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E. N. HUNT

190 DUNDAS STREET.

A Lover's

GERALDINE.

Romance.

"Why, that was impossible—that there was some strange mistake somewhere!"

"But it is not impossible—it is true," she averred, falling from her seat in a faint, into impressive, slow earnestness. "When I heard here and there, on our tour, the name of Sir James Otway, when I found that the man I had married could find interest with me in no other subject, I began to think, I began to wonder, and when I found that, as soon as Capt. Morrison learned that Sir James had returned to England, he discovered that 'business' called him back, I felt sure, and last night—think what a home-coming it was for a newly-married wife—he was tired and angry at my changed manner, and, I suppose, off his guard, for when I accused him quite unexpectedly, the very man in which he met my words betrayed him, and he swore to my face that the law should never claim Sir James Otway, that he would never rest till he had tracked him down and—killed him like a dog!"

Her voice was going, her last words were hoarsely and feebly spoken; but the fire in her eyes was not that of insanity; and when she had finished, she waited, with dead calmness after her passionate outburst, for an answer.

The London train had come and gone two or three passengers had rushed into the room and out again, and she poured forth her story; she had not hesitated, but he had, and he had stood before her, that first time she had been recognized as she looked steadily up at him with her passion-lit eyes, her face distorted with hatred and anger.

When she at last paused, he was as calm as ever; but he looked very grave.

"Did he tell you his reason?"

"No."

"Did you ask it?"

"No. He is a human tiger, hungry for other men's lives, and—"

"But he must have some reason at least for wanting this particular man's life first."

"I don't believe he has. He knows that the police are after him, and as they can't find him, he wants to show that he is cleverer than they are!"

"It was the first time she had been rational enough to admit James' guilt; but he took no apparent notice of that."

"That isn't reason enough for an English gentleman—"

"Gentleman!" she echoed, with a ring of incredulity in her voice.

"Yes, Captain Morrison is a gentleman, and if he is really possessed with this strange idea, he must either have or think he has the very strongest of motives, or, what is more, he must have been affected. Do you know whether he ever received a wound in the head?"

"Not that I have ever heard of. And you said just now that he was fanatical."

"Yes, but I did not mean that he would carry fanaticism as far as murder. What first roused your suspicions?"

"When we were at Nice, I found that Sir James and Lady Otway were in the same hotel as myself."

"She hesitated and blushed, as Reginald's attention instantly became more acute."

"Go on, go on!"

"I found that Sir James Otway had been staying at our hotel, then, when we got to Mentone, I found that he had been—"

"And Lady Otway. You said before."

"Yes; but she was not really his wife; I had found that out already, answered Geraldine blushing again."

"Do you know her name?"

"Mrs. Farquhar."

"Reginald considered; presently he remarked."

"I think I can undertake to find you a reason now, and though I cannot promise that the discovery will be an unkind relief to you, it will at least prove, I think, that you are not inhuman, but too human. It is getting dark now; you had better let me drive you back to your hotel."

She started away from him. He continued, quietly:

"The 4:31 has gone; the next train to London is not till 6:17. You would have to wait more than an hour and a half."

"Then I will wait. I will never go back to Warrington."

"May I ask where you think of going?"

"I shall go to some hotel in London."

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Slander.

What It Is and How It Is Generally Promulgated.

The Evil Habit of Talking Ill of Others Should Be Put Down.

It Is Easy to Contract, but Difficult to Quit.

[By Lady Cook, nee Tennessee Claflin.]

There is some doubt about the historical origin of the word "slander," but none as to its meaning. There, in the glossary of the Swedo-Gothic, makes the French esclandre equivalent to the Swedish sklander, an ill report, an obloquy, or infamy. And our English word is derived from the French esclandre. Chaucer Anglicized it and wrote it esclandre. Philologists derive the French word from the low Latin scandalum, but the Anglo-Saxon slean, to beat or wound—in this case by evil report—has been suggested as the derivation of slander. The two-fold meaning of esclandre gives a faint counterbalance to this notion, for it also denotes slaughter, as well as misfortune or disaster.

To slander is "to censure falsely, to defame, to calumniate, and slander itself is, therefore, a calumny, a false report by a hateful calumny, converts our word to the character of conduct of another, and is punishable by the law."

The first of these definitions is the most correct, and the second, libel. To speak or write against the great was once an enormous crime, known as scandalum magnatum.

How few have escaped slander of some sort! How many are there who have not only been wounded by it, but have been down-right slain, driven from society, with damaged fortunes and broken hearts. If we rise above the crowd, detraction dogs us like our shadows. Calumny stalks behind with baleful eye, watching every word and movement for evil misrepresentation, and by a hateful alchemy, converts our word to lead, but never the lead to gold. Our friends too often misinterpret our feelings and views, and our enemies persistently endeavor to disparage or pervert them. Even those who live under our roofs and eat from our tables are frequently domestic spies, ready, like the ungrateful hound, to bite the hand that feeds them. For slander is the natural weapon of the faithless, the ignorant, the envious, the malicious, the cowardly, and the unscrupulous. It is the coward's weapon, wielded against all that is wiser, stronger, or better than themselves. Those who do not see with their eyes, and judge with their perceptions—how ever blind or feeble these may be—are not merely suspected of slander, but are at once boldly charged with all that make for injury.

