

Select Literature.

GRACE WELDON.

FREDERICA, THE BONNET-GIRL. CHAPTER VIII.—Continued.

THE mulatto slightly frowned. He was not pleased with any reference to reminiscences of his kind. He knew well that he himself had been the main instrument of Charles Anson's ruin; for, amongst Clow's other means of making money, he had kept a gambling saloon in a quarter of the city not far distant from the head of Haver street; and in this place the husband of the mantuamaker took the first step to infamy. At the time he was a young dry-goods merchant in Old Cornhill, and married to a lovely and amiable girl; but the ambitious hold-out to young men at Clow's saloon drew him within their vortex, and he was ruined. His wife opened a mantuamaking establishment, and the husband became a miserable drunkard, dependent upon her for support and a home; and, as we have seen, by robbing her of her nest-egg, had placed her in the power of the man whom, of all men, in his sober moments, he hated.

CHAPTER IX. A CATASTROPHE.

CHARLES ANSON took a moment supporting himself by the door, gazing from one to the other of the parties. The mulatto released the hand of his wife, who sprung back from him with a countenance glowing with resentment. Clow smiled with cool derision at her angry emotion, and then saying in a low tone, "Remember I am faithful!" he crossed to the door in which the husband stood, to go out. Happening to lift his eyes to the face of Charles Anson, he recoiled a step from its expression. Instead of the vacant stare of the inebriate, he encountered a look of the sternest indignation and fiercest revenge. The sight the husband had witnessed had sobered him in an instant. He recovered his senses, and stood erect and defying in the path of Clow.

"Back! you pass not forth till I avenge this foul dishonor in your black blood!" he cried, in a tone as determined as it was unlooked for by Clow. "I saw thee, slave, and what thou wouldst have done, but that she, whom my veins have left open to such degrading insults as this from thee, stood between! Down upon your knees, dog, and ask that woman's pardon for the wrong you meditated!" The mulatto stood calm, firm, and with a derisive smile curling his lips. He had scarcely ever seen Charles Anson only under the influence of wine, and aware that when he opened the door he would not stand without clapping of his hands, and shouting in his sudden outbreak of drunkenness. He therefore laughed in his face, and said, in a tone of authority,

"Give way, Anson, and let me pass. You are tipsy!" "Villain! slave! infamous black! This is not wine, but some of wrong. Why I have seen her, sobered me! To you I have a lion roar of Down on your knees to her, and ask her forgiveness!" As he commanded him to do this he advanced a step towards Clow with his hand clenched.

"Do you dare me?" cried the mulatto, pale with rage, and thrusting his hand quickly into his bosom. "Dare and defy you! I thank thee, Clow, for this hour! To you I have a lion roar of Down on your knees to her, and ask her forgiveness!" "I know you, Philip Clow, but I do not fear you! You shall kneel as I have bid you, before you quit this room!" As he spoke he dashed his cap in Clow's face, and springing upon him, caught his arm and wrestled with him. The struggle was long and desperate, and the mulatto was the victor. He held Clow by the neck of his coat, and then confronted him with the weapon in his hand. The mulatto stood trembling with rage. His eyes fairly blazed with the intensity of his fury. His white teeth shone like those of a hyena when about to bound upon its prey.

"Now, Clow, the scale is turned; said Charles Anson, in a deliberate tone. "This moment is the happiest in my life. There is my wife, and there is the foe! Down dog!" "Charles—oh, Charles!" cried his wife, who had stood all now almost paralyzed with fear at the rapid progress of events, but fearing the most dreadful results if he continued to persist, she now clung to his arm.

"And at the window I first saw and loved her! I have told you my purpose touching her. You must aid me in this object, madam!" "I'll exclaim the mantuamaker, with alarm. "Yes, you, madam!" "I have no knowledge of her, Mr. Clow." "You must make her acquaintance."

"There are a hundred ways. You can call and give her work. You can make errands for her to cross the street, and see you about the work. You have wit, and must use it! Remember you are in my power, and only on condition that you serve me faithfully in this affair, which I have so closely at heart, do I release you from my power over you!" "If you are successful in bringing about an interview here, in this room, between me and this lovely girl, I forgive you the debt, and, besides, will richly reward you. As a woman, you have plans and schemes at your finger's ends by nature. These you must contribute to the furtherance of the object I have in view. I will give you three days to bring by some ruse or other, this mulatto and I can speak with her—where I can, without interruption, plead my passion. Moreover, you must first pave the way by speaking of me in the terms which you of these days I will give you to bring this about!"

"Thus speaking, the mulatto rose up and took her hand. "We understand one another, Mrs. Anson?" "Yes, sir, answered the lady, in a faint tone. "Remember that your safety depends on your faithfulness to me!" "Yes, sir," she answered in an embarrassed and undecided tone, making an effort to release her hand.

"Then good-night, madam," he said, and was about to press his lips to hers, when the door was flung open, and Charles Anson staggered into the room.

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"Annal Live now for me! I have my reason upon me restored. I will be a true and kind husband to you. Dying?" he repeated, gazing frantically upon her fast closing eyes, and watching the gathering paleness of death pass upon her countenance; "dying? oh, say not so! See, I have checked the flow of blood with your hands. The wound is above the heart. You will live. Let some one go for a surgeon. You will not die. You shall not die. Oh, God, she is dying!" (To be continued.)

"1866. Spring Goods, 1866. THE Subscriber has now completed his Importations for the season, per ships 'Lotus' and 'Ariadne' from BRITAIN, consisting of Black Broad Cloth and Dressing, Fancy Coatings and Scotch Tweed Trappings, Ready-Made Clothing, Hats and Caps, Gloves, Scarfs, Flies, Braces, Grey and White Cottons, shawls, checked shirtings, printed Cottons, ginghams, jeans, cambrics, bagging, tickings, Cotton Warp, white, red and blue, (warranted superior quality); white and azolet flannels, shawls, coloured Hats, bonnet-shapes, ribbons, falls, white and coloured Hose, long shirts, and a general assortment of Seasonable Goods. Choice choice Cognac TRA, Sugar, Molasses, Liverpool Soap, glass, nails, split iron, &c. &c. &c. W. H. WILSON. Malpas's Old Stand, Queen-street, Charlottetown, June 13, 1866.

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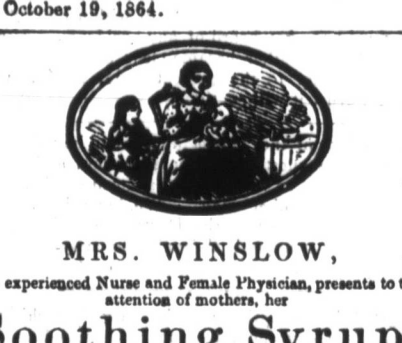
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