A ROMANCE OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PASSING OF THE YEARS.

Lali's recovery was not rapid. A change had come upon her. With that strange ride had gone the last strong flicker of the desire for savage line in her. She knew now the position she held towards her husband: that he had never loved her; that she was only an instrument for unworthy retaliation. So soon as she could speak after her accident, she told them that they must not write to him and tell him of it. She also made them prontise that they would give him no news of her at all, save that she was well. They could not refuse to promise; they felt she had the right to demand much more than that. They had begun to care for her for herself, and when the months went by, and one day there was a hush about her room, and anxiety, and then relief, in the faces of all, they came to care for her still more for

the sake of her child. As the weeks passed, the fair-haired child grew more and more like his father; but if Lali thought of her husband they never knew by anything she said, for she would not speak of him. She also made them promise that they would not write to him of the child's birth. Richard, with his sense of justice, and knowing how much the woman had been wronged, said that in all this she had done quite right; that Frank, if he had done his duty after marrying her, should have come with her. And because they all felt that Richard had been her best friend as well as their own, they called the child after him, This also was Lati's wish. Coiacident with her motherhood there came to Lali a new purpose. She had not lived with the Armours without absorbing some of their fine social sense and dignity. This, added to the native instinct of pride in her, gave her a new ambition. As hour by hour her child grew dear to her, so hour by hour her husband grew away from her. She schooled herself against him. At times she never forgive him, but she would prove to | ing had come. him that it was she who had made the mistake of her life in marrying him; that she had been wronged, not he; and that his sin would face him with reproach and punishment one day. Richard's prophecy was likely to come true: She would defeat very perfectly indeed Frank's intentions. After the child was born, as soon as she was able, she renewed her studies with Richard and Mrs. Armour. She read every morning for hours; she rode; she practised all those graceful arts of the toilet which belong to the social convention; she showed an unexpected faculty for singing, and practised it faithfully; and she begged Mrs. Armour and Marion to correct her at every point where correction seemed necessary. When the child was two years old,

Richard was left behind at Greyhope. For the first time in eighteen months he was alone with his old quiet duties and recreations. During that time he had not neglected his pensioners, -his poor, sick, halt, and blind,--but a deeper, larger interest had come into his life in the person of Lali. During all that time she had seldom been out of his sight, never out of his influence and tutelage. His days had been full, his every hour had been given a keen responsible interest. As if by tacit consent, every incident or development of Lali's life was influenced by his judgment and decision. He had been more to her than General Armour, Mrs. Armour, or Marion. Schooled as he was in all the ways of the world, he had at the same time a mind as senitive as a woman's, an indescribable gentleness, a persuasive temperament. Since, years before, he had withdrawn from the social from people against our will; we feel the finer qualities had gone into an indulgent the same towards us; for their world is in seclusion. He had once loved the world and the gay life of London, but some unto--ward event, coupled with a radical love of to meet them again, but they feel that we retirement, had sent him into years of isolation at Greyhope.

they all went to London, something against

Lali's personal feelings, but quite in accord

with what she felt her duty.

opened many an old spring of sensation and | --- " She paused. experience. Her shy dependency, her innocent inquisitiveness, had searched out stand you so far; but speak out." his remotest sympathies. In teaching her "I am not happy," she said. "I never he had himself been re-taught. Before she shall be happy. I have my child, and that came he had been satisfied with the quiet is all I have. I cannot go back to the life usefulness and studious ease of his life. But in which I was born: I must go on as I am, in her presence something of his old youth- a stranger among a strange people, pitied, fulness came back, some reflection of the suffered, cared for a little, -and that is all." ardent hopes of his young manhood. He did not notice the change in himself. tance with the child. The rest of the He only knew that his life was very full. family were making their preparations in-He read later at nights, he rose earlier in side the house. There was no one near to the morning. But, unconsciously to him- watch the singular little drama. self, he was undergoing a change. The "You should not say that," he added: more a man's sympathies and emotions are | "we all feel you to be one of us." only when one has withdrawn from the be one of them," she rejoined. touched in some vital corner in one's nature, For I know London pretty well." had grown, the universal quality of his ladies you know?" she said. in the parish had grown perfunctory, but yourself, sister of mine."

