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At the Eleventh Hour!

CHAPTER IX.

Man's Head and Woman's Heart.

(Continued.)

'I write this with deep reluctance, for I am aware that it will be a cruel blow to your heart. Besides, I realize that his guilt means defeat to my party in the next gubernatorial contest. It is too late for the party to put up another candidate, and the opposition will carry the State with such a majority as must being a blush of shame to the cheek of every Democrat in the land.

'Stephen Belcourt is surely guilty of the crime of murder, and must surely be convicted at his trial, which begins, I learn, on the third day of November. The evidence against him is so conclusive that the trial is not likely to occupy more than three days How terrible to think that on the sixth of November—that day when he had hoped to be elected to the highest office in this State—he should be convicted of a murder most foul and cowardly—the taking of a feeble woman's life!

'Put him outside the pale of your thoughts and sympathies, Lynette, or think of him only to shudder with abhorrence at his crime. You know him but one week—surely not long enough for his deceitful charms and blandishments to make an indelible impression on your heart.

'Graham Prentiss has been your devoted lover for six months, and, although I never particularly admired the man, I am assured but Uncle Jack (who knows him so much better than I do) that he is a most worthy gentleman in every respect, and calculated to make a very desirable husband for my beautiful little sister.

'You admit that you have promised to marry him, so how can you withdraw from the bond without losing your own self-respect and being branded in the neighborhood as a reckless coquette?'

'I advise you to put the thought of Belcourt forever out of your heart, and marry Graham Prentiss. Your morbid feelings will soon grow calmer, and you will learn to love your noble, handsome husband very dearly. He has written me a splendid letter, and I have given my consent. Believe me, Lynette, all this is for the best.

'I grieve that you have been so ill but change of scene and travel—Prentiss informs me that he shall take you to Europe for a wedding-tour—will soon make you strong and well again. And your husband's devotion will make you very, very happy.

'I am coming home in time for your wedding, Lynette. Are you not glad? I hope you will have Myrtle Dare for your bridesmaid—will you?

'I have already chosen a wedding-gift for you—the cutest little watch. Fondly,

"EDGAR PAGE LEWIS."

When Mr. Lewis came in that day to dinner from the field where he had been sowing wheat, Sally Ann Sims confided to him that his niece had "swounded" when she read her brother's letter.

'I heerd a little stranglin' gasp o' mis'ry, an' when I looked roun' she was fallin' from her cheer down onto her face, 'pon the floor. I run an' turned her over on the flat o' her back, an' she lay thar white an' still, like a dead girl. I tell you I was skeert; but I wet her face wi' camphire, an' slapped her han's hard, an' presently she kem to an' opened her eyes dazed-like.

'What ailed ye, lovey?' I sez, an' she looked at me an' tried to laff; but the nex' minute she bust out a-cryin, an' the tears run down her cheeks like rivers. She wouldn't say not a word to me, an' when I helped her up onto the lounge, she jes' lay an' snubbed and snubbed, like a child with its poor little feelin's hurt I tell you what it is, John Henry Lewis, it's narves that ails her—narves an' excitement. An' if you don't get her outer that room into the fresh air ag'in, it's reglar hysterics she'll be havin' pritty soon.'

'You are right; and she shall ride out to day. The fresh air is all she needs,' he said; and after a while he went up to the girl's room.

She had left her couch, and was sitting at the window, gazing wearily out at the clear blue sky. Her eyelids were pink with the tears she had shed, and the little handkerchief in her hand was sopping wet. On the floor at her feet, a crumpled ball, lay Edgar's letter.

'You have heard from your brother, my dear?' he said, and Lynette kicked the missive toward him with the toe of her tiny shoe.

'You are welcome to read it,' she said curtly.

He smoothed out the crumpled sheets, and read them with smiling satisfaction.

'Um — hum! Edgar's a clever chap—very clever, and gives you good advice, Lyn. Depend on t, your men folks know what is best for you. Women folk hain't no jedgment at all, honey.'

Lynette tossed her pretty head with its mop of golden-brown curls, and a gleam of resentment flashed in the brown eyes, so dull from the tears she had been shedding, but she answered not a word.

'Don't you think Edgar knows what's best for you, honey?' he continued anxiously.

'Uncle Jack, go away, please. I—I—can't talk to you to-day!' and she put her little dimpled hand to her throat, as if she were choking.

He got up, but his mouth was set in a straight, stern line.

'Lynette!' and she started and shivered at sound of his sharp voice—"Lynette, you've been humored like a spoiled baby long enough. Now do as I bid you. When the clock strikes three, Black Beauty will be around at the gate, and your aunt will take you for a long drive for your health. Be ready!'

'Yes, sir,' she answered, with rebellious acquiescence.

