

A FAIR MAIDEN'S NO.

The Story of an Unprecedented Courtship and a Betrayed Trust.

(Not Yet Published in Book Form.)

"No, I am not of the world," said Mrs. Courtaine, making a little crease between thumb and finger in the black front breadth of her gown, and watching it as though it were a small, yet palpable, objection to her entire liking of the person just named. "Still," she went on, with her haggard face brightening dimly, "he is very nice and warm-hearted and sincere."

"Despite his daring to live in so wicked a place as a city, I suppose?" Van Horne Courtaine replied with sarcasm flickering in the vain smile which had crept beneath his white moustache. "If I'm not mistaken, Channing has told me that your son Carroll has never seen the inside of a city at all."

"Never!" said Mrs. Courtaine, "and I hope he never will have the experience." "You hope such a thing?" tell in undiscovered amazement from her hearer. "Yes, I want it, and I hope it with all my heart, Carroll knows that." She was motionless as a statue while she delivered these words. They seemed to float from her without the least labial effort; they made him who heard her think of a ghost speaking.

Van Horne Courtaine shrugged his shoulders and slightly gnawed his lower lip. "But the lad may rebel against any such rule as this," he said, "in the course of time he surely will rebel."

"There is no rule for him to rebel against," came the same curiously composed voice. "He realizes my wish, that is all. He is contented here, and can live here in thorough ease after I am gone."

"Then, pardon me—you wish him to avoid mingling with his fellow-beings all through the remainder of his life?"

"No, he can mingle with them here."

"M—yes. And—marry, here?"

"If he desires."

"But (again pardon me) could he find in a place like this the sort of wife whom you would wish to be the mother of your own and of Archibald's—grandchildren?"

A sad smile touched the lady's lips. If she had not already appeared to her observer as so glacially courteous, even amiable, he might have pronounced this smile a sneer.

"In Southmeadow there are some very cultivated and honorable women. If he makes his choice among them I, while I live, shall offer no hindrance."

Courtaine gave one or two quick nods. "I see," he said, "you dislike for him the life of large towns."

"I abominate the idea of his ever leaving these hills, where we brought him as a baby, under whose shadows he has lived contentedly until now, and from which he could depart only to meet the selfishness, the sorrow, the fretful turmoil and ambition of greed that here would at least leave him comparatively unscathed."

A silence ensued. Van Horne Courtaine was once more busied with the frail links of his watch chain, letting them now lie loose on his finger-tips and now tossing them up and down, as though he were a jeweller weighing them for their worth.

Suddenly he straightened himself in his chair and folded both his hands in his lap, just as he had done a hundred times at smart dinner parties in New York, or perhaps in London or Paris as well, when the servants were changing the courses.

"Let us talk more directly to one another, Adelaide," he said, and his equable voice was now a good key higher than before. "I came here to see you with a distinct motive. Will it not be best for me to tell you, in all frankness, just what that motive is?"

"As you please."

"Well, then, I must begin by stating that the thing I did in the past—the thing that I am now aware you bitterly resent my having done—is an act now quite unalterable."

"Quite."

"Allow that I—er—I will not speak of repentance, Adelaide, like my father does not so often as he grows older, and you know I am a good deal older than I look. That is, he does not so often visibly, vocally, or through any outward physical signs. In other words, I abhor the scenic and picturesque in human deportment. Better, then, to speak repentance (repentance, if you will, is to show it.)"

"He was gazing at her now with an extreme steadiness. She made a slow movement of the head, hardly perceptible. But it had for him the meaning: 'Go on; I comprehend you.'"

"Now, Adelaide," he pursued, leaning nearer toward her and increasing, if anything, the fixity of his look, "I'm prepared to tell you my motive for coming here to-day. It's this: 'What wrong I did my brother years ago I now wish to repair.'"

"To repair?" she breathed. "How?"

"By aiding your son."

"Aiding him? He needs no one's aid."

"Behave! You don't understand me." "I think that I do perfectly." Her pale lips trembled then.