mere personal sympathy upon a man's look from the Hudson's Bay fort in the winter." and bearing. When, therefore, one "Well, you are missing a lot of enjoy- but when one morning he suddenly packed at Greyhope, himself excldued, was mirror much. The rest of us can appreciate Cavendish Square, the act might be conready to start for London, he had no what you would see there." morning; he scarcely was aware that he blushed like a girl fresh from school. The might if men and women grew younger ining as does not come a dozen times a year in on his arm affectionately. lawn sloped delightfully away to the flower- interesting."

ed embrasures of the park, and . Fant abundance of flowers met the eye and heer- Armours." ed the senses. While Richard loitered on | She moved beside him in a kind of a the steps with the child and its nurse, more dream. She had learned much since she little wi'ling to acknowledge it, his convic- | word, Wait. tion was not so impregnable as it had been.

the known to the unknown. She was leav- gentleman. Like Richard Joseph Armour ing the precincts of a life in which, socially, there is none," he added. she had been born again. Its sweetness "Whom do you think he looks like, and benign quietness had all worked upon Richard?" she asked. This was a question her nature and origin to change her. In she had never asked before since the child that it was an out-door life, full of fresh- was born. Whom the child looked like ness and open-air vigor, it was not antagon, every one knew; but within the past year istic to her past. Upon this sympathetic and a half Francis Armour's name had selbasis had been imposed the conditions of a dom been mentioned, and never in connecfine social decorum. The conditions must tion with the child. The child's mother still exist. But how would it be when she asked the question with a strange quietness. was withdrawn from this peaceful activity Richard answered it without hesitation. of nature and set down among "those "The child looks like Frank," he said. garish lights" in Cavendish Square and "As like him as can be." Piccadilly? She hardly knew to what she "I am glad," she said, " was going as yet. There had been a few "You are very deep this morning, Lali," come, but that could give her, after all, but "Frank will be pretty proud of the young-London life.

At this moment she was lingering over the scene before her. She was wondering with the naive wonder of an awakened mind. She had intended many times of late saying to Richard all the native gratitude she telt; yet somehow she had never thought she hated him. She felt she could | been able to say it. The moment of part-

"What are you thinking of, Richard?"

He started and turned towards her, "I hardly know," he answered. "My thoughts

were drifting.' "Richard," she said, abruptly, "I want to thank you."

"Thank me for what, Lali?" he question-

"To thank you, Richard, for everything,

-since I came, over three years ago." He broke out into a soft little laugh, then, with his old good-natured manner, caught her hand as he did the first night she came to Greyhope, patted it in a fatherly fashion, and said, "It is the wrong way about, Lali: I ought to be thanking you, not you me. Why, look, what a stupid old fogy I was then, toddling about the place with too much ting everything; and here you came in, gave me something to do, made the little 1 know of any use, and ran a pretty gold wire down speeches of gratitude to be made, they are mine, they are mine."

"Richard," she said, very quietly and gravely, "I owe you more than I can ever say-in English. You have taught me to speak in your tongue enough for all the tive tongue. And see," she added, with a sound if I were to tell you all I thought in the language of my people, -of my people, whom I shall never see again. Richard, can you understand what it must be to have a father whom one is never likely to see again ?-whom if one did see again, someanother hemisphere. We want to love them, and we love, remember, and are glad are unfamiliar, and, because we have grown different outwardly, they seem to miss some His tutelar relations with Lali had re- chord that used to ring. Richard, I-I

"Yes, Lali," he assented, "yes, I under-

The nurse had drawn away a little dis-

younger by ten years. Such is the effect of added, "and a corner of a looking glass got visible, or at least not obvious.

away, "is that why you like to look at

He had recovered himself. He laughed in his old hearty way, and said: "Yes, yes: why of course! Come let us see the boy," he added, taking her arm and hurrying her down the steps. "Come and let us see Richard Joseph, the pride of all the

excited than he knew, Lali came out and came to Greyhope, but she could not at stood beside him. At the moment Richard | that moment have told exactly why she was looking into the distance. He did not asked Richard the question that had conhear her when she came. She stood near fused him, nor did she know quite what lay him for a moment, and did not speak. Her behind the question. But every problem eyes followed the direction of his look, and which has life works itself out to its apidled tenderly with the prospect before her. pointed end, if fumbling human fingers do She did not even notice the child. The not meddle with it. Half the miseries of same thought was in the mind of both- this world are caused by forcing issues, in with a difference. Richard was wondering every problem of the affections, the emohow any one could choose to change the tions, and the soul. There is a law worksweet dignity of that rural life for the flar- ing with which there should be no tampering hurried delights of London and the sea- ing, lest in foolish interruption come only son. He had thought this a thousand confusion and disaster. Against every such times, and yet, though he would have been question there should be written the one

