

# Time Heals Most Wounds

## A Tale of Love and Disappointment

### CHAPTER VIII.

Lord Harecastle determined that he would not give his father a chance of seeing Joel, so he went straightway to look for that gentleman, whom he eventually discovered in the billiard room. He was playing a game with Rebekah, and Harecastle regarded her with increased interest. However indifferent a man may be to a woman, the fact that there may be a possibility of marriage—however remote—between them, must compel him to examine her with some degree of curiosity.

As a result of his scrutiny Harecastle was fain to admit that she would adorn any man's life; and he realized that he would miss her friendship should Fate render a severance necessary. There was something bright and winning in her manner that, coupled with a beauty that was almost cold, made a contrast that was fascinating and unusual. Then Nature had gifted her with insight, and she was able to adapt herself in a way that rendered her companionship alluring. The mere fact that Harecastle was capable of analyzing her in so cold-blooded a manner proved conclusively that he was not enamored of her. For a moment their eyes met, and a flush came to her cheeks. He, too, became hot, but it was with shame at the memory of his father's words, "Rebekah can be had for the asking."

He noticed the graceful curves of her figure as she leaned over the table to make a stroke, and unconsciously he warmed towards her. In the best of men, vanity plays no inconsiderable part.

But the memory of Ethel returned to him, and he waited patiently for the game to terminate. His patience was at last rewarded, and Joel threw down his cue with a cry of triumph.

"Game, Rebekah. You can't beat your old father yet, but you play an uncommonly good game for a girl. Doesn't she, Harecastle?"

"Yes. Not brilliant but safe, unlike the usual woman player," Harecastle replied.

His praise, though qualified, evidently caused her pleasure, but she made no remark.

"Can I have a word with you, Mr. Josephs?"

"Certainly," Joel replied briskly. "Run along, child. What is it?" he asked when she had left the room.

"How much does my father owe you?" he asked, bluntly.

Joel did not immediately reply, but gave a sharp look at his questioner. He could not make up his mind as to what was the best policy. With most men he would have admitted the debt, and reckoned upon it as a lever which would work in the direction he wished, namely, towards the marriage, but with Harecastle he did not think that it would have that effect.

"Our financial relations are rather complicated," he began slowly.

"Straighten them out, Mr. Josephs. They say you have a genius for finance, so it should be a simple matter. The Earl has told me that you have lent him twenty-five thousand pounds. Is that all?"

"The old fool!" Joel muttered to himself. "What reason had he for telling his son. There is now nothing else to be done but to admit it."

"Roughly I think the amount you mention is correct. But there is nothing to worry about. I am quite content with my security."

"May I ask the nature of the security?" Harecastle said incisively.

Joel was visibly disturbed at his manner. Surely the Earl could not have been so foolish as to tell his son everything.

"I am not at liberty to say. It is sufficient that both your father and I are satisfied."

"I should prefer frankness, Mr. Josephs. I may say that I have some idea of the nature of the security in question. I am not going to particularize more clearly, but in my opinion the whole transaction is discreditable both to my father and yourself," Harecastle said with determination.

"What do you mean?" Joel said fiercely.

"I am not speaking solely as it affects the other person's view. I do not mean to say that I myself like the idea of my father having made me a subject of a financial

bargain, but then I am a man. I tell you at once that you will be wise to dismiss from your mind the plan which you and my father have devised."

Joel noticed that he was on delicate ground. The position taken up by Lord Harecastle naturally caused him great disappointment, but even the plain statement that he had just heard did not move him in the slightest degree. It rather stimulated him for the fight, and he decided that he must on no account lose command of himself.

"We will leave the subject, Harecastle. If I have made a mistake I regret it, but believe me I have been acting for the best throughout."

"That may be so, Mr. Josephs. There is one other thing I must say. On no account must you lend my father any more money. I am led to believe that he will ask you for a further twenty-five thousand pounds."

This was indeed news to Joel, and he at once scented a mystery. He believed the statement of the Earl that the cheque he had given would cover his liabilities. For what reason then could he want another such sum? This was clearly a matter that must be looked into at the first possible moment.

