

# Second Cousin Sarah

BY THE AUTHOR OF "ANNE JUDGE, SPINSTER," "LITTLE KATE KIRBY," ETC., ETC.

### CHAPTER IX.

The man who in his zeal had ventured into Potter's Court did not betray by any change of feature his sense of the danger which seemed hanging over him. It was not an evitable position, but his coolness did not desert him. Had it not been for the clanging of bolts below and for the careful locking up of the house he would have been disposed to regard the arrival of Thomas Eastbell and his companion in a friendly spirit, despite the acents with which they favored him and the anxious faces of the women.

"Hanged if I didn't think so!" exclaimed Thomas Eastbell, alias Vinzobini, to the crowned-head paragon department; "so this is why you have been creeping about the Saxe-Gotha, is it? Well, what have I done, that you come into my crib in this way? What have you got to say?" he roared forth in a louder key.

"That you keep too big a fire for the time of the year, and that it isn't good for your healths," said Reuben, in a quiet tone of voice. "I have come to see your sister."

No one had any complaint to make. Reuben had crossed to Sarah.

"Here is your chance still. Will you leave this place?"

"Not yet," she answered; "not till Tom's safe."

"Good-by, then."

Reuben went out of the room, and the policeman followed him downstairs and into the court.

He somewhat ungratefully left the triumvirate who had arrived in good time to his rescue. But he could not explain, and it seemed the better policy to be silent for Second-cousin Sarah's sake. She wished it—and it was she who had saved him from danger. He had to think again of the way to save her, now that he had become more than ever resolved to get her away from Potter's Court.

CHAPTER X.

Reuben Culwick did not in any way attempt to account for his late hours to the inmates of Hope Lodge. He was the master of his own actions, which no one, he felt, had the right to criticize. Hence, with this impression on his mind, the deep reveries of Lucy Jennings, and the studious stares of her brother appeared to be taking him in far too late, because a source of irritation to him.

"Is anything the matter, Lucy?" he asked at last, one morning.

Lucy Jennings sat down suddenly in the chair nearest to her lodger, and burst forth with her catalogue of wrongs, making demands for all past reserve in one breath.

"It has come to you. You're not the man you have been. You keep away from home too much—you have been seen at low places of amusement—you're going wrong—you've never told us anything," cried Lucy, passionately.

"Yes, I have been seen at low places of amusement," said Reuben, quietly, "and my hours of return to Hope Lodge are somewhat irregular at present. And so I am going wrong, Lucy?"

"You are not doing what is right."

"You are jumping rapidly at conclusions, after the habit of enthusiasts. I'm not a sinner—that is, no more of a miserable specimen than I was three weeks ago."

"Why did you ask John about the girl in the striped dress, at the Saxe-Gotha?"

"Ah, the rascal has turned king's evidence, then?" cried our hero.

"Why did you ask him not to tell me?—why are you always at the gardens?—why had you the effrontery," she cried, "with eyes ablaze now, to ask that wretched, miserable girl to call her for you?"

"What?" shouted Reuben, so fiercely that even Lucy was unprepared for his excitement, and jumped back in her chair some distance from him. "What do you mean?" he continued; "who has been here?"

"Don't jump on me, you suspicious, suspicious, disagreeable woman. What girl called her for me?"

Lucy was very pale, but she held her ground against his rage, though she had never been a witness to it before. He had been always a pleasant man till this day, but now he was full of passion and, perhaps, hate of her. She could understand more clearly now why his quarrel with his father had been a bitter one.

"It was a girl in a striped cotton dress," said Lucy, with emphasis. "She was very beautiful, naturally clad woman. She would not answer any of my questions, save that she had told her to call, and she grew impatient at last."

"You sent her away?"

"Yes. She said that she would never come again."

"Because of your hardness and harshness?"

"She carried effrontery and desperation in her face."

"It's a lie!" shouted Reuben; "you don't know what you are doing, what you have done, in your hardness. There was a soul to be saved, and you have wrecked it!"

"No," said Lucy, growing paler still. "You don't mean—"

"I mean that that girl is my cousin, for whom I tried to obtain an honest living in life," he replied, "and the salvation I have been struggling after my useless fashion. I found her in London, and tried to save her from the evil that was surrounding her. She saved my life, perhaps, then, and rendered me forever her debtor. When there was a chance for her, she was to come here. She came," he said, fiercely, "and you sent her away. How will you, with all your narrow views of charity, and God's mercy, and God's vengeance, answer for it, if you have cut from her the last thread which led her to a better life?"

