KERSHAM MANOR.

CHAPTER XVI.

LOVE'S DREAM.

It was a July evening. Dinner was over, and Nina La Touche had gone out into the garden to gather a rose. Mrs. La Touche had graciously permitted the irregularity. She did not usually approve of such deviations from established rules. But Sebastian was with her, and he would see that the dear child did not catch cold. So Mrs. La Touche was left alone in the drawingroom, purring placidly to herself over the uncut pages of a monthly review, and wondering how soon the wedding could take place. Now Sebastian had not yet proposed. But mothers age very far.

Nina was in a remote corner of the garden, where she could not be seen from the house. To a young man like Sebastian Malet, already tormented by the ardor of a first love, the moment was over-powering. He followed Nina closely, more and more eager to pour his love into her ears.

Nina stepped lightly from bush to bush "Here are the red roses," she said "the deep velvety ones that I like so much. Where is your knife, Sebastian? Cut this one for me, please."

"Won't you give me my rose?" she said

coquettishly. He had forgotten all about the rose. "Oh, Nina," he said, suddenly casting reserve to the winds, "don't you know how much I love you?" He took a step nearer and put his arms round her waist. "Darling, tell me that you love me too," he said.

"Yes," Nina whispered. "Say it, darling; say 'I love you, Sebas-

"I love you, Sebastian."

"Sweetest!" He kissed her on the "Oh, Sebastian! Ought we? What wil

mamma say?"

"What do I care what anybody says? What is the whole wide world to me? You are my world; you are my queen, my soverign lady, my guiding angel ! I have loved you ever since I saw you. Oh, that first night after my return, my beautiful darling! Do you remember? You looked like a flower, a spirit, a white angel; you look so to-night. Oh, Nina, Nina! Did nobody ever tell you how beautiful you are?"

"Oh, Sebastian, how can you! Yes, yes, I do love you-darling, I do; only it is so strange and wonderful.'

"Did you know that you loved me

"Oh no. How could I?-At least-at least-"

"Dearest," pleaded Sebastian, "tell me that you loved me just a little. You could not love me now if you had not loved me as I loved you from the very beginning. am sure you did! Darling, tell me!"

"Not quite at first," responded Nina softly, "but afterwards-when you spoke to me-looked at me-"

"Yes, my own Nina! Then you understood? then you began to love me too?"

"Yes Sebastian." "You have the loveliest hair in the whole world. And you are sure you love

me, darling?" "I am quite, quite sure. You must have seen so many girls grander and prettier than I am that I can hardly believe that you care for me."

"Can't you?" said he tenderly, "Look at me." She raised her head and let him gaze deeply into her soft eyes.

She gave a joyous little laugh. "I sup-I can," she replied.

"Darling," said the lover at last, "if this would only last for ever ! It shall last. No | one ever loved as I do in all the world. Our | Nina?" love is for eternity."

Alas, how often-and how vainly-have such words been said!

CHAPTER XVII.

CONFIDENCES.

The Squire was well content with Sebastian's head-long plunge into love-making ; but in all matters relative to "the boy" he was accustomed to let his brother Roland legislate. He had an immense respect for Roland's wisdom. And Sir Roland was not pleased with his nephew's choice. He had certainly wanted Sebastian to marry; but had the same sort of benevolent contempt | perhaps it is uncharitable to say so." that he felt for his Cousin Selina. Sebastian wanted to marry directly. Mrs.

La Touche quite approved of his design, and the Squire would not have opposed it, but here Sir Roland stood firm. He said that it would be pure folly for the twomere boy and girl-to marry when they had scarcely known each other a month, for | the engagement?" their childish companionship had been severed so long that it did not count; and so aration.

ion ; but as soon as she gathered the gist | promise to me." of Sir Roland's objections she declared that she had always been of his opinion, and that he was wise-most wise-in putting a It is dangerous to get me on that topic, as | that we have to tell as we go along." check upon that dear, ardent, but, she was you know, Esther; it is really not fair to | Sir Roland had been prostrated with a afraid, most impetuous boy. Nina wept suggest it. I wanted to ask you just to be severe attack of bronchitis. He had recovand bemoaned herself in vain.

private, "please do not make such a little you know-and if-if she seems unhappy, had then shown itself in so alarming a form fool of yourself any longer. Why, my or her mother is not kind to her, to let me that the dector thought recovery impossible. dear child, are you such a baby as not to know. I have brought you my address, The squire was broken-hearted at the know that the estate is unentailed, and and you could just send me a line." that Cousin Roland has a large private "But what good would it do?" said listened as if he were in a dream. forcune? He is some years younger than Esther, taking from his hand the card on hands. We must act as he desires, therefore, whether we like it or not."

