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## NOT LOVED, YET WEDDED

She looked up. His eyes encountered hers, eager, fervid. Esmer, slightly alarmed, recoiled. Like Frankenstein, she saw the result of her own work, and was afraid. "Mr. Laurence," she murmured, "I was wrong, I own. I could not help perceiving you regarded me with friendship." "Friendship? Miss Mortmain, it was more than that," he replied, with seeming embarrassment. "Still, it was of your own will you pretended to pretend you confessed to meet me when I was out walking. This, surely, was no fault of mine?" "No fault of yours?" "He drew himself erect, crossing his arms on his chest. "No, no fault that of yours, Miss Mortmain; yet you need not have fostered such meetings, unless—"

"Unless," she interrupted, the spirit of evil, of self, rampant, "unless they were too agreeable for me to find courage to reject them. I confess it."

"Agreeable? Oh, Miss Mortmain, say that once more!" he cried, catching her hand. "Then I am not hateful to you?"

"Hateful!" The brilliant eyes flashed into his. "I should have died here of ennui but for you. Stay, Mr. Laurence," with a coquettish glance, "what you ask I may not even think yet still, at present, may we not be friends?"

She extended her hand towards him; he raised it to his lips. "May I not hope?" he pleaded. "Can you not be content?" she smiled. "Nay, you must. The unfortunate generally loses more than they gain."

"I accept the warning, and will try to be content."

"Thank you, leave me, please, for I expect my deanna, Lady Davenant, here presently."

He obeyed, and again kissing her gloved fingers, like a pledge of love in his eyes, he walked from her.

Esmer watched him till he was out of sight, and hearing, then, ringing clear, a ringing laugh.

"I do believe, Stephanie, that he really loves me," she said, then, ringing clear, a ringing laugh.

"A hundred, mademoiselle! The minute has five hundred. But you treat the pauvre homme cruelly, Stephanie! Think what I should have done all these weary days but for some such pastime. It is so nice to be made love to."

"Nice to you, mals death to de oders, mademoiselle. Why you not tell him you are une fiancée?"

"And spoil everything, ma chere Stephanie? Nonsense, when I leave here he will forget all about me."

"What do you mean, Stephanie?" she asked, with asperity.

"I mademoiselle! Nothing; only why should des gentilhommes enjoy the amusement of des lady fiancées?"

"No," retorted Esmer, "the case is different. My cousin has plenty of other pastime, while I am buried here. There, Stephanie, both you and Mr. Laurence are insupportably stupid and tiresome today. I will go home."

The innocent remark of Mademoiselle Stephanie, who had a slight tenderness herself for the earnest young curate-in-charge, consequently felt for him, had awakened a serious strain of thought in the girl's brain, fired by the undying spark of jealousy.

Supposing Gerard did love somebody else? Supposing that was the reason he was keeping her in that out-of-the-way country place? Supposing he was kneeling at another woman's feet, when he should be at hers?

Esmer's hands clenched. All the revengefulness of a suspicious temper was aroused. If she were only able to find out—if she only were? Why could she not go to London as well as he? Why should she not? By right was not all Lethington, all its wealth, hers?

Such thoughts were still occupying her on entering the grounds of the villa. In doing so she perceived Lady Davenant on the lawn, and in no humor for converse, would have avoided her, but her hostess, who held a letter in her hand, calling her by name, advanced.

"Esmer, dear," she said, "spare me a few moments. I have just heard from my nephew, Sir John. He has taken a house in London, and wants me, with my daughters, to visit him. Now I was thinking it would be a delightful change for you, if Lord Lethington did not object."

Esmer was radiant; never had she looked so bright.

"What glorious news, dear Lady Davenant!" she cried. "My cousin object? He will be delighted. Only in a letter a little while ago he said I must come soon, and he would show me all the sights. See—see!"

Eagerly she drew out the letter and showed a small portion. "In that case, nothing could be better," said the elder lady, pleased to have no obstacle to her desire. "Shall I write to the earl, or will you?"

"When do you go?" inquired Esmer, after a pause.

"We thought the end of this week," "Then do me a favor; let neither of us write. Let me take him by surprise. It will be so delightful!"

Lady Davenant regarded the girl in pleased amazement. This radiant being was surely a new Esmer, not the one she had known. How she must love her cousin!

"Well," she said, dubiously, "if you think the earl will not be offended—"

"Offended—at what?" A gleam of triumph in the tone was quickly stifled. "He will be glad, on the contrary. Had he not feared troubling you, he would have proposed my visiting town before. Oh! do let me give him this surprise!"

"Very well, if you think so, and will accept the blame," laughed Lady Davenant. "I will leave Gerard to give you his share."

"Willingly. Thanks, my lady, for myself. I will leave Gerard to give you his share."