Richard Armour stooped over the child. Mrs. Francis Armour was stepping from | " A beauty," he said, " a perfect little

"I am glad," she said, "for all your sakes." social functions at Greyhope since she had Richard said, with a kind of helplessness. In her mind the wife of the man she had especially deer and bear. little idea of the swing and pressure of ster when he comes back. But he won't be prouder of him than I am."

"I know that," she said. "Won't you be lonely without the boy-and me, Rich-

Again the question went home. "Lonely? I should think I would," he said. "I should think I would. But then, you see, school is over, and the master stays behind and makes up the marks. You will find London a jollier master than I am, Lali. There'll be lots of shows, and plenty to do, and smart frocks, and no end of feeds and frolics; and that is more amusing than studying three hours a day with a dry old stick like Dick Armour. I tell you what, when Frank comes--"

She interrupted him. "Do not speak of that," she said. Then with a sudden burst of feeling, though her words were scarcely audible. "I owe you everything, Richard -everything that is good. I owe him noth-

ing, Richard, - nothing but what is bitter." "Hush, hush," he said : "you must not speak that way. Lali, I want to say to

At that moment General Armour, Mrs. Armour, and Marion appeared on the doorstep, and the carriage came wheeling up the drive. What Richard intended to say was time on my hands, reading a lot and forget- left unsaid. The chances were it never would be said.

"Well, well," said General Armour, calling down at them, "escort his imperial the rusty fiddle of life. If there are any highness to the chariot which awaits him, and then ho! for London town. Come along, my daughter," he said to Lali, "come up here and take the last whiff of Greyhope that you will have for six months. Dear, dear, what lunatics we all are to be sure ! Why, we're as happy as little birds in their usual things of life, but one can only speak nests out in the decent country, and yet we Thames to rush along with the world, in old enough to know better. Well, let me the child awkwardly in to Marion,-" and thing painful would happen? We grow away in you go, my daughter," he added, as he handed Lati in, pressing her hand with a

got in after them. Richard came to the side of the carriage and bade them all good-by one by one. Lali gave him her hand, but did not speak horses were whipped up, and in a moment Richard was left alone on the steps of the house. He stood for a time looking, then he turned to go into the house, but changed his mind, sat down, lit a cigar, and did not move from his seat until he was summoned to his lonely luncheon.

Nobody thought much of leaving Richard behind at Greyhope. It seemed the natural thing to do. But still he had not been left

The days and weeks went on. If Richard had been accounted eccentric before, there was far greater cause for the term now. Life dragged. Too much had been taken out of his life all at once; for, in the first place, the family had been drawn toactive, the less is he the philosopher. It is | "But all your world does not feel me to gether more during the trouble which Lali's advent has brought; then the child and its more personal influence of the emotions that | "We shall see about that, when you go mother, his pupil, were gone also. He wanone's philosophy may be trusted, One may up to town. You are a bit mordit, Lali. I dered about in a kind of vague unrest. The he interested in mankind and still be philo- don't wonder at your feeling a little shy; hardest thing in this world to get used to sophical, -may be, as it were, the priest but then you will simply carry things be- is the absence of a familiar footstep and the and confessor to all comers. But let one be fore you, -now you take my word for it! cheerful greeting of a familiar eye. And the man with no chick or child feels even and the high faultless impartiality is gone. | She held out her ungloved hands. "Do | the absence of his dog from the hearth-rug In proportion as Richard's interest in Lali | they compare with the white hands of the | when he returns from a journey or his day's work. It gives him a sense of strangesympathy had declined. Man is only man. 'They are about the finest hands I have ness and loss. But when it is the voice also.' Not that his benefactions as lord bountiful ever seen," he replied. "You can't see of a woman and the hand of a child that is missed, you can back no speculation the calm detail of his interest was not so | "I do not care very much to see myself." | upon that man's mood or mind or conduct. definite. He was the same, yet not the she said. "If I had not a maid I expect I | There is no influence like the influence of should look very shiftless, for I don't care | habit, and that is how, when the minds of He was not aware of any difference in to look in a mirror. My only mirror used people are at one, physical distances and himself. He did not know that he looked to be a stream of water in summer," she differences, no matter how great, are in-