And Nina had to dry her tears. But it her mother was not a sympathizing confidante, Nina could always find one in Esther Denison, into whose ears she poured the story of her woes. Esther was

always a patient listener. Sebastian sometimes walked up Kennet's Lane at Esther's side, and went in- "that is true. It is the first time looked an old man. But his meet talks of revolution. Next year gives doors with her to see her mother. Indeed ever opposed anything on which I have set my dim eye brightened, his smile was as sweet | indications of a lively time in the bush, a he devoted so much time to Esther that heart. You think that I am not sufficiently as ever, when Sebastian came in. "Dear the workmen seem determined to make a at last Nina began to pout.

"You are always walking about with uncle?" he said anxiously. Esther Denison," she said. "I wish you "I did not say that." would not do it, Sebastian; after all, she is only our governess."

"So we are-in a way. But"-Nina friend?" he said pleadingly. all if people said that you were flirting with her life, if she will let me." Esther.

Sebastian laughed. "My darling! Is she jealous ?- No, I was only joking. Esther is not a girl that one flirts with; she is too serious. And we only talk of you. She is very fond of you, as of course she ought to

"Po you think her pretty?" asked Nina

"Some people might consider her handsome ; she is a little too tragic for me." admire fair women with golden hair and blue eyes, don't you?"

Sir Roland, looking in one afternoon for a cup of tea on the lawn with his cousin, saw them thus walking along a distant garden path. Nina's white fingers were interlaced on Sebastian's arm, her flower-like face was upturned, while he looked down at it with serious intentness. Sir Roland looked at them with regret.

"A pretty picture," he said to Mrs. La

"Poor things," she said. "They look well matched, do they not? You could hardly find a handsomer couple in all the country. -Ah, Miss Denison, dear, I sent Cecily to find you. It is your last afternoon, is it not? before the holidays, and I was sure that you would like to say goodby to Mr. Malet before you went, as we

shall not have him here for a year or more." Her eyes rested coldly on Esther's face as she said these gracious words. She had

"Thank you," she said simply. "But it is a pity to disturb them, and I really ought to hasten home to my mother. Will you kindly say good-by for me, and convey my best wishes to Mr. Malet?"

her suspicions of Miss Denison.

"Sebastian would be sorry not to say good-by," said Sir Roland kindly. "One of the children will call him."

"No, no, please not," said Esther hurriedly. "Indeed I must go. You will say good-by for me, please. I am not able to wait this afternoon.'

"Very well," answered Mrs. La Touche, "I will tell him that you left him your farewells. Good-by, if you must go. My love to your dear mother.'

Inwardly she thought: "The girl is afraid of breaking down. I always thought there would be some complication of this kind. Nothing shows want of breeding more clearly than the betrayal of a lovedisappointment. I did not think that Miss Denison was so weak." About nine o'clock that evening Esther

sat in her little parlor at Kennet's Green. Mrs. Denison was upstairs. Esther had been alone for half an hour, and was leaning back in a low arm chair beside the open window, in utter languor and weariness of heart. Her heart gave a great leap of unreasoning fright and joy when suddenly the garden gate creaked on its hinges and Sebastian's tall figure with its usual easy swing came up the garden path.

"I have come to say good-bye. I was so sorry when I found that you had gone without seeing me," he said, grasping her hand in friendly fashion, and leading her back to her seat at the window.

"I did not want to disturb you," Esther responded faintly.

"So Mrs. La Touche said. You are always thoughtful for others, Esther. But you would not have disturbed us at all. 1 am glad I thought of coming up to-night. There is something that I wanted to say."

"Would you like a lamp?" she said instinctively withdrawing a little into the

"No, thank you. I like this half lightif you do. I wanted to speak to you for a moment-about Nina.'