Van Horne Courtaine rose. "I have no near relations except him. I will settle on him to-morrow a half a million. And afterward—at my death, I mean—he shall get all the rest. There will be three millions for I am worth, at this hour, all told, just three millions and a half—hardly a dime more or less."

He stood before her waiting her reply. She gave him none, but rose from her chair instead. He saw that a great anxiety had filled her face. Just then a certain sound reached them both. It was the sound of a footstep in the outer hall—firm, buoyant, elastic.

Mrs. Courtaine lifted one hand, and pressed it for a moment against her heart. "Wait, please," she murmured, in timorous undertone, and yet somehow commandingly. The next instant she glided from the room with most unwonted speed.

In the hall, only a yard or two from the threshold that she crossed, Carroll smilingly confronted her.

"My son, my boy," she said, catching his strong arm with her feeble yet tense hand.

"Yes, mother, I am here, just as you told me to come. It's the time, isn't it? Shall we go in together now?"

"No, Carroll, no. I want you not to come in. Do you hear, my boy? Not to come in."

"Why, mother?"

"No, mother, dearest. You've never disobeyed—I mean you've never refused me anything that I asked."

He stared down at her eager, solemn face. "You want me to go away? You want me to avoid seeing you?"

"Yes, that's it; I want you to avoid seeing him."

Carroll's face flushed suddenly and his mild eyes glittered. "Mother, tell me, has he said or done anything to wound or anger you?"

"Nothing, nothing! It's—it's quite the opposite, Carroll, I swear to you that it is. There"—and she pushed him

self that the sweetest rest for the soul was away from all that sham glitter and vain turmoil. And for that boy that I treasured I craved such a fate."

"You wanted him to live and die here?"

"Yes. And I've taught him that his chief chance of mental peace is to avoid the jostling and clashing of throngs. Not that he will escape sorrow, for that is ubiquitous as air; but the coarse, the common, the low, the trivial which so often wrap themselves in the guise of culture, he will certainly escape. Ah! I see by your look that you would call this pitiful provincialism. I, too, might have called it so once; but I've learned that, though solitude may be a welcome good, retirement is often tonic. Ambition is the parent of disappointment; distinction is the brother of ennui. One can live largely of small things. There's a financial risk and there's a moral risk; both are least seldom the products of cities. To get out of the soul all the best joy it is able to give one must grow from the inward, not from the outward, and its language, but its peculiar accent and its special dialect; for no two should speak to their possessors just alike. And if we dwell among the haggard throngs, we sometimes do not recognize even the mere voice of our own soul when it speaks to us."

Mrs. Courtaine hesitated for a moment, but her upward gaze did not waver. A sort of troubled civility was the face of her listener. But it masked a good deal of profane ridicule.

"The poor thing isn't mad," he was musing. "She's an oddly transcendental and tiresome, I suppose it comes from long tarriance in this New England atmosphere. They probably have weekly meetings here in Southmeadow where they sing hymns and Emerson, sponge cake and Spinoza."

"But don't think, Van Horne, that I have mapped out for Carroll any ascetic or Puritanic mode of life. Far from that. He has been educated on the rather obvious principle that human happiness is found most easily when we refrain from the too fiercely hunting for it. At the Harrington school here (an academy once famous, but now no longer existing) he had the good fortune to win the love and constant help of a certain Prof. Dindorf, a thorough scholar and a precious counsellor—as well as a philosopher, as well."

When! die he will own this household of which he is deeply fond, and he will have an income of \$7,000 a year besides. This will not alone satisfy every sensible need; it will permit him to dispense many genial charities. At present he is happy because so perfectly tranquil. My death, the professor's death (for no doubt both will occur comparatively soon) must one day shadow his future. That gloom, of course, will vanish in a little while. He may choose a wife here—as one might say, among his own people. I hope that he will; I prefer that he should marry. With marriage will come cares, naturally, but I like to think that in this quiet environment many joys will overbalance them. So, you perceive," ended the speaker, with a smile, lugubrious and cheerful. "I have designed for my dear boy a career as contented as it will be obscure."

