

eight o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford met him informally in the hall, and greeted him affectionately. They went to the Retreat, where everything was expressive of home comfort. A flood of sweet memories filled Daniel's mind when he sat down and looked around.

"It seems an age since I was here last," he said, sighing. "I believe it was the night before the navy ball."

"No," said Mrs. Crawford, "it was a few days before the dinner for Mr. Webster."

"You are right, my sickness has affected my memory; only temporarily, Dr. Blow told me."

Daniel missed Emily when he first came, but did not inquire for her. He and Mrs. Crawford talked of political events of the past month and more, and were interested in the conversation when Emily came into the room.

Her face was bright with delight; she hurried towards Mr. Courtney to give him welcome, and express her pleasure at his recovery. Daniel interrupted the remarks he was just then making, and rose slowly to meet her. His heart beat violently, for he was just weak, and she seemed like a vision of beauty before him. Remembering his resolution, he nerved himself to conceal his emotion, and bowing formally, he took her hand for an instant, scarcely allowing more than the tips of his fingers to rest on hers.

The surprise of even this slight repulse in an instant chilled Emily, and her womanly dignity came to her aid.

"Pray, be seated, Mr. Courtney. Do not allow me to interrupt your conversation," she added in a formal tone. "I must, however, first say that you are looking much better than I expected. I am glad to see you able to come out again."

"Thank you, Miss Crawford, you are most kind. My friends have shown me sympathy that I had no reason to expect," replied Daniel.

The conversation became general, and warmed into something like family sociability. Emily was puzzled at Daniel's manner, for he strictly avoided those speechless attentions which he had so constantly paid to her before his sickness. At all events, he could give himself credit for hiding what he suffered in the effort he now made. On no occasion since he first met Emily had she appeared to him so interesting as on this first visit after his absence and solitude, and he would gladly have allowed himself the happiness of the friendship of Miss Crawford, but Mrs. Harper had been severe even in her counsels against such indulgence, and was he not now paying bitter penalty for his imprudence heretofore? Alas! He did not reflect, and few do, that once having gotten entangled in the brambles and thorns, the flesh must bleed in extricating the stray sheep from them.

Ten o'clock found the little circle around the bright fire in the Retreat, still talking cheerfully, when they were summoned to the private dining-room for supper. How bright the room looked to Mr. Courtney! The blazing fire in the grate, the branched chandeliers filled with wax lights, the buffet shining with shelves of polished silver and fine cut glass; the servants, two in waiting, in dark green livery and spotless linen, noiselessly moved about in attendance; the supper could have tempted an epicure. The wine was the best the cellar afforded, and that was sufficient praise.

"I think," said Mr. Courtney, "that after all, your comforts of life at the North exceed those of our own at the South, in spite of our freedom from cold weather."

"That depends on one's tastes, I think, and upon education," said Mr. Crawford; "you, no doubt, will prefer to live at the South, and its comforts suit you best."

"I cannot very well make a choice," replied Mr. Courtney, "my business obliges me to live at the South."

Your plantations are very large, I believe? Mr. Crawford remarked, more to continue the thread of conversation.

"Yes, and too expensive to trust altogether to the management of my young men," Mr. Courtney, without much difficulty, now for the first time during the evening, had a little *à-côté* with Emily, who sat by his side, while Mr. and Mrs. Crawford kept up an animated conversation, which we strongly suspect was intended to leave the young people free for a little time. It was a formal one, however, on various topics.

That night Emily was restless and watchful; conflicting emotions filled her heart with many thoughts—doubts and fears. Would that they were groundless?

CHAPTER VI.

