—Secretary Hay advises China to remain neutral....Earthquake at Shemakha, Russia, buries 100,000 of people.
15—End of textile strike in Fall River, Mass.
16—Attempt to assassinate Czar and Russian royal family.
22—Massacre of workmen by Czar's troops in St. Petersburg.
23—Revolt spreads through Russian cities.
25—Liberals defeated in Ontario general elections....Czar issues proclamation promising reforms.
26—Konoropkin's army driven back from Sandepas by Gen. Oku's forces.
30—Explosion in Vienna City....Signs document granting great reforms to Russian people.

February.
12—Extreme cold wave sweeps Northern States and Canada. Glendive, Mont., has temperature of 54 degrees below zero.
7—Death of Joseph H. Manley of Maine....Senate passes Statehood bill.
8—Roosevelt and Fairbanks declared elected after count of electoral votes in Congress.
9—House passes Townsend-Each railway rate bill.
10—Death of Hon. Chas. H. Hackley of Muskegon, Mich.
15—Severest cold wave of winter.
16—Death of Gen. Lew Wallace.
18—Death of Jay Cooke, noted financier.
17—Grand Duke Sergius killed by bomb in Moscow....Frances Willard statue dedicated in Statler Hall, Washington.
20—Explosion in Virginia City....Coal mines near Bessemer, Ala. entombs 162 miners.
21—Fire destroys piers and ships at Charleston, Mass.
24—Boring of Simplon tunnel under the Alps is finished.
25—\$1,000,000 fire in Hot Springs, Ark.
30—North Sea Commission announces decision against Russia.
27—Illinois Central terminals in New Orleans burn with loss of \$5,000,000....Thirty-five miners killed by explosion at Wilcox, W. Va.
27—Death of Geo. S. Boutwell of Massachusetts....Judge Swaine of Florida acquitted by United States Senate....Eleven persons killed by collapse of church floor in Brooklyn, N. Y.
28—Death of Mrs. Leland Stanford in Honolulu.

March.
3—Czar of Russia signs rescript giving people a right to representation in law-making body....Thirty persons killed in wreck of inauguration special trains near Pittsburgh.
4—Roosevelt is inaugurated....End of 58th Congress....Will J. Davis and two others indicted as responsible for Iroquois fire....Chas. Thomas found guilty of Mabel Seefeld murder.
7—Big traction strike begins in New York.
8—Japanese win battle of Mukden, after eighteen days' fighting.
10—Mukden captured by Japanese.
11—Mrs. Chadwick convicted of conspiracy in Cleveland.
14—Nineteen lives lost in New York tenement house fire.
17—Death of Gen. Joseph R. Hawley of Connecticut.
18—20—Twenty-four miners killed by explosion in mines near Thurmond, W. Va.
20—Explosion and fire in Brockton, Mass., shoo factory causes 103 deaths.
24—Death of Jules Verne.

April.
3—President Roosevelt leaves Washington on vacation trip....Explosion in Lelter mines at Zelger, Ill., kills thirty-five men....Russian artillery depot in Harbin blown up and seventy-five men killed.
4—Earthquakes in India devastate wide range of country and destroy hundreds of lives.
6—Chicago teamsters strike in sympathy with garment workers.
8—Collapse of water reservoir at Madrid kills or injures 400 persons....Battleship Minnesota launched.
16—Hard frost damages early fruit and

garden truck in Central and Southern States.
17—Four boys killed in panic in Indianapolis Masonic Temple.
20—Thirteen lives lost in burning of convent in St. Genesieve, Quebec.
23—Death of Joseph Jefferson.
24—Frank G. Bigelow, president of Milwaukee First National Bank, acknowledges himself a defaulter for \$1,500,000 of bank's funds....Teamsters' strike in Chicago supposed to be ended....Earthquakes near Bombay, India, kill fifty persons.
25—Chicago teamsters' strike on again.
26—Death of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee....Rioting in Chicago....Tornado at Laredo, Tex., kills sixteen persons.
30—Thirteen miners killed by explosion near Wilberston, Ok.

May.
1—One hundred persons killed in disturbances in Poland.
24—Serious strike riots in streets of Chicago.
6—Pat Crowe gives himself up to authorities in Omaha, but disappears later.
8—Tornado destroys thirty-five lives and much property in Marquette, Kan.
10—President Roosevelt entertained in Chicago....Tornado in Oklahoma kills 600 persons.
11—Fifty persons killed and 100 injured in railway accident at South Harrisburg, Pa.
12—Nan Patterson released in New York.
14—Death of Jessie Bartlett Davis.
16—Northern and Southern Baptists meet in joint convention in St. Louis....Czar issues rescript granting sweeping reforms in Poland and Baltic provinces.
21—Death of Judge Abner W. Tourgee in Bordeaux, France.
23—Death of Mrs. Mary A. Livermore.
26—Death of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild.
27—Russian Baltic fleet under Rojestvensky defeated in great battle in Korean Straits by Japanese under Togo.
28—American yacht Atlantic wins Kale's cup in transatlantic race.
28—Death of former Premier Francisco Silela in Madrid, Spain.
30—Bomb thrown at carriage of King Alfonso of Spain and President Loubet of France in Paris.

