

# RUTHVEN'S WARD



CHAPTER I  
MRS. RUTHVEN was what her lady friends termed "very eccentric."

It is their eyes the chief part of his eccentricity lay in the fact of his being a bachelor and perfectly contented with the position. But that was not all. He said such awful things. He was a dramatist and cynic. His plays were the most successful of the time, but he would never allow any one to mention them to him, far less compliment him upon their popularity. They were all full of the most sentimental love scenes, and airy, graceful humor, yet Mr. Ruthven, if ever he mentioned the tender passion personally, sneered at it as a chimera of the poet's and novelist's brain—a monstrous impossibility, not to be found in this world.

Quiet, steady going husbands did not like Ruthven to associate with their wives. They were not in the least afraid of his upsetting their morality, far from it; he had never been known to flirt in his life, but they were afraid of his destroying their faith in the existence of truth and virtue.

It is his own word were to be believed, he did not credit mankind with any feelings beyond those of self-gratification and aggrandizement. He regarded love and laughter at matrimony, except as a convenient contract for such parties as desired to benefit by their mutual possessions—a temptation he always ended by saying he thanked the Lord he had never preserved against. But if Mr. Ruthven did not care for marriage, neither did he set much store by riches. He was very liberal with what he earned—no inconsiderable amount—and openly pitied those who considered it incumbent upon them to save. He could not see the fun of planting fig trees for the next generation to sit under. Yet he did not spend his money on his own home, which was a very modest one, situated in an old-fashioned parlor of Kensington. There he lived, in a tiny house, waited on by an ancient parlid housekeeper—one of those inconvenient legacies which a man sometimes finds himself compelled to accept against his will, and does not know how to get rid of afterward without being called a brute.

Mr. Garrett had not much trouble, however, with her master, who always spent his evenings at his club. There he might be found, night after night, the center of a circle of admiring friends, for Ruthven, though so unpopular with the women—in consequence of an unpleasant habit he had contracted by saying what he meant—was an immense favorite with the men, who heard no such caustic, witty, stinging remarks from any other member of the Cannibal Club. With the other sex Ruthven became hard, philosophical, sometimes almost uncomplimentary, but his own knew him as he really was—thoroughly good-hearted, honest, and true; hating vice, and with a very tender spot somewhere, waiting for the right hand to probe and reveal. Another great cause for offense with the ladies against Ruthven was, that he never went to their dinner parties, and, worse still, he never answered their letters.

Many and many a fair woman had angled for that tough old heart of his in vain, for a popular dramatist, and one of the cleverest men in town, was not a parti to be let slip without an effort. Yet he coveted, cunning fish swim by them, flashing his cold, glittering scales in the sun, uncaptured and unlikely to be so. The married women said he was a bear, the unmarried ones that he was a fool, but Ruthven cared not what they said. In appearance he was decidedly good-looking. His earnest, deep soul eyes were set in a face whose features betokened three grand qualities—decision, perspicuity, and humor; but as his short sight compelled him always to wear a pair of double glasses, few people knew how much tenderness beamed in his glance and was mixed with the rest of his disposition. His age was about five-and-thirty, but his hair was already plentifully sprinkled with gray. He gave strangers more the idea of being a disappointed and soured man than anything else, and the ladies were not slow to attribute his misanthropic temperament to his having been jilted by one of themselves; but they were wrong. Ruthven had never been jilted. His cynicism was due to the fact that he did not believe in that which he had never experienced, and the love passages which issued from his pen were drawn, as we draw pictures of heaven, from his imagination only.

If a lady, by any chance, induced Ruthven to appear at an evening party, she was always more elated at her success than the event seemed to warrant; for he was generally either brusque or silent whilst there, and invariably withdrew himself to join his beloved

Cannibals as soon as it ever was possible to do so. And his hostess, could she have looked in upon him afterward, would have been surprised and disgusted to find how agreeable and talkative he could become directly he entered his proper element and felt himself to be at home. Just as those of his acquaintances, who thought him "so terribly sarcastic" that they hardly dare open their mouths in his presence, would have been amazed to hear Mrs. Garrett scold him for letting his breakfast grow cold whilst he lay in bed, or for remaining in damp boots with his feet upon one of the best chairs whilst he discoursed eloquently on all the cardinal virtues for the benefit of his nephew, young Hamilton Shore. That young Hamilton Shore was Mr. Ruthven's nephew every one had been told, and some believed, but no one knew how he came to be so—Ruthven's antecedents and family history being alike unknown in the world of London. The majority of his acquaintances, according to the usual charity displayed by those who benefit by all we have to give them, and make the worst of everything we do in return—were bold enough to hint there was a closer connection between Ruthven and his protégé than he chose to confess; and never took the trouble to contradict them. He had said that Hamilton Shore was his nephew, and what society chose to believe on the subject was a matter of supreme indifference to him.

