

ONLY A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.



By MRS. FORRESTER.

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)

The party at Endon Vale was breaking up. Lady Marion Alton on being informed of her niece's engagement had come to Endon Vale and carried her off to London, and thence to pay a visit to Berkeley. Francis Clayton had left the Berkeley before for London. Miss Champion had stayed on, in the hope of winning back Lord Harold to his allegiance; but now that she found each day attracting him more and more to her cousin, she could endure it no longer. The visit to Lady Grace, from which she had anticipated such great results, had ended with the most bitter mortification.

That same evening while Lady Grace was in her own little sanctum reading, Winifred knocked at her door and, in answer to her "come in," the girl went in and shut the door.

Lady Grace looked up and smiled kindly, and then she looked again. Winifred did not seem bright and beaming as was her wont—she was nervous, and there were tear stains on her face.

"What is it, my love? You have been crying." There was such tender solicitude in the tone that it was too much for the girl's overstrung nerves, and the tears came thick and fast.

"Oh, no, not that; but I am so afraid you will be angry with me and never forgive me. It is about Lord Harold Erskine," Winifred said, nervously, and a sudden chill came into the heart of the elder lady, for she was very fond of her nephew.

"About Harold, my dear?" "Lord Harold asked—asked me to marry him this morning; and, oh, Lady Grace, I am so sorry!"

"Sorry that he asked you to marry him?" "Because—indeed, Lady Grace, I never dreamt of such a thing—I thought his position made him so far beyond me. I thought he was kind to me, just from goodness-kindness like you, that I might not feel strange at coming into society I was not used to."

"Then you do not love him?" "I do like him very much—I could not help it, he is so good—but, oh, dear Lady Grace, I could not marry him, and the tears rained down."

"Then you have refused him?" "I told him the truth—I could not deceive him."

"And then all of a sudden it flashed on Lady Grace Farquhar's mind that there was something noble and high-minded in this girl's refusing such a position and such wealth because she did not love the man. A more worthy minded woman would have held such romantic folly in contempt, and thought the girl a fool for her pains; but not so Lady Grace. Still there was a momentary struggle in her heart before she rose from her seat and kissed Winifred."

"My love," she said sweetly, "I think you have done quite right, if you feel sure in your own mind that you cannot love him. But are you quite sure? Harold is kind and good; he is handsome, and is rich—ought you not to weigh everything in your mind thoroughly before you decide?"

"I like him, I respect him, but I do not love him—I cannot marry him," concluded Winifred, piteously.

"Very well, my dear, I will say no more. I am sorry, for my boy's sake, and I should have been well content to have you for a niece."

And then the kind-hearted woman took the sobbing girl in her arms and Winifred laid her head on the kind breast, and cried to her heart's content. There was a good deal more talk before the two parted, and it was settled that Winifred should stay there a few weeks; and then she should pay London a further visit, when Lord Harold should have left. But Lord Harold left that very day, after seeing and confiding in his aunt. His parting words were:

is so fascinated by some lovely creature on the stage that he has no eyes for anyone else. Francis," she continued, touching her husband—"Francis, Mr. Hastings is here."

Mr. Clayton looked savagely at her, and then he gave a surly recognition to Mr. Hastings.

"I hardly expected to see you here this evening," he said.

"You know, Francis, I told you I asked Mr. Hastings to come," said Fee, meekly. "Your memory is not usually so defective."

Madame was not in the best of tempers—constant contact with a man like her husband had not tended to increase the amiability of her disposition.

Mr. Clayton turned away to the stage, and left his wife to an uninterrupted conversation with her friend. But all the same he was trying to hear every word that passed between them; he was far too small-minded to be free from jealousy and suspicion. Fee was perfectly aware that he was listening, so she dropped her voice to a whisper, and flirted away in a very animated manner with Mr. Hastings.

Francis Clayton was gradually becoming furious. At the end of the third act he arose.

"It is time to put on your cloak," he said in a harsh and unpleasant voice.

"Why, dear?" asked Fee, looking up with languid indifference. "Are you afraid I shall take cold? You are not usually so solicitous about me."

"I ordered the carriage early, and I do not choose my horses to be kept waiting to follow me." "He replied, scarcely deigning to look at her."

Mr. Clayton moved toward the door, and his wife resumed her conversation with more animation than ever.

"Are you coming?" he exclaimed, turning impatiently.

"Me—coming?" returned Fee, nonchalantly, raising her eyebrows. "My dear Francis, what could put such an absurd idea into your head?"

"To be treated with indifference, and, worse, ridicule, is naturally disagreeable to any man; but it made Mr. Clayton, sulky and ill-tempered as he already was, perfectly allamè with rage."

