

forbearance urged her to make this sacrifice as some reparation for the great wrong she had done him. Hilda was waking up to her duties as a Christian. Though separated from Dudley—though still feeling an unconquerable reluctance to acknowledge him her husband—she knew she was, nevertheless, his wife, and as such she ought no longer to encourage or accept the love of Sir Gervase. She did not come to this conclusion willingly. It was not until she had been fully aroused by the long power of conscience fully aroused by the religious teaching of Mr. Tyndall. She had never before been brought under such holy influences. Seeing her conduct now in a new and clearer light, she acknowledged to herself how inexcusable, how culpable it had been. She, therefore, determined to make her humiliating confession to Sir Gervase, to inform him of her marriage—nothing else she knew would be considered a sufficient reason for his dismissal. And how would he receive this startling communication? In his just indignation at the deception practised him, would he not despise her? How that thought troubled her—the loss of his esteem! If she could retain that—even if his love were given to another—she felt she could more patiently endure their life-long separation.

In accordance, therefore, with this resolve, she wrote to Sir Gervase, acquainting him with her unhappy marriage, and explaining the peculiar circumstances that had induced her to sacrifice her happiness on the altar of filial love. The letter was a sad one, stained with the tears of the unhappy writer. The effect it had on Sir Gervase can be better imagined than described. He was alone strolling along the beach, smoking a cigar, when it was put into his hands by Evelyn. He was thinking anxious thoughts of Hilda—whose altered manner pained him inexpressively—as he listened to the monotonous dash of the waves against the rocks, which melancholy sound was in accordance with his feelings. A glorious sunset was flooding the waters of the Bay with crimson light and touching with brilliant tints the wild features of the coast. But the Baron's eye wandered with indifference over the scene, his mind being painfully occupied. The golden light lit up the picturesque-looking figure of the old nurse as she approached, and with a lowly reverence presented Hilda's letter. Sir Gervase staggered as if he had received a sudden blow when his eye glanced over the first lines. Leaning for support against a cliff he read it through, feeling like one in a dream. What a revelation for one who loved as he did! Those terrible words—"I am married,"—how they burned themselves into his brain. For a time he could not realize it—that Hilda should be a wife lost to him forever, seemed incredible! Again and again he perused that tear-stained letter. Gradually the agonizing truth fixed itself on his mind—the terrible conviction buried itself in his heart. And then the strong man gave way to his anguish, and in the solitude of the rocky beach he wept such tears as men seldom shed—tears that speak unutterable woe. The inconsistency, the caprice of Hilda's conduct was now explained. The conflict in her heart—the despairing anguish of that look which had so startled him the evening of his arrival at Innismoyne—he saw it all plainly now! Was there resentment, anger that he had been deceived, encouraged when there was no hope? No; the passionate attachment he knew she felt for himself palliated all that in his eyes. Poor Hilda! sacrificing herself to save a mother from destitution, what had she not endured! How had her young life been blighted! And now she too was suffering and must still suffer. In his deep love and compassion how he wished that he alone might bear this agony of their separation! For hours the unhappy man paced the lonely beach, hid from observation by the shades of night which had fallen upon the wild scenery around him. To leave Innismoyne immediately he resolved. The wish to see Hilda once more was strong within him, but he felt that for both their sakes it was better he should not. He contented himself, therefore, by writing her an almost incoherent letter, expressing his great grief, and declaring that henceforth without her his life would be desolate—his happiness a wreck.

By the midnight train he left Innismoyne, and proceeding directly to Cork, embarked for Canada, seeking in change of scene some alleviation to the misery his great disappointment caused him.

Hilda too, in the solitude of Innismoyne, was struggling with her grief, schooling her heart to endure patiently her separation from Sir Gervase. In ministering to the wants of the poor in the vicinity of Colonel Godfrey's residence, she sought to banish wild regret. That duty, with the daily one of devoting herself to her grandfather, whose health was failing, occupied her time and blunted in some degree the poignancy of her grief.

Winter had come and gone, the short but disagreeable winter in the British Isles. How unfavorably did it contrast, Hilda thought, with the winter in Canada! The steady though severe cold, the bracing frosty air, the pure glistening snow, the bright sunshine and azure skies of the one, were preferable in her opi-

nion to the frequent rain, the mud, the fog, the gloom of the other.

And now Spring had come, that charming season in the old country when nature, waking up from the wintry sleep of desolation, puts on her robes of vivid green and clothes the earth with verdure.

It was at this period that the health of Colonel Godfrey was seen to decline rapidly, and when the summer sun began to gladden the earth with its light and heat he passed from the home of his ancestors and was laid in the last resting-place of the Godfreys in the crypt of the church among the mountains at Innismoyne. This sad event made it necessary for Hilda once more to change her residence and she prepared to return to Canada. Her uncle's home in Montreal would again become hers, but for the future she would be independent, Colonel Godfrey having left her in his will the fortune that would have been her mother's had she married with his consent.

To be continued.

The Daily News correspondent before Metz reports a good story told at a birth-day party in camp:—"The talk fell once upon the causes of the French defeats, and after various explanations had been started, a sententious premier-lieutenant, who had not previously opened his mouth, struck in with this original illustration, and very sound theory—"The chief rabbi of the Dantzic Jews had taken a new house, and his flock determined to stock his wine butt for him. An evening was set apart for the affair, and one after another the Jews went down into the cellar and emptied each a bottle in the big vat. When the rabbi came next to draw off his dinner wine he found there was nothing in the cask but water. Each and every Jew had said to himself that one bottle of water could never be noticed in so great a quantity of wine, and all acting up to this, the rabbi had not got a drop of wine in his butt. Now it was just the same with the French Army. One soldier said to himself that it would not matter a copper if he sneaked away, in so great a multitude he would not be missed. But the devil of it was that one and all took this line of reasoning, and the result was that nobody was left to look battalions in the face."

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