

The Sacrifice;

FOR HER FAMILY'S SAKE.

CHAPTER XX.

The general's honest old heart ached for her. What happened to the girl? And he was so comically clumsy, he did not even know how to go to work to find out whether it was her father's death that made her unhappy or—

"It is hard, child, that should have so much trouble just at the beginning of your married life."

She nodded. "Where did you get the news?" she inquired, and when he said, "In Cairo," she began hurriedly to inquire about his journey. He was hardly able to answer her, her voice sounded so nervous, so constrained.

She was thinking of something quite different. She would live to lighten her burden by confiding in him, but would he understand?

In a few minutes she took his arm to go down to her mother-in-law's dining room, on the floor below.

Frau Elfrida had set out all the silver of which she was possessed, in honor of "his excellency." The early light was already dusk in the dark-oak-pannelled room; therefore the gas was lighted in the old German chandelier, over the table, which sparkled with glass and silver. In the fireplace a huge log glowed and cracked. The thick Symrna rug spread itself out soft and warm, over the oaken floor. It was a comfortable, harmonious room, the only note of discord being produced by two dreadful old paintings, genre pictures after some celebrated originals in the Dresden Gallery, the one representing dead game and fish, the other fruits and a glass of Rhine wine.

The general sat with his back to the carved buffet at the small end of the table, Lora and her mother-in-law on either side, and Aunt Melitta opposite.

The conversation, led by Frau Elfrida, turned on the death of Major von Tollen, and the condition in which he had left his wife and children, a topic not particularly pleasing for his family.

"Your excellency may rest assured," simpered Frau Becher, putting her handkerchief to her eyes, just as the servant entered with another course, "that we shall help them whenever we can; what would be the use of our being relations if we did not?"

"You are very kind," replied Lora, "but I must decline in my mother's name; she would not accept assistance from you in any way."

Her hand trembled so that the wine in the glass, which she took mechanically, spilled over her finger.

An embarrassed pause ensued; the words sounded contemptuous, and the voice usually so soft, was hard and rough.

The servant, dressed in violet, suppressed a smile as he handed the rag out. Lora declined. The others ate their dinner in silence.

Frau Elfrida was flushed and angry. Aunt Melitta made a clumsy attempt to set the ball rolling again, but her announcement that some here or other there had been a railroad accident, met with no response. Lora leaned back in her chair and played with crumbs of bread. She looked horribly pale.

"You don't feel well, Loepchen, you had better not stay; go, and lie down," suggested Aunt Melitta.

"Yes, thanks, excuse me," she stammered out, and left the room.

In the large hall there was still a lingering twilight. At the foot of the great staircase, the servant was standing with a lady.

"I am very sorry, madam, the master has gone away, and the ladies are at dinner," Lora heard him say.

"Can I not wait?" was the reply in broken German. "It is so hard to find the way in the dark. Show me into the reception room, and announce me after the dinner is over."

The servant retreated as Lora appeared, like a dark shadow in the dusk of the corridor.

The lady wishes to see Frau Becher," he announced.

"I wish to speak to Frau Becher on business," said the stranger, who had a child beside her—a little

boy, who clung closely to her.

"You wish to see me, or my mother-in-law?" asked Lora wearily.

"Frau Becher," repeated the stranger hesitatingly, and as at this moment the chandelier in the hall was lighted, Lora saw a young face whose eyes stared at her with an astonished expression.

"You must mean my mother-in-law, I suppose," replied Lora.

"But will you not—"

"The mother of Adalbert Becher" gasped the lady.

"Yes. But will you not come up into my room, and wait for her? My mother-in-law has guests, and—"

"You are, my God! you are—"

Lora felt her arm grasped as in a vice, so tightly the slender fingers closed round it.

"You are engaged to Adalbert Becher?" the stranger said, in a low whisper.

"Engaged to him? No; I am his wife. But—good God!" cried Lora in terror. The stranger staggered and caught at the support of the wrought iron balustrade, leaning against it like one crushed, with a strange expression of horror in her face.

"His wife? His wife? That is not true!" she gasped. "It is simply impossible."

"Come, mamma," entreated the child.

Lora was bewildered. She drew her hand across her aching brow. What did this mean? "Come upstairs I beg of you," she whispered, leading the way.

The stranger summoned all her strength and followed her.

CHAPTER XXI.

The lamp with the rose-colored shade, was lighted in the boudoir. The two women stood looking at each other; Lora tall, proud, waiting, with high bred composure, for what she was to hear; the other, holding the child's hand, her head drooping as if stunned by sudden blow.

"With whom have I the pleasure of speaking?" asked Lora, pointing to a chair.

The stranger, unable to stand any longer, sank into it, and drew the child toward her.