(To be continued.)

Concentrated Extract.

Tame turkeys can be trained to hunt wild ones.

The flattening of the poles of Jupiter can be seen through the telescope.

Gold is mentioned in Genesis. It was discovered in South America in 1492.

Every woman has an ideal husband for marriage and a very real one after it.

Narrowness of mind is often the cause of obstinacy; we do not easily believe beyond what we can see.

There are fifteen ex-Governors now occupying seats in the United States Senate and three in the House.

There are 187 pounds of salt in a ton of water from the Dead Sea. In the Atlantic the amount is 81 pounds to every ton.

Do the women who claim all the rights and privileges of men really want to fasten their suspenders with a single needle?

When it is announced that a man intends to join the church, the women have a way of saying: "Well it is time!"

Men, as a rule, long to be loved only for power, and their longing is increased in proportion to the requirement. Their love of women is readily repulsed; their love of power is insatiable.

One half of mankind pass their lives in thinking how they shall get a dinner, and the other half in thinking what dinner they shall get; and the first are much less injured by occasional fasts than are the latter by constant feasts.—Horace Smith.

A few nights ago a ball was given by the Association of Deaf and Dumb People, themselves, as they style themselves, the "Silent Workers." It took place in a hall called the Eden du Temple, in the Rue de Bretagne. The proceedings began with what are called "deaf songs," sung by a mute, distinguished himself in an entertainment of this character.

The Baptists of the States are justly proud of the progress of their denomination. The last Year Book gives the number of churches in the United States as 38,122. There are 25,334 ordained ministers and an aggregate membership of 3,496,988. The number of members received by baptism was 176,077, by reception 25,074, and by letter 88,071. The total additions in the United States were 289,222.

PIERCE'S CURE GUARANTEES A CURE OR MONEY IS RETURNED.

The woman who is tired, and has heavy, dragging down around the eyes, and headache, should take warm water in the morning. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best tonic and nervine at this time. It's a positive remedy for all irregularities, weaknesses and derangements of the female system.

The "Prescription" cures Ulceration and Falling of the Womb, Leucorrhoea and Uterine Debility.

Miss MARGIE CROWLEY, of Jamestown, N. Y., says: "I feel as if I had a new lease of life since taking the 'Prescription.' I trust that others will find the same benefit from your wonderful medicine as I have."

THE PLAN OF SELLING MEDICINES ON TRIAL TO

PIERCE'S

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

CANADA.

A Superb Collection of Photographic Scenes of . . .

The Land We Live In.

Now Ready. Remit 10 CENTS to this office, together with Coupon, which will be found in another part of this paper, and secure this valuable and handsome work.

It surpasses anything of the kind yet issued, and will insure the possessor a thorough knowledge of our country.

Issued Weekly. One part per week for twenty-six consecutive weeks.

TIMES PRINTING CO.
HAMILTON, ONT.



THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE

IS HAPPY, FRUITFUL MARRIAGE.

Every Man Who Would Know the Grand Truths: the Plain Facts; the New Discoveries of Medical Science as applied to Married Life; Who Would Atone for Past Errors and Avoid Future Pitfalls, Should Secure the Wonderful Little Book Called "Complete Manhood, and How to Attain It."

"Here at last is information from a high medical source that must work wonders with this generation of men."

The book fully describes a method by which to attain full vigor and manly power. To cure nervousness, lack of self-control, dependency, etc.

To exchange a faded and worn nature for one of brightness, buoyancy and power. To cure forever effects of excesses, overwork, worry, etc.

To give full strength, development and tone to every portion and organ of the body. Age no barrier. Failure impossible. 2,000 references.

The book is purely medical and scientific, useless to curiosity seekers, invaluable to men only who need it.

