

The Impudent Governess

It was very annoying. Leslie Thomas threw the letter impatiently on the table and gazed for some time at the glowing embers of his back-chair fire.

What had he done? He, a sober-minded, single man, to be saddled with a child for the rest of his days; he, who disliked children, to be the guardian and protector of a girl who was nothing to him until she should arrive at an age to take care of herself. Yet he had promised the child's father.

With an impatient sigh, he picked up the letter again and read the contents. Dear Mr. Thomas,—I trust you will not consider this a piece of interference on my part, but I thought it necessary for you to know that your little ward, Eva Gresham, has now reached the age of five, without once having seen the face of her guardian.

I am anxious to know what you intend to do in the way of her education and thought perhaps you would judge by coming down soon to see her. Yours faithfully, ROSE HERSCHEL.

"A piece of impertinence," said the devoted guardian, biting his nails. "What is it to do with Miss Rose Herschel, I should like to know? The child is nothing to me. However, I suppose I must do my duty by her. I'll run down to Sevenoaks and set matters right straight away, packing my ward off to a boarding school and Miss Impudence about her business. She has had a nice, soft time of it looking after that child, and now perhaps she will be sorry she had a finger in the pie."

That was how Mr. Leslie Thomas found himself the following afternoon outside a snug little villa at Sevenoaks. He hesitated before knocking, the cottage, he thought, looked rather fine for such humble inhabitants, and yet there was the name written up over the porch right enough—Woodbine Cottage—in big gilt letters. Filmy lace curtains fluttered at the windows, through which a glimpse of a daintily furnished drawing room could be seen. The window boxes were gay with flowers, and the whole house had a thoroughly well kept appearance.

In some surprise Eva's guardian reached up and lifted the shining door knocker, wondering in spite of himself that he had never had the curiosity to venture here before. The door was opened by a spruce maid, to whose skirts clung a little, girlish white of five.

"Miss Herschel?" he inquired, with a glance of interest at the child. "Will you please come in, sir?" said the girl, and Mr. Thomas followed the girl into the snugly furnished drawing room ever furnished. He hardly taken a chair ere Miss Herschel entered, with Eva on her arm.

She was a tall, graceful girl of about eight and twenty, with a sweet, womanly face, frank eyes and a rich, glowing color. "Mr. Thomas! I'm so glad you've come. I thought you would," she said, with a smile, betraying a bewitching dimple in either cheek. "I did so want you to know your little ward. Isn't she a darling?"

"A nice little girl indeed," stammered Leslie. "I am glad you sent for me. She is now at an age when she should mix up with other children. I will see about a boarding school at once."

and the child I might have been a wicked, worthless woman who accepted the money for her own use and shamefully neglected and ill used the child."

With this she swept him a look of utter disdain and contempt and, walking over to her writing table, unlocked a drawer and drew forth a small box in which reposed a little hoard of bank notes and golden coins.

"Here are Eva's savings," she said stiffly; "fifty pounds yearly for nearly five years. It is a nice little sum. Will you please take it with her now?"

Leslie Thomas turned abashed from the scornful brown eyes any way of diversion picked up the child, who beat him furiously with her little doubled fists. Leslie laughed awkwardly and set her down.

"She is a little mite," he said. "I suppose she will not be the worse for a little more cooing. What do you say! Shall we keep the peace for another twelve months?" The girl swept him a deep courtesy. "My lord is gracious," she said, with mock gratitude; and then, with a sudden change of manner, she turned from him, with a sob, and caught the child passionately to her breast.

Emboldened by a strong sense of duty, which had never troubled him before the interview with Eva's good friend; Leslie Thomas paid frequent visits to the little villa at Sevenoaks. Miss Herschel was consulted about a school in the neighborhood for his little ward, her talents were discussed, her toys chosen and her pleasures arranged, and in the mutual interest for the child's welfare the altercation at their first meeting was forgotten, and the two became fast friends—nay, more, for the fine color in Miss Herschel's cheek deepened to an alarming degree when the familiar knock came at the door, and, although Leslie Thomas had as yet spoken no words but those of kindly friendship, his eyes were unconsciously eloquent.

But silence could not be maintained for long, and one day when Leslie had accidentally met her returning from a walk he purposely returned to the subject of a boarding school for the hapless little Eva.

