

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 the whole of his vast fortune to me, without restraint or restriction, to enjoy as I would, to bequeath according to my own will and pleasure. He was not "of blue blood," my husband. His father had been one of the richest merchants 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 soon came afterward, through the death of the heir, into the market. My husband decided upon buying it, and he, as Richard Neville, of Neville's Cross, then, he said, "and my highest ambition will be gratified."

I fancy he had some vague idea that, in buying the estate, he would become at once a country gentleman of ancient pedigree and long descent. How many thousands of pounds he spent in putting the grand old place into order I should not like to say; but, when all arrangements had been made, it was one of the most magnificent houses in England. Every country had been placed under 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, but the spending the money 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, and no one to whom I could claim kin or kind, and I was at a loss how to act. I had loved my husband so well that the idea of a second marriage was hateful to me. What, then, was I to do with my money and my life? I resolved upon living at Neville's Cross, and being as happy as I could under the circumstances. So years glided 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 of his face. After his usual low 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 interposed.

"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 Daintree—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, but I could not say for the world tell at first whether she wanted the house for herself—whether she was a lady's maid or companion, or what. She spoke well, and 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 should like to know the rent, terms of letting, and other particulars."

"Briefly enough I gave them to her. Perhaps, madam, in one respect I have done wrong. She seemed so like one who would bargain, and make the best possible terms for the house. I asked twenty pounds per annum more than she decided on asking, quietly expecting that she would want me to take it off; but, to my surprise, she made no complaint at all about the rent."

"You are a good man of business," I put in, "but make me take more for the house. Mr. Payne, than it is honestly worth. Yes, must manage so that the twenty pounds per annum are made up to her." My agent bowed.

"I am not sure, madame," he said, "that you will find the tenant an eligible one. My visitor, whose name afterwards found to be Mrs. Jane Lewis, continued:

"My mistress has been for some weeks looking for a very quiet and retired house. It struck her at once, when she read your advertisement, that she would like the River House. It is, I suppose, quite out of the public way—quite solitary."

"I said 'Yes,' and that our chief difficulty in letting the house had always been its isolated situation. Her face beamed with satisfaction, madame, when she heard that."

"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 distant murmur of traffic, the rattle of carriage wheels, the steps of passers-by, are all absent!"

"All absent," I answered. "When the leaves are on the trees, the house is shut in completely."

"It is the very thing," she remarked, "that my mistress wants."

"And then I remembered, madame, your chief motive in letting the house, and I said to her:

"'Certainly,' I replied: 'that is her chief object in letting it. The neighbor is a dull one, and she likes society.'"

"In that case," said Mrs. Lewis, "I may give up all thought of it; it will not do for my mistress. She wishes to be quite alone—quite solitary. She would not care to take it on those terms."

"You may imagine my embarrassment," madame," continued Mr. Payne. "I

should intrude upon my tenant. Full of contrition, I turned hastily to him.

"Doctor Rawson," I said, "I had quite forgotten, but I promised when this lady took the house, that her wishes should be respected, and that no one should call upon her."

"My dear Mrs. Neville," he said, smiling blandly, "you are exceedingly kind, but permit me to say that this is a matter about which you could not possibly make any promise—you could not, indeed. This lady is now one of my flock, under my charge. Indeed, the more you say, the more certain am I that I am needed there. Sin and sorrow must be gently dealt with."

"Perhaps there is neither, doctor—nothing but disinclination for society," we shall see," was the concise reply.

"I met the doctor a week afterward there was in them a certain—"

at Lady Glendon's, and I am glad that as his eyes met mine there was in them a decidedly abashed expression. "Did you call at the River House?" I asked.

"I was flushed, and something stronger than clerical indignation quivered round his lips.

"I called, madame," he replied, "but I did not see your tenant."

"It would not have been generous to cry out, 'I told you so,' but I felt strongly inclined to do so. 'I hope that your reception was at least courteous,' I ventured to observe.

(To be Continued.)

TIMES PATTERNS.



A Pretty Mode for a Little Girl.
No. 5909.—This charming yet simple little frock is made of red challis trimmed with bias bands of plaid silk. The dress consists of a full skirt attached to an overblouse waist closing in the back. The guimpe which is included in the pattern is made of white lawn, but white challis, albatross or flannel may be substituted if preferred. The overblouse is quite the simplest but extremely modish and up-to-date. It is laid in deep tucks over the shoulders and is caught together at the sides by bands of the plaid. The mode is as suitable for the wash fabrics as for the woolen materials, and is especially attractive in linen or pique. For a child of 10 years 3 1/2 yards of 36-inch material will be required for the dress and 1 1/2 yards for the guimpe.

Girls' Over-Bouse Dress with Guimpe, No. 5909. Sizes for 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.

A pattern of this illustration will be mailed to any address on the receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

Address, "Pattern Department," Times Office, Hamilton.