"You must allow me to act at my discretion, but you may take it that you will not be concerned—directly or indirectly—with any of my financial dealings with your father. More you cannot ask in reason."

"You do not quite appreciate my point of view. I am determined to have a hand in my father's affairs. In fact, I propose at once to clear off all his debts, and of course yours will be one of the first to be dealt with."

"How will you raise the money?" Joel asked calmly, but he was staggered at the statement.

"We shall cut off the entail and mortgage, or realize some of our estates."

"The Earl will never consent to that course," Joel cried hastily. "And it would be madness to do it. Land is cheap, and it would mean a great sacrifice."

"That cannot be helped. I will have things straight."

"I must speak plainly to you, Harecastle. I have your interests at heart. As I told you the other day, I like you personally. Dismiss from your mind any idea of there having been a bargain between your father and myself. He may have imagined so, but there was nothing farther from my thoughts. I, too, have some pride, but where Rebekah's happiness is concerned I sink it willingly. Is there no chance of you two young people hitting it off?"

Joel leaned forward anxiously. It was clear that he was in earnest, and Harecastle respected him the more now that he had unmasked his battery.

"I am honestly flattered at what you suggest, but it is quite impossible."

They stared steadily at one another. Joel quickly saw that there was present a cold determination that would be difficult to meet, and just for the moment he lost his temper.

"And what of yourself, Lord Harecastle? With your rigid honor and your upright—what of yourself that would constantly hang by the side of a young girl, making love to her insidiously. Stealing her heart from her, and then quietly saying that you mean nothing. Do you call it a straightforward action?"

"You are utterly mistaken," Harecastle blazed forth hotly. "I have never said a word to Miss Josephs that you might not have heard."

"There was no need for words. Looks and manner are often more powerful weapons, and they do not blind. But, by Heaven, I will force you to marry my daughter," he wound up fiercely.

A look of cold disdain was Harecastle's only reply, and Joel at once knew that he had taken a false step. With an effort he curbed his rage, but it smouldered although hidden. He assumed a calm suave manner, but to those who knew him it told of a blazing fire beneath.

"Forgive me. I am afraid I lost control of myself. You must know that I love my daughter dearly, and that must be my excuse."

"Your apology is accepted, Mr. Josephs. I think we had better close this interview," Harecastle replied coldly.

Joel watched him leave the room, with a cool calculating stare that contained a threat. Not for one moment did he waver in his conclusion that Harecastle had once been in love with Rebekah, and that he had paid her a lover's attentions.

His thoughts returned to the statement he had just heard to the effect that it was the Earl's intention to borrow another large sum of money. There must be a mystery and he would solve it.

"I've got it," he cried exultingly. "That man Ackroyd is the key. The Earl was taken suddenly ill after his call. I must follow this up and quickly, but first to see the Earl."

But Rebekah came in quietly with a look of disappointment when she saw that her father was alone.

"Lord Harecastle has gone?"

"Yes, dear," Joel rejoined listlessly. "Do you know, father, there is something strange in his manner. Is he in trouble? He looks so worried."

"There is a little trouble. The Earl is ill."

"Yes, but it is not that. It is something deeper. It is not money, is it?"

"So immaculate a man as he does not get into debt," he replied, and was unable to suppress the sneer from his voice.

"That is not like you, dear. Do you know what is the matter?" she asked with a wistful look.

"Do you really love this man? Is your heart set on him?" he asked with sudden energy.

"I don't like talking about it, father," she replied with a blush. "But if he does not love me, I think my heart will break. But then I shall not be the first woman to suffer for love's sake. Even if he marries another, I shall be proud to have loved him."

"I think he will love you, dear. Don't despair. I shall live to see my daughter a countess," he said with confidence.

Joel then went up to the Earl's room, and was permitted to enter. The Earl received him with welcome.

"Have you seen Harecastle?" he asked eagerly.

"Yes," Joel replied gravely. "What did he say?" he asked, and his manner was expressive of disappointment that he had not been able to forestall his son.

