

# The True and The False

"I never wished to harm you, sweet and noble lady—but him! Oh! he did me a horrible injury!"

"You have suffered a terrible wrong by a cruel wrong. My husband was the false executor. I do not defend him. He does not defend himself. But he has suffered only less than you. There is a world that rectifies all that has gone wrong in this. You are very near its source. Has your husband been the most unhappy life, it would be all the same to you now. Think of that. But what is essential—what will make all the difference—is the spirit in which you will pass away. Do not be obdurate. Do not be unforgiving."

"And do not you talk nonsense to me, gentle lady? I cannot change my heart."

"The Lord can change it. Pray to Him."

"I cannot pray. It were hypocrisy."

"Let me pray for you."

"Do not mock me, gentle lady."

"Heaven forbid. Let me pray with you. Let me kneel by you, and hold your hands in mine, and pray with you. Come! you are not so hard as you seem. You are softening now. God waits to pardon and bless you. Angels hover around your bed to see what you will do."

"One angel does, lady. But concern yourself with your child, lady. Why don't you ask about her?"

"Because I am satisfied about my child; I know all that is necessary to be known."

"Ah! you do! Who told you?"

"Your words and actions, and circumstances already known to me."

"But—but you do not know all—"

"I know that in the frenzy of your grief and anger, when you forgot God, and could not hear what your better spirit said, you took away my little child, and gave her a new name—called her Sylvia Grove—and gave her to your daughter-in-law, Ellen; said the lady, gently."

"Yes, yes, yes," muttered Nora to herself, with a perplexed look; "and yet you do not know all!"

"Not!" suddenly exclaimed Mrs. Hunter, as a spasm of pain convulsed her beautiful countenance; "there is one thing I must ask you: Was Ellen a party to this? I mean, did Ellen know whose child it was, that you committed to her care?"

"No, no—oh, no! she never even suspected it, I am sure."

"Thank God!" exclaimed Augusta, fervently.

"Oh, it would have hurt you more if Ellen had been so wicked! Poor Ellen! she has not been to see me in a long time, it seems to me."

Mrs. Hunter did not think proper to inform the sufferer of her daughter-in-law's death. She said:

"And now I am satisfied about my child. She has grown up a good and beautiful maiden; she has received no harm from the act that I feel sure you have repented. Now think of yourself!"

"Oh, yet! I do repent of taking her from you! Toward him I have no repentance—none! But toward you—oh! lady, I have always repented—always repented!"

"Oh, Nora, repent toward the Lord."

"But you—do you forgive me? Oh, Mrs. Hunter! that night, when hurrying through the crowd upon the shore, I bore your infant away; I heard your distant shrieks of anguish—they pierced my ear—they were echoed from my heart! I have heard them ever since. I have heard them in my solitude. I have heard them in the night; they have startled me from my sleep! Had I murdered you, lady, my sufferings could not have been greater! But I would not give up my vengeance. And I could not bear remorse. And between them I maddened!"

She paused and covered her haggard face with her dark and skeleton fingers. And after a few minutes she removed her hands, and her sunken eyes blazed an altered voice:

"I am dying, yet I cannot ask the Lord's pardon until I have obtained yours, and yours I know I shall never have. It is useless to speak of it. Gentle and noble as you are, you could not grant it, even if you would. I know by my own heart that it is impossible. For, as I cannot cease to loathe him who refused to spare my son, I feel that you cannot choose but hate me, who bereaved you of your little child!"

And with a shuddering sigh that shook her whole frame, the wretched

woman once more covered her face with her talon-like fingers.

Mrs. Hunter sank down softly on her knees by her side, and bending closely, tenderly over her, said:

"Nora, look at me. You are deluded. When you sent your glance so deeply into my eyes just now, you read no anger, no resentment there. Look up—meet my eyes again—read my heart, if you can; you will read nothing there but deep compassion for your sufferings, and earnest desire for your welfare. Nora, look up. We are children of the same Father. It is your sister that speaks to you."

The sufferer uncovered her eyes, and gazed long and wonderingly upon the lady's heavenly countenance, and then she spoke calmly:

"I tore your young, nursing baby from your bosom, and left you to years on years of anguish, and yet you do not hate me! and yet you do not reproach me! You forgive me, you pity me, you pray for me—your countenance beams heaven's own love upon me! Your mercy breaks down my heart! Oh, Mrs. Hunter, I can in part conceive God's mercy by yours!"