Again and again Daniel resolved to make Emily acquainted with the true history of his marriage; how it came about that he had become enamored of the beautiful young French girl, yet scarcely more than a child in years. But the dread of the terrible consequences of such a revelation overpowered him whenever he attempted to speak on the subject, and each time he found an excuse to postpone the confession till the next visit. Emily could not help seeing that there was a weighty subject on his mind that embarrassed him when they were left a moment alone. She thought it was the timidity of true love. When she remembered all that Vivie had said to him of her engagement to Lord L., it appeared only natural that he should hesitate to make a declaration, and perhaps she had not sufficiently encouraged him; but now that he was evidently waiting for some proof that she was free to accept him, it was a question in her mind if she were not bound to deny the report of the attentions of Lord L.—She knew that Vivie was capable of making much mischief, and she could not tell how far she had gone so in her conversations with Mr. Courtney.

Emily always consulted her mother on matters of this kind. Mrs. Crawford was so sympathetic that her daughter need not fear to confide to her the most delicate secrets of her heart. In her mother she had found the safest confidant.

Daniel made up his mind that he could no longer postpone the confession so dreadful to make, though he anticipated it as he would have done crucifixion. His sensitive nature pictured in vivid colors his sudden downfall in the estimation of the family, whom of all others in the world, except Mrs. Harper, he esteemed most. Then the black cloud that overshadowed his heart, when he thought of the just anger and indignation of Emily's parents, was almost more than he could bear. No wonder! It was no use to dwell longer on these consequences. He had done so too long. The longer he delayed the greater was the misery of his situation. He could not go to the House that day. Fortunately his business letters would occupy him till dinner time, and after dinner he would no longer put off the dreaded visit to Mr. Crawford's.

He wrote the following note and sent it to Miss Crawford by Lubin:

"DEAR MISS CRAWFORD.—If you are disengaged I will ask the privilege of seeing you alone this evening.—Yours sincerely,

"DANIEL COURTNEY."

In half an hour Lubin returned with Miss Crawford's card, on which was written:

"It will give me pleasure to see you. Come."

Every moment from that time dragged on as if each was adding a new link to the heavy

chain of consequences which he carried. Evening came at last.

Before he left the hotel he wrote to Colonel Keane:

"I am spending the evening till ten o'clock at Mr. Crawford's. After that hour as soon as possible I wish to see you at the hotel. Come alone. Do not fail. I need you.—Yours as ever,

"DANIEL COURTNEY."

The lovely apartment adjoining the Retreat was left to Daniel and Emily that evening. The good parents, sure that it was to be the night of crowning happiness to their child, made an excuse to entertain several old friends in the reception room, and gave orders to the servants that no one should disturb Miss Emily.

Emily waited with breathless impatience, yet with fluttering heart, to be called from the room when Mr. Courtney should be announced. He came, and was shown into the room where at any other time he would have felt he was going into an earthly paradise. To-night its light depressed his spirits and the perfume of the roses sickened him. In a half-bewildered state of mind he walked round and round the room with his head bent down, almost resting his chin on his breast, and wondering how he ought to begin, and then he said to himself:

"I have told Colonel Keane that I will stay here till ten," looking at his watch. "It is half past eight; I must leave the dreadful disclosures till the last moments. I must rouse myself now, and not meet Miss Crawford with this gloom upon me."

Emily had dressed herself with scrupulous care, yet simply, and looked lovely and quietly. Her face was radiant with happiness. Her eyes came into the room, in spite of a shadow of timidity that was manifest in her trembling hand when she extended it to Daniel with more than her usual warmth of manner. He looked so careworn, and his expression was so sad, it alarmed her.

"Are you ill, Daniel?" she asked, with an affectionate tone of anxiety. She had not before called him Daniel. How sweetly it sounded to him! So near to paradise, and yet he must be for ever so far removed, he thought!

"No, Emily," he answered, "I am not sick. It would almost make me wish to be so to hear you ask me in so kind a tone."

No sooner had he said the words than he was angry with himself for the implied love there was in the compliment.

Music, poetry, everything but love, were subjects of conversation between them till the clock on the mantel told Emily the hour had nearly come for him to depart. Emily was sitting on a small sofa opposite to him. He felt he could not face her now, and he took his seat beside her.

"Miss Crawford," he began, and then paused, "I am going to ask the greatest favor of you that any human being can grant."

Emily slightly bowed her head.