" Yes ?" "You are Nina's friend? You love

"Yes," she answered steadily. " Will you be her friend while I am away, Esther? That is what I wanted to ask."

rather ironical surprise. she will have many advisers, many ad- cousin. She had spoken of Sebastian's mirers," he went on. "Her mother is not -not -quite so ready to give her consent to the engagement as she was."

"Oh!" said Esther. "Sir Reland has been speaking to her. I believe that I shall not be so wealthy as Mrs. La Touche expected. I suppose that that is the reason. She does not forbid the engagement. I can not help seeing that if not to marry Nina La Touche, for whom he | a richer suitor came by she would rather -

> "Oh no. You are right. Mrs. La Touche always likes rich people best." "You have noticed that?" said the young man with interest. "My uncle bas often told me so, but I never believed it until -

lately. Until to-night." "She has not been trying to break off

"No. It is where it was before-an his money where he would. understanding rather than an engagement. he insisted, not only on delay, but on sep- It is all the same to me, and to Nina too," soon as he landed in England; and the said Sebastian: "we shall love each other doctor met him at the Woodbury station. Mrs. La Touche had never thought of forever, but when I am away I am afraid "Is he—is he—worse?" he faltered fearing such a thing as delay. She had received that Nina-Nina will not be happy; her to hear a more terrible word. the news of Sebastian's proposal with effus- mother may fret and worry her about her

"But she loves you."

know, why should I tell you?"

her if she were unhappy."

"Against Sir Roland's wishes?" "Sir Roland is unreasonable."

him so," said Esther.

always a good counselor. Perhaps you are

"Thank you. And mine too?"

enthusiasm, "I am grateful to you," he said earnest- dear boy." Then in a more abstracted ly. "Good-by, Esther. I am going home tone, "Yes, stay, I may have something to to my uncle, and I will remember your say to you before I go.' words. Good-by. I start early to-mor-

gone. "I will keep my word," she said to something to drink, and would converse herself. "I will be Nina's friend, her best | for a little time. On one of these occasions friend, as long as we live, if she will let he smiled on the young man's anxious face. me. She is quite likely to 'drop' me when | "Don't look so sad," he said with someshe gets into a different kind of society, and | thing like surprise. "We must come to this then where will our friendship be?" sooner or later; it is well to slip away as Esther's lip curled at the thought.

by the entrance of Miss Meredith. "Was that Sebastian Malet?" said the

lady." I saw him from my garden, and I

" Yes." formally engaged? Well, I think it is a do what is right and just. But you shall larities have not been denied. The enquiry pity. Rather too bad of old Sir Roland." | decide.

card is that?" Miss Meredith cried briskly, and the other grasping the bed-clothes. laying hands on it before Esther could interpose. "Sebastian's! Oh, with his foreign | Henry Wyatt?" asked Sir Roland. address, I see. Are you going to write to

"About Nina-perhaps," said Esther.

lecture you-" "No, ylease don't, dear Miss Meredith !" "But you must not let Mr. Sebastian flirt apt to-"

never thought of such a thing !" passion for himself, as our neighbors say." " Miss Meredith !"

seen a good deal of men, though I am only that he would give her son Henry the sum a plain old spinster at the end of my days | which she would have inherited if she had love with two women at once; but I assure | died, but he, after all, never paid the sum.' you they can't."

"Who ever heard of such a thing !" ex- man," said Sebastian.

claimed Esther. the two women, taking one, or leaving both | bury : I do not know whether he married impossible is to keep the balance between ing stroke to my father's patience. He So don't you be deluded by Sebastian into sister." sort; trying to make a trio out of what was | Uncle Roland?" set down as a duet. Better stick to the

of the window.

CHAPTER XVIII.

A PROMISE AND A SEARCH.

"Sir Roland seriously ill and wishes to see you.

Such was the telegram received by Sebastian some six months after his departure from Kersham Manor. He had heard address." that his uncle was failing in health and had been anxious on his account; but this telegram gave him a great shock.