If we turn to the pages of history, what miserable pictures do they present us of the follies and wickednesses of mankind. The greatest things have been achieved during the past has been the work of the few, who, in spite of sneers and scoffs and spiteful detraction, persevered in the good work that lay before them. Ahead of their time, these pioneers of progress, with their enlightened views and a high sense of duty, marched straight on to their goal, whether it gave them a cross or a crucifix. They were the world's true great ones, who by sheer force of their moral and intellectual powers, lifted the multitudes to higher planes of existence. They were the world's true great ones, who by sheer force of their moral and intellectual powers, lifted the multitudes to higher planes of existence. They were the world's true great ones, who by sheer force of their moral and intellectual powers, lifted the multitudes to higher planes of existence.

The ingratiate of the rich and the noble, and the ready ear they give to slander against those who are better than well and faithfully are not only "Put not your trust in princes," but the soul's self-quell, as the faithful en Stratford when he heard that Charles had signed his death-warrant. A king's oath was as a feather when weighed against expedient. Edward Spencer, who died broken-hearted at Westminster, in 1559, was poet though he was, how many a time he found it an unstable reed. Who could sing better than he the folly of detraction, or the great evil of the pathos of his lines coming straight from a lofty and disappointed mind provoked by slander?

"Full little knowest thou that hast not tried."

What hell it is in suing long to bide; To lose good days that might be better spent;

To waste long nights in pensive discontent;

To speed today, to be put back to-morrow;

To feed on hope, to pine with fear and sorrow;

To have thy prince's grace, yet want her peers';

To have thy asking, yet wait many years;

To fret thy soul with crosses and with cares;

To eat thy heart through comfortless despair;

To fawn, to crouch, to wait, to ride, to run;

To spend, to give, to want, to be undone."

But if the tender mercies of the great have been cruel, those of the populace have been found equally bitter, and with less reason.

One of our proverbs says, "Slander leaves a score behind it." Rumor spreads and multiplies it, and gives it various aspects. It resembles a snowball, that gathers as it rolls. And this pestilent and cruel power is exercised by the most worthless of mankind. How many gallant gentlemen went to the block for the forgeries and perjuries of Titus Oates? We have still, perhaps, many gallant gentlemen who are reduced to black-mailing. These, however, are the extreme cases. By easy gradations we descend from the turpitude of black-mailing to ordinary slander, and back-biting, and from these to mischievous little-tattle. The expressive word, the sly innuendo, the shrug which says nothing, but means so much, and even silence when the truth should be told, are all in a small way pressed into the service of slander.

For there are some who slander for pleasure, as others for profit, and who

resemble the libel described by the author of "Hudibras." He endeavors with his own evil words to corrupt another man's good manners. All his words are but of two things, his own malice and another man's faults. He is not much concerned whether what he writes be true or false, that's nothing to his purpose, which aims only at filthy and bitter; and therefore his language is like pictures of the devil, the fouler the better. He robs a man of his good name, not for any good it will do him (for he dares not own it), but merely, as a jack-knaw steals money, for his pleasure.

Yet all feel it to be as true as when Shakespeare wrote it, still, that there worse to rob one of reputation than of hard cash:

"Good name, in man or woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls. Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing; 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands; But he that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that which nothing can enrich, And makes me poor indeed."

If this be so, then the assassin of a good and deserved reputation merits the same punishment that the thief or burglar.

How then can we arm ourselves against the malice of those who slander? By treating them with contemptuous silence and living down the assaulter, which aims only at good for evil and kindness for railing; by acting up to our consciences in right and duty, regardless of the false obloquy the sweetness of a blameless life is not the weapon or word of justice that can hurt those who slander, whose edge is sharper than the sword, whose tongue outvenoms all the worms of Nile, and the example of virtue. "You should live virtuously for many reasons," said the caustic Juvenal, "but the first and best, is particularly on this account, that you may be able to despise the tongues of your enemies. The tongue of a slanderer is the worst part of a bad servant."

From this we gather that the very slaves indicted for treason, and their owners, so prone to human nature to detraction. Perhaps Juvenal is right, but I think those who are followed by citizens base enough to interview the servants for domestic treason in order to traduce the family, such vermin occasionally infest English homes as well as the Roman. But all who value the purity and comfort of the home, and believe in the inestimable worth of a good name, will unite in putting down such pests, with all the force of their hands and hearts.

It is for the bad to suspect good. But when the evil is forced upon our notice, we must guard against the temptation to shut our eyes to it. Slander is an enormous and acknowledged evil. There are thousands who live by it, to the suffering of others. It is to some extent publicly encouraged, and it is the duty of the community of society and the peace of families demand, therefore, that it should be met with stern repression, and no good citizen will refuse to assist in so manly and wholesome a work.

WARNING FROM THE WEST.

The Corbin System in the Mining District in Pretty Bad Shape.

Roseland, B. C. Record.

The dangerous condition of "Corbin's system" of railroads is becoming generally known. The Spokesman-Record, a paper of considerable weight, has published an article on the subject, containing the following:

"The roadbed of Mr. Corbin's line from Portland to Astoria is in a deplorable condition," said W. A. Cannon, who is home from a winter's stay in the Trail country, "and it is a matter of regret that it can be cleared for traffic inside of a month, and it may be two months before it can be made safe for passenger travel. Mining men from the north say the stretch of the road around the Seven Devils is in bad condition. The passengers held their breath when we came past there yesterday," said one traveler. The road is constructed on a high bank, and the rails are constantly being weakened by the Columbia River. The river bank, at that point, is only a few feet above the level of the sea, and the rails are constantly being weakened by the Columbia River. The river bank, at that point, is only a few feet above the level of the sea, and the rails are constantly being weakened by the Columbia River.

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