"I have no reason to expect that you can grant it," he continued; "I am too unworthy, but you are so near divine that I cast myself on your mercy."

Daniel paused again. Large drops of perspiration started out upon his forehead. He rose and walked across the room, and turned back and sat on the sofa, as if he had not strength to go on.

"Pray, Mr. Courtney," said Emily, "believe that there is no favor in my power to grant to you that I will withhold from you."

"Oh, Miss Crawford, you cannot forgive me! I cannot forgive myself! Can God forgive me?"

The last sentence was uttered while striking his forehead, and looking up in agony. It alarmed Emily. She started to her feet.

"Mr. Courtney, what can you mean?"

"It means, Miss Crawford, that I am a wretched man, unworthy of your mercy. But, oh, do pity me!"

"You alarm me, Mr. Courtney; may keep me no longer in this suspense."

"Miss Crawford, I am a married man!"

A sudden rumbling sound filled Emily's ears; she grew blind, but only for a moment. She asked him to hand her a glass of water. With almost superhuman strength she arose and said:

"As soon as I am a little calmer, Mr. Courtney, I must leave the room. One question only I wish to ask. Have you been married lately, or were you married when you were first received by my parents into the intimacy of our family?"

"Miss Crawford, I was married more than a year ago. I am a father, and a beautiful wife. I am not deserving of her love, nor of your forgiveness. I can only ask your pity, for I am indeed miserable."

Emily was almost stunned by the disclosures of such deceit as he had practiced, and yet the image of what he had been in her mind she could not drive away.

"Mr. Courtney, are you not ill? Is not this a fever dream of yours? Oh, if I can find it is so!"

Then she loves me, he thought, a double in of mine!

"No, Miss Crawford, it is not a dream."

"You will please leave me, Mr. Courtney, and for ever!" she said, looking towards the door.

"It is right. And your parents?"

"They must know the truth."

Daniel slowly rose and looked imploringly into her face, hoping to find one ray of hope there that she would not utterly despise him. Her eyes were cast down, and she was motionless as a statue. Her hands were tightly clasped, and they rested on her lap. At the door of the room he looked back again—she had not moved. When he was gone—large tears rolled down her cheeks. Time alone would soften the death blow her first love had received that night. Poor Emily!

When Daniel reached the hotel Colonel Keane was waiting for him.

"Well, good friend, I hope you have settled that business," said the colonel, shaking Mr. Courtney's hand heartily.

"Come, tell me all about it."

"Lubin," said Mr. Courtney, "leave us alone; I have everything here I need. You can go to bed now."

When he had gone, Colonel Keane drew two chairs near the fire, and said:

"Come, don't pace up and down that way. Tell me what passed. Are you the happy man? Everyone is on the *qui vive* in Washington to congratulate you on the event. It is just the choice they expect you to make."

"For heaven's sake, colonel," said Mr. Courtney, "never speak to me again on this subject."

"You are too timid, Daniel. Her father has owned to more than one person that your attention to his daughter is approved by him. Go ahead, man! I know you love the girl. Why look so miserable?"

"My God, colonel, I cannot marry her; I am a married man and a father!"

Mr. Courtney threw himself on the sofa, and covered his face with both hands.

"A married man, Daniel Courtney?" exclaimed Colonel Keane. "It is a lie. You are raving; you are mad!"

"I have been a married man more than a year. I am the most miserable wretch on earth."

The colonel was utterly confounded. He had taken pride in his intimacy with the lionized Southerner; and now he saw that

glance the consequences of having this fact go abroad.

"We must see what can be done. Did you tell Miss Crawford?" he asked after a time.

"Not till to-night."

"And what did she say?"

"We have parted for ever," he groaned.

"Did you ever make love to her, Courtney?"

"Not in words."

"Do you think she loves you?"

"I believe she did."

"And expected you to propose for her?"

"I think she thought I made the appointment to-night for that purpose."

"Bad, bad, very bad business! said the colonel, whistling a few notes.

"You never said anything like love?"

