

gale put into the vice of a blacksmith. The man had no bones; his frame sunk in, and I was afraid of crushing him. He lay on his back and smiled at me, and I begged his pardon.

Now, this affair made a noise at the time, and I was deeply grieved at it, because deserving none. For I do like a good strife and struggle, and I was sent for a match with a lay now. However I got my hundred pounds, and made up my mind to spend about it, and in presents for mother and Lorna.

For Annie was married by this time, and long before I went away; as need scarcely be said, perhaps, if any one follows the weeks are. The wedding was quite enough, except for everybody's good wishes; and I desired not to dwell upon it, because it grieved me in many ways.

But now that I had tried to hope the very best for dear Annie, a deeper blow than could have come, even through her, awaited me. For after a visit to Cornwall, and with my prize-money about me, I came on foot from Okehampton to Oare, so as to save a little money toward my marriage. For Lorna's fortune would not have; small or great, I would not have it; only if there were no denying, we would devote the whole of it to charitable uses, as perhaps the future ages would endeavor to be grateful. Lorna and I had settled this question at least twice a day on the average, and each time with more satisfaction.

Now coming into the kitchen with all my cash in my breeches-pocket (golden guineas, with an elephant on them, for the stamp of the guinea company), I found dear mother most heartily glad to see me safe and sound again—for she had dreaded that giant, and dreamed of him—and she never asked me about the money. Lizzie, also, was so glad, and more gracious than usual; especially when she saw me pour guineas, like pepper-corns, into the pudding-basin. But the way they ever see her again will depend upon her nature, John.

"Where is Lorna?" I asked at length, after trying not to ask it; "I want her to come and see my money. She never saw so much before."

"Alas!" said mother, with a heavy sigh, "she will see a great deal more, I fear, and a deal more than is good for her. Whether you ever see her again will depend upon her nature, John."

"What do you mean, mother? Have you quarrelled? Why does not Lorna come to me? Am I never to see her?"

"Now, John, be so impatient, my mother replied, quite calmly, for in truth she was jealous of Lorna; "you could wait now very well, John; if it were till this day, you would not see her mother's joy without her."

"Thinking of her future absence, mother turned and cried, and the box-spring sprung the blanket.

"Now," said I, being wild by this time, "Lizzie you have a little sense; will you tell me how to get the coming?"

"The Lady Lorna Dugal," said Lizzie, screwing up her lips, as if the title were too grand, "is gone to London brother John, and not likely to come without her."

"You little—(something) I cried, which I dare not write down here, as all of you are too good for such language; but Lizzie's lip, as she spoke, was curled up, and she looked at me as if I were a dog."

"You are quite mistaken there," she replied; "how do you think I could have either spite or liking toward the people so far above them? The Lady Lorna Dugal is gone, because she could not help herself, and she is ever to break ten hearts—if hearts are ever broken, John."

"Darling Lizzie, how good you are!" I cried, without noticing her sneer; "tell me all about it, dear; tell me every word she said."

"That will not take long," said Lizzie, quite as unmoved by soft coaxing as by urgent cursing; "she had spoken very little to any one, except, indeed, to mother, and to Gwynny Carfax; and Gwynny is gone with her, so that benefit of that is lost. But she left a letter for 'poor' me, and in charity she called him. How grand she looked, to be sure, with the fine clothes on that were come for her!"

"Where is this letter, you utter viper? Oh, may you have a husband!"

"Who will thrash it out of you, and starve it, and swear it out of you, was the meaning of my imprecation; but Lizzie, not content as yet of such things, could not understand me, and was rather thankful; therefore she answered quietly:

"The letter is in the little cupboard, near the head of Lady Lorna's bed, where she used to keep the diamond necklace, which we contrived to get stolen."

Without another word, I rushed (so that every board in the house shook) up to my lost Lorna's room, and tore the little wall-niche open, and espied my treasure. It was as simple, and as homely, and loving, as even I could wish. Part of it ran as follows—the other parts it be- lieves me not to open out to strangers:

"My own love, and some more lord- Take it not as mis- of me, that even with- out farewell, I go; for I cannot persuade the men to wait, your return being doubtful. My great uncle, some grand- father of yours, near this Exmoor country, I, who have been so lawless always, and the child of outlaws, and now to alone for this, it seems to me, living in a court of law, and under special surveillance (as they call it, I believe) of His Majesty's Court of Chancery. My uncle is appointed my guardian and caretaker until I am twenty-one years old. To me this appears a dreadful thing, and very unjust and cruel; for why should I lose my freedom through the heritage of all if they would only let me go? I went down on my knees to them, and said I wanted titles not, but money, and I would stay where I was, where first I had known happiness. But they only laughed, and called me 'child,' and said I must talk of that to the King's High Chancellor. Their orders they had, and must obey them;

and Master Stickle was ordered, too, to help, as the King's Commissioner. And then, although it pierced my heart not to say one 'good-bye, John,' I was glad upon the whole that you were not here to dispute it. For I am almost certain that you would not, without force to yourself, have let your Lorna go to people who never, never can care for her."

Here my darling had wept again, by the tokens on the paper; and then followed some sweet words, too sweet to help all true love by repeating. But she finished with these noble lines, which (being common to all humanity, in a case of steadfast love) I do no harm, but rather help all true love by repeating. "O, the thing that you well assured—and I do hope that it may prove of service to your rest, love, also would my own be broken—no difference of rank, or fortune, or life itself, shall ever make me swerve from truth to you. We have passed through many dangers, troubles, and departments, but never yet was doubt between us; neither ever shall be. Each has trusted well the other, and still each must do so. Though they tell you I am false, though your own mind harbors it, from the sense of a railway accident, in which the name of 'Lorna' was used, and your own undervaluing, yet take counsel of your heart, and cast such thoughts, away from you; being unworthy of itself, they must not worry you; and that one is, and ever shall be, your own Lorna Dugal."

