

Love & Conqueror —OR— WEDDED AT LAST.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

"Miss Madge is such a kind young lady," Mrs. Ford resumed—she was never weary of singing her young lady's praises—"and that thoughtful and considerate! And she's so gay and bright that, to see her coming along the road smiling at one is as good as a ray of sunshine on a winter day."

"She is very good and sweet and pretty," Shirley answered in a tone of such heartfelt gratitude that it pleased Mrs. Ford, and she continued—

"And, although they have a visitor at the Hall, she was down here the first thing to know how you were. She says you have the loveliest face she ever saw," she went on, with an approving glance at Shirley, which at any other time would have made her smile. "She's not a bit stuck-up isn't Miss Madge. The gentleman who is visiting at the Hall is courting her, Collins says—Collins is Miss Madge's maid—and, although I think him much too old and grave for Miss Madge, I can't help saying that he's a fine man and a real gentleman—and he seems that fond of Miss Madge that he worships the ground she walks on."

"He will be a very fortunate man to win such a wife," Shirley said gently. "Miss Madge deserves to be happy."

"Ay, that she does!" was the warm answer. "Besides, she is a great heiress is Miss Madge. Sir Frederick's property does not go to his male relations; it will all go to Miss Madge. But it is not her property this gentleman wants, for they say he is as rich as a Jew. At the same time, continued Mrs. Ford, in a lower tone "I should not give him Miss Madge if I were the squire."

"Why not?" Shirley asked absent ly.

"My reasons is good ones," Mrs. Ford answered, rather mysteriously. "But I keep them to myself. However, Sir Frederick is the best judge after all. You'll see him presently Mrs.—Mrs.—"

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BEFORE FEEDING ON VIROL. Flat smooch of the blood under a most powerful microscope, showing that the rod-like germs have not been attacked by the "soldier" cells.



AFTER FEEDING ON VIROL. Photograph of the blood under a most powerful microscope, showing that the "soldier" cells have absorbed the rod-like germs.

AFTER FEEDING ON VIROL. Photograph of the blood under a most powerful microscope, showing that the "soldier" cells have absorbed the rod-like germs.



The White "soldier" cells have absorbed nearly all the germs, which they then destroy.

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TABLE OF RESULTS

Duration of feeding with VIROL.	Average number of germs absorbed in 15 minutes by each soldier cell.
0 weeks	11
2 "	13
6 "	1.5
9 "	53
12 "	43

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and her ladyship; and Miss Madge is coming back this way."

"I shall be glad to have an opportunity of thanking her," Shirley said gently; and Mrs. Ford left her by the window.

Presently the quick trot of Miss Oliphant's ponies was heard, and the pretty dainty little carriage appeared in sight. Madge was driving, as usual, and she was turning her fair face backward to look at a gentleman in the back seat, who was bending toward her and smiling at something she was saying to him—a tall man with a gray haggard face, whom Shirley recognized at once. Miss Oliphant's suitor was Guy Stuart!

CHAPTER XL.

For a moment Shirley sat watching the approaching vehicle, taking in clearly the tenderness in Guy Stuart's face as he bent toward Madge Oliphant, the bright smile on the girl's fair face, and the quiet pleasure on her mother's; then, with quick frightened steps, she ran up the little narrow stairs and into the room where she had slept, bolting the door behind her in a paroxysm of terror.

yet to go out once more into the world to face the same misery again! How could she? Ah, why had they saved her for this? Why had they not let her die by the road-side? I would have been kinder! The death pang would have been over now; and what had life for her that she should cling to it?

Composing herself somewhat by a strong effort of will, she stood waiting, wondering what was coming next. She heard Mrs. Ford's exclamation of surprise as she entered the little sitting-room to greet her visitors, and Madge Oliphant's bright voice mingling with the deep rich tones she knew so well, and which thrilled her through and through even now. Then she heard the pony-carriage move on into the park, and she peeped out of the window. Guy had taken Madge's place and was driving away; and Shirley sank down by the window sill, holding it with trembling little fingers, utterly un-

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nerved at her narrow escape from discovery. A light knock at the door made her start up; and when she opened it, Madge was standing on a little landing, such a pretty picture of youth and happiness and beauty, in her lacy white dress and azure-blue ribbons, that Shirley's eyes brightened at sight of her.

"May I come in? Nurse told me that you must have only just come up," she said in her bright girlish voice. "You are better? I am so glad!" She had taken Shirley's hand with a pretty pleasant cordiality and drew her toward the window, where the light would fall upon her, looking at her with gentle compassionate eyes. "Yes, you are better; but you are very pale still. I shall not be quite happy until I see you growing roses like mine. Tell me, are you feeling stronger?"

