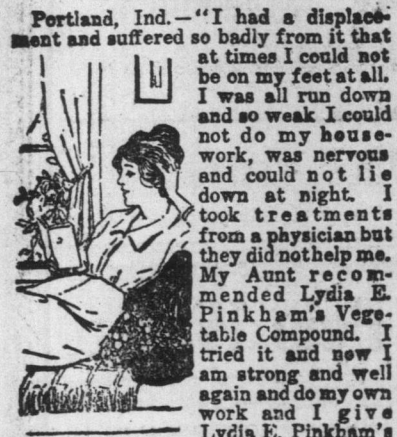


SHE COULD NOT STAND OR WORK

But Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Restored Her Health and Stopped Her Pains.



Portland, Ind.—"I had a displacement and suffered so badly from it that at times I could not be on my feet at all. I was all run down and so weak I could not do my house-work, was nervous and could not lie down at night. I took treatments from a physician but they did not help me. My Aunt recommended Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I tried it and now I am strong and well again and do my own work and I give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound the credit."

For Her Sake;

—OR—
The Murder in Furness Wood.

CHAPTER XXXIX.
"Yes; but you are telling me only half of it. You have not told me in plain words why you have set aside a noble man, a gentleman, a true knight, to marry—pardon the word—a fool."

Diana winced at this description of her future husband. Yet she felt that it was true.

"Oh, Royal!" she said.

"My dear, it is the truth. If no one else will tell it to you, I will. Lord Clanronald, with all his ancient descent, splendid title, and wealth, is but a fool. He has neither mind, manners, heart, nor intellect, and, if you marry him, you will repent it to the last day of your life."

"Oh, Royal, how severe you are—you, who used to be so kind and generous to me!"

"Kindness in this case is cruelty," he said. "Real kindness is to tell you the bare unvarnished truth; and that is, if you marry Lord Clanronald, your life will be one of wretchedness and bitter repentance."

Every word this faithful friend spoke went straight to Diana's heart. She knew there was no other so true, so loyal as he.

"Diana," said Sir Royal presently, "my sight has grown dim since I have suffered so terribly with my head; come closer to me, so that I may look into your face. Oh, child, what have you done to yourself? Why, the very freshness has gone from your beauty as from a faded flower! What is the matter with you?"

She had gone nearer to him, and stood with drooping head by his chair. She did not dare to tell him that she had done violence to her feelings. She dared not tell him that in her heart de-

sire of vengeance reigned supreme, and that she was sacrificing all that was dearest in life for the sake of being revenged on Lady Cameron.

"Diana," went on Sir Royal, "once or twice in your life I have given you a friendly lecture; I shall give you one now. I do not know your secrets, but I am certain that pride is at the bottom of this marriage—wicked, stiff-necked pride."

For a moment she felt inclined to confess all to him. His great wisdom, his large experience, would soon put matters straight for her. But, no, no; she must have her revenge! The good impulse passed, and with it the last hope of earthly salvation.

"If it be as I think, my poor child, pause while there is time. I know that pride is your stumbling-block, Diana, and that for pride's sake you would suffer torture without complaining. Oh, Diana, be warned in time! If I could have but foreseen what was to happen to you, I would have persuaded you to marry me last year. Diana, take up arms against yourself! If you marry this man, unspeakable misery will follow. You will come back to me and weep tears that will break my heart. You will repent sorely, bitterly; but I shall not be able to assist you then—it will be too late. My darling Dian, let me help you now."

"I want no help, Royal," she said, in a low strained voice. "You could not help me; but you can love me, Royal—love me always, and think kindly of me. I—I am not happy!"

"Poor child!" he said, his hands caressing the fair hair; and then he asked, "Where is Sir Lisle?"

"He has gone away," she replied.

"Has he left England?"

"Yes; he has gone abroad. He says he shall never return to England."

"Poor fellow!" said his noble rival. "And at the sound of the kindly voice, the tender words, Diana's pride gave way, and she wept bitter, despairing tears. But neither tears, prayers, nor entreaties shook her resolution to marry Lord Clanronald."

CHAPTER XL.

Lady Cameron acted with the policy of a worldly-wise woman. She saw that nothing could be done at present to change the aspect of affairs. Lord Clanronald was infatuated; Sir Lisle had gone abroad, and they had heard nothing more of him; Evadne was miserable, Diana silent, haughty and cold. Lady Cameron considered that the best thing to be done was to fill her house with company, and so prevent the different members of the family from being thrown too much into one another's society.

The Christmas party at Ferness was a gay one. Peter Cameron's heart rejoiced over the long list of noble names that figured in the county paper. True, the great magnates, the Duke and Duchess, were not there—they had gone to the south of Italy for the winter—but there were others to take their place.

Lady Cameron was an accomplished hostess, and the festivities were something to be remembered. The dinners, balls, charade parties, and private theatricals delighted the whole county. There was such a succession of gayeties that there was no time for domestic warfare among the members of the Ferness household.

Sir Royal was repeatedly at Ferness, and he was the only one with whom Diana seemed happy or at ease. Nobody ever mentioned the marriage, for the subject was distasteful to all except Lord Clanronald, and was therefore tacitly avoided.