"The Lord's mercy speaks to you through me—the Lord's love inspires me—freely have I received for your sake, and freely, freely give! May it redeem you—may it bless you."

"I believe it—I believe it! Oh, Mrs. Hunter! while you hold my hand and talk to me so, and look at me, with Heaven calling on me through your eyes, I feel my heart changing, changing in my bosom! Oh, Mrs. Hunter! if you could stay by me—if it were possible you could stay by me—I might not then be a lost spirit."

"I will not leave you. I will remain with you till the last."

"What! Mrs. Hunter, will you stay with me?"

"Yes—be calm."

"You! in this miserable place with me!"

"Yes; for I trust in Heaven to do you good."

"But your daughter! I thought you would make instant preparations to hasten to her."

"I can wait for that. God, who has watched over her all these years, and made her such a good and lovely maiden, will keep her safe till I meet her."

"Oh, how you must love her!"

"I do more than all under heaven, except her father."

"And now you must long to hasten to her."

"Be calm—I do not wish to leave you."

"Heaven bless you for that! Heaven bless you!"

The conversation was interrupted by a low knock at the door. Mrs. Hunter arose and opened it. The nurse stood there with a message from Mr. Hunter, desiring to know when Mrs. Hunter would be ready to return to the hotel.

The lady said that she would answer the message in person. And, leaving the nurse in her place, she went down the long hall to the end, where Daniel Hunter and the doctor stood, near the stove, and drawing Mr. Hunter aside explained to him her wish to remain near the patient until her death.

"But our child—but Maud! I have already sent to the stage office and taken places down to Alleghany county."

"Then go alone, Mr. Hunter. Much as I long to see our child, I cannot leave this suffering soul. When all is over, I will hasten after you."

"Augusta, you are a good woman."

"Care by my heart to Maud. Tell her I am not surprised—I always felt she was my child, though I did not know it; tell her—but never mind! Speak all your own love, and she will hear mine."

Daniel Hunter pressed her hand, saying:

"I understand you. I feel all that you would have me say from you."

And then they talked over some little temporary arrangements, and took leave of each other. Mrs. Hunter returned to pray with her patient, and Daniel Hunter, leaving the young people for the present at the hotel, threw himself into the stage coach and was rattled down to Alleghany county as fast as the old-fashioned vehicle could convey him.

It was late Saturday evening when he arrived at Howlet Hall, and much too late for him to think of visiting Silver Creek that night. He found his young relatives and their little nestlings well, and the former, in expectation of his whole party, and not a little disappointed at seeing him alone. He satisfied them, however, by saying that urgent business had brought him down in advance of the others, who would follow in a day or

two. He did not think proper to communicate upon that night the strange discovery that had been made to him—in fact, he felt strongly opposed to hearing and answering the multitude of questions which he felt certain the frivolous Lucy would greet the communication. He therefore contented himself with inquiring, in an off-hand manner, after the health and well-being of Mrs. Hunter's little favorite, Sylvia Grove, and having received a satisfactory answer, he pleaded fatigue and retired to bed. Very early the next morning he arose, ordered his horse, and hastily swallowed a cup of coffee standing, threw himself into the saddle, and galloped rapidly toward Silver Creek, whither he must precede him.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

A sharp, cold, clear, sparkling morning in December, with the ground covered with snow, with the sun shining dazlingly, the creek frozen hard, the squirrels hopping through the bare woods, and flocks of snowbirds alighting on the fields.

Early Sylvia left her sleepless pillow, and never maiden arose upon her bridal morning with a heavier heart. She could not think why. She loved Falconer well, she was willing to pass her life with him—yet there lay upon her bosom a heavy weight, a vague anxiety, a sorrowful foreboding which she could neither throw off nor quite understand.

"I hope you will not be married till I come, for you are very young, dear child."

These words had been written to her by Mrs. Hunter. Yet now she seemed to hear the lady's voice speaking them to her—speaking them with irresistible authority. And in what state she was about, she felt an undefined sense of wrong and danger, which she could not reason away.

Sylvia completed her toilet as well as she could alone.

A black silk gown, a black cloth shawl, and a little black silk bonnet—her usual Sunday dress—were now her wedding garments. Like a star on the edge of a dark cloud shone her beautiful face from these shrouding draperies. She went out into the little parlor, where the breakfast table was set, and where Falconer awaited her.

The youth stood at the chimney corner with his elbow resting on his mantelpiece, his head bowed upon his hand, upon the lady's face, and she said, and his long fingers driven through his black, elf locks.