"Much stronger," Shirley answered, in her sweet unsteady voice, whose low pathetic tones contrasted so greatly with Madge Oliphant's bright voice as the frail slender woman in black, with the white face and weary eyes, contrasted with the bright golden-haired girl in her embroidery and azure-blue ribbons. "Much stronger!" Madge repeated smiling. "I am afraid not much; still I think you are better. You had such a nice long sleep, it ought to have done you good."

As she spoke she had gently forced Shirley to sit down on the low window seat, and still keeping Shirley's hand in hers, she knelt down by her side. There was a brief silence, which Shirley broke by trying to return a few words of thanks for the kindness she had received; but Miss Oliphant stopped her at once.

"I don't think you want to hurt me," she said, with a gentle seriousness which sat charmingly on the sweet young face; "but you will do it if you talk in that strain. Mamma and I were so pleased to be of service to you," she added wistfully, wishing his beautiful stranger would be a little confiding, and tell her what the dreadful trouble was that was looking out of the great sad eyes and trembling on the sweet lips.

"You have been very good," Shirley answered gently, as she caught the pretty fingers and pressed them to her lips.

"And you are very naughty," Madge said shyly, coloring all over her sweet face, as if the caress had come from bearded lips instead of from a woman's mouth; "and I would scold you, only you see you are fit for nothing but to be petted now."

With a pretty shy grace she put her charming face down on Shirley's hands and left a soft kiss there. When she lifted her head she took the slender wasted hands and caressed them softly.

"Such thin fingers!" she said smiling. "I must see them much plumper than that before I let you leave us—although," she added eagerly, coloring a little, "mamma and I both hope you mean to stay with us."

"You are very good," Shirley answered tremulously, "but—you see—I must find something to do, and—"

"Oh, I am so glad!" burst out impulsively Madge. "I was afraid you were not—I mean that I feared you were not obliged—I am very stupid at expressing myself," she said laughingly, "but indeed I am selfish enough to be glad that you want work, because now we shall keep you here!"

"But," Shirley began unsteadily. "But me no buts!" said Madge brightly. "You must not try to oppose me, Mrs. Grant. I have set my mind on keeping you here, and here you will stay, because I am a spoiled child, and I always have my own way. And this bright sweet air will make you quite strong again."

Shirley shook her head sorrowfully. How could she stay where she ran daily risk of meeting Guy? And yet whither could she go?

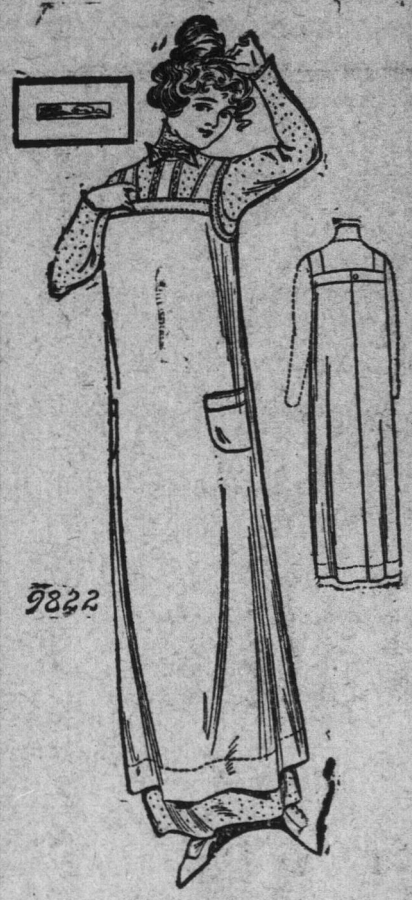
"Why are you shaking your head?" Madge asked imperatively. "There's not the least use in trying to resist me. You're not strong enough for anything—you must rest for ten days or a fortnight. I have taken possession of you to pet and nurse; when you are quite yourself, you shall hear our plans for you."

(To be continued.)

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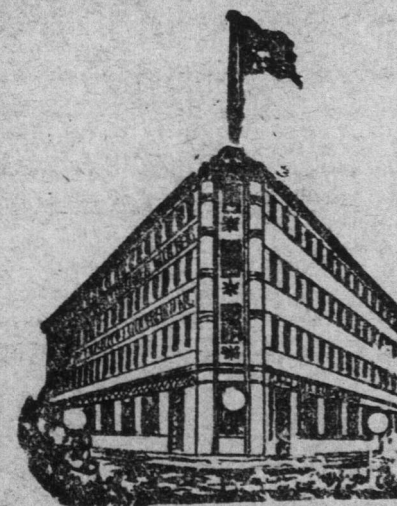
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