

COMFORT SOAP

The Standard of Cleanliness
—All Real Soap
POSITIVELY the LARGEST SALE in CANADA

THE DAUGHTER OF DAVID KERR

Continued from page 6.

drift, although the daughter of David Kerr was not aware of it. Every one in Belmont knew what Gloria did not: That she was about to make a great effort to secure recognition. Belmont was not in a receptive mood. Its first thought was that she was the child of a shrewd political trickster who had fattened at the expense of the town. The offspring of the leopard should not hope to be without spots.

Mrs. Gilbert was clever enough to have girls to luncheon whom she thought might become interested in Gloria. They came, and in the majority of cases surprised Gloria by their charming manners and their beautiful clothes. Her court was to be even more brilliant than she had dreamed. The girls were invited one at a time, to give both Gloria and the visitor the opportunity of becoming well acquainted.

The luncheon guests came to call afterward, but by a strange mischance it was always when Gloria was not at home. She would go to the architect's office with Mrs. Gilbert, and would find on her return that several cards had been left for her. The ball was so near that she made no attempt to pay any calls herself. She was too busy.

Although railing at the fate which took him away most of the time, the first three weeks after Gloria's removal to town were spent by Judge Gilbert in Chicago. Occasionally he ran over for a day, but even then his wife and their guest saw little of him. This would have made their evenings hang heavy on their hands had it not been for Joe Wright. He got into the habit of dropping in after dinner every evening and several times a week. Mrs. Gilbert had him to dine with them. Late in the afternoons he and Gloria often drove together, the season of the year keeping them most of the time on the city streets. Once he drove with her to Locust Lawn, but as it was late when they reached there he did not get out, sitting in the runabout while Gloria ran into the house for a few minutes.

Neither Wright nor Gloria ever made an effort to direct the conversation into the intimate channel it had taken the night they first met in Belmont. One might almost have thought they had agreed to consider themselves merely good friends, so impersonal were they in what they said. For this there was a reason; rather, there were two reasons, his and hers. Wright was keeping a firm grip on himself because he knew the truth and was afraid. Gloria was self-possessed and would not have permitted him to pass the border of friendship, had he dared, because she wished to know Belmont well. Even a hint of an entangling alliance would prove a hindrance. Thus it was that each was happy in the other's company. And if perchance they looked the sentiment that each had inwardly resolved not to breathe, they were happier still in the thought that some day their dreams would come true.

The paper was occasioning Wright no great anxiety. Somewhat to his surprise the advertising revenue was showing most gratifying gains caused by the increase of local business. The Banner had more advertising, but the new owner of the afternoon paper had no cause to complain. Even his advertising manager could not explain it. Main street merchants who had been out of the paper for years began to send in copy without solicitation. This made the head of the advertising department think that the millennium was about due. The real reason, unknown to every one except the merchants receiving the message, was that Dave Kerr had sent out the tip for them to throw some of their patronage to the News.

This was a shrewd move on the part of Kerr. He wanted Wright to have such a volume of business that if he should order all the advertising he could influence cut off, the paper would be instantly crippled. If the News had not much business, then anything Kerr might cause to be dropped off would only show that his power was slight. If he had to strike a blow he wanted it to be with a sledge hammer.

Another important consideration which led him to take this step was that the merchants might believe, and he tipped it off in a manner which would be most apt to make them jump to that conclusion, that he was himself interested in the News. This would tend to minimize Wright's influence if he should attempt a crusade, since the public would wink and say: "It's all a bluff, old man Kerr himself is interested in the paper." The boss even calculated that this would be strengthened by the frequency with which Wright was seen in his daughter's company. He was not looking for trouble, he never welcomed it, but he sought always to be prepared when it came.

During her first weeks at Mrs. Gilbert's Gloria saw little of her father. She had at first frequently dropped in at his office, but he had intimated that it was no place for her. Sometimes she would be at Locust Lawn when Tom brought him home in the afternoon. When Judge Gilbert was home from Chicago once he dined with them. Every day, however, she talked to him for some time over the telephone. He always seemed interested, apologized for not seeing her more, and let her rattle on until she had quite exhausted the news of the day. Occasionally he complained to her of his rheumatism — no one had ever heard him speak of it before—and she would beg him to take good care of himself, since it was

with him that she wished to dance first at her ball.

There was one girl whom Mrs. Gilbert sought as a friend for Gloria. She mentioned it to her husband the first day their guest arrived, and he suggested that she be invited to lunch the next day. Accordingly Mrs. Gilbert telephoned Miss Laura Piper and asked her. For the following day, however, Miss Piper had an engagement. When several other days were mentioned she had engagements for those also. Could she have been made to accept Gloria, the task of conquering Belmont would indeed become less arduous. Her father was head of the great Piper Mining company, and her family was looked upon as one of the most exclusive in the whole state. If Laura Piper would, she could make it extremely pleasant for Gloria. But Laura Piper had her own way and her family's ideas about the Kerr might be, she was still her father's daughter.

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Mrs. Gilbert reported her lack of success to her husband on his return from his first trip to Chicago, and he mentioned it, almost casually, to David Kerr when they met the next day.

The boss inquired the particulars, but made no comment. That he was not unmindful of the episode developed two days later when the Piper Coal

company received a complaint from the secretary of the school board that there was an undue quantity of slate

in the last coal furnished the public

schools. While worrying with this, the company's legal department sent word to the president that the city solicitor

had just notified the company that one

of the important spurs into an uptown

coal yard crossed a street without au-

thority of law.

Old man Piper swore by all the gods in mythology that it was the worst outrage ever perpetrated upon him in all his business life. He had but a day or two to catch his breath before Mrs. Gilbert telephoned at the dinner hour asking Laura to luncheon the next day.

The whole thing dawned on him when Laura flounced back from the telephone and announced petulantly that she would not meet that odious Gloria Kerr.

He said nothing until after dinner, then calling Laura aside he ordered her to telephone Mrs. Gilbert and withdraw her refusal. His pocket book having been hit, Piper was willing to make some sacrifice to determine the reason and what he was to do.

Wright would have gone further, but he wanted a formal declaration, but first he wanted several things settled.

He felt that he could not stay in Belmont if he married Gloria. How to get rid of the paper was a question.

Come over the sea to me, to me,

Come over the sea to me,

The little ships go sailing by

But never a ship brings thee."

They danced, forgetful of everything but that they were together. A man had cried in the wilderness of the world for his mate and she had answered.

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