

UNSTEADY NERVES

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IN THE TOILS; But Happiness Comes at Last.

CHAPTER IX. SISTERS BY ADOPTION.

She stretched out her arms as she spoke, and her voice changed suddenly.

"Oh, my dear," she exclaimed, her eyes glistening. "Don't you see how jolly I am, and how I snatch at the chance of winning one heart to share my solitude? Cannot you understand, you that have a history of your own, that I have more to be grateful than you for the chance that threw us together? Olive, they say that there is no friendship between women; let us prove that a bitter lie! You are alone in the world, and so am I—but for John. Let us be friends!"

Olive hid her face in the warm, loving bosom.

"You give all," she said. "It is I who take everything."

"Give me your love," was the answer.

Then she started suddenly, and looked at her watch anxiously.

"Come, dear; we understand each other at last! I can hear John tramping up and down the path, and there's the brougham. There, put the shawl on you, and a dower—well, if you would rather not. Let me look at you. Gracious, child! I have a most dangerously handsome sister! And, with her arm round Olive's waist, they went downstairs.

When they had started, Katrine leaned forward, with a curious smile.

"Do you feel strong?"

"Yes, very," said Olive.

"You do not ask which theater we are going to?"

Olive smiled.

"You see," she said, "I have not much curiosity."

"You are a wonderful woman in that respect," said Katrine. "Well, we are going to the Boudoir. What do you say to that? Do you know it?"

"No," said Olive; "I have never been to that theater in my life."

"What!" almost screamed Katrine Haldine, with ludicrous dismay; "do you hear that, John?"

John rubbed his hands, and laughed boisterously.

"No," said Olive, "I have never been, though I have often dreamed about it, and longed to go."

"You have never seen 'Hamlet,' 'Macbeth'—"

"No; but I have read them, and a

great many plays, old and new," said Olive. "I think," she added, with a faint smile, "that I can repeat almost the whole of some of them."

Katrine laughed rather strangely.

"You are a singular girl!" she said. "Singular! Singular! And you have no idea what a theater is like?"

Olive thought a moment.

"Yes, I have a faint idea," she replied, "because I have read, eagerly, any descriptions I have come across, and I have seen illustrations in the papers. One time," she added pensively, "I should have been almost mad at the thought of going; as it is, I feel—well—excited."

Katrine looked as if amazed.

"Where have you been all your life?" she said; then stopped abruptly, with a little frown at her own thoughtlessness. "Well, well!" she exclaimed; "I wish I could feel your sweetness to-night. I remember the first time I saw a play; I wonder," she continued abruptly, "whether it will have the same effect upon you?"

"I cannot say," said Olive. "What is the play to-night?"

"Macbeth," said John, for Katrine looked at him to answer.

"Macbeth!" said Olive. "I am glad of that—very glad. It is one of my favorites."

"I hope you will enjoy it," said Katrine. "You must tell me what you think of it."

"Ah!" said Olive, "I had almost forgotten that you were not coming with us. I am so sorry—" and she smothered a sigh.

"Don't think of me," said Katrine; "I have seen it several times. Besides, I am going to the theater with you. I shall leave you and John comfortably settled in the box, and come for you before it is time to go—I shall be quite anxious to hear an account of it. Your first play? My dear, I envy you!"

Olive laughed softly—it was the first time for many a day, and the sound awakened so many memories, that, half started, she drew back into the shadow.

"Here we are!" said Katrine, as the brougham drew up at the entrance of the Boudoir. "Now, dear, you mustn't be disappointed because the house is small. The Boudoir is not one of the large theaters, but it is one of the most fashionable, and you will see 'Macbeth' played as well as it can be played in the present degenerate days."

As she spoke, she threw Olive's shawl round her, so that it almost hid her face; John jumped out, and they hurried up the brilliantly lighted entrance, up the stairs, and into a private box. It was the stage box, and Katrine, carefully drawing aside the curtain nearest the stage, beckoned Olive to peep from behind the other.

Presently Macbeth entered. Olive trembled and started as the stalwart, commanding figure of the actor, clad in mail, strode down to the boards. John leaned forward, with his hat hand up to his lips to hide a yawn.

