Time Heals Most Wounds

A Tale of Love and Disappointment

CHAPTER IX.

The discovery of the loss of the cipher letters was naturally a great shock to the Earl, and it resulted in his once more becoming ill. Indeed, his state was so serious that Lord Harecastle was unable to leave him, much as he desired to visit Ethel Fetherston, and to explain to her his reasons for not having made public their engagement. He had quite made up his mind not to give in to the pressure that his father was bringing to bear upon him to break his engagement.

He was fully compelled to write to his fiancee, and he found the letter a difficult one to compose. He hinted at his father's financial difficulties, and asked her plainly to allow the knowledge of their engagement to be confined to their immediate families.

"Please give my father's health as a reason to your people why our engagement shall not be publicly announced. I am loth to suggest to you a course which is not quite frank, but my position is a difficult one. I feel sure that you will trust me and believe that I am acting under great compulsion. In a couple of months matters will be straightened out. I must tell you that we shall not be as rich as I anticipated, in fact, we shall be poor for people of our position, and we shall have to exercise a certain amount of self-denial for a few years. Believe, dearest, that I love you devotedly, and the one wish of my heart is that our marriage shall take place at the earliest possible moment."

He was not satisfied with the letter, but he was hampered by a desire to protect his father, as far as possible. He did not wish to lower him in Ethel's opinion, and in speaking of him he was driven to prevaricate.

He waited anxiously for her reply, and when it came it was all that he could desire, for it breathed of deep affection.

"Do not worry, darling. I am quite content. I trust you implicitly, and am confident that you would not suggest any secrecy unless there were very powerful reasons for your doing so. I should dearly love to see you, even if it were but for a few moments, for your letter tells me that you are worried. Your father's health must be a great anxiety, but let us hope that he will soon be strong again. As for poverty, you know me well enough to understand that wealth has but little attraction for me. Neither, dearest, has your title; it is the man I love—honest and straight-forward—that I have chosen to be my husband."

Her words brought him comfort when he was in need of it, for the Earl was taking full advantage of his illness. Joel and his daughter were still at the Castle, for they had stayed at the earnest solicitation of the Earl, who felt that he would know no peace until his debts were actually paid.

Joel busied himself in settling the liabilities, and in a few days had the pleasure of announcing that his task was accomplished.

When the Earl became a little stronger, Lord Harecastle once more opened the question of breaking the entail.

"It is time that your debts were paid, and I shall be glad if you will give me a list of your creditors," Harecastle said, respectfully but firmly.

"You will find the documents in the drawer of the dressing-table," the Earl answered with a grim smile.

"But these are receipts," Harecastle said, when he had looked at the papers.

"You are quite right. The debts are paid."

"You have borrowed more money from Joel?"

"I warned you that I would do so," the Earl replied with a smile.

"And I forbade it. Surely I am entitled to some say in the matter."

"Not at all. The debts are my own personal ones, they do not affect the estate. Joel will have no claim upon you when I die."

"He will have a moral claim if not a legal one. You must get out of his debt, the position is insufferable. Have you no pride left, father?"

"If Joel is satisfied, you ought not to grumble."

"The entail must be broken and sufficient raised to pay him. There must be no delay. I am anxious to have your affairs in order before my engagement to Ether Fetherston is publicly announced."

"I fear that you will have to wait some time. Can't you be reasonable? It is impossible for you to marry her, for you must have money, and the only way that I can see for you to obtain it is by marrying it," the Earl said quietly, but there was no appeal in his voice.

"I refuse to discuss that again. I repeat that the woman I shall marry is Ethel Fetherston. My honor is bound. Even if it were not, I see no sufficient reason for sacrificing the happiness of my life."

"Well, well, that is sufficient. Send Joel to me," the Earl said wearily.

Lord Harecastle left his father, and found Joel with his daughter on the terrace.

"'The Earl wishes to see you, Mr. Josephs. I, too, should like a word after you have done," he said rather curtly.

"As many as you like," Joel replied cheerily. "Stay and amuse Rebekah. I do not suppose I shall be very long."

Harecastle had been rather holding aloof from Rebekah, but he was unable to leave her without being guilty of rudeness, and he felt that this young girl did not deserve unkindness from him, for she was but the innocent instrument of her father's machinations. He was sorry for her, and unconsciously his manner became sympthetic, Rebekah flushed with pleasure and her eyes sparkled with animation. She asked but little, and a kindly word from the man she loved changed her whole world.