A despairing man, who had applied to us, soon after wrote:

"Well, I tell you that first day is one I'll never forget. I just tumbled with joy. I wanted to hug everybody and tell them my old self had died yesterday and my new self was born to-day. Why didn't you tell me when I first wrote that I would find it this way?"

And another thus:

"If you dumped a cart-load of gold at my feet it would not bring such gladness into my life as your method has done."

Write to the ERIC MEDICAL COMPANY, Buffalo, N. Y., and ask for the little book called "COMPLETE MANHOOD." Refer to the advertisement, and the company promises to send the book, in sealed envelope, without any marks, and entirely free, until it is well introduced.

Note the address,
No. 9 Market Square.

Now is the time to place your orders for
Gas Cooking Stoves,
\$17.00 each, and
HEATERS FOR BATH WATER,
the best ever introduced.
Hamilton Gas Light Co.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER
THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

The Bankrupt Stock Syndicate

Is the heading of the firm who have opened

No. 9 Market Square,

And placed therein a large stock bought in Toronto at 62c ON THE DOLLAR, including

Dress Goods, Hosiery, Gloves, Laces, Embroideries, Cottons, Sheetings, Linens, Flannelettes, Tweeds,

Men's and Ladies' Furnishings, Millinery and Curtains, etc.

Every Line Will be Sacrificed.

You will be losing money by remaining away. No matter if you have but one dollar to spend it will go twice as far with us.

Note the address,
No. 9 Market Square.

Now is the time to place your orders for
Gas Cooking Stoves,
\$17.00 each, and
HEATERS FOR BATH WATER,
the best ever introduced.
Hamilton Gas Light Co.

Gas Cooking Stoves,
\$17.00 each, and
HEATERS FOR BATH WATER,
the best ever introduced.
Hamilton Gas Light Co.

HEATERS FOR BATH WATER,
the best ever introduced.
Hamilton Gas Light Co.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY,
OF ENGLAND.
ESTABLISHED 1821.
Capital.....\$10,000,000
Most favorable rates on every class of property.
ROUTH & PAYNE, Agents,
Telephone 820. 28 James street south.

THE BRUNSWICK,
12 and 14 King William street.
Oysters on half shell. Just received. Blue Point, Rockaway and Canada. Also Malpeck Oysters will be served at The Brunswick on Monday, on half shell, for the rest of the season. Private families can be supplied with the above. Telephone 121.
JAMES CROOKS.

BLACHFORD & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
57 King Street West, Hamilton, Ont.
TELEPHONE 638.

Notice.

For Printing of all kinds call at the Times Office, corner King William and Hughson streets.

WE HAVE THE NEWEST TYPE,

USE THE VERY BEST INKS.

You can depend on getting good work up to date.

Rates Reasonable.

IF YOU WANT TO REACH THE PUBLIC ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES.

Lawn Tennis,
Spaulding Rackets and
Ayr's Championship Balls,
AT RIGHT PRICES.
THE BOWMAN HARDWARE AND SPORTING GOODS CO.,
LIMITED.
Corner King and Catharine sts.

THE BRUNSWICK,
12 and 14 King William street.
Oysters on half shell. Just received. Blue Point, Rockaway and Canada. Also Malpeck Oysters will be served at The Brunswick on Monday, on half shell, for the rest of the season. Private families can be supplied with the above. Telephone 121.
JAMES CROOKS.

BLACHFORD & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
57 King Street West, Hamilton, Ont.
TELEPHONE 638.

THE BRUNSWICK,
12 and 14 King William street.
Oysters on half shell. Just received. Blue Point, Rockaway and Canada. Also Malpeck Oysters will be served at The Brunswick on Monday, on half shell, for the rest of the season. Private families can be supplied with the above. Telephone 121.
JAMES CROOKS.

BLACHFORD & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
57 King Street West, Hamilton, Ont.
TELEPHONE 638.

BLACHFORD & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
57 King Street West, Hamilton, Ont.
TELEPHONE 638.

BLACHFORD & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
57 King Street West, Hamilton, Ont.
TELEPHONE 638.