

# The Doctor's Dilemma

By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER IX.

I took care not to reach home before the hour when Julia usually went to bed. It was quite rain to sleep that night. I had upon myself a gown of that state of nervous, restless agitation when one cannot remain quietly in a room. About one o'clock I opened my door as softly as possible and stole stealthily downstairs.

Madam was my favorite maid, frigate at a gallop when she was in good temper, but apt to turn vicious now and then. She was in good temper to-night, and pricked up her ears and whistled when I unlocked the stable door. In a few minutes we were going up the Grange road at a moderate pace till we reached the open country.

It was a cool, quiet night in May. A few of the larger fixed stars twinkled palely in the sky, but the smaller ones were drowned in the full moonlight. I turned off the road to get nearer the sea, and rode along sandy lanes, with banks of turf instead of hedge rows, which were covered thickly with pale primroses, shining with the same hue as the moon above them.

Now and then I came in full sight of the sea, glittering in the silver light. I crossed the head of a gorge, and stopped for a while to gasp down it, till my flesh crept. It was not more than a few yards in breadth, but it was of unknown depth, and the rocks above it with a thick, heavy blackness. The tide was rushing into its narrow channel with a thunder which thrummed like a pulse; yet in the intervals of its pulsation I could catch the thin, prattling drone of a brook running merrily down the gorge to plunge headlong into the sea.

As the sun rose, Sark looked very near, and the sea, a plain of silver blue, seemed solid and firm enough to afford me a road across to it. A white mist lay like a huge snowdrift in the hollow curves over the Havre Gosselin, with sharp peaks of cliffs piercing through. Olivia was sleeping under a blanket of shell, and dear old Guernsey was to me, she was a hundred-fold dearer.

But my night's ride had not made my day's task any easier for me. No new light had dawned upon my difficulty. There was no loophole for me to escape from the most painful and perplexing strait I had ever been in. How was I to break it to Julia and when? It was quite plain to me that the sooner it was over the better would be for myself, and perhaps the better for her. How was I to go through my morning's calls? I resolved to have it over as soon as breakfast was finished. Yet when breakfast came I was listening intently for some summons which would give me an hour's grace from fulfilling my own determination. I prolonged my meal, keeping my mother in her place at the table; for she had never given up her office of pouring out my tea and coffee.

I finished at last, and with no urgent message had come for me. My mother left us together alone, as her custom was, for what time I had to spare—a variable quantity always with me.

Julia was the dreaded moment. But how was I to begin? Julia was so nice, and unassuming, that what words could I convey my fatal meaning most gently to her? My head throbed, and I could not raise my eyes to her face. Yet it must be done.

"Dear Julia," I said, in as firm a voice as I could command.

"Yes, Martin."

But just then Grace, the housemaid, knocked emphatically at the door, and after a due pause entered with a smiling, significant face, yet with an apologetic courtesy.

"If you please, Dr. Martin," she said, "I'm very sorry, but Mrs. Lihon's baby is taken with convulsion fits; and they want you to go as fast as ever you can, please, sir."

Was I sorry or glad? I could not tell. It was a relief; but then I knew positively it was nothing more than a relief. The sentence must be executed. Julia came to me, bent her cheek towards me, and I kissed it. That was our usual salutation when our morning's interview was ended.

"I am going down to the new house," she said. "I lost a good deal of time yesterday, and I must make up for it to-day. Shall you be passing by at any time, Martin?"

"Yes—no—I cannot tell exactly," I stammered.

"If you are passing, come in for a few minutes," she answered; "I have a few things to speak to you about."

I was not overworked that morning. The convulsions of Mrs. Lihon's baby were not at all serious. So I had plenty of time to call upon Julia at the new house; but I could not summon sufficient courage. The morning slipped away whilst I was loitering about Fort George, and chatting carelessly with the officers quartered there.

I went down reluctantly at length to the new house; but it was at almost the last hour. Doggedly, but sick at heart with myself and all the world, I went down to meet my doom.

