

Plot That Failed;

Love That Would Not Be Denied.

CHAPTER IX.

"Yes," she said. "Look, the moon is obscured. How dark it is. Ah! what is that?" she broke off, with a scared, dry voice, clutching Leicester's arm.

"What—where?" he asked, quickly, and laying his hand upon hers.

"There—in the room! at the window," she breathed. "It has gone."

"What?" he asked, still keeping the hand, which she seemed too frightened to remove.

"I—scarcely know," she said, brokenly, and with a shudder, which Leicester felt. "A something white, with a light, at that little window."

"Oh, are you sure?" he asked doubtfully, anxious to convince her that it was mere fancy. "Remember, we have just been talking about the ghost."

"No, no; it was not fancy," she said. "I saw it plainly enough. I was not thinking of it as I spoke, and I saw it when the moon got behind the cloud. It was in my father's room."

At that moment she started again. A voice so close behind her that it seemed to spring from the ground said:

"Miss Mildmay, where are you? Oh, here you are!"

And Captain Murpott came up.

"How interested you look! What are you talking about?"

"Ghosts," said Leicester, fixing his dark, scrutinizing eyes upon him.

"Did you hear Miss Mildmay call out?"

"No," said the captain, innocently. "I only just came up."

But he had been close beside them for some minutes, and had not only heard Violet's low cry of terror, but the whole of the conversation.

CHAPTER X.

Some quiet evenings are more productive of matter for reflection and afterthought than many more exciting and apparently eventful ones. How little there is to talk over a ball! One quadrille is like another and one partner very much like another. Most ball-rooms are hot, most partners are unsuitable. But how often a quiet evening with a few friends in a country house is the beginning of some great matter—the mustard seed whence springs the shadowing tree.

WHAT \$10 DID FOR THIS WOMAN

The Price She Paid for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Which Brought Good Health.

Danville, Va.—"I have only spent ten dollars on your medicine and I feel so much better than I did when the doctor was treating me. I don't suffer any bearing down pains at all now and I sleep well. I cannot say enough for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Liver Pills as they have done so much for me. I am enjoying good health now and owe it all to your remedies. I take pleasure in telling my friends and neighbors about them."—Mrs. MATTIE HALLER, 501 Colquhoun Street, Danville, Va.

No woman suffering from any form of female troubles should lose hope until she has given Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a fair trial.

This famous remedy, the medicinal ingredients of which are derived from native roots and herbs, has for forty years proved to be a most valuable tonic and invigorator of the female organism. Women everywhere bear willing testimony to the wonderful virtues of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

If you have the slightest doubts that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.



2 YEARS

ULCERS

On my leg. I tried all kinds of medicines, ointments, liniments, etc., but without standing, the wounds seemed only to get worse. Finally became so bad that I was on the point of going into a hospital, when a friend persuaded me to try Zam-Buk. I did so, and the first few applications made the ulcers less painful. From first commencing to use Zam-Buk the ulcers improved and twelve boxes of Zam-Buk effected a complete cure.

ZAMBUK CURED ME.

Address all applications for samples and retail orders to T. McMURDO & CO., St. John's, Nfld.

the bend of the stream which changes its whole course! So it was with several of the members of Mrs. Dodson's quiet, little dinner. Five of them at least returned to rest that night very thoughtful. The captain, when he had reached the little boudoir, or dressing-room, of his luxurious suite, cast off as if it were a mask the careless smile of simple amiability and showed in his countenance some of the subtle working of his brain.

As he walked to the window and looked out upon the scene bathed in the moonlight, his face grave and frowning with deep thought, he looked a very different person to the easy-going gentleman of fortune which he had appeared in the drawing-room a few minutes before.

"So!" he muttered, "the room has been closed since John Mildmay's death, and never been opened; the dust must lie thick there. Haunted, too! Did she see anything, or was it only a sentimental girl's fancy? Violet is not sentimental, and is scarcely the girl to be led away by a weak fancy, either. The cry and the start were too natural in their suddenness and reluctance to be affected. Strange! I don't believe in ghosts, but if I did I would believe that Violet Mildmay saw one then."

"The haunted room lies near this—in what direction? Let me see," and he closed his eyes and worked out a mental calculation. "It must lie at the end of my bedroom, for that is in the part of the building nearest the ruins. If I were a nervous man, I might feel qualms about the near proximity of the haunted chamber. As it is, as I am a man who has to make his fortune, that chamber, with its uncanny character, is a godsend; it is a safety of luck I little looked for, another card in a hand which was not a bad one at any time.

"But I must not overlook my opponents. I play as one against many. First, Leicester Dodson; he is not to be lightly held. His handsome face and long legs carry a brain with them that may be a fitting match for mine. He has coolness and confidence, has Mr. Leicester Dodson, and he is smitten together to-night, in amiable confidence, her hand fell upon his arm. I have known a man's heart fall before one look of such a woman as Violet before now. And the boy, my young Lord Paisdale, is half inclined to lose his wits over the girl's fair face and grace—but he doesn't

count. Some men are born fools, and this is one. He is of use, though. I must play one against the other. His sister, too, Lady Ethel, is no fool, and Mr. Bertie Fairfax thinks her an angel. There should be some cards to play there.