"Marion, are you coming?" "Certainly not."

"Then I shall go alone. Henry can get you a fagere when you feel disposed to follow me." And the amiable husband left the box.

"Eyre," interposed Francis Clayton. "At all events, I recollect hearing their names connected in some story about meeting in a wood."

Errol started slightly, and it might have been fancy, but Fee certainly thought a deeper color came into his bronzed face. Mr. Clayton seemed to think the same, for he proceeded in his usual amiable manner.

"She and Erskine were awfully sweet on each other when we were staying at the vale. I dare say that will be a match. Lady Grace seems quite agreeable to it; but of course it's a shocking bad one for him."

"Francis," exclaimed his wife, "how you exaggerate! You know Winifred never cared for Lord Harold. She won't confess it, but I am quite sure he made her an offer, and that she refused him. He never will meet her if he can help it."

"Did you say that Lady Grace had adopted her, Mrs. Clayton?"

"Yes, more than a year ago; indeed, before I was married. She was in such sad trouble, poor girl. She was very fond of her father, and he was killed suddenly in a very shocking way. His horse ran away with him, and he was thrown out of the dogcart and killed on the spot. They thought she never would get over it, and Lady Grace took her home and nursed her as if she had been her own child. Old Sir Howard Chapman would have taken her, but she refused to go near them, because they would not acknowledge her father. She has promised to come and stay with me when we get back to town. You must come and meet her."

"I shall be very—happy," stammered Errol.

CHAPTER XI. Errol Hastings, riding toward the Bois de Boulogne, pondering much on what he had heard. He was surprised—he tried to believe he was pleased; but somehow or other his satisfaction was not very genuine. Miss Eyre had certainly made a fortunate step in his life; true she had lost a father whom she had loved, but then she had gained a friend, in Lady Grace Farquhar. She would get introduced into good society, and perhaps, but that was not a train of thought he cared to follow. Had not Erskine already been at her feet?

Mr. Hastings' soliloquy was cut short by seeing Col. d'Aguliar walking leisurely along the Champs Elysees. He drew rein instantly.

"d'Aguliar!" he cried.

"Hastings!" exclaimed the other, and they shook hands warmly.

"I thought you were back with your regiment," said Errol.

"I have a month more leave, and my brother asked me to join him here, and so I came."

A great many questions came into Errol's head that he would have liked to ask Col. d'Aguliar at once; but conversation is neither easy nor agreeable when carried on with a pedestrian from the attitude of a horse's back, particularly when your steed is restive and impatient.

"Come up to my hotel to-night, d'Aguliar, will you?" Mr. Hastings said.

"Very well; I suppose you are going to the ball at the Grand Hotel?"

"Yes; but not before twelve."

"Then I'll look in about ten."

And the two men parted just as Mrs. Clayton rolled past in her handsome carriage, drawn by high-stepping horses. She looked like a lovely little Esquimaux enveloped in her soft white furs, and she gave Mr. Hastings a bright smile, and the wave of a delicately gloved little hand. She had not observed Col. d'Aguliar.

CAN'T BE BLUFFED

HUNDREDS ARE DEAD.

Awful Explosion of Fire Damp in a Wyoming Mine.

Hanna, Wyo., July 2.—At 10:30 A. M. today an explosion of fire damp in mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific coal company snuffed out the lives of 236 men, injured scores of others and caused the destruction of a vast amount of property. The mine was not fired, as stated in the early reports, but the explosion was terrific, and completely shattered the timbers of the main shaft and numerous entrances, filled the workings with debris, and those of the miners that were not killed outright by the explosion were buried alive.

The explosion was heard for many miles around, and attracted people from the adjoining settlement. Huge timbers and railroad iron were hurled from the mouth of the shaft a distance of 200 and 300 feet.

Superintendent E. S. Brooks and a large force of men went to work with a will to remove the debris from the shaft and reach the entombed miners. Their progress into the mine was blocked by the foul gases, and several times they were forced to return to the surface.

All day the rescuing party worked, the force being increased from time to time by the arrival of ranchmen and others from near settlements, and by those of a relief train sent out from Rawlins, which arrived about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

About 1 o'clock this afternoon four men were taken out alive, and half an hour later they were followed by 42 others. Many were unconscious and had to be carried from the workings. Some were injured, but none fatally. Several are in a critical condition, but it is believed all will recover.

Two hundred and eighty-two men went down in the mine at 7 o'clock this morning, and up until a late hour tonight only 48 had been accounted for. Of this number two are dead.

