Helen Wallace Their Hearts Desire THE NORTH AMERICAN COMPANY.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTER

CHAPTER XX

"THE FATHERS HAVE EATEN SOUR

he overpassed. In the young face, at

least, there was no sign of relenting.

least, there was no sign of relenting.

"You are better," said Sir David at last with an effort.

"Yes," dully, "and since I have got to go on living I must know how—"

"Yes, yes," broke in Sir David fever-ishly, "but, first of all, tell me any thing you can about—about her—your mother."

ishly, "but, first or an about her—your mother."

"What am I to tell you?" Isobel's tone was bitterness itself. "What can I tell you but that she died alone, unfriended, in a pauper hospital, that she is buried somewhere in a pauper grave—"Stop," with a broken gasp; "you don't know what you're doing. God knows I deserve it, but it's more than I can bear. You have suffered, too, but it is the sins of the fathers which have been visited on you. You haven't lived through years of unavailing, unappeased remorse or—or you would have mercy"—his head sunk lower.

"I am sorry; I did not mean to be too hard," she said slowly. "But—but make some allowance for me, too. What is it the Bible says about being lifted up to heaven and then thrust down to hell? I think that is pretty much what has happened to me, and when I remember—" She sank back among the cushions.

"You remember nothing of her yourself then?" said her father almost timidly.

"No, nothing. She died a few hours after I was born. She gave me my name: I have a right to that, at least.

"My mother" hame," furmured Sir David, as it to himself. "I wonder if at the last she had some kindlier thought, though she couldn't know..."
He broke off. "Can you tell me when she died-how old you are?" The tone suggested that from the first this was the question which had been trembling on his lips, and yet that, body and soul, he shrank in mortal dread from the answer.

wondered still more if she could have looked into

cheerful room, where father and

child sat apart

with averted faces.

These few monents when they had stood face to

face in the library.

the few words

which had been spoken, had set a gulf between them which might never

the second time the girl felt herself standing on the brink of an abyss of woe which she had no plummet to sound. The consciousness made her at least listen in silence when Sir David turned to her again, and said in a

"I have put it wholly out of my power ever to do right again in this world. Will you help me not to make bad worse? That is all that is left to me not to break another woman's heart—my wife's heart. I have acknowledged you; every one has accepted you as any daughter, my only child. Though every one has remarked upon the change in you, there is no one has the faintest

He walked away to the further end of eyes, and which seemed to sweep away the room and stood motionless; and for her resistance with them. "I'll do even her resistance with them. "I'll do even this dreadful thing if it will make her happy. When it is for her sake, surely I shall be forgiven," she cried brokenly, as she flung herself face downward amid the cushions.

CHAPTER XXI

ARE SET ON EDGE." been hunting for you everywhere. So the great question is settled," exclaimed Basil Conyers, as he came upon Isobel leaning on the balustrade of the garden terrace, her eyes wandering listlessiy

"Then you would not object if I turned up somewhere on the way?" he asked as Isobel added nothing to her last monosyllable.

"I? Why should I?" with rather forced animation. "But I fancy you'll he better employed. You won't want to leave the pheasants and the foxes to wander about picture galleries. You "AND THE CHILDREN'S TEETH, think I am rather lack-luster about it all," before Conyers could utter any all," before Conyers could utter any disclaimer, "but it is strange how sometimes a thing seems all that you want until you get it. I daresay I shall get more excited about it by and by, and ought to, for when I remember—"

She stopped short, with a quick indrawing of the breath.

But that night in the hall when you looked into my face, that day when we stood here together — oh! my love, I knew what love was, and since then—since then—oh! Isobel, I once had the right to take you in my arms, though I hardly dare believe it. Give it me are lived in my helowed: now again-give it me now, beloved; now that I know what it means, now that

it's all I ask in earth or heaven, only to hold you there once more." Would you marry me for what I am -knowing no more than you do?" asked Isobel in a low voice.
"Would I marry you!" the young man's tone was a jubilate.

For one moment fierce temptation as-sailed Isobel as she looked into the strong, purposeful face. To yield her-self to this great love, to let it fold her round and carry her away—for one mo-ment she let the dream enwrap her, then she caught at reeling resolve again
-the greater the love the greater would

ords.