And with a singular laugh Esmer ran into the house to inform Mademoiselle Stephanie, and bid her prepare for the journey.

At the end of the week Lady Davenant, her family and charge, were speeding to London, leaving Reginald Laurence disconsolate, the victim of Esmer Mortmain's selfish coquetry.

CHAPTER XII.

It was the evening following Lady Chudleigh's ball, and Lucille, attired for going out, sat waiting for Maria Saprion. Her pretty dinner-dress had been discarded for a plain black silk, its simplicity, however, being nullified by the rich velvet mantle and some dress bonnet. At the dinner-table, knowing that the marquis and Cecil were both engaged, she had casually stated her intention of being too fatigued for society to attend an oratorio at Exeter Hall.

"But it is 'The Messiah,' my dear," he had remarked, her adopted father.

"You heard that not a fortnight ago," "True, my lord; but it is one of my favorites," responded Lucille, feeling a painful rise to her cheek, while her eyes sought her plate. "One cannot have too much of a good thing."

"Still, I scarcely like you going alone," proceeded the marquis. "If you had mentioned it only a little while ago, Lady Langridge would have been delighted to have chaperoned you. Couldn't you put off your engagement, Cecil?"

"I fear not, my lord," responded his nephew.

"If you could, Cecil, I would not permit it," broke in Lady Westbrook. "It would only have the effect of keeping out at home. Besides, my lord, I shall not go alone; Maria will accompany me."

"I will try to fetch you, if you like, Lucille," said Cecil, quickly.

"I entreat you not to," laughed the lady. "It is merely pour passer."

"I may not remain an hour, but I feel compelled to talk with Maria. I can be lazy, and not open my lips."

"You will take the carriage, my dear."

"Of course, my lord."

"So it was arranged. The marquis and Lord Carlisle took their departure, and Lucille dressed to go quietly, as she stated, to the oratorio. At the same moment that Maria and the footman announced the carriage was waiting. The two descended, and were soon driven to Exeter Hall.

"There was a perfect string of carriages already waiting to put down their occupants," Lady Westbrook seized the opportunity.

"Maria, pull the check-string for the footman. Say, as we have our bonnets, we will walk."

"You understand."

(To be Continued.)

Don't envy the alligator his great snap.

The young married couple who are crowned with good health are really a king and queen. They are possessed of an armor that enables them to withstand all the hardships and misfortunes of life. Accidents aside, they will live long, happy lives of mutual helpfulness, and they will be blessed with amiable, healthy children. They will sit together in the twilight of old age and look back without regret over a mutually happy, helpful, useful, successful companionship. There are thousands of young couples every day who start wedded life with but one drawback—one or the other, or both, suffer from ill-health. There can be no true wedded happiness that is overshadowed by the black cloud of physical suffering. The man who contemplates matrimony, and realizes that through overwork or worry or neglect, he is suffering from ill-health, should take the proper steps to remedy it before he assumes the responsibilities of a husband. Dr. Pierce's Great Medical Discovery is the best of all medicines for men who have neglected their health. It makes the appetite keen, the digestion perfect, the liver active, and the blood pure and rich with life-giving elements. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder. It invigorates and gives strength and vigor. No woman should wed while she suffers from weakness and disease in a womanly way. These are the most disastrous of diseases, and from which a woman can suffer. They break down her general health. They unfit her for wifehood and motherhood. They make her a weak, sickly, nervous invalid. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription cures all weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs that bear the burdens of wifehood and motherhood. It transforms weak, suffering, fretful invalids into healthy, happy wives and mothers. Both medicines are sold at all good medicine stores.

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## COLD STORAGE FOR FRUIT

Prof. Robertson's Report in Re Shipping to England.

The Vast Amount of Breadstuffs Imported by Great Britain—Farm Labor in Canada.

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—Prof. Robertson, in his annual report to the department of agriculture, says, speaking of the question of cold storage: "One shipment of apples was sent forward with 307 packages sent in cold storage and 116 packages sent as ordinary cargo. The fruit arrived in good condition. The apples shipped in cold storage were of the Baldwin, Ribston Pippin, Cranberry Pippin and Northern Spy varieties, and were well packed in the same way as ordinary cargo. The fruit was reported as being in fair condition, but were reported as 'not so solid and firm as the apples shipped in cold storage, and showing some signs of early decay.' There was a spot or scab existed, signs of decay were seen under the skin."

All the fruit from the cold storage on the steamship, while subject to dampness and moisture on the surface when removed from the cold storage; while the fruit shipped as ordinary cargo in the hold of the vessel was quite dry, but not so firm and solid as the other. The moisture was no doubt produced by condensation from the air by the sudden change of temperature. When fruit is removed from cold storage to a warm, moist atmosphere the cases should be left closed until the fruit has become gradually warm, and up to near the temperature of the air."