The breach between the uncle and nephew, caused by Sir Roland's disapproval "Is it necessary to ask?" Esther said in of his engagement to Nina, had been widened by Mrs. La Touche's report of a out. "No-perhaps not." "When I am away, conversation that she had held with her prospects of his probable heirship of Kersham Manor and of Sir Roland's fortune, and she had been surprised to find her words cut short rather sharply. "Sebastian will probably inherit the manor, as you say," he remarked. "Stephen always speaks of him as the heir. But Stephen is not bound to leave it to Sebastian. Indeed, he might marry again -- who knows? No, it is not likely; I only say that it is possible. As for my own money, I have not very much to leave, after all; and I do not promise it all to him. I have other objects

We shall soon see the effect of that speech if Selina is actuated only by worldly motives, he thought shrewdly.

Sebastian took a high hand, and immediately declared that Sir Roland might leave

He telegraphed the hour of his arrival as "No worse at present. But I thought

should like to see you before you reached the house. Your carriage is here; if you "Oh, yes. She is the dearest-sweetest- | will give me a seat in it, I will tell you all

as much her friend as possible-to be as ered, apparently, from this illness, but "Nina," said her mother at last, in kind and sympathetic as you always are, never regained his strength. Heart-disease

"No, but I see you think it. You were with me now until the end."

pights, however, he did not refuse the offer | she has stability.

"Yes," she replied, with less apparent of Sebastian's companionship. "Yes stay with me," he said, "stay if you wish,

He generally lay silent for the earlier part of the evening, but roused himself He pressed her hand warmly and was about eleven, when Sebastian brought him Startling Rumers in London-Afghaniseasily as I am doing. There is, a matter A brisk knock at the door was followed which I want to mention to you, Sebastian, while I have strength to speak.

"To-morrow," Sebastian urged. "No; I might feel less equal to it to-"And he and little Nina are not to be straight for me. I know you will wish to

Miss Meredith was angling for news. "I Sebastian leaning against the bed, felt ran in just as I was," she explained cheer- his uncle's fingers close caressingly on his fully. "I was repotting one or two carna- hand. The iron bedstead on which Sir tions; and I must go back to 'em, for I've Roland always slept stood in the darkest left them standing out on a bench, and they | corner of the room, and the sick man's face, don't like a draught to their feet, poor dears. raised nigh on the piled-up pillows was So you don't think Sir Roland is to blame? | well-nigh indistinguishable in the gloom. People are saying that he's rather heartless. | Sebastian sat on the edge of the bed with But, law, we all do things that look heart- head bowed and eyes fixed on the fire; one less now and then. That's nothing. Whose | hand still clasped in his uncle's thin fingers

"Do you remember ever hearing of one "Yes. He is-or was-my second cousin,

I believe." "Not quite. Your first cousin once re-

"Hm. Well, my dear, I don't want to moved. His children-if he has any-are your second cousins,' "Is he living?"

with you, as you know, young men are very spoke feebly. "Remember what I am going question and other matters long pending to tell you. His mother, my aunt Lydia, settlement between Afghanistan and India, "He never flirted with me in his life; he was much younger than her brother, your had been adjusted satisfactorily. The grandfather. She married beneath her-a result, he said, was very agreeable to him, "I'm glad to hear it, dear, and you need disreputable sort of man, called John Wyatt. and he rejoiced in the restoration of his not look so indignant, for I'm only speaking | She had a son-Henry, who, is as I was | cordial relations to the Indian Government. for your good. I don't think Sebastian is a saying, your first cousin once removed. flirting man. He would be more likely to After her marriage her parents cast her off, take things seriously, and invent a grande | refusing for some years to have anything to do with her. Your grandfather (her Emperor William Commends the Officers brother, you know), acknowledging at last "Take my word for it, dear - and I've that she had been harshly treated, promised -there are men that think they can be in been on good terms with her father. She "How was that? He was an honorable

"Yes, but Henry displeased him. He fell "They think so, indeed, my dear. But into bad ways; drank and gambled, and it always ends in a man choosing between finally ran off with a young girl at Wood--generally the latter. The thing that's her or not. It was this that put the finishthem. One always wins in the long run. absolutely refused to keep his promise to his

"Yes. I can not excuse Henry-he was a bad, wild tellow, vicious and hard-hearted "Your warnings are well meant but quite | -and yet he had his good points," said Sir needless,' Esther flashed out angrily. "I Roland. "But neither he nor his mother shall never write to Mr. Malet, and I shall were well treated. He used to live here like probably not see him again for months or a son of the house, and then he was suddenly cast off and told he should not have a She tore the card in two and threw it out | penny. When I came home I tried hard to find him, but without success. I thought until a month ago that he must be dead." "You have heard from him?" said Sebastian with a start.

