

TRIAL FOR LIFE

The old housekeeper and butler were next informed of the change of proprietorship, and commissioned to break the news to the rest of the household. They had been old and faithful servants of the late lord, and were deeply attached to his house. Great as they were shocked and perplexed by all that they heard, they readily comprehended their duty to their late lord's daughter, whoever that daughter might now prove to be. And deeply as they were distressed by the reverses of one whom they had so long loved and revered as their lady and mistress, they performed the task intrusted to them with fidelity and discretion. And thus, before the day was over, all the household, save the ladies, were still lingering over the breakfast table, a pair of cards were laid before them, bearing the names "Colonel Hastings," "Albert Hastings, Esq."

"Where have you shown these gentlemen?" asked Laura Elmer.

"Into the drawing room, my lady," answered the man, who, from force of habit, still addressed his late mistress by her title.

"Whom did they inquire for?"

"Miss Elmer," replied the footman.

"Right; say that I shall be with them in a few moments," said Laura.

The servant, with a low bow, retired. "Lady Elmer, it was I whom they wanted," said Rose, who had been giving the old-fashioned baroness her abdication title.

"No, dear, they inquired for Miss Elmer," said Laura, smiling, "and that is my name. Pray let me go. I have more self-command than you have; and this self-command gives me a great power over others."

"Oh, then, I thank you, and accept your kindness," said Rose.

Colonel and Mr. Hastings, who were both seated, looked at each other.

"Good morning, gentlemen. Pray resume your seats. You inquired for me, I believe? How can I be so happy as to serve you?" she said.

"Nay, we are very happy to see you, Lady Elmer," said Colonel Hastings, while Mr. Hastings, after bowing deeply, stood silently before her.

"Miss Elmer, you know to be my name; while you do not mock my name and the truth when you call me Lady Elmer," said Laura Elmer, gravely, as she motioned them to seats, and took a chair for herself.

"Then," said Colonel Hastings, "you really are resolved to give up this title and estate without a struggle?"

"I have already given up all rights, titles and interests in the barony and estates of Ethebridge of Swinburne. I have indicated the true heiress into her rights, and introduced her to her house. I have caused Rose Elmer to be acknowledged the Baroness Ethebridge of Swinburne, a title in which, you know, the House of Lords, when they have heard the evidence in her favor, will confirm her."

"I judged that such would be the rashness of your folly, Laura! But, pardon me, cannot we be permitted to speak with this Rose Elmer?"

"You shall see Lady Ethebridge," replied Laura, with a slight conge, as she left the room.

"You must go to them, my dear; they inquired for you," said Laura Elmer, as she re-entered the breakfast room, and sent Rose to meet the visitors.

As Rose entered the drawing room, she caught a glimpse of Colonel Hastings retreating into the conservatory, so as to leave her alone with his son.

Albert Hastings hurried to meet her, with outstretched hands, beaming eyes, and earnest will, beginning to say:

"My adored Rose! I have sought so often and so vainly to see you. And at last I am more fortunate. Dear Rose!"

"Come no nearer, Mr. Hastings," said Rose, raising her hand, with a forbidding gesture, while her whole face crimsoned with honest indignation. "And, indeed, I do not know why you should presume to come at all."

"You must understand, and I stand before you, only to say that which I hope will induce you to shorten your visit, and prevent you from ever repeating it. And this is what I have to say, Mr. Hastings: Miss Elmer and myself have had a full explanation; I told her everything you ever said or swore to me. And after such a mutual discussion of you—your truth—honor—disinterestedness—and general magnanimity—you may judge the verdict we made upon your case. We coincided exactly in our judgment of your character and deservings—the only difference being that she, the high-souled, queenly woman, considered the man, however unworthy, whom she had once crowned with her love, sacred forever from her reproaches; while I, Mr. Hastings, can find no word strong enough to express the revulsion of feeling that has turned all my regard for you into loathing and disgust."

"Insolent girl! your supposed good fortune has quite turned your head! How dare you call the lady of this house 'Miss Elmer,' or presume to suppose that there is any truth in this ridiculous story that would constitute you, a peasant girl, Baroness Ethebridge of Swinburne? Coronets are not given away so readily, let me tell you!" exclaimed Albert Hastings, beside himself with rage.

"I call the lady of this house Miss Elmer, because she has requested me to call her thus. As for the truth of the story that would constitute me Baroness

Ethebridge, I care nothing about it, except that I have a slight hope that it may prove to be a mistake. As for the coronet of which you speak, I do not want it. I am as unfit to wear the coronet of a baroness as you are to wear the form of manhood," said Rose, severely, for this pretty little creature could let fly terrible shafts of rebuke from those rosy lips of hers.