I will tell'you this," said Isobel desrately. She must end this, strength
accourage were giving way. "I
n't answer you as you wish—you
n't know what you're asking." She
oked up, and Basil started, so wild,
forlorn, so desolate were the beauti-

no," she cried desperately. "No, no," she cried desperately. "Some day you—even you would begin to question—to wonder—"
"Try me!" said Basil promptly. Isobel freed herself suddenly from his hold, and turned away, trying to find refuge again in that outward quietude she had maintained till now.
"Forgive me, I ought not to have asked you such a question, but at least I shall always remember your generosity, for my father is right. I—we must ablide by his decision."

Conyers was struck silent, though more by her look and tone than by her words.

"When it is for her sake, surely I shall be forgiven."

on his lips, and yet that, body and soul, he shrank in mortal dread from the answer.

"I don't know exactly, but I've always understood I was about 19 or 29. I suppose it could be found out, though, if they keep any record of such unimportant matters," coldly.

Behind a screening hand the mandrew a long, shuddering breath—of momentary relief, perhaps—at least the final blow had not yet fallen. Whatever may be the agonies of suspense, it is to be chosen rather than some certainties. "And this," he said, after a long pause, holding out the Testament.

"They gave it to me when I was old enough to understand. It was all I ever had of my very own. It was something, too, to know that I had had a mother." Sir David rose and walked over to the hearth.

"And—and you, my poor child?" he said, all shrugged her shoulders. "Do Sir David rose and warked over to the hearth.

"And—and you, my poor child?" he said.

Isobel shrugged her shoulders. "Do you think we need go into that? What was the life of a nameless waif like me likely ito be? I suppose I must have inherited something more than my name and my hair," as Sir David made her a sign to go on, "since I was always being told that I was proud and wilful and my spirit must be tamed. Well," slowly, "all my life they tried to tame it, but at last it was more than I could bear. The hell they told us about every Sunday couldn't be worse than my life, I thought, but where to go in the world beyond the gates, if I could get beyond them, I didn't know. I saw that the postmark on the torn envelope was Duncaird. I thought there might be some—some friend there. I knew nothing of where it was, or how I should get there, or what I would do if ever I reached it—I was mad with the one idea to get away. Duncaird—the name was never out of my thoughts. I had no plan.

"I did get away, beyond the town—out on to the moors. There was a moon, I remember, but it was cloudy, and it was sometimes light and sometimes dark. I thought I heard voices, steps chasing after me. I had been thinking I must watch and avoid the scaurs, but I forgot everything in the terror of being taken back. I ran and ran, and the moon went behind the clouds, and then I feit myself falling going down, down, till I was swallowed up in the blackness, and it's all blackness from then, till I opened my eyes in the hall here and saw—"her voice broke off sharp like a snapped bough.

Sir David was walking restlessly up and down.

"It's what Sir Hugh Weston said," he muttered to himself piecing out the

Behind a sersenting hand the man from contary policy perhaps—at least the final blow had not yet fallen. Whatever may be the shifer than some certainties, and this. The shife of a number of the shifer than some certainties, may be shifted that I was shife the shifer than some certainties, may name and my halfer as Sie David may being told that I was proud and wilful and my spirit mire than the shife of the shifer than some containties, and the shifer than some channel than the shifer than some than I could beat. The lead of the shife of the shi

doubt that you are any one but the girl who wandered away so strangely, and the girl who wandered away so strangely, all the second with the girl who wandered away so strangely restored. The girl toosh thin the girl was the girl whose portion had been us a sword in her bomes. So far, at least, he had understood her.

"It was his one and only plea, and he knew it. The outward appeals, the girl whose portion had been the was the girl whose portion had been the girl was the girl whose portion had been the girl was the girl whose portion had been th