This time Miss Herschel maintained her composure and smiled severely. She knew her power now.

"Do you want to be saddled with the child all your life?" he demanded. "If you put it that way—yes." "But you may marry," this anxiously.

"In such an event," began Miss Herschel, coloring and with a swift, upward glance, "she would still be in the care of her guardian."

"Then you would leave her?" asked Leslie. "Oh, no. She would still remain as my little daughter."

This time her eyes were withdrawn, for, with a burst of eloquence Leslie had caught her in a close embrace.

"Do you really mean it, Rose?" he murmured at length. "Can you really look upon me as a lover after—after my rudeness to you and my brutality to that child?" "Yes, I think I can," said Rose, smiling, "even after your 'brutality.' But listen, and don't think me quite disinterested with regard to little Eva. Her father was once betrothed to me."

VERY HEAVY RAIN FALLS

Prevail All Through Western Canada

Vancouver Has Had No Eastern Mail Since Friday—Farmers Are Delighted.

Special to the Daily Nugget. Vancouver, July 8.—Since Friday last Vancouver has had no mail communication with eastern Canada. The Canadian Pacific has had enormous difficulties to contend with beyond the Rockies on account of washing out of track caused by excessive rainfall in the vicinity of Calgary. This is the season of the year when dry lands, as they used to be called, expect no rain, but this year they have had more than the wet lands ever had in three months. People who have been in Calgary recently say that rain seemed some times to descend in sheets and that it has practically been pouring for three months. The railway track is built upon a sandy foundation and the downpours washed the soil from the sleepers. A great deal is being heard as to the change in climate which seems to be coming over the whole of western Canada. In Kamloops, for example, frequent heavy showers are experienced in what used to be the dry time and consequently the surrounding hills are completely bare. It is reported in appearance and feed for stock is hard to get. This year the hills present a mass of refreshing green, and cattle and horses were never in finer condition. Crops are reported in excellent condition in consequence of the rain and like reports come also from the extensive wheat belt of the Northwest, where rain, if it caused the Canadian Pacific annoyance, has brought delight to the farmers.

ODD DESIGNS FOR YUKON

Are Seen on New Inland Revenue Stamps

Hoodwink Removed From Eyes of Justice Holding Scales—Reform Indicated.

Special to the Daily Nugget. Ottawa, July 8.—A unique department affecting Dawson has been made by the inland revenue department. It has issued a set of stamps especially designed for use in the Yukon. They are works of art which have not been equalled since the early days of Canadian history. There are six denominations, 10, 25 and 50 cents, \$1, \$2 and \$3. On a red background are inscribed the words "Dawson Mining Stamps," used in payment of mining fees. The pictorial representation is a prospector in the act of picking up a nugget. Then there is a law stamp to be used in the territorial court. It is blue and bears the usual figure of justice with the scales. The artist made a remarkable departure from the traditional engraving and has removed the hoodwink from the lady's eyes. Although this does not comport with the general idea of justice, it is intended to imply that she will exercise the fullest vigilance in the administration of Yukon affairs. Of course those who have charged various crimes against Yukon officials claim that the artist has done this thing just to prove that there was some truth in the charges but that those responsible have seen the error of their ways.

Divergent Methods

The federal appointments are made for the convenience of the public, and in filling them officers should be selected who are acceptable to all and who are not personally offensive to the great mass of people with whom they do business. Nine-tenths, probably ninety-nine one-hundredths of

the federal business in the south is transacted with white people. The men and women who mail or receive letters, who pay customs dues, who enter public lands are white, and they should not be subjected to unnecessary annoyance or insult by having to arrange these matters with negroes. The head of a big banking or commercial house would not think of appointing as a clerk who had to deal with his patrons a man objectionable and offensive to them; and what is true of ordinary business is true of government business as well. It should be administered for all, with the least annoyance and inconvenience, and this cannot be done when negroes are appointed.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

\$50 Reward.

Stolen Sunday, June 8th, one mal-amute dog, very dark grey, white breast, light chops, light grey stripe running from point of nose up between eyes, front legs white, hind feet white, extreme tip of tail white, belly light color, always carries tail curled over back or left side, nose very small like a fox or coon. I will pay the above reward for any information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the thief and recovery of dog.

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