

Continued from first page.

not shock me as the discovery of Marian's guilt had done. I felt so angry with her for her unbecomingly conduct, that my former feelings remained almost untouched. My love for the Marian of former days had not decreased one whit, but my anger with her present Marian was for the moment paramount. The child was better with her, and for the present she should keep him, for I had no idea of fetching her back. She had left me through no kindness of my own, and no wife could be justified in leaving her husband in the way Marian had left me.

I was beginning to get a little accustomed to my new bachelorhood, when one night, very late, a telegram was brought me, worded thus: "Come at once to baby."

The night train would leave in about an hour's time. I packed a few things, and started to start. In about three hours more I was conducted into the room where Marian was sitting with our little one lying in her lap, struggling hard for life. Some medical man was always there, but he was doing nothing, and I stood at Marian's knee, watching for the approach of some favorable symptom. Only once Marian spoke, and then it was to ask me, with blanched face and faltering lips, if there was any hope. "To the last moment," I answered, and she was relieved at once, hardly comprehending from my words how false that hope was.

Presently the struggles grew more frequent; gradually the almost lifeless limbs became imbued with fresh vigor, her face relaxed, the gaps for breath became more numerous, and with a mighty effort nature asserted her way. In short time baby was breathing peacefully, Marian's hands, wrapped in a sweet, life-giving slumber.

When he was laid in his cot, his mother turned to me and said, pathetically, "O Harold! I wish you were near death, and you far away, I could not help seeing how wicked I had been to leave you as I did. Will you forgive me, dear, and take me back, for baby's sake?"

I could only kiss her and press her to my heart. After a while I said, "It was only those words, 'Will you forgive me?' that I wanted. If you would have spoken them sooner, we need not have parted."

"O Harold! how can you? It was not that I was asking you to forgive me, but my infidelity in leaving you. I am as innocent of taking that wicked woman as my own child. Won't you believe me?"

"I was so horrified at your own suspicion, that I fancied it was beneath my dignity. I cannot understand what stand that could have prompted you to think such a dreadful thing of me. As I was beginning to wonder, too, how I could have suspected my own Marian. Circumstances and my mother were more to blame than I, however, and I am answer, I murmured, something about Frank.

"Al, that letter to Frank—I remember it. You were always so kind to me. He really had been trying to keep on his feet, but old debts were constantly coming in, and his limited salary would not meet them, and keep him and wife and child. I was so poor and despondent, and he was so kind, that I was almost ready to leave him, but I could not. He wrote again, and I begged him not to do so, so he was sure his employers would think it a bad sign. The man threatened to expose me, and I was so afraid of the which you know might have ruined him with them. I resolved to help him this once, and in order to do so, sold my diamond brooch, which I had had since I was a child, and he was obliged to leave the place and go to another.

"Thus, he continued a 'rolling stone' all his life, never gaining the respect or confidence of anyone, until, in old age, he failed at everybody and when he died, still poor and despondent, even his relatives were glad.

"The moral of our story is one which you should remember. They should be careful to avoid pilfering when they are setting out in life; they should learn to be diligent in saving their money, and if they are given situations in stores, they should never appropriate anything there to their own use without paying therefor in money; they should be grateful to those who appear them, when they might invoke the aid of law to punish them; they should never allow themselves to be hired to slander anyone and especially those who have been their benefactors, and if they have ever disgraced themselves, they should be humble and refrain from slandering good and honest people, lest they be made ashamed by being reminded of their own dishonor.

"O Harold! I will be so happy again now that I've told you the whole story, and I'm so glad that you've forgiven me, when all the time you had stolen your own money!"

sinister expression of countenance, which was rendered the more disagreeable by his eyes being unusually close together and quite roving, denoting weak moral perceptions.

At last, went to a place where a merchant was judged, through charitable motives, to give him employment in his store, but his former habits and practices got the mastery over him and the merchant was obliged to discharge him.

Although he owed the merchant over a hundred pounds for food and clothing for his family—who were taught to be extravagant—besides having shown himself to be untrustworthy, the merchant did not demand payment or seek to get him over in other respects, but let the stranger go and told him he would be lenient with him until he could pay.

In the same town there was another merchant who had lived there a good while, and did a large milling and general business and at one time was by far the largest merchant of the place.

It had been his habit not to pay those who worked for him in money, but to give them pieces of paper which the amount due to various and not written, payable in gold at his store.

This old merchant was jealous of the good merchant who had employed the stranger. He had once tried to prevent the good merchant from succeeding in his business because he saw that he was in the habit of paying his workmen in money, though he sold them goods also, if they liked to buy from him, which most of them did.

Another reason why the old merchant disliked the other was because the latter was intelligent, educated, and a Christian, which made people like him, while they disliked the other because he did not treat others like a good Christian ought to do. He had also endeavored, unsuccessfully, to induce the good merchant to combine with him to prevent other merchants from coming from abroad and establishing themselves in business in the same town.

So the good merchant continued to prosper. At last the other merchant thought him of a way to injure his rival. To do this, he sought out the stranger who had been dismissed by the good merchant and placed him in charge of a newspaper.

By this time the fellow had, by making great professions as a good Christian and temperance man, risen from his former low position, and clergymen and other interested themselves in him with the hope of reforming him.

But he soon, under the direction of the old envious merchant, began to show that his heart was wicked, and his tastes as low as ever. He published wicked things about his former benefactor, in the form of a letter, signed "Play fair"—saying he oppressed the poor, when he knew the old merchant had been kind to him as a poor man. He also denounced him, saying he tried to keep strangers from coming to the place and competing with him in business, when everybody knew that was exactly what the old merchant was so wicked, had done.

He also tried to set the working people belonging to the place against the good merchant by publishing that he was encouraging strange workmen to come into the town and cut down wages and also by charging the highest rates for goods which his own people were compelled to buy from him.

It was, however, known that, only a short time before, the wicked old man had gone to the other merchant and asked him to pay out any money to the mill-men or persons loading ships with lumber; so that he could do the same thing. It was also known that he had given orders by which strangers were not to be employed in his business, because they were to be paid in money, while he would not employ any workmen who would not take their payment in goods. After a time the wicked old merchant found on account of his envious and vindictive acts and especially because he had hired the bad character of whom we first spoke—the man with the eagle on his conscience and the deep-sea eye close together—to slander the other merchant.

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