"Let me think, let me think. There are the materials of a nice little game of cross-purposes, if I can but manage it. Come in!"

He broke off abruptly as a knock at the door disturbed his cogitations.

Mr. Jen entered with his master's dressing gown.

The captain threw off his coat, and dooned the capacious garment in silence which Jen did not think proper to break.

At last the captain roused from his reverie and turned his attention to his follower.

"Where have you been?"

"Down in the village, captain," said Jen, starting, with a wink. "There's a very nice little and pretty little creature in cherry ribbons wait draws a good glass of ale."

The captain nodded, absently. "Don't be seen there too often, and keep your mouth shut."

"Trust me," said Jen, clicking his tongue against his cheek with a knowing air. "This old soldier is a very remarkable old soldier, and he's like the parrot—he don't talk much, but he thinks the more."

"You may think as much as you like," said the captain, "but be as moderate in your thinking as your talking, my friend. You had a bad habit, when I knew you in former days, of lifting that elbow of yours too often," and the captain went through the pantomime of a man raising a glass to his lips. "One slip in that direction means ruin, remember, ruin for you as well as me. But, there, I have no wish to worry you. Amuse yourself as you like, so that you keep your mouth shut."

"I amuse myself," said Jen. "There is quite a little game going on down below, which I'm mighty interested in. It's like one of them Chinese puzzles, little pieces of wood you put together, you know. Look, you might 'a' lived down Whitechapel in Larry's 'thieves' kitchen and not see more signs and mysterious nods and winks as you do down here—down here in this little village, which I thought was inhabited by perfect infants. Why, a man has to keep his eyes open every minute to catch all the signs which one simple-looking chap of a fisherman gives to another."

"What do you mean?" asked the captain, absently, and with evident inattention. "What signs should these men have? what mystery? There, I'm tired, go to bed. By the way, there's a sovereign for you."

And he threw one of the coins which he had won that evening, on the table.

Jen, who was beginning to understand his master's moods, picked up the donation with a touch of the forehead, and, with a gruff "Good-night, captain," departed, muttering to himself:

"He's working, he is; he's begun the game, or my name's not Jen. Ah! he's a deep 'un, is the captain!"

In another room of the Park, Violet was inclined to be thoughtful, and for some time her hand brushed the long

lines of her mistress' bright hair with inward surprise at her silence, and at last, ventured to intrude upon it by the commencement of the little gossip to which Violet was rather partial, so long as it was confined to innocent chat and did not diverge to scandal and little-tattle.

So Marie ventured to remark that there were a great many servants at Coombe Lodge, and that the people were very glad that the Lacklands had come down; but they seemed quite as pleased that Mr. Leicester had come, too.

Mr. Leicester's name seemed to rouse her mistress from her reverie, and she looked up, with her bright, clear gaze.

"What did you say about Mr. Leicester Dodson?"

"I said, miss, that the people in the village and the servants up at the Cedars were very glad that Mr. Leicester had come down again, for, though he's so very stern and grave-looking, he seems to be very kind, and everybody gives him a good name. And he's so liberal, miss! He gives a sovereign where others look hard at shillings. Only the last time he was down, miss, he went into Will Sanderson's cottage and sat and talked with little Jennie, Willie Sanderson's brother, you know, miss, little lame Willie; and he sat and asked questions about his not being able to walk, and then he got up with a start, and in his thoughtful way, which almost makes you think you've done something wrong; but there comes down one of them little inwallid chairs from London, and Willie says his brother is as well again now that he can be wheeled about. Of course, it came from Mr. Leicester, though when Willie went up to thank him, he sent word down that he was to have a glass of wine, and not to wait. And they say—the servants, you know, miss, that Mr. Leicester is so kind to Mrs. Dodson, and speaks to her quite soft, and when she was ill with the rheumatics he carried her up and down stairs; and I do no wonder they like him; though I did hear the cook say that Mr. Leicester was very particular about the 'made' dishes, and that when he is angry it's something fearful, he's so stern, and what you might call overbearing, miss."

(To be Continued.)