Albert Hastings walked up and down the floor in fierce impatience, striving with himself until he had attained some degree of composure, when he suddenly paused before Rose and said:

"Rose, I beg you will pardon my mad words. I scarcely knew what I was saying. Your cruelty and scorn really drove me to frenzy. Rose, I love you to distraction. I always have done so. I always shall do so. Rose, do not let us quarrel. I know that you are the right heiress of Swinburne; and I came hither to-day, Rose, and offer you my best services to assist you in the establishment of your rights, but your stinging words provoked me to an unmanly retort, for which I humbly beg your pardon, Rose. Say you forgive me; consent to be mine, and I will devote all my time means and energies to the establishment of your claims to the barony of Swinburne. You will want all the aid you can get, Rose, for, believe me, the House of Lords will not easily transfer the title from one who has so long borne it, to another of obscure origin. Answer me, dear Rose, but before you answer me, remember that I, who now possess the rising of your sun of fortune—love you, and won your love while you were simple Rose Elmer."

"And while you were the betrothed husband of another. Do you imagine that to remind me of your perfidy, and my delusion, will be a ready road to my favor. I had given you credit for more worldly wisdom. I return you due thanks for your disinterested proffer of services. Of course, so unselfish a friend they are not in the least needed. Miss Elmer has already ceded to me all that she is claimed as my right; and if I am not quite indifferent whether the House of Lords confirms my claim or not, it is because I have some faint hopes that they will reinstate her, who has so long and so worthily worn the honors of that ancient house; and now, Mr. Hastings, you will permit me to wish you an eternal farewell!" And so saying, the young girl bowed and withdrew from the room.

Albert Hastings started forward to intercept her withdrawal, but was too late; she glided from the room so quickly that she disappeared before he could take three steps. The baffled and frustrated young man stood staring after her, when he was stopped by his father who hurried from the conservatory and laid his hand upon his son's arm, saying:

"What are you about, you young fool? Sit down and listen to me."

"All is lost if I let her leave me in this mood!" exclaimed Mr. Hastings, throwing himself into a chair.

"Ridiculous. Nothing is lost or in danger. Listen to me, who knows women in all their phases, which are much more various than those of the moon. Let me tell you—who has known them since forty years before you were born; that girl loves you to distraction!"

"Ha, ha, ha. She takes the strangest way of showing it!" exclaimed young Hastings, with a sardonic laugh.

"No, she does not. She takes a perfectly natural, and very common way of showing it—namely, by excessive, even insane anger, at the discovery that you had been making love to another woman. Give her anger time to cool, and then will come the reaction of old love and weakness. You must make up your quarrel with the enraged beauty."

"But if she will not?"

"But she will; and if she should be very long in coming to her senses, I possess a talisman that will bring her to reason."

"And what is that?" inquired the young man, looking up with curiosity.

"The power to pull her down from her present position to her original obscurity," exclaimed the elder, sternly.

"But, in the name of Heaven, how can you do that, sir, when once the House of Lords has confirmed her title?" inquired Albert Hastings, in astonishment.

"Easily! By showing that, after all the evidence, she is really not the heiress of Swinburne!"

"Not the heiress of Swinburne! In the name of all that is inexplicable, how could you prove that?"

"By producing and proving the true heir!"

"And—that is, after all, Laura?"

"What, sir! Neither Laura nor Rose the real heir! Who, then, in the name of wonder, is?"

"One whom you cannot marry. Therefore, I shall keep silent upon the subject until you see whether you can marry Rose. If she prove obstinate, I shall let her know that she holds her position at my will, and only upon the condition that she marries my son!"

"You are the best of fathers, my dear sir! But are you quite sure of what you say?"

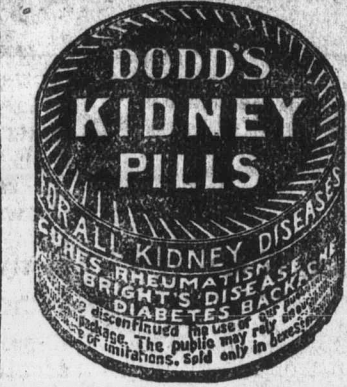
"Entirely! I have proof enough to overwhelm every court in the kingdom. How long have you preserved this secret, sir?"

"Since the night upon which the late baron died!"

"What! during the whole time that you administered the estate as the guardian of Laura?"