When Uncle Jack took that high and mighty tone of authority, no one at Blooming Meadows ever dared to disobey. So at three o'clock Lynette was ready, and Sally Ann escorted her downstairs.

After all, the scent of the sweet mountain air was pleasant to Lynette though she felt it an impossibility to talk, and was glad that Aunt Jill gave all her attention to driving, sitting up glum and taciturn beside the unhappy girl. Thus they drove for almost three hours.

When they came again in sight of the house, the grim old woman addressed Lynette for the first time:

"The doctor says you must take a drive every day."

The girl, who had sat like a statue all the time, buried in painful reflection, answered simply:

"Yes."

"But," continued the woman, "I have no time to be driving round each day, and neglecting my work. After this Graham Prentiss will go with you."

"No, no!"

"He shall. Your uncle says so, and you know better than to defy him!"

"Then Vida shall come with us. I won't go alone, I vow!"

"We'll see about that, Miss;" and flushed and angry, Lynette was handed out to return to her room and look forward with dread to the morrow, when she must face her betrothed again.

It was weeks and weeks since she had seen him, but her reluctance to the meeting grew stronger every day.

"It seems as if I were growing to loathe him, instead of learning to love him. Oh, Heaven, to be free—to be free of his claim!" she cried, flinging wide her arms as if to thrust from her invisible bands that were crushing her to death.

It was horrible, horrible, to be promised to one man and in love with another!

They kept telling her of all the improvements that were going forward at Bonnie Braes for her sake—of the new furniture, the new carriage, the fine pair of Kentucky carriage-horses, of the happiness of Graham Prentiss and she tried her best to be interested in it all; but, alas, she could not fix her thoughts on anyone but Stephen Belcourt.

She thought of him by day and night—her handsome lover, alone in his gloomy prison cell, and of the hapless girl they said he had murdered, until her poor brain was almost distraught.

But the slow hours kept creeping forward to her wedding-day—that day of fate.

"If only," she said to herself wildly—"if only they would put it off until after the trial, something might happen to prove his innocence. And then—oh, then, if he were not guilty, all the fiends in hell nor all the angels in heaven could drive me into a wedding with Graham Prentiss! I would sooner embrace Death as a well-beloved, welcome bridegroom!"

The next afternoon the new carriage and Kentucky horses were at the gate, and their master was in the parlor, smiling at Lynette. The day was rather cool, and she looked wonderfully pretty in a red cashmere her best gown of last year. On her taper finger shone a new ring, a big solitaire, that Graham Prentiss had just placed there.

The young man was looking wonderfully well in his faultless new autumn suit, and they told Lynette the truth when they said that he seemed to be the happiest man living. She looked at him, so gay, so selfish, and cried out petulantly:

"I wish you would not look so happy. It—it— makes me almost hate you when I think—think of how many unhappy people there are in—prison!"

She could not help the bitted plaint, and she did not care for his sudden frown.

"Lynette, you are unreasonable. How can I help it if people sin and get into prison? Am I my brother's keeper? And who could help being happy, betrothed to the sweetest, prettiest girl on earth, and his wedding day not three weeks off? Don't you see, my darling, that I'm excusable in my selfishness?"

To be continued.

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A
Adams, Emma, card
Adams, Mary, card, George's St.
Adams, Mrs. James, card, Pennywell Road
Ahy, Mrs. Charles
Ames, J.
Antle, Andrew, retd.
Andrews, Joseph, card
Atkins, A. H., care Post Office

B
Bragg, Mrs. George, care Post Office
Buman, Miss B.
Bennett, Miss C., card
Bennett, Miss Mollie, Cross Roads
Benson, James
Benson, Miss Belinda, George's Street
Brien, Toney, Brine St.
Byrne, S.
Boland, Mrs. J., Water St.
Bonavisky, Jos.
Brosseau, Mrs. Wm.
Brown, Miss A., card, Water St. West
Brocklehurst, George, care G. P. O.
Butler, E. J., Mount Scio Rd.
Bungey, Sarah, card
Butler, Bella, card
Blunden, James, care John Dunn
Burke, Miss Mary, retd.
Butler, Miss Annie, retd.

C
Clarke, John
Crane, Archibald, care Newman Benson
Carroll, James, Blackhead, St. John's
Carroll, Mrs. Kate, card
Campbell, Miss K., card, care P. Office
Christian, Miss Maria, Monkstown Road
Cheasson, Flora P.
Carter, Mrs., card, Mount Scio
Carew, Mrs. John, South Side
Corbin, W. A.
Conron, Tessie, Water St.
Congdon, Mrs. Ellen
Collett, Mrs. Albert, John Street
Cook, Miss Lillie, retd.
Connors, Miss Alice, LeMarchant Road
Cornell, Miss Ila M.
Coady, Mrs. J., card, Bond Street
Collins, Miss Bessie, Freshwater Road
Condon, Mrs. Ellen, LeMarchant Road
Coefield, Miss A.
Curnew, Wm.