Julia was sitting alone in the drawing room, which overlooked the harbor and the group of islands across the channel. There was no fear of interruption. It was an understood thing that at present only Julia's most intimate friends had been admitted into her new house, and then by special invitation alone.

There was a very happy, very placid expression on her face. Every hair line seemed softened, and a pleased smile played about her lips. Her dress was one of those simple, fresh, clean muslin gowns, with knots of ribbon about it, which make a plain woman almost pretty, and a pretty woman bewitching.

"I am very glad you are come, my dear Martin," she said softly.

I dared not delay another moment. I must take my plunge at once into the icy-cold waters.

"I have something of importance to say to you, dear cousin," I began.

I sat down on the broad window sill, instead of on the chair close to her. She looked up at that, and fixed her eyes upon me keenly. I had often quailed before Julia's gaze as a boy, but never as I did now.

"Well, what is it?" she asked curiously. The incliveness of her tone brought a latent smile, as a probe sometimes brings a patient out of stupor.

"Julia," I said, "are you quite sure you love me enough to be happy with me as my wife?"

"I know you well enough to be as happy as the day is long with you," she replied, the color rushing to her face.

"You do not often look as if you loved me," I said at last.

"Oh, Martin, Martin!" she answered. "I can't be so soft and prattling like many women. I don't care to be always kissing and hanging about anybody. But if

# COAST STATES ARE UP AND DOING

REPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASCADE MOUNTAIN REGION FROM CANADA TO MEXICO.

**Flax a Profitable Crop.**  
The flax crop of Idaho this season will bring larger returns to the grower than they would receive for 1,250,000 bushels of wheat. The industry which is of such recent date as to almost come under the head of new business has proved so successful this season that in many cases it has paid the growers a greater net profit than the cost of the land on which it was grown. In Nez Perce County over 15,000 acres of flax were contracted for at about \$1 per bushel guaranteed, with the further proviso that the grower was to have the additional benefit of any advance in the Chicago market. On this basis, some of the early arrivals were sold as high as \$1.35 per bushel, the growers realizing over \$122 per acre for his crop. In addition to the 15,000 acres contracted for there was about 15,000 acres produced by other growers.

**Washington Leads in Wheat.**  
The current issue of the Orange Judd Farmer gives some interesting statistics showing harvest condition of the United States winter and spring wheat by states and the average rate of yield. Washington leads in wheat, with a total average of 33.4, given the state of Washington an average of 35. The winter yield has a total average of 18.1, in which Washington is 19.0, and out of a spring yield of 15.3 Washington is first at 15.0, the wheat condition of this state being not only ahead of any other state in the union, but far ahead of the general average as well.

**A Rich Copper Discovery.**  
An extensive copper mine, or rather mountain, has been discovered by McVey & Co. on the west side of Siskiyou mountains, California, about 8 miles from Garretton, a medical center of 20 miles from Garretton, 20 miles south of the Oregon line of Josephine County, and 24 miles from Jacksonville, Oregon. The ledge ranges from 300 to 350 feet in width, and is claimed to be more extensive than the famous Iron Mountain mine at Kenwick, in Shasta County, with the likelihood of making Siskiyou take the lead of Shasta in the annual mineral output when thoroughly developed. The discoverers have been offered \$150,000 for their property.

**Big Timber Sale.**  
A. B. Hammond, of Portland, contemplating the purchase of the largest unbroken tract of timber land still remaining in first hands in this state the first of the month. Fifty thousand acres were involved in the deal and the land is all situated in one body of 100 miles, and is situated in the Southern Pacific and while the consideration was withheld, the price is reported to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

**Town Lots at \$14,000 Each.**  
O. A. Kjos, a local merchant of Lewiston, Idaho, completed the purchase of 61 feet frontage on Main and from E. Eichemberger, the consideration being \$13,500—Mr. Kjos also paying a street grade assessment tax, making the total consideration \$14,000. A handsome three story brick store building will be erected on the corner next spring to cost \$85,000.

**New Railroad in Eastern Oregon.**  
Articles of incorporation have been granted to L. K. Moore, J. B. Hosford and J. E. Schenberger, to construct a line of railroad from Arlington on the Columbia River, due south, to Condon, county seat of Gilliam County. The capital stock is \$500,000 divided into shares of \$100 each. The right-of-way is being obtained as fast as surveyed. The line will be forty miles long.

