

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Song of Songs.

SYBIL'S marriage was celebrated on the Tuesday after Easter, and was a very magnificent affair. The settlements which Mr. Carnegie made on his bride were immense; and it was said, definitely, that he intended to settle down in England. Also, it was commonly reported that Lady Otterbourne professed herself to be satisfied; and that was thought to be saying a great deal. Among other jewels, the bride wore a magnificent necklace of three rows of pearls, which were not mentioned as being the gift of the bridegroom, and which, in consequence, were generally supposed by the amiably inclined to be "Roman."

Percy had been asked to the wedding, a fact much commented on. His own comment, however, was the most interesting. He read the card with a face of blank surprise, and then laughed for five minutes. But he had gone down to spend a week with Mrs. Montgomery, at her house near Goring, where he had stayed once before in the early autumn, and he did not propose to go up with her to the ceremony.

Mrs. Montgomery was rather disappointed. She had thought to herself how extremely dramatic it would be if Percy was to appear at the wedding