Some people cannot understand that tears should come from pleasure; but whether from pleasure or from sorrow (mixed as they are in the twisted strings of a man's heart, or a woman's), great tears fall from my stupid eyes, even on the heels of Lorna's.

"No doubt it is all over," my mind said; "no, bitterly. 'Trust me, all shall yet be right,' my heart replied, very sweetly."

TO BE CONTINUED

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already shown them over-much patience. And all the time John Quigley himself must be supplied with money not only sufficient for the assuaging of his own continual thirst, but for that of his boon companions as well.

The climax of all her sorrows seemed to have come when Rody's letters, and the small sums which he sent with them, had suddenly ceased, and a silence as of death fell like a blank wall between him and the mother who loved him. And then, just as her suspense and anxiety seemed growing too great to be borne, a neighbor had come in one day, and with a troubled face had shown her an account in the Baltimore Newsletter, of a railway accident, in which the name of 'Rody Quigley' figured as one of those fatally injured. For a while, some few weeks of hopeless despair and inertia, the days had seemed the end of all things, of peace or any possible contentment, the end of life itself for the unhappy mother; till at last through prayer and patience, and for the sake of her children, she had pulled her scattered forces about her, and bravely taken up the threads of life once again.

As for her husband, instead of Rody's loss having cheered him, it seemed to have only made him worse; and Mrs. Quigley, with a widely diffused gloom, and an excess of energy, in the fall of her spirit, often declared, as if she truly believed, that it was "fate" and remorse for his treatment of the boy that made him now as he was.

The thought, however, was of little practical consolation or help, especially when at last the agent sent them the long dreaded "notice to quit," in default of their paying a half-year's rent in full within the next three months.

That at least served to steady John Quigley for a bit, and he sought (helplessly, it is true, and with an utter lack of enthusiasm and competence) to do at least some of the result of his long neglect and indifference. But it was too late of course; for one thing it was the wrong season to begin, and for another, he had only made some such effort in the spring there might still be hope for them. But it was too late now, before they could do it.

"God help us, I see nothing before me but boggery and disgrace," said Mrs. Quigley one day, breaking down utterly at last, and weeping as even the news of Rody's death had not made her weep. "God help us again, for if He doesn't, by some miracle or other, I don't see how we can ever even hope to get out of our terrible difficulties. And yet I feel that the blessed mother of God will hardly forget us after our prayers to her. For Mrs. Quigley, who was a devout pious woman, had brought up her children to have a great and special devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

"Now children," she went on a little more cheerfully, as she wiped the tears from her eyes with the corner of her apron, "we must all join together every night in the recitation of the rosary, and offer up the rosary that our Lady may help us, and especially that your poor father may get sense, for no matter how things go, we need never expect any peace or happiness unless he changes his ways."

The girls agreed, and, true to their promise, everyone of the little, Kathleen and Lily, and the two little boys, who along with the youngest girl, Nona, were still going to the convent school, all joined together earnestly and devoutly in the recitation of the rosary each night. And it seemed as though, even at the end of the first week, their prayers were already answered, for their astonished, John Quigley all at once gave up spending his evenings at Farrell's public-house. It may have been that he no longer found himself simultaneously no doubt, that without money, neither Mr. Farrell or his former associates found any great need of his society; and as though to lend truth to this theory he had grown strangely taciturn and resentful—remorseful, his wife preferred to call it. Still it was a beginning, and great as were her present troubles and anxieties it seemed as though more than half of them were lifted from her shoulders when one Sat-

urday evening her husband came home and to her, who, softened and shame-faced air, that he had gone and taken the pledge.

"Thanks be to the good God!" Mrs. Quigley ejaculated, for a moment. "Sure, if almost as well John, avie, it's half the battle and everything else will come right in the end."

Everything, however, seemed still very far from being right, in a temporal sense at least. October had gone, and November was nearly over; and though they still said the rosary regularly and earnestly, and soberly, now a untiring—John Quigley himself, now a person by and soberer man, being one of its most devout recitants—there seemed so far little chance of their ever being able to pay the landlord in time, and Mrs. Quigley was afraid to think of what might happen ere the year ran out.

One dark November day, however, Michael Kelly, the sexton, was seen on the hillside and stopped before Mrs. Quigley's door.

"Another letter from the agent, I suppose," said Mrs. Quigley, said despondently; and as if to give color to her surmise, the moment she took the letter in her hand, her face grew a deadly white, and she leaned heavily on Kathleen for support.

"'Glorie be to God,' she murmured brokenly, 'it is Rody's writing! What can it mean at all?'"

The mystery was soon explained, and to the intense delight and happiness of Rody's mother and her household. For Rody had not been killed, but had injured in the railway accident, so badly injured that he lay long weeks unconscious, his life hanging in the balance. But medical skill left him, after three or four months in hospital, but his injuries were so serious, and what was better, the railway company had indemnified him for his injuries to the extent of nearly \$1,000, as an injured person in the railway accident, so badly injured that he lay long weeks unconscious, his life hanging in the balance. But medical skill left him, after three or four months in hospital, but his injuries were so serious, and what was better, the railway company had indemnified him for his injuries to the extent of nearly \$1,000, as an injured person in the railway accident, so badly injured that he lay long weeks unconscious, his life hanging in the balance. 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