changed scene now, for the lingering summer had fied before the antumn frosts, which had laid its glories low. The brilliant many-hued mogaic of nower beds lay a wast of shriveled blooms and many hued mogaic of flower beds lay a wast of shriveled blooms and many hued mogaic of flower beds lay a wast of shriveled blooms and many hued mogaic of flower had not been statles, while the statues on many him or coddess, or follosome fain. The property of the statues of the flower had been shapes under that cold, overclouded sky—seemed gasing in forlow wonder over the shapes under that cold, overclouded sky—seemed gasing in forlow wonder over the shapes under that cold, a statue in the shapes had passed, as real, in the label's gaze was as forlorn as indefinable change had passed, as real, in the label's gaze was as forlorn as indefinable change had passed, as real, in the label's gaze was as forlorn as indefinable change had passed, as real, in the label's gaze was an indefinable change had passed, as real, in the label's gaze was an indefinable change had passed, as real, in the label's gaze which under label's gaze was one from face and yees, something was sone from face and yees, something what one for label's label's gaze which under label's gaze was one for label's which had made the sirl's whole personality so radiant was quenched that gaze in mere life which makes of common food a feast, of each returning dear which gives edge and point to all existence—the first sparkle and effertuses one of the cup—that was gone, and which gives edge and point to all existence—the first sparkle and effertuses which had label's gaze. After all, was it only that brief thiness which had soon and the dreamy autumn seen, that was gone, and when for the first time, with opened eyes, he had looked into his love's face. After all, was it only that brief thiness which had wrought the change, he was wondering doubtfully—wrathfully, as lis

"You remember!" exclaimed Conyers, ful eyes. "I can't be your wife—I can agerly.

"No, no," she said, hurriedly. Her tell him everything about myself!"

"No, no," she said, hurriedly. Her face was turned away, but Basil saw a flush rise in what could be seen of throat and cheek between her furs and the drooping brim of her broad black hat.

"But was there anything—even the faintest hint?"

"No, no," she repeated, with almost needless emphasis. "The word slipped out somehow. One uses it by a sort of instinct, I suppose, though it means so little for me. My Anno Domlin legins only a few weeks back," with a would-be laugh.

Basil was too much occupied with his own thoughts to recall that never in all these weeks had he heard her use the word as she ha so do be baugh.

"The word of the resident here is something I must say to you, something which should have been said long ago, if I had had my will; I must speak now—now that you are going away—I can't and, will not let you go until you hear me."

"This is very serious. I don't know what you are going away—I can't and, will not let you go until you hear me."

"This is very serious. I don't know what there can be to say," she began hurriedly.

"I think you do know," said Conyers, and no woman could doubt what that shaken voice meant, the tremor of the strong hand laid in imploring arrest upon her arm.

"Isobel, I mayn't be much of a fellow but I'vs never broken my word before. I'm going to do it now, though, for J believe if your father had been—had been himself. I hamely, "he never had been himself. I hamely, "he never had been himself," in method, for J believe if your father had been—had been himself, it hamely, "he never had a word; it is not do you think I can forget that you and I were promised husband and wife, and yet."

"I hink I know what You are going to say," she broke in hurriedly, "but if my father did not wish it said, won't you wait a little longer-till we come home? I ca

CHAPTER XXII A CHANCE ENCOUNTER.

HE great terrace of the big hotel at Caux was thronged with the usual motley crowd which marked the height of its season.

at Caux was thronged which the usual mottey crowd which marked the height of its season. Holiday makers reluctantly returning homeward and ilingering for a few last days on its serene heights; others southward bound to linger in Italy; all the flotsam and jetsam of the great outward and inward tides of travel.

Far down below Lake Lecture the flotsam and jetsam of the great outward and inward tides of travel.

Far down below Lake Lecture the cross-cent sweep of its northern shores, abiase-with the autumn splendors of the vintage, a "Golden Horn," indeed, as the sunset light. In front the Savoy Alps loomed up in the shadow, a rampart of the deepest indigo, their fan sky a-quiver with light, into which, closing the picture, the Dent du Midi raised is shattered white crosts.

The sumptuous fesst of form and light and color was outspied with the trunk tea or liqueurs at the many little tables or smoked and chatted till it should be time to dress for dinner. Albe admirably placed for the observation both of nature and of human nature. Though he could turn a very near the counter of the color with figures, plenty of figures and very now and then be reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then be reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then be reflected or clegant asset and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflection of clegant case and indoient content, though every now and then he reflect of the result of the content of the cont

eyeglass with a clatte; on the marble

"Good gracious!" she exclaimed in such less measured accents, and then seemed struck into staring, stertorous silence, her eyes round, her mouth wide "What-what-what is it, my dear?" exclaimed her nusband, roused by her apoplectic pause as much as by her exclamation. He was the kind of man who assists his sight by a futile single eyeglass, and now fumblingly fitted it to his eye, ejaculating, "What-what-where?" the while.