"That is Glover," he said, in a whisper.

Olive started, and came back to earth again.

"Glover?" she said.

John nodded.

"Yes, Macbeth, you know. He plays it very well, sister says."

"Oh, hush—hush!" murmured Olive, leaning forward to catch every word of the deep, musical voice.

A round of applause had welcomed the popular actor, and Banquo, also. The play was well cast, the scenery and appointments worthy of the Boudoir, and that was saying a great deal. Everything went on smoothly as oil; and Olive, breathless and pale with excitement, leaned forward, wrapped in the piece.

Scene V. Macbeth's castle, beautifully and cleverly arranged, came in due course, and was greeted with warm cordiality; but suddenly—so suddenly—that it made Olive start, the applause grew louder as Lady Macbeth appeared. It grew deafening as she walked down the stage—glided, rather—with the letter in her hand; and culminated in a terrific burst of welcome as the first few words fell clear and resonant from her lips.

White and trembling with excitement, Olive almost started to her feet. Lady Macbeth! Lady Macbeth! Yes, she had learned about the character, knew every word of it. Had pictured the woman in her mind's eye many a time, in the old days when she was stitching in the old cottage at Hawthorpe, and again when she sat in that dreadful room at St. John's Wood watching for him! And now she was here before her eyes. Here was Lady Macbeth at last! And yet, something stranger—still. As Lady Macbeth came down toward the footlights with the letter in her hand, she raised her face and looked toward the box, toward Olive herself. And Olive, with a great throb of the heart, felt that either she had gone mad, or that Lady Macbeth was none other than the mysterious sempstress and friend, her now sister by adoption—Katrine Haldine!

(To be continued.)

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Fads and Fashions.

Laghora hats will be worn. Suit skirts are rather short. Collars for spring are small. Vests are seen in everything. Velveteen continues in high favor. Novel silk gloves are two-toned. Capes are replacing suit jackets. One-sided trimmings are in vogue. The Directoire type is seen in some new spring suits.

The tunic is becoming to both slender and stout women.

White wool jersey makes the prettiest of sports suits.

Some of the new skirts are shorter in front than back.

Severe shirtwaists are coming to be known as service waists.

Chenille embroidery is a good trimming for a valour dress.

Many suit coats have big stock collars with low open fronts.

The fan claims an important place in the woman's toilette.

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Fashion Plates.

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Waist—2308. Skirt—2291.

For a practical, serviceable costume you will find a good combination in Ladies' Waist Pattern 2308, and Ladies' Skirt Pattern 2291. The waist of linen, satin or crepe, and the skirt of serge, duvety, Jersey cloth, broadcloth, shepherd check or plaid suiting. The waist pattern is cut in 7 sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. It will require 3 yards of 36-inch material for a medium size. The skirt is cut in 7 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 inches waist measure. Size 24 requires 3 yards of 44-inch material. It measures about 2 1/2 yards at the foot.

This illustration calls for TWO separate patterns, which will be mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents FOR EACH pattern, in silver or stamps.

A SIMPLE POPULAR STYLE.



2159—Dress for Misses and Small Women.

Linen, gingham, silk, crepe, bordered or embroidered material, serge, Jersey cloth, foulard and gabardine are nice for this style. The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. It requires 5 1/2 yards of 44-inch material for a 16-year size. The skirt measures about 2 1/2 yards at the foot.

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Before the war the economical and diligent housewife would buy piece goods and remnants and save money by plying her needle to make garments for herself and her family. White Goods in the piece to-day are difficult to get, and in most cases there seems to be no limit to prices, excepting the blue sky. At the moment we are offering Ladies' White Garments away below in price anything that the cleverest needlewoman could make from to-day's materials, and our prices for these goods are in every case as low or lower than those of any firm in the city. But some day they will have to advance fifty per cent. upon the arrival of newer stocks.

BUY NOW—Our Prices Shout Immediate Action.

