

Second Cousin Sarah

BY THE AUTHOR OF "ANNE JUDG, SPINSTER," "LITTLE KATE BERRY," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

It was the old position—and yet with a grave difference. It was the old line of argument cropping up afresh in Sarah Eastbell's mind, with no Reuben Culwick at hand to laugh down her logic—with Reuben Culwick's power to laugh it down, perhaps, wonderfully diminished. John had told of Reuben going to find Mary Holland at Worcester. Lucy had predicted evil would come of it, and Sarah was wretched.

She must give him up—she must not remain that weight upon his life, that clog upon his industry, which she had always thought she was, when her love was not bewildering her too much. Reuben loved her, she hoped still—she did not put faith in those strange suspicions of Lucy Jennings—but Lucy was right in one thing; that sister Sarah Eastbell, could not add to the happiness of Reuben Culwick's life. She could only add to the expense—she could only keep him poor. If she stood apart now, perhaps he would marry Mary Holland, and be master of his father's house again, just as he had wished from the first. She had no right to bind him by his long engagement, to shake his energies, to keep him from "bettering" himself—now that she felt herself as poor—as she, if not legally, as poor—as when she came in search of her to Potter's Court.

It was a very quiet morning at one of those strange Sunday services; those who came to pray were not disturbed by those who came to scoff, but the service was solemn and stately, and made up for its long engagement, to shake his energies, to keep him from "bettering" himself—now that she felt herself as poor—as she, if not legally, as poor—as when she came in search of her to Potter's Court.

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—but which he owned himself. You told me that," said Reuben.

"He was strange that day. It might have been the ravings of a madman." "As that," said Lucy, pointing to the fire, "was the ravings of a madman."

"I think not," answered Mary confidently; "it is an act of justice to the man entitled to his father's money, and who will marry this brave young lady in possession."

"She has given me up," said Reuben dryly; but Mary turned from one to another and read no doubt or distress on either face. Here were two lives in the sunshine at last.

"I believe we always Simon Culwick's money," continued Mary; "he did not know of my marriage, and I dared not tell him for my home's sake, and so we went on from one complication to another. There were only two things that first led to a sister, the second to me—and the second I could not, and did not care to prove. The answer to the riddle came round in the way I thought it might do, if I were watchful and reserved—for I knew in what high estimation Sarah Eastbell held her cousin, and how she had made up her mind to give an obstinate man his rights. She and I together planned more ways than one—she very artless, I very artful perhaps—but the best and simplest and happiest way has come without my plotting."

"But you?" said Sarah and Reuben almost together.

"You are not likely to forget me, or my little daughter here—to shut me from your friendship—to help me in the world, should I want help."

"Help!" echoed Reuben; "why, it is all yours."

"You can't prove that," said Mary emphatically, "and I would prefer to be dependent on your bounty. I will not be too proud to ask for a pension, when my little girl grows up and tires of her mother."

"The future, for you and Tot, you will leave to Sarah and me," said Reuben; "you will trust in those whom you have trusted so long already."

"As they will trust in me now," said the unselfish woman, holding out her hands to them.

"It is a fair picture on which the curtain is rung down—on perfect villas; the true reflection and prosperity—on life opening out before these three—no shadows on the scenes beyond. Reuben and Sarah will live happily forever afterward—as young couples always should in Reuben's case. Their daughter will be their faithful friends and loving companions to the end of life.

In the red glow of the sunset of our story, stands poor Lucy Jennings—grave and stony as the Libyan sphinx—commenting but little upon the happiness about her, and yet feeling that it reaches to her heart, and makes her more like other women.

Reuben's brother-in-law, one Thomas Eastbell, will not visit Worcester—Sarah, and Reuben's wife will not learn for years, and yet feeling that it reaches to her heart, and makes her more like other women.

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PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

BY JOHN W. FOSTER, ESQ., SECRETARY OF STATE.

HUMANITY'S DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES.

