

THE SACRIFICE;

OR

FOR HER FAMILY'S SAKE.

CHAPTER V.—(Continued).

"Good-evening," was the reply. "It is raining isn't it?" She went away and stood into a little room where all manner of rubbish was stored, in order to try unseen. There was the little chair, which had belonged to her children, one after another. She gazed at the worn-out piece of furniture, and suddenly seemed to her as if her son Rudolf's brown, curly head appeared at it. He had been a sweet little child, her great delight, and now he was to go from her, loaded with shame and disgrace, and she would never see him more! For long before he could come back, she would have grieved herself to death.

She tried to blame him; but she could not.

The frivilous nature was inherited from her family: two brothers of her own had been ruined by similar extravagance.

She creased smiling, and gazed at the little chair with wide-open eyes. And the youngest had shot himself.

She grieved heavily. "May God have mercy!"

She sat down, shivering trembly. She sprang up, and with trembling fingers tightened the strings of her apron. The action was quite useless; if her son should make her suffer that? She had no more strength to bear it now.

Her sick husband, her poor girl!

"God in heaven, if Lora would only be reasonable!"

She untied her apron again, and the color came into her face. "Reasonable? Who was the reasonable one here?"

"If Lora would sacrifice herself?" said an honest voice within her.

"No, no persuasion."

"I will not say a word—

poor thing. God will find us a way out."

The door-bell rang below, and she heard the bellman's voice. The weak woman bent over the room and down the stairs with wretchedness, her trembling hand took in a letter. She passed it hastily in her pocket, without looking at it, and then came upstairs again with the Kneuzelring, to carry it to her husband.

"Nothing else?" prompted the old man as he took the newspaper.

"Nothing," she answered quickly, and began to busy herself with the coffee-equipage, which stood before her husband, who was sitting at the window in his arm-chair.

She did not even notice as she told her husband what was so accustomed to concealments, to uttering necessary falsehoods. She had learned such glibness during the last few years of married life, and she was sometimes shocked at her own skill.

There was no other way for her to keep the pence in the house. The master was still, over every lift that came in his seat, as if his wife only but could not bear the sight of tormenting him; and she was sometimes shocked at her own skill.

"What?" he asked, pulling the hair of his wife.

"Oh, yes, so you did, so your mother, his visitors?"

"They have been there for two hours, chattering about the ball," replied Katie.

"It was very fine, wasn't it?"

"I don't know. Lora hasn't spoken a word all day; she can't bear it long before the others did, anyway."

"How severely you women always judge one another!" he said. "But here is my tea."

He sat down at the table, which the maid had covered with a brilliancy white cloth and began to drink his tea.

"The doctor knows," mumbled the old woman.

"My goodness! You don't mean that you want to marry her yourself?"

He pushed his cup aside and crossed over to her.

"What?" he asked, pulling the hair of his wife.

"You needn't be playing your jokes on me for I don't believe a word of it," she grumbled. "That would be pretty unfair."

"I was silent, but he smiled still,

"What disturbed you?" she declared.

"Really?" he asked, while his mouth twinged. "And to whom would you give your son?"

"I could find an ideal asylum with you, you know," she said; "and your aristocratic bride would be admitted."

"You give a look to Fraulein Lora, which I promised her."

"Yes, yes, give it here," was the instant reply.

"But I must go home and get it first."

"That's hogwash. I will come to you as far as your house, and whatever you are getting the book, I will wait up and down."

He had already turned, and they walked on quickly together. There were no great distances in Westenburg; in about ten minutes the doctor was hurrying through the little garden into his house, while Katie remained standing by the gate.

It was quite dark under the tall elms. She leaned against one of the trees and looked at the gables window, where his room was. She breathed quickly, and her heart beat as though it would burst. At night flushed out from above, she saw a shadow moving, and then it must have gone further back into the room, for the shadow disappeared.

(To be Continued.)

USAGES OF MILK.

Numbers of Strong and Useful Things Made Out of It.

When at the close of a hard day's work you get home, and wait patiently or impatiently, as the case may be, you know best—for a cup of tea, have you ever thought of the numbers of strong and useful things that can be made out of the milk which you pour in the strong fluid? Probably you have not, but you can build a house of milk, if you liked, and it would be as strong and lasting as those made of Aberdeen granite. Moreover, all the fittings could be made of the same substance, and they would outlast the finest ordinary material that was ever built.

The suddenly drew up in a chair beside her, and looked earnestly at her.

"You know it, mother," he said softly; "it is happiness that makes it, pure, sweet happiness. She loves me—Lora, and will be my wife."

"Merciful heavens!" stammered the posturing pair as death. "Boy, what a work you are making for yourself!"

His eyes were an appealing expression.

"Mother, can't you persuade me, it would fit all in vain!"

"O heavens! she is not the sort of wife for you," began the posturing; "one of the Tollsens, who know nothing and do nothing but be haughty, whose misfortune ideas peep out of every fold in their dresses. Boy, what have you done that you should be so afflicted?"

"You do not know Lord!" he replied, seizing her hand. "She is so good and simple, and she loves me with all her heart."

"I must see it first with my own eyes."

CHAPTER VI.—(Continued).

The widowed Frau Pastorin Schonberg was sitting at the window in her parlor, knitting on a gray, woolen stocking for her son. The old lady at first sight had a remarkably prepossessing face, as if she had had nothing but care and trouble all her life long. But when you got to know her, her eyes, which looked like small pearls, were bright and clear, and she was smiling from ear to ear.

Her son, who had been a very lively boy, was now a quiet, thoughtful lad.

"I am not a success," he said, "but I am a good boy."

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