As Harecastle saw the effect of his presence, his heart became sad with pity, both for her and for himself. For himself, for his was to be hand that would deal her a cruel blow. The most modest of men and without a trace of vanity, the last few days had convinced him that he had won the love of this young girl; unwillingly, it is true, but it none the less caused him pain.

Compassion spoke from his eyes, and Rebekah thought it was love, and her heart throbbed with a happiness that was almost pain.

The Earl received Joel nervously, for he was going to give him bad news, and he did not quite know how it would be received.

"Harecastle is impossible," he began hesitatingly. "I've done everything in my power to move him, but without success. I've told him about your goodness in letting me have the other twenty-five thousand, and he is furious. He declares that he will pay you back at once."

"We shall have to bring this young man to his senses. I want you to understand that my mind is fixed on this marriage, and it shall take place," he said emphatically.

"I don't quite see how you are going to manage it," the Earl said despondently.

"I do not know the way myself for the moment, but I shall find to use force or to stir muddy waters, but——"

His look at the Earl was almost threatening.

"Harecastle is of age," Lord Wolverhome protested, "and you can't compel him to go to church."

"I shall find a means, and through you. What lever does Ackroyd hold over you?" he demanded suddenly.

He keenly watched the old man and saw the startled expression that was quickly suppressed.

"What do you mean?" the Earl said unsteadily.

"I know that Ackroyd possesses some power over you, and I want to know the nature of it," he said with decision.

"I don't understand you, Joel. I know very little about the man; he is a protege of Felix Shelby, and he came to me with an introduction from him."

"That is a lie!" Joel cried brutally.

The Earl raised himself on his elbow, and his body shook with passion.

"I may be in your debt, Joel, but that gives you no right to insult me. If I were a younger man I would——"

He fell back on the bed, and his chest rose and fell convulsively.

"I apologize for the word," Joel said quickly; "but it would be wiser to tell me now rather than to force me to find out. But find out I will. You do not seem to realize that I am in earnest. Believe me that I have no wish to injure you or to worry you, but if I can get at Harecastle through you I shall do so. Do you understand me."

"I understand that you can be very ruthless. You will be following a mare's nest in Ackroyd."

The Earl had recovered his composure, and his manner was so confident that for the moment Joel was inclined to believe him; but it did not turn him from his decision to see Ackroyd and to attempt to discover his secret.

"And now for Harecastle!" Joel muttered to himself. His face lighted up, for he dearly loved a fight, and he anticipated that the ensuing interview was likely to be a strenuous one.

He found that they were still together, and the happy expression on Rebekah's face, as she chatted animatedly, only strengthened him for the conflict. He noticed that Harecastle's manner was almost tender in its solicitude, and this only strengthened him in his idea that he had been making love to her.

"Run away, little one. Harecastle and I want a chat," he said, and patted her head affectionately.

"I think you had better come to my room," Harecastle suggested.

Their walk was a silent one. Joel looked curiously at his companion's face, which was sternly set, and his lips were firmly pressed together.

"You remember our previous conversation: I mean about my father's affairs?" the young man asked.

"Yes, I remember something about it."

"I then expressed a desire that you should not advance my father any more money. I find that you have done so, and I should like an explanation," he said quietly.

"I do not see that you have any right for an explanation," Joel said easily. "I think I explained to you that these matters concerned your father and myself personally, and, to be frank, I do not see that you have any say at all.

"I do not agree with you, Mr. Joseph's. Anything that affects my father affects me. You had no right to lend him money."

Harecastle spoke angrily, and Joel raised his hand deprecatingly.

"You do not look at it in the right light. Your father has been kind to me in many ways. I owe my introduction to Society to him. To you the money may seem an important thing, to me it is a mere fleabite. I can afford to throw away a good many sums. Own that I have done some good. Your father is ill, I have eased his mind. Is that not so?"

"Yes," Harecastle replied grudgingly, "but——"

"The Earl is not a young man. The cutting of the entail and the sale of land that has been in your family for generations, would be a grievous blow to him. That has been avoided. On the other hand there is the fact that your pride has been hurt. You are a young man, and can't you leave yourself in your father's hands?"

