

IN SPITE OF HIS BIRTH.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

The discovery of this other robbery, and the mysterious absence of the young man whom he loved as if he had been his own son, with the terrible circumstances attending it, and following so closely upon the death of his sister, proved too much for Mr. Lawson's falling constitution; and the next morning when the breakfast bell rang, he did not respond to it promptly, as was his custom.

A servant was sent to his room to call him, but receiving no answer to her rap upon the door the girl ventured to look within, whereupon she turned and ran shrieking to Mr. Heatherton that "Mr. Lawson was in a fit."

"The fit" proved to be a serious stroke of paralysis, and a physician was instantly summoned, but though every effort was made to save the man, he had no strength to rally from it, and died that afternoon.

Poor Miriam felt as if the last link which bound her to life was severed, when the final struggle was over, and she saw the physician close the eyes of him who had been so true a friend to herself and Ned.

"He has not come," Mrs. Heatherton returned, in a low, hopeless tone. A look of pain leaped into the eyes of the dying man.

"The dear Lawson is innocent," she faltered through his drawn lips—"soul of honor."

Then after a moment he added, with even greater difficulty, "Will—private—drawer—safe—Ned—to have—all."

These were his last words, and it was greatly to be regretted that Miriam had not heard them herself, as she chanced to be alone in the room with him just at that moment. In less than three hours he was dead.

When Mr. Lawson died he was performed over by Mr. Heatherton, and the man who had been such a comfort to the lonely old man, and a sun-beam in his home during the last few years of his life—these were except Thomas Heatherton, Benjamin Lawson's sister's husband, who had been notified of the death of his brother-in-law, and had come from New York to attend the funeral, and for other purposes, which will appear later.

When Mr. Lawson's physician introduced Miriam Heatherton to her proud father-in-law, the man for a moment had appeared somewhat disconcerted at the unexpected encounter; then quickly recovering himself, he bestowed a cold nod upon her, and from that moment until after Mr. Lawson was borne out of his home, utterly ignored her presence in the house, which was the only necessary to consult her upon certain arrangements regarding the services.

When all was over, Mr. Heatherton constituted himself executor of the will of Mr. Lawson's affairs, and demanded of Miriam the keys to his safe.

"As my wife was Mr. Lawson's nearest relative and legal heir, it devolves upon me to settle his estate," he remarked, in a pompous, overbearing tone, and wondered what the man would say when he should find the will of which Mr. Lawson had told her.

But she quietly replied, "I was forced and robbed only a night or two previous to Mr. Lawson's death during his absence in New York."

you, at any time, I beg you will call upon me."

"You are very kind," Miriam murmured, tremulously. "You must let me know your address when you get settled, and my wife shall come to call upon you," the clergyman continued, her pale, sad face, appealing more forcibly than the wildest manifestation of grief could have done to his kind heart.

"My address!—when I get settled!" she repeated, in a faltering tone, and with a startled look.

"Yes," her companion explained, "Mr. Heatherton thinks it will be advisable to dismiss the servants and close the house, until he can dispose of it to advantage."

"Close this—Mr. Lawson's house?" questioned Miriam putting her hand to her head with a puzzled air, as if she did not comprehend, though the shock which went through her, nearly deprived her of all her strength.

"Yes, that is what Mr. Heatherton said. By the way, is he not a relative of yours—you bear the same name," said Mr. Hall, regarding her curiously.

"He is the father of the man whom I married," she replied, with a look of pain.

But she was wondering what it could mean—this closing of the house. Mr. Lawson had told her there was a will in the safe—that Ned was to have all his property. Those had been his last words, while he had distinctly stated, during that conversation with her before his departure for New York, that he had made his will six months previous, and, saving a few bequests, Ned was to have his entire fortune.

"Knowing this, she had felt sure that Mr. Heatherton would find the will, and that, though Ned should never be heard from again, she, as his heir, would at least have a comfortable home for the future."

But Mr. Hall's words indicated that no will had been found; that Mr. Heatherton intended to take charge of Mr. Lawson's property, and that she would be thrown out homeless and alone upon the world.

The thought was torture to her. To be obliged to leave this lovely home, and all the dear familiar objects, by which she had been so long surrounded, drift back, perhaps, into poverty-stricken lodgings, such as she had occupied when Mr. Lawson had first found her—how could she bear it?

Then her occupation and its remuneration would be taken from her, and with the burden of anguish and suspense which she was suffering, for what she could do she could not do battle for herself again out in the rough world.