Horses and scrapers were put at work hauling debris away from the shaft, and cars were pushed down the incline, loaded and hauled back up to the tipple and dumped. The work is progressing slowly, owing to the narrow space in which the rescuers are compelled to operate, but by daylight the mine should be opened sufficiently to permit of deep explorations and the rescue of the dead bodies.

Late tonight a party of rescuers reached four miles that were alive, and this caused hopes to arise in the breasts of the tired workers and the anxious women and children gathered about the shaft. It is a faint hope, however, for experienced mine bosses and miners say that when the imprisoned men are reached all will be found dead. Some of the miners that escaped say that they saw 20 dead bodies in entry 17.

They reported that many of the men were crazed by the explosion and ran hither and thither in the mine. Many of these could have escaped, but they laid down, buried their faces in their hands and gave up the fight.

Of the 243 dead about 175 were married and leave large families. About 100 were Finlanders, 50 were colored and the remainder were Americans.

BID ADIEU TO KIEL.

Americans Leave German Waters Amid Great Booming of Cannon.

Kiel, July 2.—The United States squadron sailed at 6 P. M. today from Kiel, all the German ships saluting and the Americans replying. The flagship Kearsarge, Tiogo and San Francisco will go through to Cattagat, stopping at Kallund Borg, Denmark, for two days. The Maclias will go by way of Kiel canal to Brunsbuttel and thence will rendezvous with the other American ships off Spithead. The squadron will arrive at Portsmouth July 7.

The salutes of the imperial standard were fired as the Hohenzollerns sailed for Eckernforde this morning to accompany the emperor and empress tonight, after the cruiser yacht race. The emperor started for Eckernforde on board the Meteor at 7 A. M. The empress was on the Iduna, which also started for Eckernforde.

The American naval officers attended a series of receptions on board the German warships this afternoon.

Slays Man in a Frenzy.

Anstin, Tex., July 2.—Frenzied by supposed wrongs, W. G. Hill, an ex-attache of the state controller's office, today entered the private office of State Controller R. M. Love and killed him by means of two bullets from a large caliber revolver. As Hill turned to flee, he was intercepted by Chief Clerk Stevens, of the department, who engaged him in a scuffle, during which Hill's revolver was accidentally exploded. The bullet entered Hill's abdomen causing a wound from which he died this afternoon.

Eight Killed in Tornado.

Wildor, Minn., July 2.—A tornado passed over this place tonight killing eight persons and doing much damage to property. The storm first struck the ranch of Dr. Weeter, destroying all the farm buildings. From here the tornado turned eastward, taking everything in a path of 40 rods wide and about eight miles long. At the farm of Daniel Gallagher all the buildings were demolished and Gallagher and his daughters killed.

China Sees Methods in Move.

Tien Tsien, July 2.—The local newspapers comment on the alleged significance of the gathering of the American, British and Japanese fleets in the northern part of the Gulf of Pechili. It is asserted that no less than 57 Russian warships of one sort and another are assembled at Port Arthur. The Japanese reserve officers who were on leave in North China are said to have been called home.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

WHERE ARE THE GUIDE BOARDS?

Law Says Road Supervisors Shall Place Them.

There is on section of the road law which is more imperative in its requirements and which is more disregarded than that which makes it a duty of road supervisors to erect guide boards at the forks of every highway. If the law were strictly followed no supervisor could draw his salary until he had erected guideboards wherever roads unite or cross, yet it is remarked by everyone who travels in the country that there are very few such boards in evidence. Newcomers in particular notice the absence of signboards. The law on the subject is section 30 of the latest edition of Oregon road laws and reads as follows:

Every supervisor shall erect and keep up at the forks of every highway and every crossing of public roads within his road district a guide or signboard, containing an inscription in legible letters directing the way and specifying the distance to the next town or public place situated on each road respectively; provided, that the road supervisors shall not be paid after submitting their report to the county court until they have shown to the satisfaction of the court that the provisions of this section have been complied with.

Harvest Prospects Excellent.

Linn County Crops Have Been Helped by the Showers.

Linn county farmers are elated over the excellent prospects for good crops. The damage done by the few days of hot weather early in June has been overcome by the cool weather and rains of the past week and the indications are that almost a full crop will be harvested.

Just now the rain is doing some damage to hay. A considerable amount of clover hay has been cut and will be injured some by the rain. A week's good weather would see a large portion of the hay crop safely harvested.

The fruit outlook is excellent, although the crop of apples and pears will be light, there will be an extraordinary yield of prunes, which constitute by far the greater portion of most orchards. The prune trees in this section will be loaded with all the fruit they can possibly bear. In some instances a part of the fruit will have to be shaken off to save the trees.

Lands in a Tangle.

