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**"Flowers of the Valley,"**

OR  
**MABEL HOWARD, OF THE LYRIC.**

**CHAPTER V.**

The woman's hands crossed again. "You may be made to go," she said in a low voice.

He threw his head back, and looked at her with an insolent stare. "Sohl and silver—to his daughter. As! she is one of the great ladies of the land. He is proud, she is proud. They hold their heads so high—bah!—as high as princes, and yet with a word, one little word from Baptiste here, your humble servant and old friend whom you threaten—oh, shame, Felice!—with one word this insignificant Baptiste could bring that proud girl's face to the dust!—to the dust! And you would compel me to do this, Felice? You, who I know love her so very truly? You would force me to say to the world, 'This great young lady, the beautiful daughter of Godfrey Knighton, is—'"

With a spring the woman was upon him, and her hand upon his lips. He seized it, kissed it with mock gallantry, and flung it aside, laughing long and softly.

**CONVINCING PROOF**

That Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Has Extraordinary Healing Power in Cases of Women's Ailments

Columbus, O.—"I suffered very much pain during my periods and felt weak and all run down. I tried many remedies and the doctor said I would have to have an operation. Then before my baby was born I had terrible pains in my sides. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and it helped me wonderfully. I have had two children since I began taking your medicine and did all of my own work including washing. You may see this letter as a testimonial if you wish."—Mrs. THOMAS L. CANNON, 904 Westwood St., Columbus, Ohio.

Such a condition as Mrs. Christy's is pointed directly to a deranged condition of a woman's system, and by following her example taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, women may be relieved from such ailments and be restored to normal health and strength just as she was. If there is anything about your condition you do not understand write Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass., about your health.

"Try those patties," said Godfrey Knighton. "Give the signor some, Iris."

The signor took some of the proffered dish, and smiled off again.

When he was not launching out in praise of the Rosetta and Iris, he could be extremely enough, and Iris, though her dislike to the man grew each minute, could not help admitting that he was a most amusing companion.

With the exception of England, he seemed to have been all over Europe, and anecdotes after anecdotes flowed from his lips; but though he smiled occasionally, Godfrey Knighton sat stern and grim, and silent, apparently not listening to the flood of talk that poured from the nervous Italian.

When breakfast was over, Iris got up and went to her own room, the signor opening the door for her, and bowing low. Then Godfrey Knighton looked up, and spoke for the first time. "Have you thought over what I said last night, Ricardo?" he said sternly. "Will you name your price, take your money and—go?"

"Tut, tut!" said the signor. "Once for all, my dear Knighton, I don't mean going yet! You pain, you shock me, by your want of hospitality! Peste! why, I have only been here a few hours! And you would drive me from your door like a—dog!"

"I would!" said the signor. "I would!"

The signor showed his teeth in a smile.

"But there are some obstinate dogs who will not be driven, and I'm one of them, Knighton! Now, come," and he laid his white hand on the squire's arm, which was withdrawn instantly; "make your mind at rest! Though I am here, I am not going to be a—what you call it?—a nuisance! Salads and angels, no! Baptiste Ricardo is a gentleman, a man of honor! What are you afraid of, my friend? Tut! deal fairly with me and I will deal fairly with you! And now that is settled," he went on, with a wave of his hands as if he had disposed of the subject in the most satisfactory manner. "And now you ask me, naturally, what I am going to do with myself this fine, this glorious morning! Well, I will tell you—I will borrow one of your admirable horses, and I will take a little ride out into the surrounding vicinity; I want to see more of your charming country. You shall lend me a quiet steed—oh, I know you will do that! You would not risk your dear friend's neck with a vicious animal, no, no!" and he grinned; "and I will just go on my travels, returning in time for your dinner. How does that suit my dear friend?"

"If you will not go altogether," replied Godfrey Knighton grimly, "I will ask of you to let me see as little of you as possible!"

"Good—my noblest but not too amiable friend!" retorted the signor; "and now, have you a few loose gold coins jingling in your pockets? I have, alas, nothing but a thousand pound note on the Bank of Italy, and I fear I shan't be able to get it changed," and with a grin he followed the squire into the library.

Godfrey Knighton gave him twenty pounds in gold, he would have given a larger sum to have got rid of him altogether; and the signor went down to the stable, creating much astonishment among the grooms by demanding an "amiable" horse.

"Think we'd better get him one from the laundry, what we hang the clothes on," grumbled the old coachman, eyeing the signor's rusty velvet coat and general foreign get-up with profound and truly British disgust.

But the signor rather astonished them by getting into the saddle in a proper fashion, and riding out of the yard, not only without tumbling off, but as he had been in the stirrups several times before.

In the very best of humors, and twenty sovereigns clinking in his pocket, the signor rode along, cheerfully humming a drinking song, and puffing at a cigarette.

(To be continued.)

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**THE POORHOUSE WAY.**

The price of things is higher than it should rightly be, and oft we hear the buyer exclaiming, "Hully o h e e!" They say that hides are cheaper—so cheap the growers lose it; but oh, the weary weeper who buys a pair of shoes! We cannot scrape together the coin to buy a pair of shoes of honest leather, such as we used to wear; and so in shoes of paper, for which we roundly pay, all dreadfully we caper along the poorhouse way. Oh why are things of leather still priced to break the heart, when hide of steer and wether are cheap, in every market! And cotton has been selling so ruinously low we heard the growers falling and walling in their woe. But goods composed of cotton, the things we had to buy, as you have not forgotten, were always beastly high. Conditions are not cheating, to one who's spent his wad; the hogs are profiteering, the swine are still abroad. Reduced are pins and buckles, and carpet tacks and nails, but when I'd buy brass knuckles the war price still prevails. Silk shirts, of blinding splendor, are lower than of yore, but when I'd buy suspenders, they're dearer than before. Oh, many things seem rotten, and few seem good and gay, as, in my shoes of cotton, I tread the poorhouse way.

**Fashion Plates.**

A SMART FROCK FOR THE GROWING GIRL.



Pattern 3724 is shown in this illustration. It is cut in 2 sizes: 12, 14 and 16 years. A 12 year size will require 6 yards of 27 inch material. As here shown, figured crepe and plain voile are combined for which it will require 1 1/2 yard of plain and 4 1/2 yards of figured material. The sleeve may be in wrist or elbow length. Gingham, foulard, satin, linen, taffeta, tricotette, duresay and serge are good for this design. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. in silver or stamps.

A PRETTY FROCK FOR THE LITTLE MISS.



Pattern 3722 is illustrated here. It is cut in 4 sizes: 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. An 8 year size will require 2 1/2 yards of 36 inch material. Yodie, patsen, challis, cretonne, seabardine, batiste, dotted Swiss, organdy, silk and crepe are all good for this style. The sleeve may be in wrist or elbow length. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. in silver or stamps.

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