Richard Armour was a sensible man bright May morning the family ment," he said, "if you do not use your a portmanteau and went up to town to sidered from two sides of the equation. If thought but that he would drop back into | She reached out and touched his arm. he came back to enter again into the social his old silent life as it was before Lali came | "Do you like to look at me?" she questioned | life which for so many years he had adjurand his brother's child was born. He was with a strange simple candor. For the first ed, it was not very sensible, because the not conscious that he was very restless that time in many a year, Richard Armour world never welcomes its deserters : it had got up two hours earlier than usual. question had come so suddenly, it had gone stead of older. If he came to see his family, At the breakfast-table he was cheerful and so quickly into a sensitive corner of his or because he hungered for his god-child, alert. After breakfast he amused himself nature, that he lost command of himself for or because—but we are hurrying the situain playing with the child till the carriage the instant, yet had little idea why the tion. It were wiser not to state the probwas brought around. It was such a morn- command was lost. He touched the fingers lem yet. The afternoon that he arrived at Cavendish Square all his family were out England. The sweet moist air blew from | "Like to look at you?—like to look at except his brother's wife. Lali was in the the meadows and up through the lime-trees you? Why, of course we all like to look at drawing-room, receiving a visitor who had with a warm insinuating gladness. The you. You are very fine and handsome-and asked for Mrs. Armour and Mrs. Francis Armour. The visitor was received by was growing a little reckless. "But then can clench its fist the moment it is horn.

"Richard," she said, drawing her hands Mrs. Francis Armour. The visitor knew that is a saw ge country. We are different that Mrs. Armour was not at home. She here. I suppose, however, your husband had by chance seen her and Marion in Bond told you of these things, so that you were Street, and was not seen by them. She not surprised. And when does he come? straightway got into her carriage and drove His stay is protracted. Let me see, how up to Cavendish Square, hoping to find long is it? Ah, yes, near four years." Mrs. Francis Armour at home. There had been house-parties at Greyhope since Lali she regretted afterwards, for she knew, though once an intimate friend of the family come back, I suppose."

had never been a guest. The visitor was Lady Haldwell, once Miss what was called Francis Armour's tragedy. Since Lali had come to town Lady Haldwell had seen her, but had never met her. She was not at heart wicked, but there are few women who can resist an opportunity of anatomizing and reckoning up the merits and demerits of a woman who has married an old lover. When that woman is in the position of Mrs. Francis Armour, the situation has an unusual piquancy and interest. Hence Lady Haldwell's journey of inquisition to Cavendish Square.

As Richard passed the drawing-room door to ascend the stairs, he recognized the

Once a sort of heathen as Mrs. Francis Armour had been, she still could grasp the situation with considerable clearness. There is nothing keener than one woman's instinct regarding another woman, where a man is concerned. Mrs. Francis Armour liness which, if it did not astonish her, gave her sufficient warning that matters were not, in this little comedy, to be all interupted her.

Thrown upon the mere resources of wit and language, Mrs. Francis Armour must have been at a disadvantage. For Lady Haldwell had a good gift of speech, a pretty talent for epithet, and no unnecessary tenderness. She bore Lali no malice. She was too decorous and high for that. discarded was a mere commonplace catastrophe, to be viewed without horror, may be with pity. She had heard the alien spoken well of by some people; others had seemed indignant that the Armours longer than the people of any other nation. should try to push "a red woman" into English society. Truth is, the Armours did not try at all to push her. For bowls. over three years they had let society talk. They had not entertained largely in Cavendish Square since Lali came, and those invited to Greyhope had a chance to refuse the invitations if they chose. Most people did not choose to decline them. But Lady Haldwell was not of that number. She when entertainment must be more general, of tails of the Russian sable. she and the Armours were prepared for social interchange.

