

WEDDED AT LAST!

CHAPTER IX

A pretty rose-flush-which it was a pity Guy could not see-mounted slowly over the soft creamy pallor o Shirley's face as she glanced for a moment at the white fingers, on one of which-the fourth finger of the left hand-there gleamed a thick gold band with the word "Guy" studded in diamonds. Major Stuart had been royally generous in his selection of an engagement ring.

"Not like Shirley's," echoed Alice, who leant back in a low American chair, looking as pretty as possible in a dress of pale blue cashmere. "Her admirer is big enough to be distinctly visible even at a distance."

"Yes, it would be difficult to overlook Shirley's beau sabreur," said had gone back to my infancy when I am anywhere in his neighborhood."

"So do I." remarked Rhoda Montolieu laughing, "although I am not a pocket Venus like you, Ruby. By the gray eyes, he would not like it."

"Never judge by appearances," said Alice carelessly "Is it not Oliver Goldsmith who says that a revered lover makes a jealous husband? One cannot accuse Major Stuart of being a reserved lover."

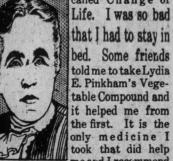
they are a very well behaved pair of engaged people-not nearly so objectionable as some couples are in the she added, raising her voice a little. "we have quite done-for the present at any rate-discussing your fiance, and your engagement, so will you

AILING WOMEN OF MIDDLE AGE

Mrs.Doucette Tells of her Distressing Symptoms During Change of Life and How She Found Relief.

Believille, Nova Scotia, Can. - "Three

years ago I was suffering badly with what the doctors called Change of Life. I was so bad that I had to stay in bed. Some friends



the first. It is the it. You don't know how thankful and grateful I am. I give you permission to publish what your good medicine has done for me."—Mrs. SIMON DOUCETTE,

Belleville, Yarmouth Co., Nova Scotia, Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, hot flashes, headaches, backaches, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregulation of the sense of the eyes, irregulation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregulation of the sense of the eyes, irregulation of the eyes and eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes and eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes are eyes and eyes are eyes ar

larities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, and dizziness, are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life when woman's great change may

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Comound invigorates and strengthens the male organism and builds up the weakmany women safely through this crisis.

that we were rude enough to inter-

Shirley, who had been letting her ingers wander aimlessly over the vory keys, the color flickering in her cheeks as she listened, started slightly as Ruby's voice fell on her ear, and, in a voice a little less as sured, perhaps, but equally sweet the went on singing:

"Goldenheart said, 'If a soldier should A province for spoil he shall being Or. if a rich man, he shall lay down a

Sufficient to ransom a king. O1, if my lover a poet should be, I'd ask him in song to immortaite

Goldenheart fair, Goldenheart fair Dreamt many a project of fantasy

"I am afraid your soldier does no ring a province. Shirley dear, whispered Ruby Capel softly-she had left her seat on the rug and com ap softly behind Shirley.

shadow passed over her face. "No," she replied lightly: Guy's province consists of four hundred

Miss Ross laughed, but a quicl

o be rich!" said Ruby regretfully and again the dark, swift shadov rossed Shirley's face.

"If you had waited a little, yo would have had a chance of Si Hugh," said outspoken Ruby; and ar holme's cheeks as she caught the words.

"Should I?" Shirley answered care lessly. "Sir Hugh might not hav

"I believe he would-I think he ad miers you immensely."

Shirley laughed as she turned ove "No," agreed Ruby. Altogether the last page of her song, and Rub smiled to herself at the proud tende intonation which came into the sof rich voice as she sang-

> Never a soldier, or rich man, or bare wooing in Goldenheart' But only a poor youth who pleader

And brought but his love for dower. She, silly maiden, forgetting her test Saw mere the lover who loved he

Coldenheart sweet. Goldenheart swee Thinks now that love's triumph is wholly complete.

The sweet voice ceased: Shirley let the piano and came out of the recess and then she went to the table an began pouring herself out some tea. "I suppose you share Goldenheart's conviction," said Alice, rather con temptuously; Ruby's careless word. had vexed her, and she could not refrein from making her vexation felt

by the innocent cause of them. "What conviction?" Shirley asked laughingly, glancing back at he

cousin from where she stood at the "That 'love's triumph is wholly complete," Alice answered, looking a little disconcerted under Shirley's steady inquiring look. "As Major Stuart did not bring a province for spoil, and you accepted him, we must

either conclude that love's triumph is complete or-" "Or what, Alice?" asked Shirley

"Or that you accepted him faute de mieux." replied Miss Fairholme; and the slight, disdainful, contemptuous laugh with which the words were spoken, made Shirley's checks burn. "Nonsense, Alice," said Ruby quickly. "I dare say Shirley has had ots of offers."

"I have never heard of them then," declared Alice disdainfully.