"I regard it from the point of view of my honor," Harecastle said sternly.

"It is all very well to talk of your honor?" Joel said jeeringly. "Have you always been so careful of it? Have you nothing reproach yourself with? Something much more vital than a few sovereigns?"

"I don't understand you," Harecastle replied coldly.

Joel rose from his chair and began to speak with great earnestness.

"There is something that concerns you and me, Lord Harecastle. I want to speak quietly, for I do not wish to quarrel. You have gained my girl's love."

"Unwittingly," Harecastle broke in eagerly.

"You say so, but the fact remains that Rebekah is not the woman who could bestow her affections unasked. I have watched you together, and to my mind you have behaved in such a way as would naturally lead her to think that you loved her. You say that it was done unwittingly, I reply that your manner is unfortunate, and that your honor is not free from stain if you do not marry Rebekah."

"I am engaged to Miss Fetherston. I repeat solemnly that I have never had it in my mind to make love to your daughter. I admire her, respect her, and I think she is a charming girl."

"Then marry her," Joel broke in, "and all will be plain sailing. The sentiments, which you say you hold towards her, are those which a husband should have towards his wife. What more can you want?"

"Love," Harecastle said simply.

"Fiddlesticks!" Joel cried irritably. "That will come afterwards."

"I have not asked you here to talk about your daughter. I have already answered you; I am engaged to Miss Fetherston, and she is the woman that I shall marry."

"Not if I can prevent it, Lord Harecastle. So it is to be war. You will find me a bitter enemy and a powerful one. You had better consent with a good grace, for you will do so eventually."

"You have already my decision, and I refuse to discuss it further. I shall go at once to our solicitors and endeavor to arrange for the payment of the amount that my father owes you. In the meantime, do you not think it would be better for you to take your departure? I do not wish to be inhospitable, but you will understand with my father's illness and ——"

"I understand everything, Lord Harecastle," Joel replied, "and we will go at once."

Lord Wolverholme protested against it with vigor, but Joel was firm, and the next morning they left for London.

The Earl rapidly grew stronger and was soon able to get up. His son remained with him, and did his best to persuade him to consent to the breaking of the entail, but without success.

The one worry left to the Earl was Ackroyd. He felt sure he would not be content with the sum that he had obtained, and he went in daily fear of another visit with the object of extorting more money.

(To be continued.)

A MODERN STEAMSHIP.

Launch of the White Star Liner "Megantic" at Belfast.

Cable advices from Liverpool announce that the new White Star Liner, 'Megantic," was successfully launched from the yard of Messrs Harland & Wolff, Belfast, on the 10th inst. This is an event of more than usual interest in the shipping world, for the "Megantic" will join her sister steamer the "Laurentic" in the new White Star-Dominion Line service to be inaugurated next year between Montreal and Liverpool and thus strengthen the connection between Canada and the Mother Country.

These two steamers will be the largest in the Canadian Trade, and like all other vessels of the White Star Line are being constructed throughout on the most approved principles, nothing that long experience and practical knowledge can suggest being wanting to make them as perfect as possible in all particulars. They are designed on the cellular double-bottom plan, the double bottom extending the entire length of the ship and being specially strengthened under the engines to give still greater rigidity in the vicinity of the machinery. The passenger accommodation has been specially arranged and will vie with anything afloat, both as regards beauty and comfort. It is, therefore, anticipated that these steamers will prove great favorites with the travelling public. A feature of the entrances and public rooms will be their height and general roominess, and the state-rooms will have the same characteristic. The decorations throughout will be of a truly attractive nature, realizing the ideal of the artist—richness and simplicity combined. The first class dining saloon on the middle deck will be a very handsome room decorated and panelled in elaborately carved oak. It extends the full width of the ship and will have the popular "well" arrangement over head, with verandah for the band stand, for the steamers will carry their own orchestras of skilled musicians. The spacious first-class lounge on the upper promenade deck is sure to be a favorite resort for passengers. It will be Louis XV. style artistically panelled in oak with a parquetry floor, the latter characteristic also applying to the reading room which is situated on the same deck and will be exquisitely decorated in white. The first-class smoke room is also on the upper promenade deck. It will be decorated with embossed leather and handsomely carved framework will surround the windows. The furniture will be of mahogany and the floor in this instance will be of India rubber tiles. The sleeping accommodation will be quite in keeping with the excellence of the public apartments. The state-rooms will be situated on the lower promenade deck and also on the shelter deck and will include a number of cabins en suite, i.e., with private lavatory and bath room adjoining each suite. An electric elevator serving four decks will prove acceptable to the Company's patrons and show that the most exacting needs have been anticipated.