Lord Clanronald spent his time in traveling down to Ferness for a few days, and then rushing back to town to see his lawyers. When he came, Sir Royal never appeared at Ferness; he could not endure him.

In the meantime a great change had come over Thea. Richard had fallen deeply in love with her, and under the influence of this love her whole character changed. Richard was so honest and manly, so noble in himself, so frank and true, that his influence was always felt by those around him. They were both almost unconscious of the attraction they had for each other. Thea grew more gentle, more tractable, and learned to like Diana better. Honest Richard never ceased talking to his cousin—of her beauty, her grace, her daring wit, her nobility of character—and Thea learned to see her with Richard's eyes. The better she liked her, the more was Thea puzzled to account for her engagement with Lord Clanronald. Two persons of more opposite natures never lived.

What was best, noblest, and brightest in Diana was a dead letter to Lord Clanronald. He worshipped her beauty; but to her thoughts, feelings, and tastes he was supremely indifferent. He said to himself that he would have the loveliest wife in England, and he was content with that. Thea and Diana never became great friends; but they grew more tolerant of each other, and the bond between them was love for honest Richard.

So the winter passed. Lady Cameron heard once or twice from Sir Lisle; but she did not speak of his letters. She had refused to have anything to do with Diana's trousseau. She could not forgive what she considered her treachery. Lord Clanronald had paid such marked attention to her daughter Evadne that he ought to have made her an offer, and he would have done so but for Diana, she argued to herself. Diana had lured him away.

The hawthorn was in bloom, the birds had begun to build their nests, the clover was green in the meadows, and the wedding-day was close at hand. As it drew nearer, Diana grew more and more miserable and more haughty and reserved.

Sir Royal came to Ferness on the day previous to the marriage. He had at first declined to be present at the ceremony.

"Do not ask me, Diana," he said. "It is such a wretched marriage; do not ask me to witness a ceremony which is to make you miserable for life. If you were going to marry Sir Lisle I would come from the uttermost ends of the earth to be present; but this is a desecration; I would rather not be there."

"You must come, Royal, my dear old friend," said Diana, as she clung to him. "I shall not live through it unless I see your kindly face to gaze upon."

The wedding was fixed for Tuesday, the thirteenth of May, and everything was ready for the ceremony. There were six bridesmaids, Thea being one of the number. Evadne had refused to be present, and the Duchess had fortunately come to the rescue, and invited her to join herself and her husband in the south of France.

Her absence took some of the sweetness of her revenge from Diana. True, she was too warm-hearted to rejoice at the sight of the girl's sorrowful face—for Evadne felt the disappointment grievously—but she enjoyed the feeling of triumph and victory. Lady Cameron and her daughters had imbibed her life, and now it was their turn to suffer. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." They had wronged tears enough from her; let them weep now.

Lady Cameron went about with a pale, care-worn face; but she looked brighter when Evadne had left Ferness. Evadne had met Diana in the great hall when the carriage stood at the door.

"You will be pleased to find that I am going," she said. "My presence here must be a continual reproach to you—a reproach, because you have basely injured me."

"I am not aware of it," returned Diana, calmly.

"That is false! You know that by acts such as I would have scorned to use you lured Lord Clanronald from me. I am sure that we should have been very happy together but for you."



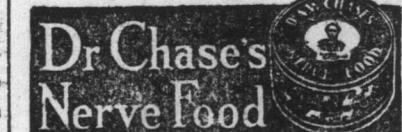
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You have taken him from me; but you will repent it. I shall live to see your treachery punished, your pride humbled. When that time comes, remember my words, and seek no pity from me."

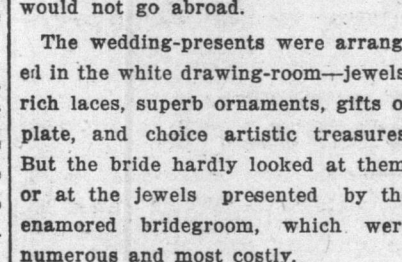
The girl's speech rang in Diana's ears long after Evadne had departed.

There had been a slight passage of arms between Mr. Cameron and his wife. She had declared her intention of having nothing whatever to do with the marriage. He said that he would not allow his daughter to be slighted, and that her wedding must and should be celebrated with all possible magnificence. At first Lady Cameron felt inclined to contest the question with her husband; but her better sense came to her aid. If she did so, it would only attract public attention to the family disputes. She therefore judiciously gave in, and a series of festivities were arranged. Lady Cameron tried her best to lose sight of the principal object of these elaborate entertainments, to forget that they were held in honor of Diana's marriage, and to remember only how they would redound to the glory of the house. The happy pair were to go after the marriage to Ronald's Court, a fine old English mansion, one of the country seats of Lord Clanronald. It was Diana's wish; she would not go abroad.

The wedding-presents were arranged in the white drawing-room—jewels, rich laces, superb ornaments, gifts of plate, and choice artistic treasures. But the bride hardly looked at them, or at the jewels presented by the enamored bridegroom, which were numerous and most costly.

(To be continued.)

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