"There-no, you're looking quite the wrong way-there!" (the word was like a stabbing finger) exclaimed his spouse, recovering speech at last - "that girl there—who does she remind you of?it's most amazing! I never saw such a likeness-you must see it!"

"Yes, yes, give me time, my dear, give me time," muttered her husband, as acstrove to focus the object of interest.

"Give me-oh!" the murmur passing into a long-drawn note of biank astonishment, and then the gaiss nopped away from his eye and reduced their too his eye and though which had been arressed, but that of all the other occupants of the terrace, though in a less demonstrative fashlon, by the entrance of a party of three—a tall, somewhat elden; and, with a slight stoop and an abstracted indifferent air; a woman, handsome middled but even more distinguished of certain stately grace of air and move certain stately grace of air and move death as the sunset light so are apon her hair, kinding it to a sadden apon her hair, kinding it to a sadden for yound the delicate, exquisite life. She moved forward to the parapet, apparently unconscious of ait the gain as following her, and stood for a moment, a tall, slim figure against the moment, as the wood had half tisen to that the

Ashe, who had haif risen to join the Ashe, who had haif risen to join the Stormont party, sat down again. Ittle time might be more profitably spent where he was, but he shirted his chair slightly so as to interpose a horit frau between himself and them. A paper futtered from "Henry's ham! Ashe picked it up and restored it, sind the old gentleman's profuse thanks ied to a remark or two, eagerly followed as by the couple, who, though they would have stoutly denied it, were secretly nya a little gratified to be seen talking to this man of a world which they could never aspire to enter. Buth however, were too full of one subject to realize a little gratified to be seen talking to this man of a world which they could never aspire to enter. Both however, were too full of one subject to read in silent upon it for long, and presently a word or two on one of these cases of mistaken identity, which occur every now and then, and which chanced to be attracting general attention at the time, gave an opening.

"Some hold that no two people are absolutely alike, but really we have here on this very spot a remarkable proof to the contrary. Really, my wite, Mrs. Thistlethwaite," Ashe bowed, "and I have had quite a shock-really a shock—the likeness is so surprising."

"My dear Henry, the likeness is obsolute," said Mrs. Thistlethwaite with a sort of steamhammer weight and force which rendered dissent or qualification impossible.

"Indeed? One hears of these things, said Ashe carelessly; "but—er—who?" his eyes apparently roving valued; about the terrace.

"Perhaps you cannot see her from where you are sitting, but that tall young lady with the—er—"The hair is red, Henry."

"Yes, my dear, predisely—with the red hair, standing there beside the parapet." "Yes, what about her?" said Ashe. conscious of a quickened pulse.

"You'll hardly credit it, but she's startingly like—"

"Absolutely, Henry."

"Yes, my dear, absolutely like a girl whose case has deeply distressed us."

"Yes, my dear, absolutely like a girl whose case has deeply distressed us."
"If it weren't for the difference dress makes, I would say she is the girl," said Mrs. Thistlethwaite, who had now got her eyeglass again into

girl," said Mrs. Thistlethwaite, who had now got her eyeglass again into play.

"My wife and I take a deep interestindeed my wife has quite devoted herself to a charitable institution in our neighborhood for girls. She has been quite a mother to them. Indeed, thanks to my wife, it occupies quite a unique position now; you would be surprised, sir, at the number of deputations con.ing to inquire into its management."

"I can quite believe it," said Ashe suavely, with a glance which was in itself a compliment toward It.s lady, who sat like a Buddha receiving homage, "and this special case?"

"Ah, a very sad one!"

"A very bad one, Henry."

"Yes, my dear, very bad indeed. You see, the idea is to take friendless and—er—nameless children, who would otherwise be brought up with the pauper taint of the workhouse on them, train them in a plain, healthy way, and give them a fair start and the prospect of an honest livelihood."

Mr. Thistlethwaite might have been reading from an annual report.

"And this girl you were speaking of?" put in Ashe again.

Mrs. Thistlethwaite now took up the parable, "Prided herself on what should have been her shame—her extraordinary appearance with that unfortunate hair, her speech, her manner, many little things which suggested that in a disreputable way she was probably connected with a good family. Again and again I strove to show her, as Henry will bear ne out—"

"You did everything, my dear, everything."

was probably connected with a good family. Again and again I strove to show her, as Henry will bear me out—"
"You did everything, my dear, everything."
"That sne should try to fit herself for her lot in life," went on the lady. "Try to become like her companions, good, plain, hearty girls, and strive to avoid undue notice, which could only be to her detriment."

