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Between Cousins;

OR, A DECLARATION OF WAR.

CHAPTER III.—(Cont'd).

"At Bonnet Ferry—two miles from Ardloch. He is very kind, and so is Mrs. Modley."

"Ah, he is married?"

"Yes. And he is good enough to take an interest in me. His lordship likes the pastors to be risen from the people."

"Yes; it is rather a picturesque idea," she said meditatively. "How strange you will feel, and how proud coming back to your old home in your new position."

"Proud? Oh, no—not that. I shall be too much afraid of filling it unworthily, even doing my best—and I mean to do my best!"

As he said it his eyes grew bright and fixed, gazing away between the many-shaped stones towards the hazy horizon beyond the roofs. She looked at him curiously, favored by his absorption—a block of white marble close at hand making so good a background to his finely-moulded head and straight-cut features as almost to suggest a medallion.

"I am sure your best will be very good!" she said, with returning warmth, caught, as it were, by his own zeal. "Tell me more about your work. It will be hard, I suppose? But with one's heart in it, what work is hard!"

Presently John M'Donnell, who had never before discussed himself with any fellow-creature, found that he was confiding his dreams to a girl of whose existence he had not been conscious this time last week. By what process his natural shyness had been overcome, his natural reserve forced, he felt it useless to investigate. All he knew was that the operation had been quite easy. Aslo, he was conscious of a certain sweetness in the unprecedented indulgence. After the confidences which he himself had that day received, and the almost child-like simplicity of her avowals, complete reticence would have struck him as churlish. Gradually, as she listened Ella Mitchell felt herself warming to the idea of the "mission," at first so coldly received. At the end of ten minutes the disappointment touching the slate-quarry had been quite lost sight of in this new aspect of the case.

"It is a noble end!" she said, when John paused, a little startled to find how far he had gone. "A grand—an elevating idea! To raise these poor people out of their lowly state—that indeed is something worth living for. Oh, you have my very best wishes for your success!"

She cast her eyes downwards, as she had a becoming habit of doing, for the eyes themselves, though large, were rather shallow in color, while the eyelids, very white and as delicately veined with pink as the petals of an anemone, bulged agreeably over the somewhat prominent orbs.

In face of this undisguised sympathy, John quite forgot to regret his abnormal talkativeness.

"You must come and see my aunt," she said to him, at parting. "I scarcely like to walk with you" (here another down-casting of the eyes) "without having introduced you to her; and yet I should so love to hear more about your interesting work! It would be good practice, you know, since visiting the sick will be on your list of duties, will it not?"

The wide mouth twitched into an almost espiegle smile, as she gave him her hand.

Miss Mitchell regained her aunt's house still in the best of spirits, but was not able to preserve them at the given level throughout the evening, Mrs. Watson—the relect of a fairly successful greengrocer—being one of those invalids whose chief amusement in life seems to be experiment upon the patience of their fellow-creatures. To give as much trouble and make themselves as disagreeable as they can, seems to such people a perfectly justifiable revenge upon the healthy portion of mankind. The role of wet blanket was one which Mrs. Watson, in particular, revelled in. And she looked the part, too, being large, pale, and pasty, with a face grown puffy from want of exercise, and an almost bald head, muffled in folded muslin which might easily have passed for a compress. The eyes alone were as alive as flies, and as sharp as pins—ever on the look-out for grievances, and ready to punish them with a sharp little double prick.

It was upon Fanny, the poor, patient sick-nurse, that the revenge fell most heavily—a creature sallow and "beaky," with, upon her thready lips, a conciliatory smile which had become chronic, as though, painfully aware of her own extreme ugliness, she was striving to disarm criticism by an extra dose of amiability. That smile might be compared to the sauce in which she endeavoured to dish up her looks in hopes of making them more palatable. Her "boniness" and the size of her nose suggested the vulture, but an extremely mild vulture, with the temperament, presumably, of a sucking-dove. Indeed, someone had once unkindly but not inappropriately declared of Fanny Watson that the only bone not visible about her was a backbone.