"I am—pardon me if I offend you—I am Adalbert's—I am his wife, and this is his son."

Though she spoke in a low tone at first, she almost screamed out the last words, covering her face with her hands as if in despair.

"I must entreat you," said Lora, coldly, "to give me proofs of what you say; I cannot think any one would have dared deceive me—"

The stranger felt in her pocket and gave Lora some papers.

"Here is my marriage certificate and certificate of baptism of the child; we were married in St. George's Church, New York, one Sunday, madam. I came here to remind him of his duty as a father. Since he left me for the last time—it was a year and a half ago—he has not given me a penny for my support; all the letters I sent to him remained unanswered. If it were only for myself I would never have taken this step; but the child has rights. I must not permit a stain to rest on his name. Ah, madam, I don't know whether you understand me—"

Lora's eyes in the meantime were wandering over the paper. Ellen Smith, of Washington, and Adalbert Becher, of New York—the lines seemed to dance before her eyes.

"I cannot judge," she stammered, while a burning blush mounted to her forehead; "excuse me for a moment."

She went into the next room, rang the bell, and told the maid to ask the Herr General to come to her. Everything seemed to be whirling around with her. She could not say what she felt; her ideas were a perfect chaos of contradictory impressions. Only one thing seemed clear to her and shed a light into her despair, the hope of liberty, if this stranger had spoken the truth.

She walked up and down in feverish unrest. Presently the general came in with an anxious look.

"Uncle," she cried out as he entered, "there is a woman in here, who declares she is Becher's lawful

wife. Go and see her, and if she is speaking the truth, then, uncle, then—"

The old gentleman was so amazed that he thought her delirious. "Why, Lora," he said gently, drawing her toward him, "why, Lora, what ails you, child?"

"Uncle, if she is speaking the truth," began Lora again, "I will thank her, thank her on my knees, for then—then—"

She drew him to the door and thrust him into the boudoir, and she herself fled into the farthest corner of one of the deep bay-windows, laid her burning forehead against the pane, and gazed out into the darkening park. In a moment she heard the general's words.

"Eh, eh! It is you, madam—"

Then the door closed and she could hear nothing but an indistinct murmur. Sometime there were long pauses, and then came the soft plaintive woman's voice.

Merciful God, what if she should prove to be an imposter, if she were not his wife at all, and her own chains were firmly forged! There are such strange laws—what if this ray of light had come only to make the night of her despair the darker, and more gloomy?

"Merciful God, grant that she may be speaking the truth," prayed the young wife. "Let me live, let me be free."

She did not think of the insult that had been put upon her, if this should prove the truth. The salon door which led into the corridor opened, and with short, hasty steps Frau Elfrida rushed through the room—came to see what was going on up here—and Lora's heart began to beat violently. The lady knocked at the door of the boudoir, and then quickly entered.

The door was left open Lora heard a half-suppressed cry and angry words: "You dare to come here? Herr General, she is an adventuress of the purest water. She lived with me as a companion, and the vile creature entered into an intrigue with my son—you know, your excellency, how young men will be young men—especially when there is a silly creature like her. I had to send her away; but she has done nothing for years but pursue the poor fellow."

"Madam, I entreat you for your own sake"—the general's voice sounded very cold—"to be calmer; in such a matter as this there should be no anger and no malice. I am not a lawyer; therefore I cannot say how good this lady's claim may be; but we shall soon find out when the matter comes before the courts. Of course I have no reason for doubting your word; but there is one thing that seems serious; this lady seems quite willing to call the law to her assistance. H'm—I think that the lady must feel that the ground is pretty firm under her feet, and—have you any idea, madam, what the punishment is for such a mistake?"

"Merciful heavens! Don't speak so loud," cried Frau Becher, nearly beside herself. "She is an imposter; I swear it; she is an imposter."

"I am no imposter," Lora heard the stranger said, in a trembling voice, "nor did you dismiss me as you say; I went out of your house voluntarily, to protect myself against your son's pursuit; but he found me out at my aunt's, with whom I had taken refuge. There he offered me his hand—as I remained firm—and I—I accepted it—"

She stopped for a moment, and then went on speaking in a lower tone, "because I was fond of him, although he had tried to degrade me. We were married, and I had no suspicion because our marriage was to be kept secret, and because he would not take me home to his mother. I knew she hated me; he said to me so often that it was all her fault that he had not offered to marry me before. He always declared he would take me to Germany. Then he went away himself—the child was just two months old—and he promised to come back for me just as soon as possible. He came to see me once a year—he was there once last winter—and then—"

"Liar!" cried Frau Becher.

"Madam," said the general to Ellen, "go back to your hotel and I will talk with Frau Becher. You shall hear from me to-morrow morning. Excuse me for not going with you, but my first duty is to look after my niece."