C. E. Orphanage Acknowledgments.

The Hon. Secretary of the Church of England Orphanage desires to acknowledge with many thanks the following Xmas donations: Cash \$5 and 1 qr. beef, W. B. Grievy, Esq.; 1 carcase mutton, Mr. Allan Williams, Forest Pond; 2 jars black currant jelly, Miss Browning; 1 brl. flour, Mrs. Wm. Bolt, Patrick St.; slides, skates and crackers, Mrs. (Hon.) Jno. Harvey; crackers, Mrs. J. C. Hepburn; skates, Mr. Geo. Cook; half brl. turnips and half brl. potatoes, Mr. E. J. Snow, Torbay Road; 1 brl. potatoes and half brl. turnips, Mr. Geo. Cook, White Hills; turnips, cabbage and sweet bread, Mrs. Pierce, Goulds; 1 brl. apples, Geo. Neal, Esq.; 1 tub butter, Mrs. (Hon.) W. C. Job; 1 tub butter, Mrs. R. B. Job; sugar, Lady Howwood; 1 brl. apples, H. W. LeMessurier, Esq.; 1 brl. flour, Mrs. Pennock; 1 qr. beef, "X," White Bay; 1 brl. apples, W. J. Ellis, Esq.; 1 cake, Fred and Cyril Press, Freshwater Rd.; preserves and cakes, Misses Edwards; fresh pork, A. E. Worrall, Esq.; 1 brl. apples, Xmas stockings, Mrs. J. C. Hepburn, Forest and Lady Outerbridge; 2 brls. cabbage, Sunday School, Pouch Cove; 1 brl. herring and bundle codfish, Smith & Co.; 1 brl. apples, Hon. Jas. Ryan; 1 brl. apples, D. Ryan, Esq.; 1 box fancy biscuits, Miss Agnes and Harold Hayward; 1 doz. mitts, sweets and 1 parcel books and toys, Misses Carter; 1 scrap book, Miss Viola Uphill; 1 cake, Mrs. E. Hawkins; 1 doz. boxes crackers, Geoffrey, Ellis, and Anthony Goodridge; 1 qr. beef, Mr. Carter; 3 sacks potatoes and 2 sacks turnips, Mr. W. F. Field, Torbay Rd.; 1 sack carrots and parsnips, Messrs. Burt & Lawrence; 2 brls. apples, J. S. Wiseman, Esq., Carter's Hill; 1 brl. apples, W. R. Howley, Esq.; 1 brl. apples, Mrs. (Dr.) Simms; 1 qr. beef, Hon. J. D. Ryan; beef and mutton, Government; beef and mutton, Messrs. T. and J. Cook; 14 turkeys, Reid Nfld. Co.; 1 brl. apples, Ellis and Co.; 1 box soap, Standard Mfg. Co.; cakes, Mrs. W. J. Martin's children; cake, Mrs. Alma Dowden; 4 boxes crackers, K. G. Ash, Esq.; 1 cake, Miss May Seymour; 1 cake, Mrs. C. F. Seymour; 1 doz. Xmas stockings, Miss Joyce Purlong; 2 cakes, Misses Lawrence; 1 doz. pairs stockings, Misses Marion and Lillian Ayre, 109 Freshwater Rd.; apples, Victor Dowden; 1 cake, Miss Ethel Dowden; 1 cake, Miss Elsie Bennett; 1 doz. sweet loaves, J. A. Carter, Esq.; 1 brl. flour, Steer Bros.; 1 brl. butter biscuit, S. G. Collier, Esq.; 2 brls. apples, A. J. Harvey, Esq.; 1 brl. apples, Mrs. J. S. Munn; Wm. J. Clouston, Esq., A. W. Kennedy, Esq., Tasker Cook, Esq., Messrs. M. & E. Kennedy, J. T. Croucher, Esq., \$5.00 each; J. J. Tobin, Esq., \$10; Canon Smith, \$1; Mrs. Bowring; Mr. R. H. Simms, Esq.; 4 slides and dolls and books, Mrs. Brehm; 2 cakes, Mrs. J. R. Stick; apples, oranges, sweets, nuts and raisins, Jas. P. Cash, Esq.; 2 5-oz. dozen stockings caps, Mrs. J. W. Dowling; \$5. Hon. Robt. Watson, per Mrs. W. C. Job; 3 doz. hocks, chocolates, and 1/2 doz. 2 lb. crocks preserve, Mrs. Tasker; 1 box, nuts, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Blackall; apples and cake, Mrs. Allan Williams, Forest Pond; cakes, Mrs. Jas. Stanley, Waterford Bridge Road; 1 cake, Mrs. P. Williams, Parade St.; 2 cakes, Miss Isabel Feaver; 1/2 dozen sweet loaves, Mr. Stan Gould; 1 box evaporated fruit, F. McNamara, Esq.; 2 cakes, Miss Alice and Thos. Wellman; 1 case oranges, and 1 brl. apples, Messrs. Wm. and Ed. Lawrence; apples, Geo. Bartlett; 1 doz. brooms, Josh. Hooley, Esq.; 2 boxes candy, E. B. Wood, Esq.; 1 cake, Mrs. Cook; 1 box, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Blackall; apples and cake, Mrs. Allan Williams, Forest Pond; cakes, Mrs. Jas. Stanley, Waterford Bridge Road; 1 cake, Mrs. P. Williams, Parade St.; 2 cakes, Miss Isabel Feaver; 1/2 dozen sweet loaves, Mr. Stan Gould; 1 box evaporated fruit, F. McNamara, Esq.; 2 cakes, Miss Alice and Thos. Wellman; 1 case oranges, and 1 brl. apples, Messrs. Wm. and Ed. Lawrence; apples, Geo. 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