"Yes! but I was managing the estates and educating the heiress as a bride for my son, who was designed to be the master of Swinburne Castle; with, perhaps, the reversion of the title! Now, since a claimant with right has displaced her, I say, woe and woe to that claimant! But if she refuses she shall in her turn give place to another, who has the greatest and the only right! So you shall be master of Swinburne, despite the caprices of these two women, for the barony of Swinburne is in my power!" said Colonel Hastings, with savage triumph.

"In the course of the next week, it was



generally known throughout the country that the old barony of Swinburne had changed proprietors. The rector, Dr. William Seymour, called at the castle to discover for himself the truth of the report, and as a reason for the breaking off of the marriage engagement between the old baroness and her chosen husband.

Laura received him with her usual suave and stately courtesy, and promptly related to him the history of the last month. She then spoke kindly of Rose, the new baroness, and sought to enlist for her the sympathy and assistance of the learned and excellent man. This was readily promised by that minister, who next inquired:

"And you, my child, what are your plans for the future?"

"I shall remain with Rose for a few weeks longer, until she is more at ease in her changed circumstances. And in the meantime I shall advertise in the Times for the situation of a private governess in some gentleman's or nobleman's family," replied Laura, with a faint smile.

CHAPTER XI.

We return to Ferdinand Cassinove, the humble secretary of Colonel Hastings.

Upon the same evening that the supposed Baroness Ethebridge of Swinburne had made a conveyance of her estate to her betrothed husband, the several documents had been collected and entrusted to young Cassinove, with directions to proceed immediately to London, and lodge them, for greater security, in the hands of the family solicitor, and afterward to go to the house in Portman Square and wait the return of his patron. And the young man, glad to escape the presence of that queenly woman, whom he could not look upon without love, and could not love without sin, promptly obeyed the orders of his employer, and the same night set out on his journey to London. In due time he reached the city, executed his commission and retired to his own peculiar den in a great house in Portman Square, to await the arrival of Colonel Hastings, who was expected in the morning.

Immediately after the marriage of his son and the departure of the happy pair upon their bridal tour, with his whole soul consumed with a passion that his reason assured him to be as well founded in esteem as it was hopeless in prospect, young Cassinove passed many weary days, vaguely wondering at the prolonged absence and unaccountable silence of his patron. At that day news did not travel with anything of the alacrity with which it flies at this. Young Cassinove heard nothing of events progressing at Swinburne Castle.

Nearly a month had elapsed since his return to Portman Square, when, one evening, the household was startled by the sudden arrival of their long-expected master, accompanied by his son, who was supposed at that very time to be far upon his bridal tour.

Colonel Hastings resented the surprised looks of his household with many oaths, and did not tend to restore their self-possession, and then retiring to his library, called and ordered the attendance of his secretary.

Ferdinand Cassinove entered the presence of his employer, saying:

"The deeds are safely deposited with the Brothers Barlin."

"Do—the deeds. They are not worth the parchment they are written upon," roared the colonel, in a fury, following up his exclamation with a volley of oaths that made the secretary stare in astonishment, and doubt whether his venerable patron had not been for once overtaken by intoxication.

"I trust, sir, that no misfortune," began Ferdinand, but he was interrupted by a terrible torrent of profanity, and the words:

"Misfortune, misfortune! Worse, sir. A confounded ridiculous contempt for that has made us a nine days' wonder—a town talk all over the country."

"Whatever it was, it does not in any way affect Mr. Hastings or his bride?"

"Perdition, sir! It was just those two whom it did affect," exclaimed the old man.

Ferdinand turned very pale, and moved a step nearer, and then, from very agitation, sank back into his chair, murmuring:

"And what, sir, if I may be permitted to ask, be the nature of this calamity, and the manner in which it touches Mr. Hastings and his bride?"

"Go away! We have no umbrellas to mend here!"—Chicago News.

End of His Romance.

"That settles me," said the street car conductor, as he returned to the rear platform, after having made his collection of fares.

"Anything wrong?" was asked.

"I should remark! There was an inspector looking through the front doors at me while I was collecting fares, and there are two spotters on the cars besides."

"But you are an honest man."

"Certainly, but that has nothing to do with it. The fare I love is the one I had to hold out my paw for my nickel as well as the rest. I have passed her free a score of times, but this time I couldn't. She blushed and paid, but that was the romance. This evening, when I appeared at the house as usual I shall find it in darkness, and as I ring away at the bell a hand will be thrust from a chamber window, and a voice will call out:

"Go away! We have no umbrellas to mend here!"—Chicago News.

Girlhood and Scott's Emulsion are linked together.

The girl who takes Scott's Emulsion has plenty of rich, red blood; she is plump, active and energetic.