He looked like a man who, like a bridegroom—his face was haggard, as with sleeplessness and anxiety. He, too, felt a sense of wrong-doing—felt that it was an unmanly, unrighteous thing to take advantage of the gentle girl, and draw her into a marriage that promised nothing but misery. But he would not forego his selfish passion—no, not though his bride should die heartbroken; he hurled all misgivings from his breast, and trampled all compunction down.

The young people scarcely touched their breakfast, and then, hurrying to the table, the little wagon stood at the door; Falconer handed Sylvia in, entered, and took the seat at her side, and drove off.

The sparkling splendor of the winter morning—the fresh, brisk, invigorating air, the merry cawing, or hopping about of the honest hardy little denizens of the leafless woods, the snowbirds, or the squirrels, that frequently crossed their path—all contributed to enliven the spirits of our young travellers. Then Falconer asked:

"What were you looking so grave about, Sylvia?"

"I do not quite know, but I felt as if this were a runaway match."

"Hem—m! Whom are we running away from, Sylvia?"

"From Mrs. Hunter, isn't it?"

"No, the dear lady, she is the last one in the world to put a fetter on me."

They journeyed on. They reached the Summit, and drove up to the church just as the Sunday school had been taken in. The church below stairs was empty. The congregation had not even begun to assemble. Falconer alighted and secured his horse, and assisted Sylvia to descend from her seat, and they entered the church together. A little while they had to wait while Mr. Lovel concluded the opening services of the Sunday school, and then Falconer sent a messenger to him by a late pupil who was going up.

Mr. Lovel came down and met the young pair, and shook hands with them, and when Falconer had explained the business that had brought them thither, he looked surprised, amused, and turned such a quizzical glance upon Sylvia that the maiden blushed and drooped her eyes.

"Yes, certainly," he said, "I'm always happy to make others happy. Oh, by the way, have you seen Mr. Hunter this morning?"

"Mr. Hunter!" exclaimed Sylvia, with the light of joy springing to her eyes.

"Mr. Hunter?" faltered Falconer, grinding his teeth in rage and sorrow.

"Yes, young folks, Daniel Hunter! He reached Howlet Hall last night, and—"

"Has Mrs. Hunter come?" inquired Sylvia, eagerly interrupting him.

"No, my dear. Mrs. Hunter remains for the present in Baltimore. Mr. Hunter came down alone on very important business, and I fancy his business lies with one of you, for this morning, before any of us were out of bed, he ordered his horse and set out for Silver Creek. And you have not seen him, surprising?"

"We left very early, sir. Was Mrs. Hunter well, sir?"

"Very well. She will be down in a few days."

"Will you be good enough, sir, to proceed with the business that brought you here?" asked Falconer, impatiently.

"Certainly—certainly—certainly—but where are your attendants? Have you no friends with you?"

"Is that a necessary form, sir?" asked the youth, coldly.

"No—no—not in this case; there are some half-dozen people just passed us, and seated themselves in their pews; they will witness the rites. Follow me!"

And Mr. Lovel preceded the young couple up the aisle, entering within the railing of the altar, and took his stand in front of the reading desk.

Sylvia and Falconer knelt before him. The people that were in the church were roused up at this sight; a wedding is always interesting, especially an impromptu one in a church; they were on the qui vive, and picked up their ears for the words of the minister, and the responses of the parties, and—but we must leave them and go back an hour or two.

When Daniel Hunter left Howlet Hall, he rode on at a hot pace through the

## AJAX OIL

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A new remedy to Canadians, but thousands in other countries have been cured. See what a prominent Toronto citizen says of Ajax Oil.

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The Ajax Oil Co., Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sirs—This is to express my appreciation for your rheumatism cure.

On the advice of a friend I purchased a bottle of Ajax Oil Liniment for rheumatism, and can safely say it is a specific for rheumatism.

I suffered intensely for years and tried nearly every known remedy, also had the advice of the best physicians but without any satisfactory results till I used your Ajax Oil, and now I can safely say I am completely cured. I give this testimonial entirely unhesitatingly, so that others similarly afflicted may know of your wonderful treatment—Ajax Oil Liniment.

Yours very truly, Geo. Milligan.

Mr. "Arabella" cigars.

Sold in 8 oz. bottles—\$2.00 per bottle. Send \$2.00 by Money Order or registered letter and you will receive a bottle of Ajax Oil by return mail.

## AJAX OIL CO., TORONTO, CANADA



Dominion Department of Agriculture, Branch of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner.