Lora, who had not moved, now heard steps behind her, a woman's steps, and the pattering steps of a child, and those of her uncle.

(To be Continued.)

ARTEMESIA COUNCIL.

The Artemesia Township Council met in the town hall, Flesherton, on Monday, Dec. 16, 1907, pursuant to statute. The members were all present, the reeve in the chair. The minutes of the last session were read and confirmed. By-law 694, to close up parts of Simpson street in the village of Eugenia, between reserves 1 and 3, and 2 and 4, and deviation of road on lots 22 and 23, con. 10, was introduced and read a third time.

Carson—McKenzie—That by-law 694 be now read a second time.—Carried.

McKenzie—McLoughry—That the council go into committee on by-law 694.—Carried.

Council went into committee. Mr. McLoughry in the chair. Committee rose and Mr. McLoughry presented by-law 694. Council resumed, the reeve in the chair.

Meads—McKenzie—That by-law 693, to appoint Deputy Returning officers and Poll Clerks, and by-law 694, to close up certain road allowances, be now read; a third time, signed, sealed and entered in the by-law book.—Carried.

Carson—McKenzie—That T. Sullivan be refunded 70 cents on account of error in assessment.—Carried.

McLoughry—Carson—That J. Weber be paid \$5.00 for using split log drag on road in 14th concession, from his gate to valley road and to the limit north on valley road.—Carried.

Sarson—McLoughry—That Mr. Meads be paid the balance of his commission on expenditure in ward 3, \$4.20, as shown by his report.—Carried.

Meads—McLoughry—That the reeve be paid as follows: Letting and inspecting culvert at Ceylon, \$1.20, and attending Judge's Court of Revision, 1906-7, \$3.00.—Carried.

McKenzie—Meads—That Mr. McLoughry be paid the balance of his commission on expenditure in Ward 3, \$11.10, as shown by his report.—Carried.

Carson—McLoughry—That Mr. McKenzie be paid \$12.47 being commission on special expenditure in ward 4 of \$124.78.—Carried.

McKenzie—McLoughry—That Mr. Carson be paid the balance of commission on expenditure in ward 4, \$9.55, and \$18.00 for nine days, superintending special work on 30 sideroad, 1 N.D.R.—Carried.

Meads—Carson—That engineer McDowell be paid \$58.75 for plans, specifications and inspecting Boyne bridge at Flesherton.—Carried.

Meads—Carson—That W. L. Wright be refunded \$3.34, being an overcharge in his school rates for 1907 on lots 134 and 135, 2 S.W.T. and S. Road.—Carried.

Carson—McLoughry—That the following accounts, duly certified, for gravel furnished overseers, be paid: R. J. Carson, \$4.85; Geo. Moore, \$5.85; E. Cullis, \$4.20; John Pedlar, \$2.00; T. Atkinson, \$4.05; W. Fisher, \$1.50.—Carried.

McKenzie—Carson—That the report of the local Board of Health for 1907 be received and the members be paid for services as follows: S. P. Ottewill, \$4.08; A. Muir, \$4.00; W. J. Bellamy, \$4.00; W. F. Caswell, \$2.00; Dr. Carter, \$2.00.—Carried.

McKenzie—Meads—That C. H. Love be paid \$30.00, being contract price for work on the Col-linson ditch at Ceylon as certified by Engineer McDowell, and the same be placed on Collectors' Roll of 1908 against the property of A. Rutledge, being part of lot 150, con. 3, S.W.T. & S. Road.—Carried.

Meads—McLoughry—That T. R. Lever be paid \$2.00 for his services in connection with placing lights on road, and three lantern glasses and oil, when the Boyne bridge was washed away in Jan., 1907.—Carried.

McLoughry—Meads—That C. H. Love be paid \$4.75 for putting in culvert over ditch at Ceylon.—Carried.

McKenzie—Carson—That W. J. Reid be paid \$2.50 for repairs to bridge and timber furnished at lot 198, con. 2, N.E. T. & S. Road.—Carried.

McLoughry—Carson—That caretaker of town hall be paid as follows: Four sessions of Division Court, \$2.00; five concerts, \$2.50 and 15 cents for light of glass.—Carried.

Carson—McKenzie—That Jno. Pedlar be refunded \$1.50 and M.L. McIntyre \$1.00, being overcharge in statute labor respectively in 1907.—Carried.

McKenzie—McLoughry—That

W. H. Thurston be paid the balance of his printing account, \$26.28.—

McKenzie—McLoughry—That R. P. Legate be paid his account for plank and timber amounting to \$7.50, for culvert at Ceylon.—Carried.

McKenzie—Meads—That Messrs Lucas, Wright & McArdle's account for legal services at Court of Revision, \$5.00, be paid.—Carried.