By John W. Foster, Esq., Secretary of State.

By its steady championship of a freer commerce and of most elevated principles of conduct in war, the United States has brought about an almost complete change in the practice of nations. There still remain to be incorporated into international law one of the principles announced by the founders of our government and steadily advocated up to this day—the exemption from seizure of private property on the sea in time of war.

As our country from its earliest history led the nations of the earth in creating a more elevated system of international law, so also it has been the most active in adjusting international controversies and preserving peace by means of treaties of arbitration. The first treaty negotiated after the organization of our government under the constitution—the Jay treaty of 1794 with Great Britain—marked a distinct advance in the practice of nations and sought to ameliorate the harshness of war and to establish more clearly neutral rights.

The only instance in our history where fraud and corruption have been established against an arbitration tribunal was that with Venezuela under the treaty of 1893. Soon after the adjournment of the commission charges of irregularity and fraud on the part of its members were made at Washington by the Venezuelan Government, and an investigation established to the satisfaction of Congress proved to the fact that a corrupt arrangement had been made between the American commission, the umpire (a Venezuelan), the United States minister in Venezuela and his relative, the leading attorney before the commission, by which a large part of each claim represented by the attorney and allowed by the commission was to be divided between the persons named. After considerable delay in securing legislation a new commission was organized, which reviewed the work of its predecessor. Of the twenty-four cases allowed by the first commission only nine were passed on favorably, and three old cases rejected were allowed by the new commission, representing more than half of the total awards.

THE COUNTRY VERSUS THE CITY BOY.

By John H. Finley, of New York.

The chances of the city boy are greater than those of the country boy. If you know the life of the country boy in winter with the temperature degrees below zero and in the summer time work in the fields in the sun from ten to fourteen hours a day, you would probably see that the city boy has an immense advantage.

They tell you that the hard work of the country boy makes him a splendid man physically. Of the country boys I know full one-half are under the sod they plowed or are old men in the village streets at the age of 40. I believe that the best man is developed through association and struggle, and not in the country solitude.

The farmer's boy is caught in the endless circle where he raises corn in an endless chain of anxiety, but the city boy of New York has the history of the world, as a lesson, and the voices of the greatest men within the reach of his ears rather than the cricket and the country night sounds. There are dirty streets and dark rooms in the city, but they are illuminated by ambition, and even those dirty streets are as clear in after years as the country is to the successful farmer's boys.—American Boy.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT "DRY BONES."

By Dr. Andrew Wilson.

With bone is usually associated the idea of dryness—not merely in a physical sense, but in an intellectual sense as well. The medical student who has to acquire a knowledge of the bony framework has been said to travel in the "valley of dry bones," and as the osseous belongings we may see in our museums are certainly of the desiccated order of things, the familiar epithet seems justifiable enough. Yet bone, which may appear uninteresting to the casual observer, presents us with a singularly interesting history, not merely in respect of its structure but likewise in connection with its growth and development.

Bone is not all phosphate. This is its mineral side, giving it a strength and solidity which is more than equal to that of good solid oak. The other side of its composition we find to be represented by gelatine. This last is the animal basis of bone. When the cook boils bones it is for the sake of obtaining the gelatine, and we know that the boiled bone has a whitened aspect different from that of the natural structure, because its mineral constituents are alone left. If we wished to reverse the process and to remove the mineral matter of our bone, leaving the gelatine, we should place it in a solution of some weak acid. This last would eat away and dissolve the living material.

JAPAN'S RELATION TO THE PHILIPPINES.

By Baron Kaneko, of Japan.