The reason is that at a period when a girl's digestion is weak, Scott's Emulsion provides her with powerful nourishment in easily digested form.

It is a food that builds and keeps up a girl's strength.

ALL DRUGGISTS: 50c. AND \$1.00.

CONFIDENTIAL: At the very last moment he broke off the marriage!

Cassinove sprang upon his feet with a cry of irrepressible joy.

Colonel Hastings mistook this for an exclamation of astonishment and, thinking himself sure of an interested and sympathizing listener, he related, with many imprecations, the discovery that had been made at Swinburne, with the events that followed.

Young Cassinove listened with a joy that it was almost possible to conceal, all the while saying to himself:

"She may yet be mine—she may yet be mine. This noble creature may yet be mine. Oh, what a revelation from despair to hope and happiness! Now I have an incentive to action; now I have an inspiration to live and do, and endure; now shall days of toil and nights of study anticipate the long passage of years, and I will win fame and wealth to lay both at her feet. I will restore her more than she lost. Hear it, oh, ye spirits that inspire and direct noble passions, and bless my efforts!"

While these growing hopes and inspirations warmed the bosom of the ardent young Italian, Colonel Hastings brought his long story to an end, concluding with the words:

And, of course, you must be aware, Cassinove, there could be but one line of action for us, my son's destined bride being proved an impostor."

"Well, not impostor, exactly, since she was no conscious party to the fraud that imposed her upon the late baron as his daughter and heiress; but as she was discovered and proved to be the daughter of the late gamekeeper, of course, a family of unblemished lineage like our own could not possibly receive her. Mr. Albert Hastings, with my full approbation, from his engagement to her."

"The base traitor!" exclaimed Cassinove, in indignant scorn.

"Sir!" vociferated the colonel, in astonishment at his secretary's boldness. "I say the base traitor. And would to Heaven I had the brother's privilege of chastising him for the most infamous act that I ever knew a man to be guilty of!"

"Get out of my house, sir!" cried the colonel, striving toward Cassinove and shaking his fist.

"I intend to do so; but not until I have fully expressed my opinion. This seeming self-reversal of this most noble lady is really no misfortune, but a happy vicissitude for her, since the same providential blow that deprived her of rank, wealth and the title, dashed from her side a wretch unfit to breathe the same air, or tread the same earth with herself."

"Will you begone from my house, sir," thundered the old colonel, advancing on him.

"I am gone. Not one moment would I remain in the service of those whose lips defend their own dishonor."

The enraged old man rushed upon the younger one with uplifted hands, and furious eyes.

But Cassinove taking off his hat, turned and calmly confronted his employer, saying:

"Sir, the gray hairs that have not brought you respect yet protect you from resentment. I wish you good-night, Colonel Hastings, and a better understanding of that which really blenishes unblemished lineage, and with a bow the young man left the room, and hurried immediately to his own little den on the third floor, where he commenced preparations for a restful departure. It was the work of a few moments to pack his slender wardrobe and small stock of books. Next he called a cab, ordered his luggage to be put upon the vehicle and directed the driver to take him to No. 8 Flitting street. A half-hour's drive through the intricate thoroughfares of the centre of London brought him to a small, clean-looking thread-and-needle shop, that bore over the door the sign of a needle and thread.

Pulling up here, he got out and went into the cheerfully lighted little shop that was for the moment occupied only by a neat little dark-haired woman of about thirty years of age, standing behind the counter.

(To be Continued.)

COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS.

It is probable, however, that the most popular plan for getting the testing done will be through the organization of Cow Testing Associations. There are some twenty of these associations already in existence in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which have been organized by the members of the Dairy Commissioner's Staff, and the number is increasing almost daily. The organization is being effected in the following basis:

1. The organization shall be known as Cow Testing Association.

2. The officers shall consist of a president, a vice-president and a secretary. Three other members shall be appointed to act along with the officers as a committee of management.

3. The officers shall be elected to hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.

4. The annual meeting shall be held at the call of the president.

5. Meetings of the committee of management shall be held at the call of the secretary-treasurer. Three members shall form a quorum.

6. Any person who will agree to keep a record of individual cows during the whole milking period, to the extent of weighing the morning's and evening's milk on at least three days every month, and also take a sample for testing, will be admitted to membership. The number of members may be limited at the discretion of the committee of management.

7. The milk will be preserved and a composite sample tested once a month with a Babcock milk tester.

8. Members will be expected to provide themselves with scales, sample bottles, etc. for each cow and a box for holding the samples.

9. Members shall assume the responsibility of delivering the samples to the place where the testing is to be done, on such days as may be directed by the person in charge of that work.