chiefly ran. She was in a way sorry for large. Frank Armour, for she had been fond of him, after a fashion, always fonder of him lope which has just been patented. It is so with her fingers holding the scales of ad- without being torn. vantage; and Lord Haldwell dressed well, was immensely rich, and the title had a

When Mrs. Francis Armour met her with her strange, impressive dignity, she was the slightest bit confused, but not outwardly. She had not expected it. At first Lali did not know who her visitor was. She had not caught the name distinctly per annum for each person. from the servant.

gave her hand, "I am Lady Haldwell. As Miss Sherwood I was an old friend of your parent motive for the self-destruction."

eyes, -a peculiar touch as of burnished gold an effect of the light at a certain angle of is striving to excel Chicago's record. the lens. It gave for the instant an uncanfrom the depths of one's heart in one's na. scamper off to a smoky old city by the ny look to the face, almost something painful little smile, "how strange it would stead of sitting high and far away from it and had come. She knew the whole history of watching it go by. God bless my soul, I'm | the past, and it touched her in a tender corner. She knew she was had at an help you in, my dear,"-he added to his advantage. Before her was a woman perwife,-" and in you go, Marion, and in you | feetly trained in the fine social life to go, your imperial highness,"—he passed which she was born, whose equanimity was into it. In a few seconds the leaves sink to as regular as her features. Herself was by the bottom, and then the fluid, being ready nature a creature of impulse, of the woods for use, is carefully poured off and drunk. and streams and open life. The social conworld and become a recluse, many of his same towards them, but they cannot feel brusque fatherliness as he did so. He then vention had been engrafted. As yet she finer qualities had gone into an indulgant was used to thinking and speaking with all European consumption. It is feared that a candor. She was to have her training in few yards of the linked sweetness dissemi the charms of superficiality, but that was nate their aroma upon Coney Island's balmy to come; and when it came she would not be | air. a word. He called a cheerful adieu, the an unskilful apprentice. Perhaps the latent subtlety of her race came to help her natural candor at the moment. For she said at once, in a slow, quiet tone,-

"I never heard my husband speak of you. Will you sit down ?" "And Mrs. Armour and Marion are not in ?-No, I suppose your husband did not

speak much of his old friends." The attack was studied and cruel. But Lady Haldwell had been stung by Mrs. alone-entirely alone-for three years or Armour's remark, and it piqued her that this was possible.

"Oh, yes, he spoke of some of his friends, but not of you."

"Indeed! That is strange." Armour, quietly.

by some chance--" anticipate the pleasure of our meeting." | through it, that he might see how the wheat Lady Haldwell was surprised. She had fell. not expected this cleverness. They talked | A recent cyclone in Iowa followed the casually for a little time, the visitor trying route of a railroad for many miles. Delibin vain to delicately give the conversation | eration on this fact has convinced a Keckuk

a personal turn. At last, a little foolishly, | theorist that it is possible to conduct all the she grew bolder, with a needless selfishness. | cyclones out into the open sections of the "So old a friend of your husband as I am, country, where they can do little harm, by I am hopeful you and I may be friends having railroads convenient for them to

Mrs. Armour saw the move. "You are very kind," she said, conventionally, and phia have been denied water during the offered a cup of tea.

The point was veiled in a vague tone, but | beef, as the animals are sold by weight. Mrs. Armour understood. Her reply was not wanting. "Any one who has been a friend to my husband has, naturally, claims upon me."

chafed. There was a subtlety in the woman lin, of the jarvey. before her, not to be reckoned with lightly. "And if an enemy ?" she said, smiling. A strange smile also flickered across Mrs. Armour's face, as she said, "If an enemy of my husband called, and was penitent, I

should-offer her tea, no doubt." "That is, in this country; but in your own country, which, I believe, is different' what would you do?" Mrs. Armour looked steadily and coldly

into her visitor's eyes. "In my country enemies do not compel us to be polite."

Here she became altogether reckless, which had come there to live, but this visitor, after all, what was due herself. "He will

Lady Haldwell was no coward, else she had hesitated before speaking in that way Julia Sherwood, who had made possible before this woman, in whose blood was the wildness of the heroical north. Perhaps she guessed the passion in Lali's breast, perhaps not. In any case she would have said what she listed at the moment.