The second class passengers will find the provisions made for their comfort second to none on the Atlantic. The dining saloon which is on the middle deck and extends the full width of the ship will seat no fewer than 262 passengers. The library on the lower promenade deck and smoke room on the upper promenade deck are also beautiful apartments tastefully decorated in polished hardwood and the spacious staterooms, too, call for mention. The third class quarters will compare favorably with similar accommodation on any steamer afloat, and the dining-room situated aft on the upper deck is exceptionally fine.

The Marconi system of wireless telegraphy will be installed on these steamers, which will also have a submarine signalling apparatus. The "Laurentic" and "Megantic" will be of about 16,000 tons, twin-screw, with carrying capacity of 230 first-class, 430 second-class and 1,000 third-class passengers, and will be the largest and fastest in the Canadian trade.

REMEDY FOR LOCUSTS.

Locusts in Algeria have found a dangerous enemy in a fly, which follows them and lays its eggs where they lay theirs. A larva issues from the egg of the fly and devours the locust eggs. The larva changes into a chrysalis and then into a perfect insect, which follows the flight of the locusts, repeating the same performance.

ONE WOMAN'S WAY.

Tom—She must have been an old girl.

Nell—Why do you think so?

Tom—She told my sister that she married Fred for the purpose of getting even.

ON THE FARM

DISEASES OF SHEEP.

There is no doubt but that parasitic diseases of sheep have done much to discourage this very profitable industry. It is hardly probable that any sheep-grower can go on for any great length of time without encountering losses from some of them, unless he makes intelligent use of the necessary preventive measures. The man who goes blindly into the sheep-raising business and fails to guard his flock against infestation by the various parasites is almost certainly foredoomed to disappointment, and, in many cases, rank failure. Sheep have been considered delicate animals. This may be true to some extent, but the reason that they are considered so is largely due to the fact that they are exposed to so many diseases. If subject to the attack of the same number of enemies, any other animal might be considered delicate. Altogether, sheep have sufficient vitality to make their raising very profitable if reasonable intelligence and forethought is used in guarding them against diseases. It is not, as a rule, either prudent or profitable to practice the promiscuous feeding of live stock with condition powders and patent preventive medicines. In a majority of cases, too much is paid for these products; they are used when not necessary, and are not used intelligently. But sheep must be guarded against disease more closely than any other animal, and in order to keep sheep free from the parasitic diseases, it is often necessary to resort to the use of preventive medicines. When used, however, they should be used with a definite object in view, and with system and regularity.

By way of general care of sheep, they need well-ventilated or open-shed shelter in falling weather. They do not need shelter in dry weather, no matter how cold. They should never be crowded into and shut up in a close barn. They need the shade of trees and bushes in hot weather. They ought to have running water. That from a well or cistern in a clean tank is very good. Pond water is objectionable, especially when any disease is present. The pastures ought to be rolling, or, at least, well drained.

As to the use of remedies, whenever there is any sign of scab or sheep ticks in the flock, all the sheep and lambs ought to be dipped twice at intervals of 10 days in some reliable sheep dip. From the time there is any indication of annoyance by the bot fly, their noses ought to be kept smeared with tar until after light frosts. Sheep ought to have a course of treatment through the winter to rid them of the internal parasites. This is especially true when there is any indication that any of these parasites are present. It is probably advisable for every sheepman to give his flock, during the winter and spring, a course of finely-powdered tobacco, or the bluestone-copperas-salt mixture. Of the tobacco he should use about 20 pounds for each 100 sheep, and begin giving it, in small amounts at first, with the feed late in the fall, and continue until after lambing is over. The bluestone-copperas-salt mixture, advised for the prevention of stomach worms, may be used instead of tobacco. It can be kept before the sheep, allowing them what they will eat. These directions carefully followed out, will almost certainly protect the sheep owner from the common losses, and render it unnecessary for him to make a detailed study of the different parasites to which the flock is liable.—Missouri State Bulletin.