"Yes; a begging letter. I sent him fifty pounds, and told him that I would write again. Curiously enough, my letter and check were returned to me a few days afterward by the post-office authorities. He must have removed suddenly and left no

"That looks a little suspicious." "It does. I gathered from his letter that he was in wretched health and wretched circumstances. You will find it with other papers in my desk. It is the only clue we have to go by. I want you to find him

"Uncle, you are tiring yourself; leave the rest until to-morrow.

"No, my dear boy, I must speak now or not at all. The amount that his mother should have had was ten thousand pounds.' "And you have left it to him?"

"No, I have not. When I made my will I did not know whether Henry was alive or dead. I have left all I had—it is a little under thirty thousand pounds-to you. feel it a matter of conscience to give back | who wore white silk dresses trimmed with to Henry Wyatt what was promised to him. We were boys together-friends-I remember promising him that he should one day 'have his rights,' " said Sir Roland, "andromantic fancy as you may deem it, Sebastian-I want to keep my word to my cousin encrusted with jewels; from ex-Empress and old friend."

that I am wronging you. Because you will have Kersham, you know; I was speaking of that with Stephen the other day. And though Kersham is not a large estate, there is money in the Funds, and you would have two or three thousand a year; you can spare Henry Wyatt these ten thousand

pounds of mine." "You want me to seek out Henry Wyatt and make over the money to him?" said Sebastian, gently.

(TO BE CONTINUED,)

Affairs in Australal.

both industrially and commercially. A let-

Australia is in a most lamentable plight

prospect of his brother's death. Sebastian | ter received in Toronto from Melbourne states that :- " Australia is in a very bad The January night was bitterly cold. | state, both in respect to work and wages. the Squire, and if Stephen dies first, Roland | which a few words were penciled. "If | Sebastian shivered as he got out of the | It is in a far worse state than I ever knew will probably have everything in his own Nina were unhappy, she would surely let carriage, but not from cold, rather from an the old country to be. Wages are being cut you know. And if she did not wish you to undefined sensation of awe. We never down right and left, and numbers of men really believe in death until his grip is on have been offering their services to squat-"I would come home at once and marry our heart-strings, and we see him face to ters (sheep farmers) for tucker (board) only while 10s. to 15s. per week is now the rul-In spite of the doctor's warning Sebastian | ing wage for a man who has to bury himself was startled by the alteration in his uncle's | in the bush, away from civilization, and to "It is the first time that you have found appearance. The features were pinched exist in a hut which in Canada would not be and wasted; the skin was yellow, like old | considered fit for a dog-kennel. Strikes are Sebastian paused. "Yes," he said, parchment, and wrinkled; Sir Roland for the order of the day, and every man you conscious of the debt that I owe to my lad !" he murmured fondly, as Sebastian, hard fight for a reasonable wage. The con-s with deep emotion, kissed him on the fore- dition of the unemployed in Sydney and head, "I knew you would come. Stay Melbourne is alarming and the 'townies' (town workmen) jump at the chance He refused to let his nephew sit up with of getting into the bush to work for half "I thought that you were friends, Nina." right. You will at any rate be Nina's him at night, and sent him away to Nina the usual wages." Surely this is an unexand the Squire next morning. "I am not pected and convincing proof of the saying slightly hesitated—"I should not like it at "Always—always. To the last day of dying yet," he declared. But the doctors that all is not gold that glitters. Canada gave no hope of his recovery. On following may have little gold, but she has better-

OLD WORLD NEWS

SPECIAL CABLES.



tan Frontier Matter Settled-French Spies in Germany.

A London special says: - The city has been filled for several days with rumors of impending financial failures, but nothing definite can be ascertained. The Stock Exchange settlement has been concluded without default.