"Truly, it was 'hard luck' for the delicate and sensitive woman. 'Your husband's father!' the clergyman exclaimed, after an astonished pause, during which Miriam's mind had been occupied with these troubled thoughts.

meanness, or shall I assert myself and my rights?"

"She sat a long time pondering these questions, but at last she lifted her bowed head with a resolute air, while a look of determination gleamed in her usually gentle eyes."

"While I fear the worst for my dear boy," she murmured, and her face was also convulsed with agony at the thought, "there is a possibility that he still lives; that he will come back to me, and, for his sake, as well as for my own, I will battle for our mutual rights."

"If I did not know," she went on gravely, "that Mr. Lawson wished Ned to have this property, if I believed I was acting contrary to his wishes, I would not lift my hand in the matter; but he distinctly stated that Richard Heatherton should never have a dollar of his fortune, and I am sure that he really wished Ned and me to have the benefit of it. Even in the absence of the will, what he desired, since he owned so much property, should be allowed us by the law. I will read up on this 'right of dower' question before I take any decided stand and see what can be done."

"She writes under the name of Miriam Heatherton, and she heard Mr. Heatherton go up to his room, then she slipped into the library, and, after a diligent search among Lawson's law books, found a work which read up on this 'right of dower' question before I take any decided stand and see what can be done."

"Taking the book to her chamber, she read long into the night on the rights and privileges of a wife as regards her husband's property, and, before day dawned, her mind was thoroughly made up as to the course which she would pursue."

"During the breakfast hour—for Miriam did not neglect any of her duties as housekeeper, and served her guests to the best of her ability, which did not fall to impress him—Mr. Heatherton pompously remarked, as he passed his cup to be filled the second time:—

"Madam!—he never deigned to address me by her name—'as I shall be obliged to return to New York within a few days, I have decided to dismiss the servants and close the house; therefore you will oblige me by hastening your preparations, which, of course, have to make for your own departure."

Miriam's white hands trembled slightly as she poured the rich cream into his cup, but she bravely refused to let her eyes rest on his face, she responded, with apparently the utmost self-possession:—

"I do not think it will be necessary to close the house, as I have no objection to my presence here, and I am sure that you will be glad to have me."

"Her companion almost dropped the cup he was in the act of raising to his lips, in his astonishment at this reply, but he recovered himself, and, with a gentlemanly air, he said:—

"I should like to know what you have to say about the matter," her companion exclaimed, with increasing excitement.

"I have something to say about it, as you ought to know, Mr. Heatherton, if you are at all acquainted with the law," said Miriam, growing more and more determined and clear-headed every moment.

theless, the fact remains, I have, as you also know, the proofs in my possession which will produce them at any moment if required to do so. You are a business man, and you cannot fail to be aware of the fact that if my husband possesses property, she is entitled to a share of it, and no real estate can be disposed of without her sanction, your son, ruined my life when it was at its brightest. The wrong he did came back to me, and, for his sake, as well as for my own, I will battle for our mutual rights."

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WHO IS WHO IN

The following extracts from a memorandum prepared last autumn for an English friend by the Chinese reformer, Kang Yu Wei, says the London Times, will be read with interest at the present juncture.

"In order properly to comprehend the inner affairs of the Chinese Empire, the first thing needful is rightly to distinguish the different parties in the old ways; her party is known as the 'Empress' Party. The Emperor and his friends who desire reform are known as the 'Emperor's Party.' Then there is a third party known as the 'Middle Party,' which is chiefly concerned with its own interests and does not interfere in politics. Nine-tenths of the people and officials are comprised in this party."

"The Empress Dowager, notwithstanding she is the head of the ruling party, possesses few friends outside of official circles and the Yamen. Otherwise her influence is small. Her intimates are all Manchurian and dare not interfere with her command-in-chief; Kangwei, special commissioner for the collection of additional revenues from the provinces; Prince Tuan, Yuan Yu, Bvart-ku, etc. The only clever man whom she trusts is Yung Lu; the rest are densely ignorant and care for nothing but wealth and official rank. Of the high military officials, Tung-Yu-Siang belongs to the Empress' party and Yuan-Shi-Kai to the Emperor's. All the remainder may be said to belong to the middle party. Thus I am right in saying that the Empress' party are few in number, although at the moment their power is great."