Lucy Jennings was covered by his reproaches, by his vehemence. Suspicious, awfully suspicious, as she was, she was still a religious woman, and the horror of having cast back a stubborn, willful nature on itself rose before her even in more terrible colors than he had painted it.

"Why—why didn't you tell me?" she gasped forth; "why didn't you trust me? I will and her," said Lucy, very meekly now. "I will bring her back."

"It is impossible."

"I will tell her that I was wrong in my judgment. I will ask her pardon. You must not charge the loss of this girl to her. Where did you see her last?"

"In Potter's Court."

"I know it—in the Walworth road," said Lucy; "it is part of my mission to go among the people there. What is the number of the house?"

"Two."

"Where the Petersons live—the Irish people. I will go at once; don't judge me too harshly, till I have made amends for my mistake," she pleaded.

"It is too late," said Reuben, gloomily; "the house was empty two days since. There were colliers in it, and the suspicion that I might betray them, or that the police were on the scent, led them to leave the premises."

"I will find them," said Lucy; "I am known. People trust me there, who know me better than you do," she added, almost disdainfully again.

Lucy Jennings walked out of the room with her hands rigidly clasped together; in a few minutes afterward she had gasped out of the house.

It was late, and when John Jennings and Reuben culwick had been conversed together and had arrived at the conclusion that she would not return that night, Lucy, still-backed and grim, came up the front garden with a tall girl, who walked with difficulty, resting on her arm.

"Here's your second-cousin Sarah," she said to Reuben, in her old jerky manner, as the two women came into the house.

Reuben Culwick rose to greet his second-cousin and to introduce her to John Jennings, who was filling in some Roman candle-cases for Mr. Splud's benefit, which was to take place in a fortnight's time at the Saxe-Gotha.

"I am glad that you have come," said Reuben, heartily. "John, this is my second-cousin Sarah."

"How do you do, marm?" said Lucy, with a solemn bow.

Sarah Eastbell was very like Sarah Eastbell's ghost, as she looked from one to another, and tried hard to raise a smile, without success.

"Can't you find the girl a seat, instead of staring at her?" said Lucy, sharply, to her brother, who immediately rendered her his own chair.

"You have been ill," said Reuben to his cousin, as she sat down wearily; "how's that?"

"Not ill exactly. A little weak, perhaps," answered Sarah; "I shall be better in a minute."

"I am very glad that you have found her, Lucy," said Reuben to Miss Jennings, who was uttaring her loudest strings in rather a violent manner; "you will let me thank you for all the trouble that you have taken?"

"I never cared for people's thanks," she answered.

"She has been very good to me," Sarah Eastbell murmured; "I made a mistake when I thought her very hard—but my life's been pretty well all mistakes, I think."

"She wants rest," muttered Lucy Jennings.

"I don't want rest—only a few hours, that is," said Sarah, correcting herself, "and then I hope to set off to Worcester. I have been thinking of what you said to me at Potter's Court, when Tom and his wife left me in the lurch—they went away in the night while I was asleep, as if they had grown suddenly afraid of me—I came to this place. I wanted you to take me down to Worcester, to stand by me. Besides, I want you to have the five pounds."

"What five pounds?" asked Reuben; "that I gave your grandmother when—?"

"Oh, no—not that," said Sarah, "but to pay that one back, and part of the five pounds we were obliged to spend. There's five pounds saved for me, for Tom and me, and you must claim that for us through you. I'm giving myself up. I shall say you have caught me, and—"

"Here—hold hard—that will do—no more of your highly colored fictions, Cousin Sarah; it's time you gave them up, at any rate. You're as fit as a fiddle for the blood money, upon my honor, you turn me to gooseflesh at the thought of it."

"Why shouldn't you have the money as well as anybody else?" said Sarah reflectively.

"Suppose we argue the case in the morning?"

"As we go to Worcester?" said Sarah.

"Very well. This good woman who traced me to-day thinks it would be right to tell the truth, but, oh! I can't tell your grandmother. You will never let her in your best way. And I may rest here to-night?" turning to Lucy Jennings.

"You will share my bed," said Lucy. (To be continued.)

### DEVELOPING THE BODY.

Mistakes Made Through Uneven Care of the Physical System.