In its financial article to-day The Times says: Alarming rumors prevailed in the city yesterday. Reports have been current ran in to ask when he was going. To-mor- morrow than I do to-night. It is a family for days affecting the management of the affair which perhaps I should have told you Bank of England; also concerning the losses before; a matter that I want you to put of the bank supposed to have been incurred owing to certain irregularities. Irreguis proceeding, but enough is known to prove that the losses are much less than alleged by reckless scandal-mongers. The Times believes the rumors that certain directors of the bank are about to retire are without foundation in fact. The financial editor says in conclusion : "There must be some fault in a system under which the irregularities in question occurred. The bank ought to make known at once the facts concerning the public.

AFGHALISTAN AND INDIA.

The Ameer Announces that the Frontier and Other Questions Are Settled.

A despatch from Calcutta says :- The Ameer of Afghanistan announced at a mili-"He is living, I believe." Sir Roland tary review on Sunday that the frontier

THE FRENCH SPIES.

Who Made the Arrest.

A Berlin despatch says : - The Emperor has especially commended the officials who arrested the two French spies on the English yacht Insect, off Kiel. He will probably decorate them. The importance of the case against the Frenchmen has increased greatly in the last few days, since evidence was found to indicate that both were working for the French general staff. In official circles many believe that France will be obliged to make an apologetic explanation of the matter.

A ROYAL WEDDING.

a Platonic friendship, or anything of that | "And you wish to make some amends, The Bride is the Grand-Daughter of the Emperor of Austria.

A Munich special says : - The marriage of Archduke Joseph Augustin of Austria and the Princess August of Bavaria, grand-daughter of Emperor Francis Joseph, was solemnized here to-day with all the possible splendor of the court. Freiherr von Crailsheim, Minister of State for the Royal House, performed the civil service in the throne room of the Royal palace. Archbishop Thoma officiated at the religious ceremony in the court church of All Saints. He was assisted by several high Catholic orelates. Emperor Francis Joseph attend. ed both ceremonies. The city is illuminated this evening, and bands are playing in the public square.

A GREAT WEDDING.

The Earl of Bathurst Linked to Miss Lilias Borthwick.

A London special says :- The marriage took place to-day of Lilias, only daughter of Sir Algernon Borthwick, to the Earl of Bathurst. It was a great society affair, and was attended by a large number of aristocrats. The ceremony was performed at St. Paul's church, Knight's Bridge, Archdeacon Hayward, the vicar, officiating. The service was full choral.

The bride wore a white satin dress trimmed with chiffon and a tulle veil fastened with a pearl and diamond brooch. She carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley and stebanotis. There were eight bridesmaids, pale blue velvet and mink. They carried bouquets of carnations. Among the many presents were the following: From the Queen, a silver tea service; from the Duke and Duchess of York, a heart-shaped casket Eugenie, a gold plated tea service ; from "You do not imagine that I would ob- Lady Rothschild, a ruby and diamond bracelet; from Lord Randolph, and Lady "No, my boy, no. And I do not think Randolph Churchill, a silver tankard, and from Sir William Vernon Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, six jewelled bangles.

MANITOBA'S WHEAT CROP.

About Eight Million Rushels Already Shipped From the Country this Year.

A Winnipeg, Man., special says :- "It is reported that all the wheat in Minnesota and the Dakotas of this season's crop, available for export, has already been marketed and forwarded to seaboard," said a reporter to a Canadian Pacific Railway official to-

"It is very much the same in Manitoba," replied the official. "By the end of this month, when navigation will probably close, we expect to have eight million bushels of this year's crop out of the country. Up to date we have taken out about six and a half million bushels, and during the next fortnight, providing deliveries by the farmers continue as they have been, we will have carried out another one and a half million bushels. Estimating the crop at fifteen million bushels, which will likely be near the correct figures, this will leave only four million bushels still to be marketed.

Barley-water and linseed-tea will improve the voice.

Fumigation by tobacco smoke will distroy insects on plants.

The Paris sewers are the largest and most complete in the world.

monds originally came from meteors. There are said to be 673,642 Freemasons

A German scientist maintains that dia-

and 647,471 Oddfellows in America. The best edible frogs dressed for table at

Paris come from Alsace, packed in large baskets.