The lad was now sixteen, and, having shown a disposition to enter the law, had been removed from the public school and was working under a tutor somewhere in the vicinity of his uncle's house. Except at breakfast time he and Ruthven saw but little of each other; but he was under the special charge of Mrs. Garrett, who gave him his supper when he returned home at an evening, and generally looked after him.

## Paralysis Follows Bloodlessness and Nervous Prostration.

### A PATIENT WOMAN AFFLICTED FOR YEARS.

She Tells How at Last She Was Permanently Cured.

From the Press, New York City.

For more than fifteen years, Mrs. A. Mather, who lives at No. 43 East One-hundred-and-twelfth Street, New York, was a sufferer from anemia, which, in spite of the treatment of physicians, gradually developed into nervous prostration until finally marked symptoms of paralysis set in. Mrs. Mather gladly gave the reporter her experience.

"For many years," Mrs. Mather said, "I was a constant sufferer from nervousness. It was about fifteen years ago that my condition began to grow worse. Soon I became so affected that I was prostrated and, until about two years ago, was a part of the time unable to get up from bed. I employed several physicians from time to time, my bills at the drug store for prescriptions, sometimes amounting to as much as \$50 a month, but all the doctors did for me did not seem to help me at all. My blood became greatly impoverished and after years of suffering I was threatened with paralysis.

"When I walked I could scarcely drag my feet along and at times my knees would give away so that I would almost fall down. Feeling that doctors could not help me I had little hope of recovery, until one day I read in a newspaper how a person, afflicted almost the same as I was, had been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I purchased a box and began taking the pills. The first effect of this box pleased me so much that I bought another. Before I had taken all the pills in the first box I began to experience relief and, after the third box had been used, I was practically cured. My blood was really surprising what a speedy and pronounced effect the medicine had upon me.

"I always keep Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the house now, and when I feel any symptoms of nervousness and that they give me certain relief.

Mrs. Mather's daughter, Miss Anna, corroborated her mother's account, and told how she herself had been cured of chronic indigestion by these pills; and how, too, her cousin had been cured of anemia.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppression, irregularities and all forms of weakness. They build up the blood, and restore the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (never in loose bulk) at 50c a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists, or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Med. Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

### Mexico's Defensive Forces.

The regular army of Mexico comprises 27,000 men of all arms, including a police of about 2,000 men and a gendarmerie of 250. The navy consists of two small unarmored vessels and three gun boats. The annual expenditure on account of army and navy is from \$12,500,000 to \$15,000,000.

Those who love God cannot hate men.



### Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

### BICYCLING WITHOUT LEGS.

Thomas Lad Pedals with His Stumps a Mile Under Five Minutes.

Ever since wheeling became a craze the human race, big and little, high and low, powerful and weak, has thought it no dishonor to be found in scanty attire, pushing pedals. There seems to be no limit to the mad, and the result has been no end of freaks and freakings. Now, however, the greatest of all freaks makes its appearance. It is a bicycle whose rider has no legs and only one arm. The rider is Arthur Roadhouse, a boy resident of De Kalb, Ill. He is thirteen years old, bright and as active as his physical imperfections, which came from birth, will allow. Like most cripples, his mind is precocious. The bicycling craze left him in body motionless and helpless then ever. A neighboring bicycle manufacturer agreed to make a wheel which the boy could ride, and he did so. His one hand guides the handle bar and bars of steel lead up from the pedals to the short stumps which he has known as legs. Strange to say, he experienced very little trouble in balancing the machine. He began riding about three weeks ago, and after three or four hours' instruction and practice he made a half mile on a track in less than three minutes. He can now do a mile in less than five minutes, and expects to reduce this time to four minutes. He has already made a half mile in 2m. 10s. He has learned to dismount, and can handle his wheel readily and without assistance. He has to be assisted, though, when he mounts, but he expects soon to be able to do this alone.

De Kalb seems to have more than her share of bicycle riding cripples. A year ago one of the young women of the town had a leg taken off by the cars. She now rides a bicycle very creditably, it is said.

