

# A Fair Invalid

CHAPTER I

I who tell this story am Constance Neville, of Neville's Cross. My husband died when I was twenty-seven, leaving me the whole of his vast fortune to me without restraint or restriction, to enjoy as I would, and to pleasure according to my own taste and fancy. He was not of "blue blood," as husband. His father had been one of the richest men in England, and he, at his death, transmitted his fortune to my husband, Richard Neville.

It happened by a strange coincidence that the ancient mansion and estate of Neville's Cross came afterward, through the death of the heir, into the market. My husband decided on buying it. "I shall be Richard Neville," said my husband, "and my highest ambition will be gratified." It was a great deal of money that he was buying the estate, he would become as once a country gentleman of ancient pedigree and long descent. How many thousands of pounds he spent in putting the great old place into the best order he could see to; but when all arrangements had been made, it was one of the most magnificent houses in England. Every country and place had its own requisition. The most superb pictures and statues, wonders of ancient and modern art, the choicest flowers, the richest hangings, the most costly furniture, seemed to have been gathered from all parts of the world.

We lived there happily enough for some years, going to London for the season and abroad for the winter, spending the early spring and part of the autumn for the shooting at Neville's Cross.

At twenty-seven the whole of my husband's vast fortune, and his large estate, with its innumerable responsibilities, became mine. I had no children, no relatives, nor matter before me to claim to or for, and I was at a loss to do with it. I had loved my husband well, but the idea of a second marriage was hateful to me. What, then, was I to do with my money and my life? I desolved upon living at Neville's Cross, and being as happy as possible under the circumstances. So years gliding away.

One fine day in June I was sitting alone when my steward, James Payne, a shrewd, clever business man, came in to see me. He had news, I felt sure, from the expression on his face. After his usual bow and some preliminary remarks, he said:

"You will be pleased to hear that we have a tenant at last for the River House." "An eligible tenant?" I inquired.

"That is a point I must ask you to decide, madame," was the cautious reply. "I cannot undertake to settle it. I will lay the whole matter before you—the decision, of course, rests with you."

"I bowed. My man of business continued: "I was in my office yesterday—my office in Dalnairre—when one of my clerks came to say that a lady wished to see me. There came into the office a respectable-looking woman, dressed in black silk and a Paisley shawl. I am pretty quick at coming to conclusions, and I felt that she was the wife of the first—whether she was the wife of the first or not, I did not know, but she seemed to have a good head for business."

"I understand, Mr. Payne," she began, "that you have the letting of the house known as the River House. I am glad to know the rent, terms of letting, and other particulars."

CHAPTER II

I arranged to meet Mrs. Lewis at Mr. Payne's office. I found her a comely, well-looking woman, but, like my agent, was puzzled to know whether she was lady's maid, or who she was. She was a well-spoken, well-educated woman, frank in every way except where her mistress was concerned, and then she was very reserved. "My documents," she said, "that want signing will take with you to my mistress."

"You are a good man of business," I put in, "but we must not take more for the house than its worth. You must manage so that the twenty pounds per annum are made up to her."

"I am not sure, madame," he said, "that you will find the tenant an eligible one. My visitor, whose name she gave was Mrs. Jane Lewis, continued: "I am sure it will do," she said. "You hear no sounds but the rushing of the river, the songs of the birds and the murmur of the trees."

"You hear no other sounds," I replied. "The voices of the men, and the laughter of children at play, the roll of carriage wheels, the steps of passers-by, are all absent!"

"I am so delighted, my dear madame," she said, "to know that we have tenants at last. I hear that your new tenants have arrived."

"I returned, but I fear they will not prove to be of much advantage. The lady—Miss Vane—objects to society."

"I know of no other reason save she does not care for it," Mrs. Lewis received me.

"I think not," she said. "I shall most certainly wait upon her. I intended doing so. She may be perhaps a sensible lady, of middle age, and she will surely not refuse to receive me. She must understand that my duty compels me to see every person who calls upon me."

## Doctors Condemn Oily Liniments

### The Public Are Warned to Be Careful of These Strong-Smelling Oily Liniments Containing Harmful Acids, Ammonia, Etc.

Many people have clung to the old-fashioned idea that a thick, greasy liniment is the best kind. Doctors say not—and they know.

Recently a number of these white, oily liniments were analyzed, and they were found to contain an enormously high percentage of harmful acids, and such irritating chemicals as ammonia, etc. For the moment they may cause a warm sensation, when first applied, but their continued use never cures rheumatism, and only deteriorates the skin, sets up inflammation and causes endless trouble.

When a doctor warns you to quit using a white, oily liniment—do so. He knows that a thick liniment can't penetrate the pores and reach the seat of the pain.

When asked to sign an opinion a few days ago, Dr. Roberts stated that he considered a strong, penetrating, pain-subduing liniment, such as "Nerville," to be superior to any of the white ammonia liniments.

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## KHEDIVE OPPOSES POLYGAMY.

His Home-Life an Example Which Christians Might Emulate.

In the middle of the day the ruler of Egypt lunches with the only woman who has ever sustained him the reputation of a wife. His higher could, were he so inclined, have himself surrounded by four wives affected by the pious efforts of the land. He has none the less remained strictly monogamous.

The Khedive's domestic life is a model of the ideal of monogamy. He is a Greek with Circassian blood, some years younger than the Khedive—he is named forty—and exquisitely beautiful. It does not appear that any European or American of the male sex has gazed upon the features of the Khedive.

She is the mother of six children, five girls and a boy. The latter is now about ten years of age, and unlike the eldest born of Mohammedan rulers generally, he is to inherit his father's throne.

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## CHILDHOOD AILMENTS.

Most of the troubles that afflict the stomach and bowels, and if these are put right the child will get well and thrive well. Baby's Own Tablets cure all stomach and bowel troubles and all the other minor ailments of babyhood and childhood. The Tablets are easy to take and are guaranteed free from any harmful ingredients.

London Mulberry Trees. Finbury Circus gardens, which have just furnished fruit for the Lord Mayor, are by no means the sole city nursery of the mulberry tree.

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## SUNLIGHT SOAP.

HOUSE CLEANING Instead of being a monotonous drudgery becomes a labour of love when Sunlight helps you. Remember—Sunlight does all the work, at least the cost and half the time of other Soaps.

AVIATION AND VOLITATION. Trying to Find a Scientific Name for the Art of Flying.

When the automobile, that now seems what antiquated vehicle which is already threatened with the fate of soon being considered only first enough for the timid and elderly, was first invented, the task of finding a name for it was happily undertaken in many lands, but nominative faculty has been so weakened in modern man that he made an extremely poor job of it, says the New York Times.

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AGENTS WANTED. AGENTS WANTED—NO SECURITY ON CAPITAL REQUIRED. Liberal inducements. Write for particulars to Munns & Co., 361 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

STRANGE HINDU BELIEFS. Say Ghost of Man Killed by Tiger Rides on Boat's Head.

The uneducated Hindu (and he is in the great majority) believes that the ghost of a man killed by a tiger rides on the head of the boat that stops him, to warn him of danger and to guide him to new victims. It is declared that the amount of one rupee a day; that is to say, if the tiger kills a calf worth six rupees he will not be allowed another victim for five days.

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