"No, but I showed in a hundred ways that I was pleased with her society."

"Courtney, I must say that you have been a fool! You must be mad!"

"Say anything you like. It is the first stone flung at me, but it will not be the last," answered Daniel.

"Pardon me, good fellow. It has been a little weakness, that's all."

"It has been baseless, for which I'd shoot a man if my daughter was so treated!" replied Daniel, rising and pacing the room and wringing his hands.

"Who is your wife?" asked the colonel.

"I can't believe it, yet. It is a lie!"

"See here, Courtney, you have a right to insult me; but do not dare to insult my wife; I warn you!"

Colonel Keane was alarmed by the haggard expression of Daniel's face and dared not say to him all that this astonishing confession made him inclined to say.

"My poor fellow, I like your spirit. I will not insult your wife; but for heaven's sake, tell me who she is, and where? I shall stand by you. It is going to make a deuced sight of scandal if it gets out, and our plan must be to prevent its being known."

"The lady is my wife, and that is enough to entitle her to respect," said Mr. Courtney.

"From me, Courtney, it is sufficient. But the world will not respect the woman, if you have denied your marriage to her."

"I have never denied it."

"Not in words, perhaps; but your concealment of it is as great a condemnation of her as you could inflict." The poor husband writhed in agony. The colonel saw it and said:

"I am saying to you what the world will say by-and-by. We can't heal a wound till we know its true state. Do you think I like to pain you? Where is your wife? I can't believe it yet!"

"Angelia lives in New Orleans."

"Oh, Courtney, if you do not mean to tell me your married wife is the bigamist de Grassé?" interrupted the colonel.

Daniel was bewildered for a time. The hour of trial had come and he must bear it. He hesitated, not knowing how best to answer the question, and then said:

(To be continued.)

Carter's Little Liver Pills will positively cure sick headache and prevent its return. This is not talk, but truth. One pill a dose. To be had of all druggists. See advertisement.

LETTER FROM LINDSAY, ONT.

THE NEW MOVEMENT AND ORANGE TORIES OF ONTARIO—LIGHT ON THE SITUATION—A NEW BRANCH OF THE LEAGUE.

LINDSAY, Ont., Dec. 3.

A branch of the Irish National League was recently formed here under very fair auspices, and subscriptions are being received with commendable success. The organization was warmly supported by the Rev. Father Laurent, V.G., as well as by his Irish curate, the Rev. Fr. Stacey. Among our separated brethren the movement was looked at with few signs of approval, but with no manifestations of actual hostility. Happily, even the Protestant public are being educated to a knowledge of Irish grievances, and are preparing to accept the inevitable in the granting of Home Rule to Ireland at an early day.

The great loss of Ontario, among the Irish, is the new departure of our French fellow citizens in Quebec. The mere liberal among the Conservatives admit that the *Mail* has lost its head in threatening to sweep the Lower Province with fire and sword; while, of course, the Orange element in the party are loud in their opposition. With them the policy is rule or ruin, and if the new French movement goes on, we in Ontario will be fairly defamed with the "No-Popery" howl with which the Protestant electors will vigorously ply. As it is, the Orange Conservative element is badly frightened. They see in an alliance between the new national party in Quebec with the reformers of Ontario, among whom the Catholic voters will very generally be found in future, the doom of the present government, and the exclusion of the Orange element from power. Their only hope lies in arousing antagonism to the new combination by calling upon all good Protestants to oppose what they will call a Catholic and English coalition. If the Premier and his Reformers in Ontario maintain their allegiance to Mr. Blake and turn a deaf ear to these assaults upon their political integrity and good sense, all will be well, and Orangism will find itself excluded from power, or to use a vulgar term "left out in the cold." The hope and expectation of Orange Conservatives is to draw away from Mr. Blake's firm supporters in Ontario and the other provinces,—on the strength of the religious and race cry,—enough support to compensate Sir John A. Macdonald for what he will lose in Quebec. Many staunch Reformers deny the possibility of this being done, and claim that their party have to long since been discredited. 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