"The middle party, on the other hand, is spread throughout the whole of the empire, and in their hearts of hearts devoted to the Emperor, admiring his intelligence and rectitude, and these are alarmed and angry at the Empress' usurpation. They know how ignorant she is and what a disastrous life she has led for the last thirty years, and that the weakness of China is due to her misdeeds. The high officials are too old; they sit blinking in the twilight, not daring to act, but leaving success or

failure to come, as the Empress gains the upper hand. "Ruined as the Emperor's party are, they are the real reformers, officials and people, they long for reform and new methods, but while the Empress' party hold the power they are in dread of severe punishment. At the time of the coup d'etat the Empress falsely asserted that the Emperor's party were planning revolt. She prohibited newspapers, killed and drove out hundreds of reformers, and exiled numbers of high officials to the frontiers. Six of the reformers executed were high members of the Grand Council, and one whom the Emperor had nominated to be Prime Minister; all were the Emperor's personal friends; they were beheaded without trial, while hundreds of smaller officials and thousands of the common people were proscribed. These measures were carried out in order to silence the Emperor's wings. Why were all these leading men willing to associate themselves with the reform party? The answer is that they were loyal subjects, anxious to save the Emperor's benevolence. You have only to read the Chinese newspapers, Ko-wen-pao, published in Peking; Ch-hai-pao, published at Shanghai; Ch-hai-pao, published at Macao; Ching-ni-pao, published at Yokohama; Tien-nan-pao, published at Singapore; these are all published under foreign protection and so are able to speak the truth; they one and all sympathize with the party of reform. The Japanese newspapers, all take the same view; their criticism is independent. The Empress Dowager is a licentious old woman. She is not the Emperor's real mother, and she had no hesitation in deposing him so as to retain her power. But she was wrong in taking Yung Lu's advice to depose the Emperor and place the power in his (Yung Lu's) hands. She should have got control of the northern troops. Yung Lu threw off the mask and did what he willed, and the Empress lives in constant dread of treachery on the part of her vassals."

Those Queer Chinese. White worn as mourning. Boats drawn by men. Carriages moved by sails. Old men fly kites. Hats worn as a sign of respect. Wine drunk hot. Family name comes first. The compass points to the south. Soldiers in petticoats. Flowers are mounted on the right side. Visiting cards four feet long. School children sit with their backs to the teacher. Scholars that seldom cry. A married woman when young is a slave, when old the most honored member of the family. Coffin in the reception room. Fireworks are always set off in daytime. If you offend a Chinaman he may kill himself on your doorstep to spite you.

The Chinese divide their medical prescriptions into seven classes: 1. The great prescription; 2. the little prescription; 3. the slow prescription; 4. the prompt prescription; 5. the even prescription; 6. the odd prescription; 7. the double prescription. Each of these recipes apply to particular cases, and the ingredients are weighed with scrupulous accuracy.

Bits of China. Over eleven million are exported in one year from Canton, China. The spoken language of China is not written, and the written language is not spoken. In Cochin China the parties desiring divorce break a pair of chopsticks in the presence of witnesses, and the thing is done. The Chinese have devoted themselves for nearly 4,000 years to the artificial propagation of fishes, shellfish, fowls, peacocks and spoozes. In China divorce is allowed in all cases of criminality, mutual dislike, jealousy, incompatibility of temperament, or too much loquacity on the part of the wife. If a Chinaman dies while being tried for murder the very fact of his dying is taken as evidence of his guilt. He has departed, but somebody must suffer; and his eldest son, if he has one, is sent to prison for a year. Li Hung Chang is said to head the list of the great multi-millionaires of the world, and to be worth nearly five hundred million dollars.

The Grand Trunk has submitted a proposal to the Montreal Council to raise its level, and do away with all level crossings in the city.

Very Much in Earnest. Are the People Who Testify Below to the Benefits Derived from the Use of the Famous Remedies of Dr. A. W. Chase.

Both the Recipe Book and the great family remedies of Dr. Chase attest his earnestness and sincere desire to benefit his fellow-beings. His just reward is found in the grateful appreciation of his grand work by persons who have been benefited. Here are three earnest letters:

BAD CASE OF PILES. Mr. W. E. Sheppard, travelling excursion agent, Sutton, West York County, Ont., writes: "I must send you a word of commendation for Dr. Chase's Ointment. I was badly used up with piles and in misery most of the time, when I heard of Dr. Chase's Ointment. The first application had such good results that I continued using it until thoroughly cured."

SICK HEADACHE. Mrs. Don, 350 James street north, Hamilton, Ont., says: "I have been a martyr to sick headache. Though I tried numerous remedies, none seemed to bring relief. At times I found myself on the very verge of despair. Nothing met my case. I recently procured a box of Dr. Chase's Kidney Pills, and am thankful to

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