

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown
 G. H. GREENE
 Editor and Publisher
 Member C. W. N. A.

Claremont Summers

BY
 Mrs. Emerson Marcy
 Kilbride, Ontario

(Continued from last week)

"Your wife? when you are engaged to Miss Richmond, you are not quite yourself yet."

"Gladys, my brain is alright now. Who has been telling you this news?"

"Why, Miss Richmond told me with her own lips."

"Stuff and nonsense, Gladys, this is not true at all. What would make Velma say such a thing as that. I always liked Velma, but for a wife—never. What do you say for a hasty marriage when I am stronger? I cannot live without you, Gladys. Will you have me?"

A weak "Yes" was all he heard, but that word was enough. He felt altogether stronger. No dose of the doctor's tonic was ever like like that word "yes." He kissed her on her forehead. The shades of evening were falling when Gladys glided out of the room.

Gladys told her mother the glad news; then Mrs. Markham told her news in return.

"Sit down, child, until I read this to you."

Mrs. Markham opened the dejected letter with the foreign stamp. The letter was from Mr. John Brighton, who went away poor to Australia, amassed a fortune, never married and before he died he made a will leaving his only sister, Mrs. Markham, with sixty thousand dollars.

"Now, Gladys, you will not be depending on anyone for money after this."

"Oh, mother, this is to good to be true."

They acquainted Claremont with the good news. He laughed and said, "You won't go back on me." And all Gladys would do was laugh.

Everyone was getting ready at home to receive Claremont Summers. When he arrived he looked so cheerful his mother wondered if his illness did not do him good. He told both his father and mother about his coming marriage, also about the money Mrs. Markham got. They both looked pleased.

Claremont soon gained strength and was his old self again once more. He used to go down to the Widow Markham's with a different step now.

"Gladys, when will this wedding be?"

"In the spring, dearie." Spring seemed a long ways off now, summer was just past.

Velma rode over one autumn afternoon to see Claremont, chiding him for not being to see her. "You are strong as ever now, do come over. You can drive the ponies like you always did before you were hurt."

He answered her in such a vague way, Velma was puzzled.

Spring came at last; the flowers were all out. The orange blossom tree at Mrs. Markland's door sent forth such rare perfume. Velma was passing by with a lady friend when she saw every flower stripped from the orange blossom tree.

"I wonder, Ida, what is going on at the little cottage?"

"Have you not heard about the coming marriage of Miss Gladys Markland?" said Ida.

"I wonder who is the lucky man, some one from afar off. I suppose, because Gladys could not get many suitors around here, if any, although I should feel thankful for saving

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Claremont's life."

Ida Moss stared at her chum in blank astonishment, then said, "Well Velma, Gladys is going to marry Claremont Summers this very day."

Velma was too mortified for words, and hurrying home, throw herself on the couch and wept bitterly.

The wedding was very quiet; some of the near relatives of the groom were present and none from her side. Their home was at the Hall until they could build a mansion for Claremont.

The day that Velma heard that Mrs. Markland had fallen heir to money, she also heard of her father's failure, and that was the last of her pride. Velma then went to Kentucky as a governess. Gladys felt sorry when she heard of poor Mr. Richmond's downfall.

And I will say in conclusion that everybody at the Hall was happy.

(The End)

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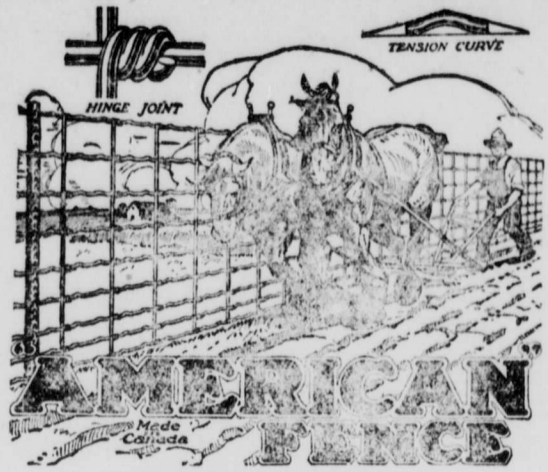
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