"He had a good deal to say. Altogether I think you have made a mess of things. He talks of cutting off the entail and paying your debts, mine among them—"

"That he shall never do. It is impossible without my consent."

"And of course you will not give it?"

"Naturally not. I want you to understand that I am doing everything I can to push forward his marriage, but unfortunately he does not seem to be willing to consent."

"So I rather gathered, when we discussed the matter. Neither of us spoke openly, but we understood one another. The question is, what can we do to bring pressure upon him?" Joel said reflectively.

"It is difficult. He is not easy to lead and it is almost impossible to drive him."

"By the by, Wolverholme, have you rid yourself of those debts?" Joel asked suddenly.

The Earl was surprised at the question, and his manner became embarrassed, and this was not lessened by the keenness of Mr. Joseph's look.

"Not quite. Joel: in fact, I wanted to speak to you about it," he began nervously.

Joel did not help him out, but waited for him to continue.

"I suddenly discovered a liability; a large one, that I had overlooked. It is some years old, and I had ceased to count on it as a debt."

"What about the Statutes of Limitation?"

"I am afraid they would not apply in this case. It had to be paid and paid immediately. Can I further trespass on your generosity?"

"You remember our agreement. It was upon the prospects of this marriage that I lent you the twenty-five thousand. Do you still think my security is good?"

"I can only say that I will do my utmost to further it. It is very trying, Joel. Here am I as weak as a rat, and I have to contend with an array of troubles that would frighten a strong man."

"I am very sorry for you, Lord Wolverholme, but I do not see my way clear to do what you ask. For one thing, you are hiding something from me, and I don't like mysteries. Be frank and I will think what I can do."

"I can tell you no more. The money is nothing to you. Unless I get it immediately I shall be forced

to consider Harecastle's suggestion. I should hate doing it, but I must have relief."

"What has Ackroyd to do with you?" Joel suddenly demanded, and the Earl's ashen face and trembling lips told him that he had struck home.

"Nothing, nothing at all," the Earl said, and his voice was broken. "How much do you want?"

"Another twenty-five thousand," the Earl said, and his anxious eyes tried to fathom the Jew's thoughts. "It is a large sum of money," Joel said reflectively.

It may have been a latent cruel taint in his character that caused the speech, for Joel had quite decided to let the Earl have the money. The amount meant nothing to him, and it did not suit his purpose to allow the entail to be cut.

"Give me the bills. It can make the excuse that you are ill and that I am looking into matters for you. I will settle them all, and let you have a cheque for five thousand. I suppose you are in need of ready money?"

"You are very good, Joel. I do hope that everything will go smoothly. I have had just about as much worry as I can stand. By the by, there is no need to tell Harecastle of this last loan."

"Not unless it becomes necessary, but you will find that he will want to know about things. That young man has a mind of his own, and will get his own way."

Joel was pleased at the result of the interview. He felt sure that there was a mystery, and that it lay with Ackroyd. He would have no great difficulty in extracting his secret from that gentleman, and determined to run up to town on the following day.

The Earl too was satisfied, for his financial affairs would soon be straight. Suddenly he remembered the cypher papers. At his interview with Ackroyd he had placed them in the breast pocket of his coat. Since then he had been in bed and they had rested there. He would feel safer when they were destroyed.

He rang the bell for his valet. "Give me the coat I last wore." The servant quickly produced it from his dressing-room.

"You can go," he said shortly. His hand groped in the pocket. A blank look appeared on his face and he fell back on the bed. The cypher letters had disappeared.

(To be continued.)

### SENTENCE SERMONS

Practice is prayer. Piety never parades itself. The self-satisfied need to be short sighted.

There are no wolves in the empty sheepfold.

A man may be measured by the things he seeks.

You cannot hoodwink heaven with a holy aspect.

Love gives no license to dispense with courtesy.

They who walk with God do not walk away from men.

He can bear a great trust who can bear little trials.

It is better to lose your joys than to escape his sorrows.

It is slow work getting rich in grace at a penny a week.

A veneer of religiosity has none of the virtues of religion.

It takes less than two half truths to make a full-sized lie.