In all efforts to strengthen the general system—to produce a "strong constitution," as the saying goes—the fact must be borne in mind that the body is no stronger than its weakest part. An enemy would attack a broken gate in a fortified town, so will the germs of disease attack the feeblest outposts of the system.

This mistake of uneven care of the body is one often made by well-meaning people with regard to the skin. Perhaps there is no one thing so often to blame for bronchitis, for instance, as an overcooled, unventilated skin. The amount of work the skin will do is largely a matter of practice. In animals and savages the skin reacts quickly to changes of temperature, and one reason why countrymen are more robust than townsmen is that the countryman's skin is exercised from early youth. It is hardened gradually and naturally, and needs no artificial means. The town man, on the other hand, lives too much in the even temperature of rooms, and is always more or less protected by built-up streets, and so his skin is never called upon to do its share of work in regulating the heat of the body.

For these reasons the skin from the earliest years should not be too anxiously protected. It should be accustomed to the shock of cold water, unless there happen to be reasons forbidding this, and the clothing should be porous and not too much in quantity. Adult men use far too much bedding, and, as physicians are kept entirely too warm, as physicians and patients, it is needless to add that the old-fashioned feather bed is an abomination for either young or old.

A most important part of the cold water treatment is the subsequent rubbing. The cold water produces a powerful contraction of the skin vessels, and when afterward the skin is well rubbed and the body exercised, these vessels dilate; they breathe, and a feeling of warmth and well-being follows. All this keeps the skin up to its normal duties, and it reacts quickly to the changes to which it is exposed.

One word more: small children are usually bathed in water much too hot. A bath thermometer should be an invariable adjunct of the nursery, and the temperature should not be tested by the mother's or nurse's elbow, as is often the case. The water should never be above 95 degrees, and after the first months should be reduced gradually to 90 degrees and lower.—Youth's Companion.

George Washington up to date.

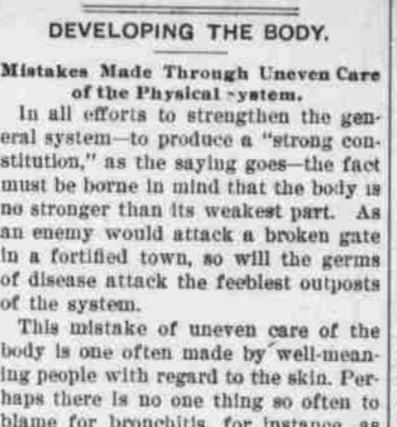
That cherry tree episode with a few modern variations.—Philadelphia Ledger.

### WASHINGTON.

The fame of Washington is so immense and the popular conception of his character so exalted, that some skeptical and fault-finding critics are disposed to question the universal estimate, and especially in the matter of his ability as a soldier and military commander. However much we may wish it otherwise, there is in human nature a mean spring of envy and detraction which instinctively feels the honors bestowed upon a great man to be an indirect reflection and rebuke to his own littleness and baseness. This spirit cropped out conspicuously in the case of Columbus, in the efforts to belittle his great exploit and to blacken his character. I do not say that criticisms upon Washington's generalship all proceed from base motives, but they doubtless do mostly come from the spirit and innate tendency which I have indicated. This unworthy spirit is as old as history, as old as humanity. It showed itself in a memorable fashion when the old Athenians wrote their sentence of banishment against Aristides because they were tired of hearing him called "the just."

Great soldiers are to be judged not alone by success, by battles fought and victories won—though this, of course, is the great popular test—but by all the circumstances and difficulties in which they are placed. There are great commanders who have won fame by a single brilliant battle, like the Roman Fabius, and even by great retreats like Xenophon with his ten thousand Greeks. If Washington is to be compared, to his disadvantage, with Napoleon, then the popular question is, would Napoleon, under the same circumstances, have done any better? It is enough for any commander that he fills the great measure of his requirement. This, of course, is not saying that Washington would have filled the place of Napoleon in the vastly different field and circumstances in which that great soldier won his fame. Nor would it be forgotten, all the while, that ultimately Washington succeeded and founded a nation, while Napoleon failed and lost an empire.

The difficulties which encountered Washington when he took up his great trust as commander-in-chief of the continental army were most complicated and immense. The theater of the struggle was a vast one, geographically stretching along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to South Carolina, while the whole population was only three millions—not very much greater than that of the State of Michigan, and not so great into a million as that of Illinois. Out of this small, scattering and peaceful population an army was to be raised, organized and equipped capable of contending with the chief military and marine power of the globe. And it was



MARTHA WASHINGTON.