"She was always known as The Duchess," put in Mr. Thistlethwalte.
"I couldn't rebuke the girls for calling her so. I told her it was but the due harvest of her pride and vanity and folly, but nothing would cure her of the silly notion that she was superior to the others. She was very quick at her lessons. I admit, but chiefly, I fear, from a vainglorious desire to excel, and after a time i found it needful to deprive her of all books but the Book, as they were unfitting her for her station. I did all I could for Isobel."

"Isobel—that was her name then?" said Ashe.

"Yes, it had been given by her mother—a poor unfortunate, I fear, who dled in the workhouse from which we rescued the child. She had no other name, of course, but all our girls in the same sad case we call Brown; it is safe and unremarkable. She had a violent temper too, as well as a most stubborn will, and partly because I thought she would be a trial to any mistress, but chiefly because I wanted to have her under my own eye, I kept her in the home long after the usual time, but with very great difficulty, as she importuned every one to get away; but the directors, I am glad to say, showed a proper spirit and recognised that my wishes should have some weight—"

"It would have been strange, indeed, hat they done otherwise," murmured mow fully launched, rolled on her way, regardless of interruption. Ashe had no desire to interrupt her. It was seldom, indeed, that she secured so good a listener. He lay back in his chair, smiling faintly to himself as he caught a glimpse of a silim, dainty neck and a bright head beyond the ample shoulder of the intervening frau.

Suppose Miss Stormont were to l

SPECULA'

R. S. Lake Show Timber Lands to Benefit

Mr. R. S. Lake (Qu'Ap) Speaker, the lumber su prairie provinces of the No

which I draw the atten

House this evening, is a vital importance to the those provinces. In the ir of treeless country con large portion of the terri ber may be said to be necessities of existence. food practically the first faces the new settler in is the question of obtain wherewith to build his farm buildings. Its impo been recognised by various animated discussions in and even at the last sess a long and searching inqu question whether a comb try of the Northwest. An tends to raise the price of a serious menace to the fu ment of the prairie provi these reasons as well a propose to ask that an ind be held into the whole the alienation of the timb those provinces, such alie ing a matter that I believ most seriously to the price settlers of that country w pay for that commodity. larly supposed that the provinces are composed open prairies. There is idea of that kind among of those provinces themse matter of fact the whole thern positions of the pra-ces from Lake Winnipeg to ies, contain great stretch ber capable of supplying of the prairies for man come. This timber lies ch the many lakes which we buted through the north the country and also alo ers. We find magnificent pecially near the sources vers which take their of eastern slope of the Rock Mr. Stewart, who was su of forestry until quite gentleman who from his tion is competent to spe thority upon th matter. estry convention held at 1903, said:

"It is generally though Northwest is all prairie— ly thought by those who the general public has no west, extending along th the Rocky mountains, a the north, and to the n province as well. Manit sidered a prairie countr half of it is wooded. I that it is wooded the s Ottawa valley, but we Winnipegosis, between t Winnipegosis, between the boundary, there is larger I ever saw anywhere British Columbia."

I myself have seen showing a stretch of on miles in extent covered spruce averaging forty-fiv log, and fifteen inches by actual measurement. Perhaps the reason why

in the prairie country he the present time realised extent of the timber res exist in their province difficulty of communicate the northern and south of those provinces. In the railways ran alm eastward and westwar came necessary for the obtain their lumber su from Ontario and Briti This had a most serious the price as the freight extremely high. I h known cases were the actually doubled the lumber. The extension cilities which has taken immediate past is now tercommunication between ern and southern portion fore the price to the so should be very much near future than it has past. The shorter h greater competition an ern lumbermen, will b price to the prairie set The value of the

> and means of transp will be an unlimited m timber of the norther given a short haul and petition, we should ge and we should get the near future. What wi of those prairie provi they learn that timber accessible for come has passed fr ties for a mere song. is actually the case. held that the public province, of right belople of that province.
> ther and say that in ber and coal. especi the prairie province importance to keep

more or less a questio ity. When we have rai