Meads—Carson—That D. McTavish's account of \$3.75 for blacksmithing and repairing grader, be paid.—Carried.

Meads—Carson—That the arbitrators in the matter of forming a new union school section with part of the township of Osprey, be paid Artemesia's share, amounting to \$12.50.—Carried.

McKenzie—Meads—That the attention of the C. P. Railway authorities be called to the condition of their crossing on Durham road at lot 31 in this township as it appears to this council to be at present in a very dangerous condition.—Carried.

McKenzie—McLoughry—That the several collectors not having returned their rolls as required by law and this council deems it expedient, it is resolved that the said collectors be, and they are hereby authorized to continue the levy and collection of unpaid taxes in the manner and with the powers provided by law up to Dec. 27, 1907, but nothing in this resolution shall alter or affect the duty of said collectors to return their rolls or in any way affect or invalidate the said Collectors' sur-ties.—Carried.

McKenzie—Meads—That the reeve and Mr. McLoughry and Mr. Carson be a committee to enquire into the circumstances in connection with alleged damages claimed by George Douglass.—Carried.

McLoughry—Carson—That the following be a committee to confer with the police trustees of Flesherton re Cornfield's alleged damages to property by sidewalk, and that they follow up with legal advice.—Carried.

McKenzie—McLoughry—That the thanks of this council are due and are hereby tendered Reeve Mr. A. Muir in recognition of the able and courteous manner in which he has presided over this council, and discharged the duties of the said office during the past year.—Carried.

Council adjourned.—Advance.

SAVE THIS ANYWAY.

Trial Catarrh treatments are being mailed out free, on request, by Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis. These tests are proving to the people—without a penny's cost—the great value of this scientific prescription known to druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Catarrh Remedy. Sold by W. Turner & Co.

To check a cold quickly, get from your druggist some little Candy Cold Tablets called Preventives. Druggists everywhere are now dispensing Preventives, for they are not only safe, but decidedly effective and prompt. Preventives contain no quinine, no laxative, nothing harsh nor sickening. Taken at the sneeze-stage, Preventives will prevent pneumonia, bronchitis, influenza, etc. Hence the name Preventives. Good for feverish children. 48 Preventives 25-cents. Trial boxes 5 cts. Sold by W. Turner & Co.

PIGEON VALLEY

Mr. and Mrs. John Tueck, of Williamsford, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. E. Dennett.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tebbutt spent a few days recently with the latter's parents at Dornoch.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Guest and son Steven, of Holland Centre, spent Christmas with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Dennett.

Mrs. Chas. Tebbutt, sr., spent the past week with her daughter, Mrs. E. McAllister, of Midland.

Mr. and Mrs. Brodie and daughter Omel, of Markdale, spent Christmas with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Love, sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cornfield and daughter Ethel, of Berkeley, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilson and family.

WHY SUFFER FROM RHEUMATISM?

Do you know that rheumatic pains can be relieved? If you doubt this just try one application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It will make rest and sleep possible, and that certainly means a great deal to anyone afflicted with rheumatism. For sale by R. L. Stephen.

DUNDALK

(From the Herald.)
Burnside, of Markdale, was married at Mrs. W. J. Morrow's.

Will Bailey, teacher in his home for the holidays. Bunsley, of Markdale, was of Miss Sharp on Sun-

Mrs. W. Thompson, of Junction, are visitors at Mrs. W. J. Morrow's.

Mrs. Vert and McGuirk are a large open air rink for skating at the west side of the and it is expected to be a few days. Skating and other healthy sports and the rink will be well patronized.

Mr. Simmons broke one of his right hand last While out for a pleasure Mr. S. around the village Mr. S. got a fall which was as above.

A. Ringland arrived from Man., last week, to remain for some time. who is in poor health, at the home of her parents. Proton Station for some with the hope that the climate of Ontario may be

Mrs. James Anderson, Sask., who left this section the West five years ago, visit week for a couple of days in Ontario. They are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson in town at present.

He has dealt very gently with them, though they are advanced years, they are excellent day older than when they left away. Mrs. Robert A. Ringland is also a visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Anderson in town.

Albert Roseborough arrived Monday from Vermillion, and his many Dundalk friends are glad to see him. He left nearly two years ago for the States, carrying with him the best of his fellow-citizens.

He is now in one of the live-lies on the new Canadian line between Winnipeg and Edmonton, about 140 miles from latter place. As district agent for the Massey-Harris Co., he has eight sub-agents under him at other points.

He is just outside the town and is interested quite largely in the neighborhood. He says the cattle are grazing outside and are often allowed out all winter. The tells of a herd being found on a rancher and they were found years after about 30 miles from settlement in good condition and tumbled in number. Mr. Ringland's West, and reports all the Dundalkites, in this district well.—Herald.

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