### WASHINGTON'S COACH.

Critic.

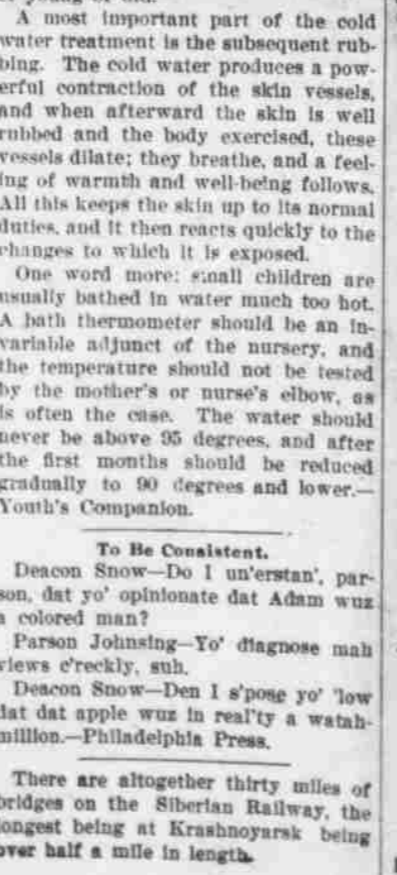
Soubrette—The leading lady's face is a study.

Comedian—Yes; a railroad study.

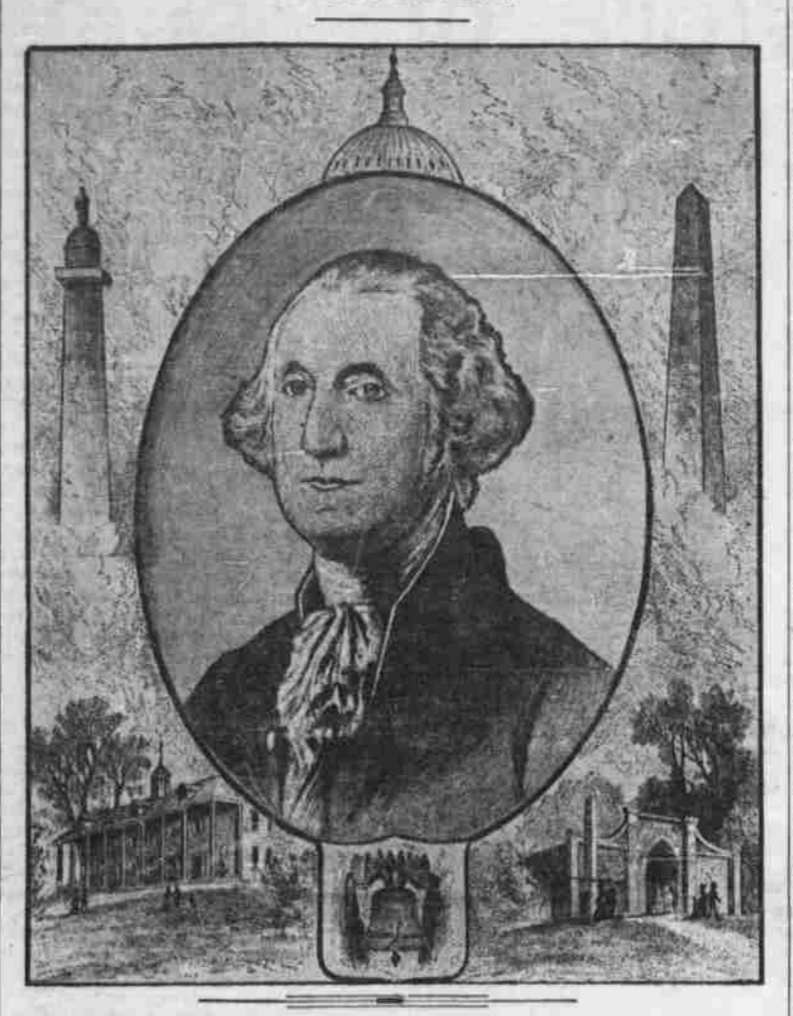
Soubrette—How so?

Comedian—There are so many different lines.

### GEORGE WASHINGTON UP TO DATE.



That cherry tree episode with a few modern variations.—Philadelphia Ledger.



The head school teacher, who sat at the end of a row of six girls at a matinee, saw one of them take off her gloves as soon as the lights went down and the curtain went up. She watched. When the girl thought her teacher's attention was concentrated on the stage one of her hands went to her lips.

