

HENRY HOWARD.

CHAPTER XI.

THE OFFER, AND ITS RECEPTION.

Great works do oft yield grievous accidents, Which stir up people's rage beyond ideas.

LORD BROOKS.

As soon as Mr. Milles left the room, Mrs. Ford commenced a long statement to Mrs. Marles of this business of the endowment, concluding by telling her of the vicar's proposition, and the loss of presentation if his offer was accepted.

"And what do you think," asked Mrs. Ford, "of this proposal of the vicar's?" "What do I think of it?" repeated the widow "why, I think it is one of the most cunning and disgraceful things I ever heard of in my life."

"And you really think," asked Mrs. Ford, "that he knew all the while that we could not get it consecrated unless we gave the patronage to him?"

"Do I?" repeated Mrs. Marles: "do I? Yes, that I do; and should not at all be surprised if the Bishop is at the bottom of it too."

"Oh dear, yes!" replied Mrs. Ford, "an immense deal of trouble. I am sure I will never undertake anything of the kind again; it's more trouble than it's worth."

"Yes, my dear," said Mr. Ford, "but you are not at present had not the slightest idea that his wife was coming; well, my dear, I shall be very glad indeed if the thing can be settled satisfactorily."

"There again," exclaimed Mrs. Ford, "there's another difficulty: what shall we do with Mr. Dwyer? we have already promised him the living; and if, after all, it turns out that we have not the power to give it to him, what a most unpleasant thing it will be!"

"My dear," said her husband, "pray don't speak ill of Bradwell; we all know what an excellent person he is: I am sure you must be mistaken as to his laughing at you."

"It can't be helped, indeed," said Mrs. Ford, "except perhaps in one way; and that you will not like to do."

"Ask the vicar for the appointment this time, I suppose?" remarked her husband.

"No," said Mrs. Ford.

"What then?" inquired her husband.

"Then it yourself," replied the lady.

"Yes," replied Mr. Ford, smiling at what he considered to be a little pleasantry of his wife; "yes, such very remove the difficulty in one way but create a very considerable difficulty in another quarter."

"One thousand pound," continued his lady, "would be well laid out on such a thing; that I am quite sure of."

"Perhaps so," observed her husband; "but what would be the advantage?"

"Mrs. Ford recapitulated all she had said as to the additional consequence, &c. they would gain; and then dwelt very strongly upon the disappointment Mr. Dwyer would experience if not presented; finishing all by drawing a pleasant picture of the two families of the Fords and the Zouch's handed down to posterity as the co-benefactors of Preston."

"Mr. Ford was a man not always easily overcome; in many of the changes that had taken place in his establishment he had struggled hard, and one or two, among which was the point of the two crests, he had carried. It must not therefore be supposed that he was a reluctant consent."

"It would be very nice indeed," observed Mrs. Ford.

"Yes," replied the widow; "and think what consequence it would give you in the county, and the invitations you would have to Duberly Manor! Every body has to purchase their first step into high society; and I really think that you could not do it in a much cheaper way than this."

"Well," continued Mrs. Ford, "I'll tell you what I will do—I will speak to Mr. Ford on the subject, and then he can please himself. There are many things to be considered both ways. It certainly would be very nice to have a living to give away to whom one liked; but then 1000L. is a great deal of money; and, besides this, we could not give it to Lord Duberly, for we have promised it to Mr. Dwyer."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Ford, "very much indeed."

"Your husband likes him?"

"Yes, very much too."

"Now, mark my words," said Mrs. Marles very emphatically, "if the vicar gets the appointment, you may whittle for Mr. Dwyer. The vicar does not like popular preachers; and he'll no more give the living to Mr. Dwyer than he will give it to me. Tell Mr. Ford this, and at the same time beg him to guess what kind of a man we are likely to have at the new church: do this, and I fancy he won't let the vicar have the appointment—that is, if he can help it."

At this point Mrs. Marles rose up to go; when Ann Croft retired to her own room, to muse upon the way in which modern church-livings are sometimes endowed; whilst Mrs. Ford went in search of her husband, to ascertain what he thought of this suggestion of the widow's.

were occupied with this subject, when his wife came into the room, and he told her as well as he was able, the situation he had fixed upon. This was too good an opportunity to be lost; so Mrs. Ford at once introduced the subject of her morning's conversation with Mr. Milles, explaining the offer he had made.

"And a very handsome offer it is," said her husband interrupting her.

"Yes; handsome indeed," remarked Mrs. Ford; "if he had not some reason in the background for making it. You are not perhaps aware, Mr. Ford, she continued, "that the person who endows this new church will have the appointment of an incumbent—Mr. Milles' offer is therefore doubtless very handsome—as Mrs. Marles says, he has been quietly watching all our exertions, in which he has not taken the least share, waits till the church is finished, and then steps in to reap all the benefit."