A large stack of disapprovals of lieu land selections which lay on the desk of the state land agent a few days ago shows the wholesale manner in which the general land office and the department of the interior are turning down Oregon lieu lands. Thousands of acres which have been selected by the state and sold after approval by local land offices have been rejected recently by the general land office, and the end is not yet. Appeals are being taken to the secretary of the interior, but if that official adheres to his present policy the small chance of a change in the decisions. Beyond question the state land department is involved in the worst tangle ever known in its history, and it will be a long time before the kinks are straightened out.

Crook's Population Increases.

Crook county is getting its share of the newcomers into the state. Four hundred and forty-eight claims of different kinds have been proved up since July 1, 1902. Beginning about July 1 the land commissioner says that there will be made at his office here from 10 to 12 proofs a day until October 1. More than 1,000 settlers have come into the county in the last year and every stage from Sahniko to Primmville is crowded with people looking for land.

Scarcity in Brick and Masons.

The state board of capital building Commissioners has recently let contracts for three new brick buildings, an addition to the prison, a new industrial building at the reform school and a closed cottage at the asylum. As a consequence, there is immediate demand for a large quantity of brick and the prison brickyard will be kept working at its full capacity for nearly two months to supply them. The contractors all wish to begin work at once, and hence each wants brick first.

Few Reports Are Made.

There are 9,000 legally organized corporations in this state and only about 500 have filed their annual reports as required by the provisions of the Eddy corporation law. All that have not filed reports will be liable to a fine of \$100 if they continue in default for 20 days. Some very prominent corporations have failed to make their reports, and it seems almost certain that they have done this through neglect.

Articles of Incorporation Filed.

Only two new companies filed articles of incorporation in the office of the secretary of state last week. They were: Davis Lake Irrigation company, Roseburg \$25,000; Suito Lumber company, Linnton, \$25,000.

Baker Will Pay the Taxes.

Sheriff Colbath, of Marion county, has been notified that ex-State Printer Frank Baker will pay the taxes due on the state printing plant. The sheriff had advertised the sale of the property to take place this week.

ARID LAND NOT IN DEMAND.

Department of the Interior Approved Two Applications for Reclamation.

The rush which was made a year ago for land under the arid land law is not in evidence this year. Only a very few applications for arid land contracts have been received in the last six months, and all of these are for small tracts which will be occupied, reclaimed and cultivated by the applicants. Only two of the applications for large tracts have been approved by the department of the interior. One of these is the application of the Portland company, near the headwaters of the Portland, which is organized by W. E. Burke, who is the owner of a contract for the reclamation of about 8,000 acres northeast of Malheur lake. This tract is entirely included within the region recently withdrawn from entry by the department with a view to examining it to ascertain whether a suitable site exists for the construction of large irrigation works by the government.

The other application approved is that of the Pilot Butte development company, which has secured some 87,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes, from which stream the water for irrigating the land will be taken. This is the company organized by A. M. Drake. Among the applications pending are those of the Oregon development company for 78,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes; the Three Sisters company, for 27,600 acres between the Deschutes and the Cascade mountains, and the Harney valley improvement company, for 69,999 acres near Malheur lake, in Harney county. A part of the application of the Oregon development company has been rejected on the ground that the land is timbered and cannot be properly classed as arid land.

Mrs. Geer Made President.

The Oregon federation of women's clubs completed a most successful three days' session at Astoria last week by the election of the following officers to serve during the ensuing year: President, Mrs. T. Geer, Salem; first vice president, Mrs. Samuel Elmire, Astoria; second vice president, Mrs. A. Bernstein, Portland; recording secretary, Mrs. Hattie Young, Grants Pass; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Samuel White, Baker City; treasurer, Miss Olive Slater, La Grande; auditor, Mrs. Florence Sheldon, Eugene. The federation will meet at Baker City next year.

Horses Sent to Canada.

A shipment of 23 cars of horses of all sizes and kinds went from La Grande last week. They will go via Spokane to Cut Bank, Mont., and be driven from there to McLeod, Alberta. There are about 700 horses, and the purchase price is about \$21,000, of which \$17,000 was paid to the horse growers of Eastern Oregon. With freight and 20 per cent duty, the purchasers will be in about \$30,000, and will sell out to the local dealers of their section, and come again, should the venture pay. Prices ranged from \$10 to \$125 dollars.

Apportioning Money.

State Superintendent Ackerman has advised the various county school superintendents of the state that the state treasurer, in making the regular apportionment of school money this year, will strictly follow the provisions of the state law on the subject. The disbursement will be made August 1, and such counties as have not filed their report with the state superintendent before that date will not receive their share of the apportionment.