Japan is a small country with a large population, and if we can manufacture for sale there and in China the things necessary for Oriental life we will become an exceedingly prosperous nation, for our land has reached the limit of agricultural production. The question with us is, Can the Philippine Islands produce a sufficient quantity of those raw materials to warrant us not only in increasing the capacity of our mills and in building new ones, but in making some reciprocal arrangements with the United States which would give a preference to the products of the Philippines over those of Java, Borneo, Sumatra and other Oriental countries. The Philippine Islands have only been scratched, so to speak, and out of the 88,000,000 acres of agricultural lands the Philippine commission states that only about 5,000,000 acres have been differently farmed, while from my own observations in the islands I should say that not more than one-third of the land occupied by farms are now being cultivated.

TSI AN A REMARKABLE WOMAN.

For Forty Years the Ruling Spirit of Chinese Empire.

The reported death of the Empress Regent Tai An, at the age of 70, directed attention to the extraordinary career of a woman who for more than forty years has been the ruling spirit of the Chinese Empire, although for more than 4,000 years the native prejudice against the exercise of authority by the fair sex had been but twice overcome. Had she been a descendant of Confucius, or the Ming dynasty, which preceded the present reigning family, or a high-born Manchur, her rise to autocratic power would have been more intelligible. As a matter of fact she began life under grave disabilities, being of humble origin, though her parents are said to have been Manchus. Adopted by a Manchur family of considerable means, she was trained in the accomplishments which the Chinese prize in women, but her intellect owed nothing to the influence of an invigorative education. She got her opportunity when she became a member of the household of the Emperor Hien Fung, who reigned from 1850 to 1861. She had no son by him, but, strange to say, she commended herself so strongly to the Empress Dowager, the mother of Tung Che, the next sovereign, that during his long minority the two women ruled conjointly, as Empresses of the East and of the West. On Tung Che's death, they raised to the throne his infant cousin, who still ostensibly reigns under the name of Kwang Su. Since the death of her feminine co-regent in 1881, Tai An has been the real mistress of China, except during a brief interval, when Kwang Su, having attained his majority, was permitted temporarily to rule, and showed an inclination to organize the Chinese system of education on Western principles. The innovation was quickly stopped by a palace revolution, and during the last few years Kwang Su has been merely a figurehead, the Empress Tai An having recognized not only by all Chinese officials, but also by all the treaty powers, as regent.—Harper's Weekly.

GRAIN AS A PATIENT.

The Diseased Cereal Is Sent to a Hospital for Treatment.

Most of us are familiar with hospitals and retreats where life and health may be restored to human beings and animals, but a new and interesting phase is a sanitarium for grain.

Plants and flowers are subjected to disease, and as the loss of crops throughout the United States alone has been estimated at some eighteen million dollars, it becomes imperative that an effort should be made to save the diseased grain. Very often farmers lose the whole crop because of being compelled to harvest in wet weather.

To the new hospital, which is located at Port Arthur, Ontario, the farmers may send their grain to be treated and carefully nursed. After passing out of the care of the experts the

RUSSIA'S RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

The railway schools of Russia are among the most interesting of all nations. When the great Siberian railway is completed it will form a practical westward continuation of the American trunk lines, connected by international ferries in the form of gigantic steamship lines. It was the construction of the wonderful Siberian railway which largely liberalized all Russia and turned its attention to the education of children. At the latest report Russia was teaching 6,000 children of railway men all branches of modern railway construction and operation. Russia recently sent two eminent ministers of affairs to this country to examine the workings of the railway branches of the Young Men's Christian Association for the immed-

GRAIN IS SAID TO BE CLEANER AND MORE WHOLESOME THAN WHEAT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO THIS PROCESS.

When the wheat is into death arrives, a nurse places it in a bath of pure water, where it is brushed and scoured in machines made for the purpose until the grains are highly polished and in good shape for the mill. It is then placed upon a bed made of screening and subjected to a jamming process, first of hot and then of cold water, until it is perfectly dry.

Again the grain is subjected to another cleaning process, after which it is ready to be returned to the owner, with the guarantee that it is thoroughly cured. Strange to say, when it is weighed it seems to have lost nothing, and being all grain and no chaff it weighs three or four pounds heavier to the bushel.

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