- We are practically giving away Ladies' White Embroidered Camisoles, at 25c, 35c, 45c, 50c and upwards.
 - Ladies' White Cambric Knickers at 60c, 70c, 75c and upwards.
 - Ladies' White Embroidered Undershirts at 60c, 60c, 70c, 80c, 95c, \$1.00 and upwards.
 - No! We didn't steal this lot of Skirts. Some of them perhaps are a bit narrow in the width, but then the price is a very narrow one.
 - Ladies' White Emb'd Princess Undershirts at \$1.00, \$1.20, \$1.45, \$1.65 and upwards.
 - Ladies' White Embroidered Night Dresses at 85c, \$1.20, \$1.40, \$1.50, \$1.60 and upwards.
 - Ladies' Combinations and Chemises appear to be gaining in popularity, and we can show a very special assortment of dainty goods in these.
 - All the above goods are made from White Cambrics and Longcloths, but we can give you all of them in White Flannelette also at very low prices.
 - Although we are most enthusiastic about our philanthropic prices for Ladies' White Wear, we can give you a few specials in White Goods in the piece. We are showing:
 - White Embroidery Cambrics (or Madapolams) 37 inches wide, at 22c, 32c and 37c. per yard.
 - White Organdy Muslins and Irish Linons at pre-war prices.
 - White Middy Twill for making Middy Blouses, Dresses, etc., 34 inches wide, only 27c. yard.
- This is very strong and we have even sold some of this for boat's sails, as it has been so difficult to obtain the proper boat sail Drills. But we warn all fishermen to tie up such sails securely at night or in the morning they may find a blouse length cut off.

We have also A lot of White Mercerised or Satin Drills and Jeans in Remnants, averaging 30c. yard.

These will wear forever and can be used for multitudinous purposes, as many of the ends match one another. We suggest Ladies' and Misses White Skirts, Jumper Blouses and Coats, Little Boys' Suits, Blouses and Pants, Barbers' and Grocers' Coats, Painters' Overalls.

We have some other White materials that are good values; but we have such small quantities we are not mentioning them, as only the early buyers will get them. Our stock of

White Curtain Scrims

is second to none in town. They are the very latest styles, lace and guipure edged, and will appeal to the most fastidious.

While this Sale continues we shall be looking out and offering many other White Goods which we cannot mention here, but which you will find all good values.

HENRY BLAIR.

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EARLY MESS

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, Feb. 21. (Official.)—Yesterday our advance force of Jerusalem was resumed despite heavy rainstorms and moving through difficult country in which the enemy offered obstinate resistance. Our troops made progress to the extent of three and one-half miles on a stage of about seven and three-quarter miles within four miles of Becho. At the same time our line was advanced to the northwest of Jerusalem in the sector west of the Jerusalem-Nubus road to a maximum depth of one mile on a front of 12 miles. Co-operating with this advance our air service made effective bombing attacks against enemy depots and depots on the left bank of Jordan about Shunet-Nimrin, ten and a half miles east-northeast of Becho. Our losses in the operations Tuesday were very slight. Those Wednesday have not yet been reported. The operations are continuing.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

BERLIN, Feb. 21. (Official.)—Eastern War Theatre. Our Group of General von Ercheim's regiments from Moscow. It had crossed the frozen Sound and reached into Esthonia and occupied it. In the march along the Gulf of Riga, through Pernigal and Lemnau, there was fighting for a short time, in which 500 prisoners and 20 guns were taken. Our troops marched through Wenden and are now between Wilmnar. Between Drinsk and the Army Group of General von Finckenstein. The movement continues along the whole front. Important railway road junctions have been occupied. Rovno has been cleared of the enemy. It is impossible to give an approximate estimate of the body of troops following several divisions of commanders, 425 officers, and 100,000 men, 1,353 guns, 120 motor cars, 4,000 to 5,000 motor cars, with about 1,000 cars, many of which were laden with food, airplanes and an incalculable amount of other material.

BRITISH AIR SERVICE.

LONDON, Feb. 21. (The Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Six children were killed and 100 destroyed in the West front. Hon. Sir J. B. Baird, Parliamentary Secretary for the Air Board, mentions that in

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