Ella Mitchell came off more easily than Fanny, partly because of her absences, and partly because she paid for her board, since to put a roof over the head of her brother's child quite satisfied Mrs. Watson's sense of kinship. But even Ella could not always escape the wet blanket.

The heightened color and animated glance with which she entered the sick-room to-day were enough to call for an application, since, if there was one thing Mrs. Watson could not stand, it was seeing people enjoying their lives.

"Wherever have you been the whole blessed afternoon?" she demanded, in a cavernous sort of growl, peculiar to herself, for the deep pitch of voice in which she uttered her usual complaints added much to their impressiveness. "Gadding about the streets, eh? Not even respectable, I call it—don't you see that my handkerchief has dropped, Fanny?)—let alone that it might occur to you that a sick woman like me might want a little talk of a Sunday afternoon. It's not much you contribute to my entertainment, as it is."

"I've been to church, auntie."

"Not since two o'clock, surely?"

"No," confessed Ella, in a burst of frankness, produced by exceptional elation; "I had a walk afterwards. I have made an acquaintance—such an interesting acquaintance and so respectable. Fanny knows about it already."

Ella looked at her bony cousin, who smiled back a rather frightened smile as she glanced towards her mother, and instantly met the pin-prick stare.

"Oh, she knows about it already, does she? That means that it's a man, of course, and that you've been gossiping away into all the hours of the night, quite regardless of me, naturally. What's the wonder, then, if Fanny oversleeps herself in the morning, and I've got to call for my beef-tea four times running? Oh, what it is to be a martyr chained to the rack!"

"We didn't talk about it at night—at least, not always. It was on Sundays we usually talked, when I was at home."

"Usually talked!" The two flabby hands were uplifted, while the eyes dealt a blow in Ella's direction. "Why, how long has this been going on, pray? Stuffing your heads with nonsense, indeed, and evil nonsense, no doubt; young people nowadays have far more evil in them than good. Not that that applies to you, my dear—I mean about the youthfulness;" and the two little pins fastened back on Fanny's face. "You're past the age of danger in that direction, anyway."

She laughed in an underground sort of fashion which suggested the rumbling of an earthquake, at which the vulture-faced creature smiled more affably than ever, though rather red about the temples.

But Ella had more spirit—fed, no doubt, but the consciousness of that weekly bill for board. Loudly she protested.

"There was nothing bad about our talk. It was only that I told Fanny of—of somebody whom I used often to travel with in the same car, and whom I couldn't help noticing, though it was only the other day that we made acquaintance. And he is more than a mere man; he is almost a gentleman—at least, he will be that some day, for he is going into orders, and all clergymen are gentlemen, surely."

"And it's him you've been walking with?" inquired Mrs. Watson, surprised into a less aggressive tone; but hastening to add; "Depend upon it, he's making a fool of you."

(To be continued).

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Note: Another prominent Physician to whom the above article was submitted, said: "Bon-Opto is a very remarkable remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to eminent eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. The manufacturers guarantee it to strengthen eyesight 50 per cent in one week's time in many instances or refund the money. It can be obtained from any good druggist and is one of the very few preparations I feel should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family." The Valmar Drug Co., Store 4, Toronto, will fill your orders if your druggist cannot.

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Fat Economy.

The cost of meat fat is high. It must always be remembered the fat is paid for at the same price as the lean.

Much of the fat paid for dries out of the meat in the cooking and is not sent with the meat to the table. Much of the fat of the meat sent to the table is not eaten. What becomes of it? Much of it never reaches the table again. Too frequently it is fed to a useless dog, dumped into the soap grease, scraped into the garbage pail, or even thrown into the fire and burned.

The thrifty housewife saves every ounce of sweet fat for future cooking, and seldom has to buy special lard or oil for cooking. When any fat cannot be used for cooking, it is converted into soap.

One housewife reports her experience of saving and keeping the different kinds separate for different purpose, as follows:

Beef dripping for potatoes.