I am authorized by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture to announce that blank forms will be supplied and that the testing will be done free of charge for the season of 1907 for any regularly organized association; the members of the association to provide a

Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Dairy Commissioner's Office.

A good start was made in 1906 with the organization of cow testing associations, but we hope to see a great extension of the movement during the coming year, because there is no other line of effort which offers the same possibilities for increasing the profits of milk production. Judging by results obtained elsewhere and also by the experiences of progressive farmers in this country, it would seem to be possible to increase the average production of Canadian herds by at least 2,000 pounds of milk per cow per year, by applying the same rational methods. Such an increase in production would mean an additional revenue from dairying to the farmers of Canada of at least \$30,000,000 a year, without increasing the number of cows kept.

The plans for the improvement of a dairy herd need not be elaborate or expensive, and should take cognizance of the fact that there are good cows and poor cows, judged by their milk production, in all breeds, and that it does not follow because a cow may have a lengthy pedigree that her performance at the milk pail is up to the mark; that there are "scrub" thoroughbreds as well as common "scrubs." It will require some moral courage to discard the expensive thoroughbred scrub after she has been shown up in her true colors, but that is what should be done. There is only one true standard, and the test must be production. This is not an argument against the thoroughbred animal as such, but rather an attempt to place performance ahead of pedigree. Ancestry is a most important consideration, but unless the record carries with it some account of production, it lacks the only really important feature, and the man looking for superior animals gets no information from it that is of real value to him. He may have personal knowledge of the strain in question, but that is another matter.

Any scheme which has for its object the improvement of our dairy stock must provide for a study, and record, of the performance of the individual cows, as well as deal with the management of the herd, including its care and feeding, and the breeding of animals to replace those which are discarded in the "weeding" process. Individuality can only be determined by the weighing and testing of each cow's milk.

It is quite practicable for individual farmers to test their own herds, and many are doing so, but some form of cooperation makes the work easier and cheaper and at the same time more useful, inasmuch as each member of an association has the information relating to other herds as well as his own.

CHEESE FACTORY AND CREAMERY OWNERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED.

Owners or managers of cheese factories and creameries naturally take an interest in this question and the organization why testing of individual cows should not be done by the factory management. Most factories have the necessary appliances (except the sample bottles) and the manager is, or should be, more competent to do the work properly than the average farmer is. It needs no argument to prove that if the patrons of a factory increase the yield of milk from their cows the factory will derive a corresponding benefit. The efforts which are now made by the owners of most factories to increase their milk supply at the expense of neighboring establishments, were to be directed towards securing an increased yield of milk from the herds already supplying the factories, a more abiding and better general result would be obtained, even from the individual factory standpoint.

Size of the Human Head.

The average adult head has a circumference of fully twenty-two inches. The average adult hat is fully 6-3/4 also. The sizes of men's hats are 6-3/4 and 6-7/8 generally. Heads wearing hats of the sizes of 6-9/8 and smaller or being less than twenty-one inches in circumference can never be powerful. Between nineteen and twenty inches in circumference heads are invariably very weak and, according to one authority, "no lady should think of marrying a man with a head less than twenty inches in circumference." People with heads under nineteen inches are mentally deficient and with heads under eighteen inches "invariably idiotic."

THE CARE OF A BABY.

A baby that does not eat well and sleep well, that is not cheerful and playful needs attention, or the result may be serious. Stomach and bowel troubles make children cross and sleepless, but a dose of Baby's Own Tablets soon cures the trouble, the child sleeps soundly and naturally and wakes up bright and smiling. Mrs. J. E. Harley, Worthington, Ont., says: "My little one has had no medicine but Baby's Own Tablets since she was two months old and she has kept her picture of good health."

You can get Baby's Own Tablets from any druggist or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Won by Lack of a Neck.

The plaintiff's barrister in the breach of promise case thought he would make life a burden to the unfortunate young man who was the unwilling defendant.

"Do you mean to say," he asked, after a number of embarrassing questions, "that after you had been absent for an entire month you did not kiss the plaintiff, to whom you were engaged to be married, when you first saw her on your return?"

"I do," responded the defendant, firmly.

"Will you make that statement to the jury?"

"Certainly, if necessary."

"Do you think that they would believe you?"

"One of them would, I know."

"Ah, indeed! And why should he, pray?"

"Because he was present when I first saw her. He was at the gate when I rode up, and she stuck her head out of the second-story window, and I said to her, 'How dare you do that?' and called out 'I'm back to supper in half an hour.' I'm no giraffe, and everybody smiled except the barrister.—Tit-Bits.

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Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Dairy Commissioner's Office.

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