It will take several days before you can get patterns.

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Dull, Aching Back Pains, Scanty and Highly Colored Urine, Headaches and Insomnia Indicate Diseased Kidneys.

After experimenting for nearly 20 years, Dr. Hamilton discovered an absolute specific for weak kidneys. His pills of mandrake and buttercup cure permanently.

Can you afford to delay? No, your interest compels you to use this certain cure—200 pills. Only take Dr. Hamilton's Pills, and an absolute recovery is guaranteed. In thousands of cases relief has been instantaneous. Such was the experience of James G. Gordon, of Marysville.

Twenty Years a Sufferer.

"My kidneys bothered me for twelve years. I had gnawing pains in the back and my limbs aching with weariness all the time. My disposition was poor and I had specks before my eyes.

"Dr. Hamilton's Pills helped me from the first day. Relief was immediate. They restored me, and my health's better than ever."

"All complaints kindred to kidney disease are prevented by Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Their use insures you against Diabetes, Bright's disease and liver trouble. No house should be without such a valuable medicine. Sold everywhere by druggists, 25c per box, or five for \$1.00. By mail from N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont., and Hartford, Conn., U. S. A.

RADIUM FROM SWEDEN.

Mineral Called Kolin to be Exploited by Syndicate.

London, April 20.—According to the Copenhagen correspondent of the Telegraph a company has been formed to exploit the mineral deposits near Vestergotland, Sweden, where quantities of a mineral called kolin is found. The company has an invention by means of which radium can be extracted from kolin. It is expected that an important industry will be developed.

Joids Cause Headache
LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine, the world wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. Call for full name. Look for signature E. W. Grove, Inc.

Mr. Stanley, of The Fernie Lodge, has been fined \$100 for criticizing a British Columbia Judge.

STORE OPENS 8.30 A. M. | At R. McKay & Co's., Thursday, April 22, 1909 | STORE CLOSES 6 P. M.

LOOK FOR THE CLOVER LEAF PRICE TICKETS

OUR FIRST CLOVER SALE

Every woman who comes to this store to-morrow, Friday and Saturday will certainly be in Clover

3 days of unexampled value-giving in goods of the right sort for Spring and Summer wear

One week ago we told you to wait for this great sale and to-morrow sharp at 8.30 we will start one of the greatest opportunities sales ever held by this store and offering to the women of Hamilton and vicinity for 3 days some of the best bargains of the whole year.

LOOK FOR THE CLOVER LEAF PRICE TICKETS, they will be here and there all over the store and will denote wonderful reductions in just the goods you want for present and future use. The following sale events are only examples of what you can expect. Read every one of them contained on this page, then act by coming first things in the morning. Our foreign and home buyers have gathered together a mighty collection of up-to-the-minute women's wearing apparel for this sale, and we say to you buying chances such as this sale presents to you should not be overlooked. COME TO-MORROW, THE FIRST DAY OF THE SALE.

3 Great Clover Day Bargains Sharp at 8.30--Shop Early

Rush Out Sale of Frilling Worth Regular 25c to 50c, Sale Price 13c Yard.	Paris Veilings--A Great Sale Regular Value 35c and 40c, Sale Price 10c Yard	New Stock Collars in the Sale Worth Regular 25c, Thursday Sale Price 19c Each
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Very nice Lace and Chiffon Frillings in a great sale to-morrow; splendid colors of blue, pink, mauve, white and cream, a great bargain, worth regularly up to 50c, sale price 13c

Decidedly the greatest bargain in the new Veilings ever offered to the women of Hamilton. In the lot you will find all the leading shades; lovely, pure silk nets with chenille spots, worth regularly up to 40c, Clover Sale price 10c

10 dainty Stock Collars in a Clover Day Rush Out Sale, in white and colors. Buy your summer stock to-morrow and save very greatly. Sold everywhere at 25c. Our Clover Day Sale price 19c

Decided Clover Day Bargains in New Dress Goods

Buy To-morrow and Save

Regular 75c and 85c Venetian Cloth Suitings for Thursday 47c yd.

On sale to-morrow new Venetian Cloth Suitings at less than manufacturers' prices splendid colors of navy, brown, fawn, reseda, myrtle, rose and black. This is one of our best regular selling lines and would advise early shopping for this event. 46 inches wide and has a lovely pearl finish; regular 47c yd. 75c and 85c cloths, for Thursday 47c yd.

Regular \$1.25 Chevron Stripe Suitings, Clover Day Sale Price 59c yd.

Take advantage of this special event and come early. One of the newest stripe effects, solid colors, wonderfully reduced; a good weight for 2-piece suits, superb skirts, etc. Splendid shades of brown, navy, Copenhagen, myrtle, red and black worth regularly \$1.25, sale price 59c yd.