"Miss Blank," said the chaperon, leaning over and speaking so that everybody seated around her could hear, "I must ask you to stop biting your nails and put your gloves on immediately."

The other girls giggled, and the particular one who had offended did as she was told, looking very much humiliated.

"Poor child," said a sympathetic woman sitting in the row behind.

"I frequently find it necessary to administer a rebuke of this sort to girls with the nail-biting habit," said the chaperon to a friend who asked about it. "All teachers do. A lesson of that sort is worth ten admonitions in private. There is no better way to break a pupil of a bad habit like biting the nails than to shame her out of it. I warned Miss Blank before we started for the theater that I should rebuke her if I caught her biting her nails, and she promised not to do it. When I saw her stealthily drawing off her gloves I knew what was coming. We have to watch girls with the nail-biting habit in church; in the theater, and everywhere they go in public. It is almost impossible to make them keep their gloves on."

A fashionable manœuvre uptown adversaries to cure nail-biting. He says he has many patrons among girls and women.

"It is an exceptional thing to find a man who bites his nails," he said to a reporter for the Sunday Press, "but I have known of some cases. Nail-biting is a disease, the same as itching scalp or anything else. To a certain extent it is a habit, but the habit develops the disease, which is called onychophagia."

"When I was in Paris four years ago I first learned about the treatment for it, and at once introduced it in my business here. Far from being a harmless habit, resulting in only unsightly hands, nail-biting is a prolific cause of nervous disorders in girls and women. It requires various forms of treatment, according to the condition and surroundings of the victim. The best time to stop it is in childhood. Parents and school teachers who find children biting their nails should not only severely reprimand them, but punish them in a way that will be remembered. In my opinion the teacher you tell about gave the young woman a whole lesson."—New York Press.

### FOOTBALL VERSUS PUGILISM.

Statistics Show Gridiron Is More Deadly Than the Prize Ring.

Which is the more destructive to life and limb—football or pugilism? Statistics gathered by the New York World show 124 deaths from prize fighting since Tom Walker was knocked out in England in 1758, the last ending with five in this country during the past year. In 1902 the prize ring had 7 victims; in 1901 the number was 8, and it was 10 in 1900. For some of these deaths men have gone to prison, but the great majority of the men who gave the death blow were not even arrested. The figures show conclusively that the "sport" of the prize ring is brutal and deserves repression. It is hardly not a popular sport in this country, thanks to unfriendly laws, and does not attract the unfavorable attention that is given to football. The latter sport seems, however, even more objectionable, if account be taken of the number and character of the victims. The World notes that the football season is barely six weeks in length, and the number of players is fully 20 per cent greater than that of the pugilists. "These two facts," the World says, "in consideration of results, indicate that the percentage is against the football player." He is in more danger than the pugilist.

Facts collected by Professor E. E. Dexter of the University of Illinois from sixty American colleges show that in the last ten years out of 210,334 students 22,793 played football, and that the number 654 were seriously injured and 114 were killed. In 1902 the seriously injured numbered 143, and 12 were killed. In some years one player is killed or maimed for each day of the playing season. In view of Professor Dexter's figures it is impossible to assert that the game is maintained in the interest of the athletic development of students, since it is shown that but 10.8 per cent of the students play football. A form of exercise in which only about one student out of ten engages cannot conduce greatly to the physical development of the student body as a whole. The tenth student's field practice does not affect the muscles, heart and lungs of the other nine. The football game is, in fact, for nine-tenths of the boys only a spectacle, and for the rest largely an occasion of idleness, distraction and demoralization. This is, unfortunately, too much the character of all college sports. Athletic exercise in the gymnasium is one thing, games are usually in character and effect something very different. They do not always injure seriously the participants, and this is the most that can be said for them.—Baltimore Sun.

Warning to Would-Be Suicidees.

A favorite method of suicide in Japan lately has been to leap over certain waterfalls. So frequent have such occurrences become that police are now constantly stationed in their neighborhood and large notice boards are erected bearing inscriptions in large letters, of which the following translation is an example: "Do not drown yourself here! Intended suicides are warned that heaven disapproves of the utilization of Kegon waterfall for the purpose. This is certified to on the best priestly authority and serious consequences in the hereafter are guaranteed. To drown here is also forbidden by the prefectural authorities."

Don't fall at the poor miser. He accumulates wealth for others to spend.

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