BREADSTUFFS.

On the subjects of breadstuffs imported by Great Britain, Prof. Robertson says:

The value of the wheat, flour, oats, barley, etc., imported into Great Britain during the year 1906 was \$286,590,448.

The following is a list of the chief countries from which the imports were obtained, with the value of the quantities furnished by each:

| Countries.                      | Flour.       | Other Breadstuffs. |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Canada .....                    | \$ 3,735,570 | \$10,554,600       |
| Other British possessions ..... | 2,418        | 210,556            |
| United States .....             | 43,062,223   | 84,402,223         |
| Russia .....                    | 24,513       | 50,129,282         |
| Germany .....                   | 321,010      | 2,710,337          |
| France .....                    | 3,544,105    | 500,527            |
| Austrian territories .....      | 3,739,498    | 212,736            |
| Argentine Republic .....        | 57,052       | 20,095,393         |
| Spain .....                     | 1,445,293    | 3,445,293          |
| Roumania .....                  | 15,431,218   | 15,431,218         |
| Turkey .....                    | 3,309,856    | 3,309,856          |
| Chile .....                     | 4,656,204    | 4,656,204          |
| Other foreign countries .....   | 218,621      | \$241,882          |
| Total .....                     | \$44,908,892 | \$212,651,422      |

Canadian wheat has an excellent reputation, but I fear that there is a good deal of truth in the allegation made by farmers, particularly in Manitoba and the provinces west of it, that the best qualities of Canadian wheat are degraded in transit through the United States, and are used to grade with inferior wheat. It would be of undoubted advantage to Canadian farmers if the bulk of the wheat crop could be handled through Canadian channels. Not only would the profits what accrue from transportation be a direct source of revenue to Canadians, but the matchless quality of our wheat for bread-making, and the lower grades, would soon win a more decided preference and a relative advance in price.

I found Canadian flour steadily gaining ground as flour from which bakers can make not only the best quality of goods, but also the most economical. The flour milling interest in Canada is intimately connected with agriculture, and there are very important reasons why it should be encouraged. There are not less than 2,500 mills employing over 6,000 men, and the yearly output from it is estimated at 1,000,000 barrels. This represents a great deal upon the value of wheat per bushel and of the flour per barrel.

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FARM LABOR IN CANADA.

Available labor is improving in quality every year. The labor on Canadian farms has been characterized by persistence under difficulties. But in many districts until recently it has been of the quality that enabled farmers to turn out fine food products of the highest grade. It was largely concerned with the production of grain, and the primitive agricultural products, besides being employed part of the year in clearing land, in lumbering and in fishing. It had the experience to turn out food products of animal origin, or of fruits, so fine, and of such low cost as to give the largest possible measure of profit. It would not be disparaging to the ability of a carpenter to say that his labor might be of poor quality as applied to the work of blacksmithing. He might burn a great deal of coal unnecessarily, waste iron and make clumsy horse-drawn tools. That would not mean that he could not do carpenter work very well. The farmers generally have had ability of a high order for the kinds of work they had to do.

In the production of things on farms a great deal of horse power has been used. Thus the cost has been reduced so far as the labor element that entered into the cost of production was concerned. The farmers have been applying as much of labor-saving skill by the best methods of growing and making what they have to sell, as the farmers of any other country are. The reduction in the cost of production and increasing prosperity is the result in some other way than through harder work by the farmers.

RANCHING PROSPECTS BRIGHT.

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 29.—D. McEachern, chief inspector of live stock for the Dominion, has arrived in the city from a tour of inspection. He is very bright, and he believes the outlook was never by any means as encouraging as it is at the present time. He is en route to Alberta to discuss the matter of an international branding system with the stockmen, the object in view being to prevent fraud.



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HAMILTON CARTER, Innerkip, Ont.

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MRS. W. EVANS, Brandon, Man.

NEVER FAILS IN SEVERE CASES.

I have used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for years when necessary and can find no other medicine so good. It has never failed us, and in very severe cases of summer complaint and diarrhoea it has proved satisfactory at all times.

MRS. AMBROSE LOGAN, Rockspring, Ont.

To avoid getting one of those dangerous compounds that are put up to imitate the genuine Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, always see that the full name "Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry" is on every bottle you buy. Price 35 cents. Sold by medicine dealers everywhere.

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## LABOR DAY

Sept. 5, 1898.

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For further information apply at city ticket office, 365 Richmond street.

JOHN PAUL, City Passenger Agent.

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A. J. HARRIS, General Traffic Manager, Board of Trade Building, Montreal.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager, Railway Office, Montreal, N. B., May 21, 1897.

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