### Remember!

You are wasting money when you buy cheap binding instead of the best. Remember there is no "just as good" when the merchant urges something else for

**S.H. & M.**  
REGISTERED TRADE MARK

Bias Velvetten Skirt Binding.  
Look for "S. H. & M." on the Label, and take no other.

If your dealer will not supply you we will.

Send for samples showing labels and materials, to the S. H. & M. Co., P. O. Box 699, New York City.

## HOW TO MAKE \$500 YEARLY PROFIT WITH 12 HENS.

We have received from the publishing house of A. Corbett & Co. Biblio House, New York, a book bearing the above significant title by A. Corbett, professor of galliniculture science.

Prof. Corbett has made a life study of poultry and poultry raising and he has applied a natural way of artificial incubation without the use of lamp, hot water or electricity. The method is strongly indorsed by leading journals, scientific men and exhibitors.

There are 13,000 different kinds of postage stamps in the world.

I never used so quick a cure as Pisco's Cure for Consumption.—J. B. Palmer, Box 1171, Seattle, Wash. Nov. 25, 1903.

Thirty-five per cent of the graduates from our women's colleges marry.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth. Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winstlow's SOOTHING SYRUP for Children Teething.

Many a man exhausts himself doing up-hill work after he has reached the top.

Hegeman's Camphor Ice with Glycerine. Cures Chapped Hands and Feet, Tender or Sore Feet, Chubbins, Piles, etc. C. G. Clark Co., New Haven, Ct.

When do the teeth usurp the tongue's prerogative? When they are chattering.

FITS—All Fits stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. An Equalizer for the Nervous System. Treats and Cures Epilepsy, St. Vitus's Dance, Nervousness, Headache, Dizziness, etc. Dr. Kline, 263 N. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

If all the houses in England were placed side by side they would cover a space of 450 square miles.

Good reasons why you should use Hinder Orans. It takes out the corns and gives you peace and comfort, surely a good exchange. 15c. at druggists.

When a snake has gorged itself with a large meal, its skin is so stretched that the scales are some distance apart.

Every dollar spent in Parker's Ginger Tonic is well invested. It soothes pain, and brings better digestion, better strength and better health.

The scheduled land in the United States is worth \$12,500,000,000.

### Neuralgia Torture.

The nervous system is weakened by the

Every nerve is strengthened in the cure of it by

### ALABASTINE.

IT WON'T RUB OFF.

Wall Paper is Unsatisfactory. ALABASTINE IS TEMPORARY, ROTHS, RUBS OFF AND SCALES.

is a pure, permanent and artistic wall-coating, ready for the brush by mixing in cold water.

For Sale by Paint Dealers Everywhere.

FREE A Trial Card showing 12 desirable tints, also Alabastine Remover. Reply may receive Alabastine FREE. ALABASTINE CO., Grand Rapids, Mich.

### Chosen by the Government

# Columbia

## Bicycles

### STANDARD OF THE WORLD

The War Department proposes to test the bicycle thoroughly for army use, and recently advertised for proposals for furnishing five bicycles for the purpose. Result: Bids from \$50 to \$85 each for other machines; our bid of \$100 each for Columbias, their invariable price. And the Government selected

The handsome Art Catalogue that tells of Columbia and Hartford bicycles is free from any Columbia agent; by mail for two 2-cent stamps

POPE MANUFACTURING CO., HARTFORD, CONN.

Branch Stores and Agencies in almost every city and town. If Columbias are not properly represented in your vicinity, let us know.

### PARKER'S HAIR BALM

Develops and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Cleanses the scalp. Prevents dandruff. Hair to the Youthful Color. Complete and Satisfactory. 25c. and 50c. Bottles.

### FIELD AND HOG FENCE WIRE.

26, 38, 42, 50, or 58 inches high. Quality and workmanship the best. Nothing on the market to compare with it. Write for full information.

UNION FENCE COMPANY, DE KALB, ILL.

### "THE BEST OFFER YET"

## \$5.00 FOR \$2.50

A Splendid Camera With Complete outfit.

Camera, plates and all material for taking and developing pictures. The Photo Camera is made of stainless metal, elegantly finished, size 3 1/2 inches. Takes pictures 2 1/2 inches square; 5 pictures with one exposure at a cost of less than one cent each. Everything in our own photographic; the easiest of all to operate can be carried in the pocket. For a short time we will keep this offer open, so the steady in our outfit and stock of accessories complete. Write for details.

The Moving Picture Supply Co. 129 La Salle Street, Chicago

One pint of butter equals one pound.