Some of the recent average yield in the associations organized by the Dairy Division, Ottawa, are:

Henryville, Que., 14, Oct., 163 cows average 408 lb. milk, 4.2 test, 17.4 lb. fat.

Warshaw, Ont., 12 Oct. 181 cows average 479 lb. milk, 3.8 test, 18.3 lb. fat.

Pine Grove, Ont., 17 Oct., 136 cows average 479 lb. milk, 3.8 test, 18.2 lb. fat.

Sheffield, Ont., 17 Oct. 181 cows average 447 lb. milk, 3.9 test, 17.8 lb. fat.

St. Armand, Que., 19 Oct., 134 cows average 343 lb. milk, 4.5 test, 12.5 lb. fat.

Last and by no means least, North Oxford, Ont., 21 Oct., 111 cows, average 636 lb. milk, 3.6 test, 23.0 lb. fat.

Dirville, Que., 17 Oct., 164 cows, average 416 lb. milk, 4.1 test, 17.4 lb. fat.

Chilham, B. C., 6 Oct., 133 cows average 563 lb. milk, 4.0 test, 22.6 lb. fat.

Cowichan, B. C., Oct. 14, 173 cows average 499 lb. milk, 4.3 test, 18.5 lb. fat.

St. Agatha, Que., Oct. 21—143 cows average 474 lb. milk, 4.2 test, 20.3 lb. fat. Best individual yield 340 lb. milk.

Woodhouse, Ont., Oct. 25—104 cows average 401 lb. milk, 4.2 test, 17.2 lb. fat. One herd of 18 cows averages only 336 lb.

St. Armand, Que., Oct. 26—101 cows average 621 lb. milk, 3.5 test, 22.1 lb. fat. One herd of 33 cows averages 623 lb. milk.

Hatley Centre, Que., Oct. 27—119 cows average 331 lb. milk, 4.3 test, 14.0 lb. fat. With butter fat at 90 per pound, these cows are returning 22.40 each less to their owners than at East and West Oxford during one month. Where is the margin of profit?

Rockford, Ont., Oct. 30—101 cows average 641 lb. milk, 3.3 test, 21.3 lb. fat. In one herd of 20 cows the average yield is 538 lb. milk.

St. Edwidge, Que., Nov. 3—Farnishes another contrast, 143 cows average 455 lb. milk, 4.5 test, 15.3 lb. fat. Highest yield of any one cow is 770 lb. milk.

New Glasgow, P. E. I., Oct. 31—128 cows average 422 lb. milk, 16.1 lb. fat.

Spring Creek, Ont., Nov. 1—131 cows average 478 lb. milk, 20.4 lb. fat. Best herd average 523 lb. milk, 30.8 lb. fat.

Joazeux, Que., Nov. 6—106 cows average 523 lb. milk, 4.3 test, 18.3 lb. fat. Largest herd of 14 cows averages 231 lb. milk.

Coudon, Ont., Nov. 8—341 cows average 491 lb. milk, 4.0 test, 20.3 lb. fat. One herd of 40 cows averages 639 lb. milk, 23.7 lb. fat.

Henryville, Que., Nov. 13—104 cows average 327 lb. milk, 14.8 lb. fat. Highest individual yield from any one cow is 725 lb. milk.

The official premium list for the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, to be held at Guelph in December, contains a splendid offering of prizes for the various departments embraced by this rapidly growing institution. The development of this fair has not been a one-sided one, but has taken place along all lines which conduce to promote the general agriculture industry of the Province. Of all the various departments perhaps none had a more humble beginning than did the seed department, yet no department has had more rapid growth in the degree of intelligent interest taken in the cause which it champions. This speaks well for the far-sightedness of the live stock men of the Province, who are quite cognizant of the fact that while the live stock industry of the country is relatively the most important, yet the success of this industry really depends upon our ability to successfully grow suitable and adequate grain and fodder crops.

The losses that arise from sowing mixed and inferior grains and the danger from sowing weed seeds are coming to be recognized more and more each year, and as a result the seed department at the above fair, as an institution designed to assist in alleviating the prevailing difficulties, has an important place to fill. This department contains two general divisions. One division provides accommodation for exhibits of ordinary farm seeds, which has not received any particular attention apart from what any up-to-date, intelligent grower would aim to give. The other division provides for the exhibition of "specially selected seed, which has been grown and selected according to the regulations of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This latter exhibition is designed chiefly to give publicity to the work which the various growers are doing by way of applying improved methods of seed growing.

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