June.
1—Opening of Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon....Earthquake in Montenegro....Two hundred drown in overflow of reservoirs at Princetown, Natal.
2—Japan shaken by earthquakes.
6—Crown Prince Frederic William of Germany weds Princess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin....Norway declares her independence of Sweden.
9—President Roosevelt arranges for peace negotiations between Japan and Russia.
13—Theodor Delyanov, Grecian premier, fatally stabbed by gambler.
15—Marriage of Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Princess Margaret of Connaught.
17—Death of Cuban leader, Gen. Maximo Gomez.
23—Death of Judge Stephen Neal, author of 14th amendment, in Lebanon, Ind....Bloody strike battles in Lodz, Poland.
25—\$750,000 fire in retail district of Nashville.
28—Great rioting and rioting at Odessa, Russia.

July.
1—Death of John Hay, Secretary of State....Paul Morton is succeeded as Secretary of the Navy by Charles J. Bonaparte.
2—Cloudburst in Guanajuato, Mexico, destroys 1,600 lives.
5—Tornado in North Texas.
6—Elbas Root appointed Secretary of State to succeed the late John Hay.
11—Fire damp explosion in Welsh colliery kills 126 miners.
16—Death of Gen. W. W. Blackmar, G. A. R. National Commander.
20—Strike of Chicago teamsters is ended.
21—Boiler explosion on U. S. S. Bennington in San Diego harbor kills thirty-seven and injures ninety-seven others.
23—Death of Daniel S. Lamont.
24—Bones of John Paul Jones placed in vault in Annapolis.
25—Yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans.

August.
8—Collapse of store in Albany, N. Y., kills twelve persons.
9—Russian and Japanese peace commissioners meet at Portsmouth, N. H....Flaia-Zeigler expedition, rescued by the steamer Terra Nova, reaches Henningsvrag, Norway.
13—Referendum in Norway favors separation.
16—Reciprocity convention in Chicago.
17—Fifty passengers drown when excursion train runs into open draw near Norfolk, Va.
21—Earthquake felt in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee....Death of Mary Mapes Dodge.
29—Russian and Japanese envoys agree upon terms of peace.

September.
1—Alberta becomes new State of Canada.
2—Five million-dollar fire in Adrianople, Turkey.
4—Death of Heskiah Butterworth, historian.
5—Treaty of peace between Russia and Japan signed in Portsmouth, N. H....Peace riots in Tokio.
8—Earthquake in Southern Italy destroys 400 lives and twenty villages.
9—Rand powder factory, Fairbairn, Pa., explodes, destroying thirty lives.
11—Mikasa, Admiral Togo's flagship, burns and 800 lives are lost.
14—Death of Patrick Collins, Mayor of Boston.
16—Death of George McDonald, navalist.
24—Great fire in Butte, Mont.
26—Manila swept by typhoon.

October.
4—Six hundred thousand-dollar fire in Rhineclander, Wis.
13—Norwegian treaty adopted by Swedish Parliament....Death of Sir Henry Irving.
14—Close of Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Ore....Treaty between Russia and Japan signed by Czar and Mikado.
17—Fatal tornado at Sorento, Ill.
19—20—Storm on Great Lakes destroys shipping and costs several lives.
25—Death of Congressman Jerry Simpson of Kansas.
30—Czar grants representative government to Russians.

November.
1—Sweden unfurls her new flag....Bloody riots in Russian cities.
3—Enormous loss of life in massacre in cities of Southern Russia.
4—Czar signs manifesto giving freedom to Finland.
12—Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, prominent Chicago Methodist, dies....Prince Charles of Denmark chosen King of Norway.
14—People of Isle of Pines declare freedom from sovereignty of Cuba.
18—Torpedo boat sunk in German naval maneuvers and thirty-three men drowned.
19—One hundred lives lost in wreck of steamer Italia in English Channel....Thirty-five men die in Glasgow lodging house fire.
25—State entry of King Haakon VII. and Queen Maude into Christiania.
26—Eighteen persons killed and twenty-five injured in railway wreck near Lincoln, Mass....Fleet of allied powers seizes Turkish Island of Mytilene.
27—Drunken Russian soldiers at Alexandrovsk burn barracks and eighty political prisoners.
28—Severe gale causes much damage to property in Great Lakes district.

December.
1—Cuban elections a landslide for moderate party.
2—Iron missile thrown through window of President Roosevelt's special train in Philadelphia.
4—Fifty-ninth Congress meets....Wisconsin Legislature meets in special session....Balfour ministry in England resigns.
6—Lieut. Gen. Sakharoff slain by woman in province of Saratov, Russia.
8—Mrs. Mary M. Rogers hanged in Windsor, Vt.
11—Death of Edward Atkinson, political economist.