Wild as were the passions in Lali's breast, she thought on the instant of her child, of what Richard Armour would say; for he had often talked to her about not showing her emotions and passions, had told her that violence of all kinds was not wise cr proper. Her fingers ached to grasp this beautiful exasperating woman by the throat. But after an effort at calmness she remained still and silent, looking at her visitor with a scornful dignity. Lady Haldwell presently rose, -she could not endure the furnace of that look, -and said good-by. She turned towards the door. Mrs Armour remained immovable. At that instant, however, some one stepped from behind a large screen just inside the door. It was Richard Armour. received Lady Haldwell with a quiet state- He was pale, and on his face was a sternness the like of which this and perhaps only one other woman had ever seen on him. Me

## (TO BE CONTINUED).

## OURIOUS FACTS.

Singular Incidents and Happenings in the Routine of Life.

Game is plentiful in Maine this season

A Kansas City man has a step-son who is ten years older than himself.

Statistics show that the Chinese live To avoid paying a license, a man in Washington sold beer as soup, in large

In proportion to its size, the horse has a smaller stomach than any other quadruped.

A yawn caused William Miller, of Shannondale, Ind., to stretch his lips so far apart that he dislocated his jaw.

A fur cloak on exhibition at the World'r had never een invited. But now in town, | Fair is worth \$17,500. It is made entirely

The Mayor of Shepherdstown, W. Va., executes the law impartially. He recently Behind Lady Haldwell's visits curiosity fined himself for letting his cow run at Lovers will welcome a new safety enve-

than of Lord Haldwell. She had married pasted and folded that it cannot be opened The house of A. L. Beckwith, in Schley County, Ga., during a recent thunder-storm,

was struck by lightning five different times in five places. The greatest potato-eaters are the people of Germany and Belgium. Their consumption of this vegetable averages 1,000 pounds

A Boston reporter, in his comments on a Presently Lady Haldwell said, as Lali suicide in that city, wrote: "As the man was unmarried, there is absolutely no ap-

In seven months of this year 120 persons in A scornful glitter came into Mrs. Armour's Chicago have lost their lives at railroad crossings. In Brooklyn the deadly trolley At the autumn maneuvers of the German

Army, the sharpshooters will ride behind the cavalry, in steel-clad, bullet-proof vehicles, armed with the new small caliber rifles, charged with smokeless powder.

The Chinese make tea by pouring boiling water into a cup, and dropping the tea leaves

In Belford, N.J., there is a factory where horses are converted into sausages, for

A case of monumental cheek was lately displayed by C.A. Collins, a San Francisco burglar. After despoiling a house of nearly everything it contained, furniture, clothing, etc.: and taking two days at the job, during the absence of the family, he actually tried to mortage the house.

Nearly all the farm work in Paraguay is done by women, while the men lounge around, play cards, and smoke. Farming is the chief industry of that country, and the men are so happy and indolent that they view with alarm any enterprise which would call for masculine labor.

In details which no one but a critical ob-"There was no necessity," said Mrs. server would be apt to note, Meissonier was very careful. Before painting one of his "Of discussing me? I suppose not. But | historic pictures, the scene of which is in a wheat field, he actually bought a wheat "It was just as well, perhaps, not to field, and had a squadron of cavalry gallop

travel on.

Cattle shipped from Chicago to Philadelwhole trip. On their arrival in the Quaker Lady Haldwell now ventured unwisely. City, just before being sold they are given She was nettled at the other's self-posses- all the water they can drink, and excessive sion. "But, then, in a way I have been | thirst makes them absorb about sixty pounds your friend for a long time, Mrs. Armour." of the fluid. This the purchaser buys as

## The Others Were Busy.

"What are those three sculptured figures that surmount the post-office!" asked a "Lady Haldwell, in spite of herself, visitor riding through Sackville street, Dub-"Thim three figures are stuck up there

to show it's the post-office."

"But why, and who are they?" The jarvey, resolved not to exhibit his ignorance, exclaimed :-

"Thim three's the Twelve Apostles!" "Those three the --- ?"

"Av course; sure you wouldn't have them all out together; the rest is inside sortin' the letters !"

Some men are thought sagacious merely "By calling on you?" Lady Haldwell on account of their avarice; whereas a child