Shepherd Checks for Children's Dresses, Worth Regularly 60c, Sale Price 39c yd.

On sale in black and white, brown and white, green and white, etc., grand material for children's dresses at 39c yd. great Clover Day clearing sale price, reg. 60c, sale price 39c yd.

New Spring Embroideries in a Great Clearing Sale Sharp at 8.30

20 Cartoons Fine Swiss and Cambric Embroideries and Insertions, Worth up to 15c, Sale Price 5c yd.

Lovers of pretty Embroideries should take advantage of the splendid sale of manufacturers' stock of pretty embroideries, 1 to 7 inches wide, tremendously reduced, at per yard..... 5c

Blouse Frontings--Great Reductions

Rich new Blouse Fronting in filet, eyelet and floral designs, it's just your chance, very new spring patterns, worth regular 65c, sale price..... 39c front

Another line worth regular 50c, for to-morrow..... 26c front

Corset Cover Embroidery Regular Value 25c, Sale Price 19c Yard

5 pieces new Corset Cover Embroidery in the clearing sale in nice, fine cambric, open designs, clearing sale price..... 19c yard

Clover Sale of Silks, Worth Up to \$1.00 Yard, at 29c and 39c

This sale will mean one of the best opportunities of the season to purchase a good Silk Dress or waist for very little cost. 7,000 yards of beautiful Silks to be cleared during this sale, including fancy and plain Silks of splendid quality, worth from 75c to \$1 yard, clearing sale price..... 29c and 39c

Don't Fail to Visit the Gigantic Clover Sale of Blouses On the 3rd Floor

\$1.50 Voile Waists for 79c \$4.00 Silk Waists for \$2.98

Cotton Voile Waists, in black and white, green and white and navy blue and white checks, made with back and front nicely tucked, Directorate sleeves, worth regular \$1.50, Thursday's Clover Sale Price..... 79c

Dainty White Jap Silk Waists, made with embroidered yoke and trimmed with French Valenciennes insertion and tucks, tucked Directorate sleeves with pointed cuff, edged with lace, worth regular \$4.00, Thursday's Clover Sale Price..... \$2.98

\$5.00 Net Waists for \$3.49

Even Net Waists, made with embroidered front, baby back, Directorate tucked collar and sleeves, edged with lace, silk lined, worth regular \$5.00, Clover Sale Price..... \$3.49

Clover Sale in the Baby Department

98c Dresses for 59c \$2.00 Bonnets for \$1.19

Blue and white striped percale, made with yoke and skirt trimmed with braid, sleeves and neck edged with lace, worth regular 98c, Clover Sale Price..... 59c

Children's Shirred Silk Bonnets, in pale blue, white and pink, trimmed with silk roses, flowers and silk ties, worth regular \$2.00, Clover Sale Price..... \$1.19

Clover Day at the Drug Counter GREAT VALUES

Colgate's Cashmere Bouquet Talcum Powder, worth regularly 25c, sale price 19c.

Mennen's Talcum Powder, worth regularly 25c; sale price 15c.

Sanitol Face Cream, worth regularly 25c, sale price 20c jar.

Splendid Soap, 3 cakes in a box for 7c.

Clover Day Sale of Jewelry

5 dozen Ladies' Pearl Cuff Links, gold plated backs; decided Clover Day bargain; regular value 75c, sale price 35c set.

10 dozen Gift and Oxidized Belt Pins, in fruit designs; regular value 75c, sale price 35c each.

Metal Rose Hat Pins, worth regular 50c; Rush Out Sale price to-morrow 20c each.

Smart Spring Coats Reduced

Tailored Coats, \$8.50 and \$9.00 Values, Sale Price \$6.95

Very reasonably priced a week ago at \$8.50 and \$9.00. Positively the newest models in Hamilton, cut and tailored, with a jaunty which is inseparable from the genuine English garment.

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Steamer leave Sarnia 2.30 p. m., May 19th. WINNIPEG AND RETURN, \$32.00. EDMONTON AND RETURN, \$42.50. Tickets good for 60 days.

Proportionate rates for other points in Western Canada.

Secure tickets from Chas. E. Morgan, city ticket agent; W. G. Webster, depot agent.

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ONE WAY SECOND CLASS TICKETS TO

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CANADA..... May 8, June 12, July 17

LAURENTIC..... May 15, June 19, July 24

DOMINION..... May 22, June 26, July 31

MEGANTIC..... May 29, June 3, July 8

OTTAWA..... May 29, July 10, Aug. 14

VANCOUVER..... June 5

The popular steamer "CANADA" is also again scheduled to carry three classes of passengers. While the fast steamer "OTTAWA" and the comfortable steamer "DOMINION" are one-class cabin steamers (called second class), are very attractive, moderate rates. Third class carried on all steamers. See plans and rates at local agents or company's office.

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