**New Smelter at Darrington.**  
The deal for the site for the smelter at Darrington, Wash., has been closed, and it is now only a question of getting the buildings up and the plant installed, when work will be begun extracting precious minerals from the rich ores of that region. The cost of the smelter will be \$75,000, and the daily capacity will amount to 250 tons. Denver capital is behind the proposition.

**A Rich Cargo.**  
Of the 2300 tons of general cargo on board the Toka Maru, recently from China, the silk was the most precious. That was valued at \$385,000. The costliest cargo of silk ever brought over ran up to half a million. For the first time a shipment of concentrates was brought over from Leigh, S. J. Hunt's mines in Corea. This ore was consigned to the smelter at Tacoma and was valued at \$25,000.

**Indication of Prosperity.**  
The report of the condition of the national banks of Washington recently published, tells its part of the story of the present unexampled prosperity. Their total resources rose from \$27,238,277 to \$31,289,168 in a little more than twelve months, and the individual deposits in these banks during the same period have increased by \$2,000,000.

**To Irrigate a Garden Spot.**  
Articles of incorporation of the Astoria Land and Irrigation Company have been filed with the county auditor at Astoria, Wash. The object of the corporation is to irrigate lands, generate power, buy and sell land and maintain and operate irrigation canals. The capital stock is \$10,000, shares having a par value of \$100 each. The company is at present constructing a canal in The Forks or Lake district and expects to have several thousand acres under water by next spring.

**Requires Little Sleep.**  
The distinction among animals of requiring least sleep belongs to the elephant. In spite of his capacity for hard work the elephant seldom sleeps more than four, or occasionally five, hours.

**People never seem to pay much attention when their enemy does wrong. But how they howl when you do wrong!**

**When ignorance wins intelligence troops away below par.**

# GEORGE P. CROWELL

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This old-established house will continue to pay cash for all its goods; it pays no rent; it employs a clerk, but does not have to divide with a partner. All dividends are made with customers in the way of reasonable prices.

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Leaves Oak Street Dock, Portland 7 A. M. and 11 P. M.  
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**STEAMERS**  
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Str. "Tahoma,"  
Daily Round Trip, except Sunday.  
Leave Portland 7 A.M. | Leave Astoria 7 A.M.

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Str. "Bailey Gatzert,"  
Daily Round Trip, except Monday.  
VANCOUVER, CASCADE LOCKS, ST. MARTIN'S SPRINGS, HOOD RIVER, WHITE SALMON, L.I.E. and THE DALLES.  
Leave Portland 7 A.M. | Leave Dalles 3:30 P.M.  
Arrive Dalles 5 P.M. | Arrive Portland 10 P.M.  
Meals the Very Best.

DEPART	TIME SCHEDULES FROM HOOD RIVER	ARRIVE
Chicago Special 11:25 a. m.	Belt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.	Portland Special 2:05 p. m.
Spokane Flyer 6:27 p. m.	Walla Walla, Lewiston, Spokane, Missoula, Duluth, Missoula, Chicago and East.	Portland Flyer 6:30 a. m.
Mail and Express 11:45 p. m.	Belt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.	Mail and Express 5:15 a. m.

**OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE FROM PORTLAND.**

8:00 p. m.	All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco—sail every 5 days.	6:30 p. m.
Daily Ex. Sunday 8:30 p. m. Saturday 10:30 p. m.	Columbia River Steamer To Astoria and Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Ex. Sunday
6:15 a. m. Ex. Sunday	Willamette River, Oregon City, Newberg, Salem, Independence, Astoria and Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Ex. Sunday
7:00 a. m. Tues., Thurs. and Sat.	Willamette and Yamhill Rivers. Oregon City, Dayton, and Way Landings.	5:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
6:45 a. m. Tues. and Sat.	Willamette River. Portland to Corvallis and Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
10 p. m. Daily	Hood River. Riparian to Lewiston.	10 a. m. Daily

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