Men are not drawn to the church by using the creed as a club.

It's a poor religion that lets the prayer meeting hide the poor.

Heaven does not step to consult the vogue before it picks out a man.

You cannot blame a bag of wind for steering clear of pointed facts.

Habit may be one of our best allies as well as one of our worst enemies.

Half an evil eye can see more iniquity than the whole of an innocent one.

A man must be short on character when he has to assert himself to clothes.

The man who hates to see another happy is certain safe from catching it himself.

It may be a greater thing to lift up another's heart than it would be to carry his load.

The men who have turned the world have never been too great to touch it with their hands.

Some people never pray "forgive us our debts," except when the offering beam taken.

It's a queer mind that persuades itself it is working for the Lord when it is only working for the church.

The great trouble with many a church is that it is more anxious about the steam that runs to its whistle than about that which runs the works.

Borrowing money is synonymous with borrowing trouble.

# ON THE FARM

## FEEDING MILCH COWS.

Milch cows require different feed than beef cattle. You should not feed much fat forming foods as your cows would lay on fat instead of producing milk. Feed more silage or roots in the winter, says Dr. David Roberts.

Daily feed for a thousand pound cow: 40 pounds of silage, 7 pounds of clover hay, 8 pounds of grain, the cows that are soon to freshen should be fed on succulent feed, such as silage or roots, bran, linseed meal with a little oats. Keep the bowels open and do not feed before or after calving.

After calving, give bran, mashes and warm the drinking water for a few days. Allow the calf to suck for about two days and then feed the mothers milk from a pail for about two weeks, about three quarts twice a day; after that reduce it with skim milk or warm water so that at the end of the fourth week the calf will be getting all skim milk or half whole milk and half warm water with some reliable stock tonic to aid digestion. Keep a supply of good clover or alfalfa hay within reach and also some ground oats, with a little linseed meal mixed with it.

After the calf eats the ground feed, gradually get him used to eating whole oats, as this is the best feed for him up to six months old. The heifers should not be bred until fifteen or eighteen months old.

## FEMININE DAIRY WISDOM.

No more sleeping out on the ground now for the cows. It is too cold and shrinkage would follow, and perhaps inflammation of udders and garget.

Cows that are freshly in milk are more susceptible to injury than those that have milked all summer.

If the herd is cared for intelligently now there should be no change in the milk flow when stabling becomes necessary.

The stables must be clean, light and warm. Comfort is the keynote to success in handling the dairy herd. Without comfort the milk flow will dwindle.

Water should be supplied in the stable, so that each cow will be sure to have a full supply.

Do not change too suddenly to dry feed. Roots and ensilage will furnish succulence.

The grain fed will depend upon what is grown on the farm, cost, etc. However, there is no economy in stinting the feed.

The cow's mission in life is to give milk—good, pure, milk. She cannot do it out of nothing.

Watch the faces of your cows. The ears especially tell much about the health of an animal. Drooping ears, drooping spirits.

Few of us realize how much we lose in the course of the year in the little particles of butter that drain off with the buttermilk. A little strainer to hang under the hole when drawing off the buttermilk often proves an eye opener to us. Save the fragments.

## SILAGE FOR HOGS.

A Michigan farmer claims that silage can be used to advantage to take the place of grass in the fall to carry over lightweight hogs that are rushed to market in large numbers when a dry season compels hog-men to sell animals that are not of a marketable size or condition. The pigs are said to thrive and make cheap gains, and be in condition to respond to liberal grain feeding later on, when prices have regained a normal figure.

## COMPULSORY VOTING.

Under the Belgian law unmarried men over twenty-five have one vote, married men and widowers with families have two votes, and priests and other persons of position and education have three votes. Severe penalties are imposed on those who fail to vote.

## LAUNCHING CUSTOM.

When a vessel is about to be launched in Japan, a large cage, filled with birds, is usually hung over the bow. As the ship glides into the water the birds are released. It is believed that the birds bring good luck to the ship when she begins her life on the sea.

Perhaps nothing is calculated to worry a pessimist more than the noise made by people who shout for joy.