"But my dear," exclaimed Mr. Ford, "surely the patronage of this new church is not the thing to tempt a man of Mr. Milles' character to do what is wrong?"

"As to Mr. Milles' character," replied the lady, sneeringly, "I can say nothing; but this I know, that the patronage of the church is a very good thing, and such as nobody would lose, if he could get it. You know well enough my dear," she continued, in a blander and softer tone, "these are the things which give men so much importance, and afford so many advantages to one's own family. Mrs. Marles told me only just now, that Mr. Verden had a living to give away lately, and that dozens of gentlemen applied to him for it; and that even Lord Duberly went and asked him to give it to his son. I can assure you that other people do not treat those things so lightly. I consider it a capital thing for Mr. Milles, if he gets the patronage; but, indeed, there are so many persons who would be glad of it, that I have little fear of its falling into his hands."

"Well, my dear," said Mr. Ford, who at present had not the slightest idea that his wife was coming; "well, my dear, I shall be very glad indeed if the thing can be settled satisfactorily. There certainly appears to be a good deal of trouble in getting up a church."

"Oh dear, yes!" replied Mrs. Ford, "an immense deal of trouble. I am sure I will never undertake anything of the kind again; it's more trouble than it's worth. Did you not hear from Mr. Dwyer yesterday?" inquired the lady, turning her attack upon another quarter, which she thought was perhaps more easy of access.

"Yes, my dear," said Mr. Ford, "I had a very kind letter from him, in which he says he shall be very glad indeed to accept our offer."

"There again," exclaimed Mrs. Ford, "there's another difficulty: what shall we do with Mr. Dwyer? we have already promised him the living; and if, after all, it turns out that we have not the power to give it to him, what a most unpleasant thing it will be!"

"My dear," said her husband, "pray don't speak ill of Bradwell; we all know what an excellent person he is: I am sure you must be mistaken as to his laughing at you."

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FASHIONABLE TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT, No. 4, WATERLOO BUILDINGS, TORONTO. ROBERT HAWKE, in tendering his sincere thanks to his Friends particularly and the Public generally, begs to inform them, that he keeps constantly on hand a well-selected stock of West of England Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, Doekins, &c. &c. VESTINGS, IN GREAT VARIETY, N.B.—Cassocks, Clergymen and Queen's Counsel's Gowns, Barristers' Robes, &c., made on the shortest notice and in superior style. Toronto, May 30, 1844. 359-4f

THOMAS BILTON, WOOLLEN DRAPER AND TAILOR, No. 2, WELLINGTON BUILDINGS, KING STREET, TORONTO. [LATE T. J. PRESTON.] WOULD inform his friends and the public that he has purchased the entire Stock of Mr. T. J. PRESTON, and will continue to carry on the business of a Merchant Tailor, in the same style and on the same Terms as his predecessor, and respectfully solicits a continuance of the patronage so favourably extended to him. T. B. will always keep on hand a well selected stock of the Best West of England Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, Doekins, &c. &c. Also—A selection of superior VESTINGS, all of which he is prepared to make up to order in the most fashionable manner, and on moderate terms. P.S.—A variety of styles of Gold and Silver Laces, Cord, &c. suitable for Military Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c. &c. Ladies' Riding Habits, Cassocks, Clergymen, and Queen's Counsel's Gowns, Barristers' Robes, Naval and Military Uniforms, &c. &c. made on the shortest notice and in superior style. Toronto, May 13, 1844. 357-1f

THOMAS H. EDMUNDS, TAILOR, ROBE MAKER, AND DRAPER, No. 2, CHURCH STREET, TORONTO. IN returning his most sincere thanks to his friends and the public generally, for the liberal support hitherto extended to him, would beg most respectfully to inform them that he has taken up in the same style and on the same Terms as his predecessor, and respectfully solicits a continuance of the patronage so favourably extended to him. T. B. will always keep on hand a well selected stock of the Best West of England Broad Cloths, Cassimeres, Doekins, &c. &c. Also—A selection of superior VESTINGS, all of which he is prepared to make up to order in the most fashionable manner, and on moderate terms. P.S.—A variety of styles of Gold and Silver Laces, Cord, &c. suitable for Military Uniforms, Liveries, &c. &c. &c. Ladies' Riding Habits, Cassocks, Clergymen, and Queen's Counsel's Gowns, Barristers' Robes, Naval and Military Uniforms, &c. &c. made on the shortest notice and in superior style. Toronto, May 13, 1844. 357-1f

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