SWEET CLOVER HAY FOR LAMBS.

Some ration experiments with lambs at the Wyoming Experiment Station seem to indicate that while sweet clover is of somewhat less value than alfalfa when fed with corn, still it makes a satisfactory feed. Comparing two lots of lambs, one fed alfalfa and the other sweet-clover hay, the former made an average gain of 34.4 pounds in 14 weeks, and the latter 30.7 pounds. The sweet-clover lot ate one-sixth more hay, somewhat more corn, and a small amount of oil meal. The larger consumption of sweet-clover hay was due to the fact that it had ben cut late, and was very coarse and stemmy. Range lambs liked it from the start, and showed a steady appetite for it.

HIS WIFE'S SALVAGE.

"Did you have a good time last night?"

"I should say so! It cost me a hundred dollars."

"Did you spend that much?"

"I don't know whether I spent all of it or whether my wife took it away from me when I got home this morning, but that's what it cost me."

There was an old lady named Burr,
Ah, sad was the fate of her,
She swallowed a spoon,
And for many a moon
She was not able to stir.

"I can truthfully say that I believe that, but for the use of your Emulsion I would long since have been in my grave. I was past work—could not walk up-hill without coughing very hard."

THIS, and much more was written by Mr. G. W. Howerton, Clark's Gap, W. Va. We would like to send you a full copy of his letter, or you might write him direct. His case was really marvelous, but is only one of the many proofs that

Scott's Emulsion

is the most strengthening and re-vitalizing preparation in the world. Even in that most stubborn of all diseases (consumption) it does wonders, and in less serious troubles, such as anemia, bronchitis, asthma, catarrh, or loss of flesh from any cause the effect is much quicker.

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ENGLAND'S RICHEST DUKES.

Westminster's Rents — Bedford's Aversion to Society.

Speculation was rife a few days ago concerning the identity of the two millionaires who are credited in the Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom with possessing between them the enormous sum of £8,619,000. These two fortunate persons are probably the Dukes of Westminster and Bedford, says London Tit-Bits.

The Duke of Bedford, who is known amoung his intimates by the nickname of Hatband, owns a larger portion of Bloomsbury and the whole of Covent Garden, including the market, which is reputed to bring him £50,000 a year. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford care little for society and the only occasions on which they appear are at rare intervals in the Bedford box Covent Garden Opera and at Prince's Skating Rink in Knightsbridge. At Woburn Abbey, their principal palatial residence, there are private zoological gardens. The Duchess of Bedford is a fellow of the Zoological Society. The Duke is greatly taken up with all the varied interests of his property and is the author of a book on "The Management of a Great Estate."

It is doubtful whether the Duke of Westminster realizes exactly what he is worth. He is probably the most wealthy territorial magnate in the kingdom, counting among his properties the valuable Grosvenor estate, which is situated in the heart of the West End.

The Grosvenor family represents one of the few remaining sets in London society that may be described as strictly exclusive. They live in a world of their own. Outsiders for them do not exist, nor will they willingly tolerate the presence of any one who by birth and breeding does not belong to the privileged elect. The exclusiveness is probably the result of the successful marriages made by the Grosvenor girls into exalted families.

An idea of the Duke's colossal wealth can be gained by an inspection of his splendid town mansion, which is a treasure house filled with objects of priceless value. Many people are content with a clock which costs a sovereign or two, but that which tells his Grace of Westminster the hour possesses a pendulum which in itself is worth £48,000, for it is set with forty-eight flawless diamonds, each valued at £1,000. The Duke of Westminster is a popular sportsman and is known among his particular friends as Bend Or, a nickname conferred on him to commemorate the famous racehorse of that name owned by his grandfather, the late Duke. Socialists and others may forgive him his great wealth when it is stated that fancy goods have no favor in the Westminster household. Simple dishes are always provided, such as mutton cutlets, milk puddings, fruit tarts and so on. Much of his vast wealth is derived from ground rents. He grows rich because he can't help it.

Ceylon possesses over 500 milet of railway

Lady (to caller)—"You won't mind my going on with my work while you're here, will you? They'll shan't feel I'm wasting time."