"You are wrong, Ruby," said Shirley, quietly, "Your friendship is generous enough to give me credit for refusing a duke, I dare say; but Alice will tell you that it is conclus-

re evidence in favor of my neve aving received a better offer since ccepted Major Stuart's and I wi

"But you don't mean to say the on would throw Guy over if you go hetter offer" questioned Ruh uickly. "I should not believe yo you did say so, Shirley."

Shirley's faint blush faded slowly ud she lesitated for a moment be re answering, then, catching sigl her cousin's face, she replied care

"I am not at all sure that I coul esist temptation, Ruby, if it came i y way. It is not likely to do s owever, so you need not be at al As she spoke. Shirley moved awa

ith her charming grace of move ent, and sat down in one of the lo airs near the window, her hear ating more quickly than usual i er vexation and anger against her If for the false words she ha oken. Ah, if she could have guess I with what tears of bitter anguis e would regret them in the futur hen no tears could blot them or anguish make them unsaid!

You see, afte rall, it was faute d ieux," said Alice contemptuously id even as she spoke the door oper I and Sir Hugh in his heavy fur immed ccat came quietly in.

"May I come in?" he said smiling I hear that you have shut us a ut, and that there is no admittance scept on business. Well, I have ome on business."

"Sir Hugh," Alice exclaimed, sit ng up upon her cushions. flushe od rosy, "are you a deserter or as ant-courrier?"

"Something of both," he answered niling at her. "Lady Fairholm id that we might all come over to nner; and, as Stuart was oblige come now, I could not resist th mptation of driving him across. H s had a teleegram, Miss Ross, bu will be here in a moment to tel u himself. Meanwhile will any o u fair ladies take pity on me, and ive me a cup of tea?"

"So you are converted!" Alice said ith a laugh, as she went to the ta e. "I thought we should conver

"Anything poured out by you would nectar," he answered, bending his andsome head over her as he stood y her side. "Have you missed us little?" he added softly.

"Not at all," Alice said, with smil ig lips, but her eyes told a very diferent tale. "You men are so conceit I that you would quite believe me i were to say that we had been vic ms to ennui ever since you left us.

"You would have been if you had substitutes," laughed Sir Hug! udaciously. "That half hour afte: inner before the men put in an ap perrance must be a regular pennance if we may judge from the faces o the ladies! What have you been do

Dadway's 11 Deady

"Oh, we have read a little, worked little, and talked-"

"A great deal, I suppose," he laugh-

"Of course, a great deal," answered Telegram

"Don't you remember the ol Persian creed," said Shirley Ross down ten measures of talk for the use f the whole mankind, and that wo nen took nine of them?"

"Shirley, for shame!" laughed Ruby Capel. "How can you try to romulgate such a libel on our sex? "I did not say it was my creed, Shirley said laughingly. "I said it was a doctrine held by the Persians. They held some very queer notions

"I know! Horrid old heretics! They ought to have been ashamed themselves" Ruhy answered aughing. "I am sure Mohammed nust have been jilted by somebody o have made him exclude us from 'aradise."

"Perhaps she threw him over for a icher suitor," put in Sir Hugh aughing; "although one would have hought that the old prophet would ave been a very good catch!"

"But Shirley argues that throwing ver one suitor for another more lessed with this world's goods is uite legitimate," said Alice Fair olme eagerly; and Sir Hugh glance cross at her cousin with a swift ager glance.

"Shirley said nothing of the kind," nterposed Ruby hastily. "Alice quite isunderstood what Shirley did say. "I do not think I did!" Miss Fairolme said quietly. "Shirley is there correborate my statement or cor Shirley's hazel eyes which had

een fixed dreamily on the uncurined window, came back slowly and ent to Alice's face in the same ab-"What did I say, Alice?" she ask-

carelessly and indifferently; and she spoke. Guy's voice was dis inctly audible outside speaking to ir Gilbert. The color mounted lowly in Shirley's beautiful face as ie caught the sound of the rich eep tones.

"You said," Alice replied quietly hat there was conclusive evidence favor of your never having re sived a better offer, since you had ccepted Major Stuart's."

"I believe I did say something that effect," Shirley replied indifrently. "But surely, Alice dear, you ave something more entertaining or Sir Hugh than a recital of the fternoon's chatter? It cannot possily interest him."

"There could be nothing in the orld so interesting to me," Sir Hugh aid promptly. "So," he added slow-, and distinctly, "Miss Ross holds as part of her creed that there is o harm in throwing over one lover or another, so long as that other is ich enough to make jilting a prudent roceeding?"

"Exactly," said Alice vindictively. But Shirley did not heed, for Guy tuart had entered the room, and was reeting Miss Montolieu, who was earest to him as he came in. Then passed on quietly to Alice's side.

"Oh, Major Stuart, I am indeed ourtesy. "Poor Shirley! How dis- stamps. mointed she will be!" (To be Continued.)

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