Christian Convention a Success.

The convention of the Christian churches of Oregon, held at Turner last week, was a great success. There were nearly 40 ministers in attendance and over 200 delegates and very many visitors.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70¢/74¢; valley, 77¢. Barley—Feed, \$20.00 per ton; brewing, \$21. Flour—Best grades, \$3.95 @ 4.30; graham \$3.45 @ 3.85. Milletstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$27; shorts, \$23; chop, \$18. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10 @ 1.15; gray, \$1.05 per cental. Hay—Timothy, \$20@21; clover, nominal; cheat, \$15@16 per ton. Potatoes—Best Bu-panks, 50¢@55¢ per sack; ordinary, 35¢@45¢ per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$3 @ 3.50 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10¢@11¢; young, 13¢@14¢; hens, 12¢; turkeys, live, 16¢@17¢; dressed, 20¢@22¢; ducks, \$7.00@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$6.00 @ 6.50. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 15¢ @ 16¢; Young America, 15¢@15½¢; factory prices, 1¢@1½¢ less. Butter—Fancy creamery, 20¢@22½¢ per pound; extras, 22¢; dairy, 20¢ @ 22½¢; store, 16¢@18.

Eggs—17¢@20¢ per dozen. Hops—Choice, 18¢@20¢ per pound. Wool—Valley, 12½¢@17¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@14¢; mohair, 35¢@37½¢. Beef—Gross, cows, 3¢@4¢, per pound; steers, 5¢@5½¢ dressed, 5¢ @ 5½¢. Veal—7¢@8¢. Mutton—Gross, \$3.50 per pound; dressed, 6¢@6½¢. Lambs—Gross, 4¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢@8¢. Hogs—Gross, 6¢@6½¢ per pound; dressed, 7¢@8¢.

RECEIVER FOR SHIP TRUST.

Newark, N. J., July 3.—Ex-Senator Smith, of New Jersey, was today appointed receiver for the shipbuilding company. In his decree appointing Ex-Senator James Smith, Jr., receiver, Judge Kirkpatrick orders that all the property of the different companies of whatsoever kind and nature, and wherever the same may be situated, shall be turned over immediately by the directors and officers of the insolvent company to the receiver.

There's a man out in the waiting room," said the great man's secretary. "I think he's a bum actor."

"Why do you think so?" "He says he's anxious to get an audience."—Philadelphia Press.

God is on the side of virtue; for whoever dreads punishment suffers it, and whoever deserves it dreads it.—Colton.

The total transactions of the clearing houses of the country last year were more than \$84,000,000,000.

CHAPTER X. Seventeen months have elapsed since Errol Hastings had stood on the deck of the Ebone, looking down into the Mediterranean, and thinking of the woman he had loved so deeply. She was not a woman, young though she was, only a fresh, young girl; and in her sweet, simple purity lay the charm she had for the man of the world.

He was staying for a month in Paris on the way home, and the brilliant society he mixed with was very pleasant after his long isolation.

To-night, too, he was to meet an old friend at the opera—a woman whom he had always liked, but who had never seemed so charming to him as she did now, with her pretty assumption of a matronhood. Her husband's assumption of age, certainly, and she knew it. Surely the continuance of an old friendship must be grateful to one who could not be very happy. And with a strong interest, when he last saw her as Fee Alton; but sadder, more pensive, and her beauty was enhanced by the magnificence of her jewelry.

"I am so glad you have come," Mrs. Clayton said, smiling in Errol's face, and yielding her hand to his gentle pressure—"I was so dull. None of my friends has been up to see me, and Mr. Clayton

"I thought Mr. Hastings knew Miss Hastings, I am delighted to see you. I was just feeling so frightfully bored and dull. I hope you bring a whole bucket of news."

"I must ask first after my old friend, Lady Marion," he answered. "I cannot forgive myself for my remissness in not doing so last night."

"Aunt is very well, thank you. I heard from her this morning. She says she is dreadfully dull without me, and is longing to see us back again."

"I almost wonder she does not remain with you."

"So she would, gladly, but Mr. Clayton won't let her. Of course, if we have a difference of opinion she takes my part, and he says something rude to her, and she is offended. It is not so, Francis?"

Mr. Clayton muttered something about an aunt-in-law being more than anybody bargained for.

"And as matrimony is altogether a commercial speculation," rejoined Fee, with a delightful smile, "you can't, of course, take more than you bargain for—can you, Mr. Hastings?"

Errol was by no means pleased at being made a third party to matrimonial differences, and made an effort to change the conversation.

"Have you seen anything of Lady Grace Farquhar lately, Mrs. Clayton?" he asked.