Pork dripping for sweet potatoes, gingerbread and ginger cookies; mixed with beef dripping for meat pastry.

Ham, bacon, and sausage fats for soups, vegetables, and things too numerous to mention.

Lanb fat for warming over beans.

Veal fat for omelets.

Chicken, duck, and goose fat for cookies, gingerbread, and spiced cakes.

Chicken fat with a little bacon proved delectable for cooking oysters in.

There is no doubt that a careful saving and use of meat fats lessens the butter bill to a considerable extent.

To Renovate Shiny Serge.

For dark colored clothing wet a piece of new black crinoline and lay over the worn spot. This should be covered with a dry cloth and pressed with a very hot iron. The heat will make the crinoline adhere to the serge, after which it should be pulled away quickly, as you would a plaster, raising the nap of the goods so that it looks dull again.

Regluing Furniture

If you have never been successful in regluing furniture so that it will stay glued, you may be more successful by adding a coat of shellac or colorless varnish. It is the dampness attacking the glue which undoes the most careful work, and when this is protected by a coat of varnish (after the glue is dry) you will have no further trouble.

Medicines From Garden.

Every vegetable garden is a medicine chest recognized by physicians as of considerable value in the treatment of diseases. Onions, for example, contain sulphur oil and are recommended for insomnia and as an aid to gastric digestion. They also help to ally rheumatic pains.

Turnips and parsnips have peculiar oily principles which are of value to an aperient and diuretic. They also are said to be good for coughs and hoarseness. Carrots are useful for correcting derangements of the liver. They are excellent as a dressing for painful wounds and swellings.

The tomato exercises medicinal effects not completely explained by the presence of alkaline salts. There is a principal present which, in a concentrated state, produces salivation and a free stimulation of the liver.

Advice to Home-Makers.

The home should be arranged in keeping with the occupation of its inhabitants. The light of bedrooms and the placing of the largest articles should receive careful attention. The bureau should be so placed that the light falls upon the person dressing. The drawers should be kept in condition for easy pulling, and rubbing them with soap or paraffin is the means. When putting clothes away, either for Summer or for Winter, time is saved by making a list of each article, of its condition and of the receptacle containing it.

Trotting up and down stairs, especially when little children form part of the family, may be lessened by keeping a memorandum pad and pencil, some of the dusting articles, string and wrapping and writing paper upstairs. The bathroom sould be free from clutter. A cleaning cloth, a brush and a whiskbroom should hang handily near the bowl. Every room in the house should have a basket to receive wastage. Plenty of hooks for individual use in the bathroom increase its usefulness.

Many details in the living-room demand forethought. Comfortable chairs shrould be so placed as to have abundant light for a reader. The settee by the fireplace may be used as a woodbox, and the seat along the window as the storage box of periodicals.

In the dining-room consideration of the children's convenience adds to the comfort of the family. Placing a little table for them near the mother is helpful, and a floor oilcloth under it keeps the rug or carpet clean.

The kitchen is the workshop of the house and has until recently ignored economy of labor and time. There is a logical order for arranging its tools. Articles required for any work should be together and within the worker's reach. The cold pantry, icebox, kitchen cabinet serving table and stove are used together and should be in close and continuous line. The sink should be in a butler's pantry or near the china closet. Always have plenty of table room near the sink. Have a high stool to sit upon while working, for nothing is gained by standing. The majority of experts as to kitchens agree that an area of ten by nine feet is the best size, and point to the compact kitchens of ships and dining-cars as proof of the soundness of their view.

Fish Sauces.

Tomato Sauce.—One-half can tomatoes, one-half onion minced, three peppers. Stew these together ten minutes. Melt one tablespoonful butter, add one heaping tablespoonful flour, strain the tomato on to this. Cook till it thickens, and pour around fish.

Sauce for Salmon.—Thicken one cup of boiling milk with one teaspoonful of cornstarch (or flour) and one tablespoonful of butter rubbed together. Add liquor from the salmon, season with salt, cayenne, and one tablespoonful of tomato catsup. Just before taking from the fire add one beaten egg.

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