D
Dunne, Lizzie, Cochrane Street
Dawe, John, Gower St.
Dawe, Miss, late Toronto.
Diamond, Ell, care G. P. O.
Diamond, John
Driscoll, Thomas, Monroe Street
Doody, Miss Mary
Doody, E. M., card

E
Eddy, George
Eadie, Mgt. F., card
Eldridge, Harding
English, May, No. 7 —— St.

F
Farrell, Mary, Riverhead
Farish, S. W.
Freeman, H.
French, Walter, late Gen'l Hospital
French, John, St. John's
French, Miss Mary, Water Street
Fisher, Mrs. Esther
Fitzgerald, Miss Eliza, care G. P. O.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. John, late Hopewell, N.S.
Foster, Miss Alice, Pennywell Road
Fahey, Wm., card, care G. P. O.

G
Gammon, K. H., Hamilton Street
Greene, Miss Bride, card
Greene, Eliza
Green, Louis
Gillet, Arthur, George's St.
Gossney, James, care Michael Culleton
Guild, Chaster, card

H
Hannon, Margaret, retd.
Horwood, R. G.
Hayse, Michael, Bannerman St.
Harnum, Hedley, card
Hayden, Laurence
Hancock, Florence, late Brooklyn, B.B.
Hannon, Mrs. Jas., card
Hamilton, Mrs. Joseph, P. O. Box 356
Heuradine, Miss Bella, George's Street
Hennessey, J. H.
Healey, Nicholas, Job's St.
Hepburn, Wm.
Hewitt, Stephen, late Bonavista Branch
Hiscock, Jessie, Theatre Hill
Hignes, E.
Hillyer, Wm., Power's St.
Higgins, Patience, retd.
Hiscock, Mrs. Carolina, The Village
Hinted, Thomas
Hiscock, John W.
Holloway, Eli John, care G. P. O.
House, John, Albert St.
Howey, A.
Huey, James

J
Jessen, Mrs., No. 1 —— St.
Janes, Mrs. H., Water Street West
Johnstone, Robert G.

K
Kenny, James, card, Cabot Street
Kelly, Thomas, card
Kerrivan, Wm., late Trepassey Branch
Kelloway, Miss Emily, Pennywell Road
Keating, M., card
Kenway, George
Keating, M. J.
Kelly, John J.
King, John, care Wm. J. Tilley

L
Lapp, Chas J.
LeDrew, John, Bond St.
Lee, Miss Bessie, Pleasant Street
Lyon, H. J. H.
Loveless, Miss Lizzie, LeMarchant Rd.
Lowe, Moses, Water St.

M
Marsh, Miss Josie, West End
Marshall, Mrs. Wm., card
Maden, John, Cabot St.
Mayer, Lizzie, Hall's Hill
Milley, Mrs. Wm. M., Pennywell Road
Milley, Josiah, late Cape Breton
Mitchell Mrs. James
Miller, Nellie, Gilbert St.
Molloy, John T.
Moist, Mrs., Cornwall Avenue
Morris, E. H.
Moore, James, card
Moran, Mrs. John
Moore, Francis, card
Moore, Lilly, Moore St.
Murphy, Mrs. M., Young St.
Mullins, Wm., late Hospital
Murphy, Michael, Cornwall Avenue
Moore, James, card
Murphy, John, care W. H. Taylor
Mulcahey, Mrs. Mgt., Blackhead

Mc
McNally, Dan
McMinn, Miss
McCulla, Harold H., care P. Office
McInnis, Mrs. Dr.
McDonald, Wm.
McGrath, Michael, Pennywell Road
McMillan, Mr.

N
Nadeau, Jos., care P. Office
Neal, Henry
Norman, E. J., card
Noseworthy, Mrs.
Noseworthy, Miss Annie, Carter's Hill
Noel, Gipsom S.
Norris, George, care Gen'l Delivery
Norris, John
Nurce, Miss Annie, Balsam Place

O
O'Brien, Mrs. Wm., care JJ. J. McCarthy, Gower Street
Oldfield, F. B.
O'Neill, Miss Mary
O'Leary, Ellen
O'Brien, Frank, care G. P. O.

P
Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Herb't, Monkstown Road
Palmer, Ira J.
Parsons, Mrs. A., retd.
Pratt, E. J.
Pater, Miss L.
Pheney, C. T.
Peddle, Arthur, Water St. West
Perrin, Richard, Long Pond
Penney, Wm. H., care G. P. O.
Penney, Mrs., The Parsonage
Perrin, Miss Annie
Pittman, F. J.
Pike, E. W., Pennywell Road
Pittman, Miss Francis, Prescott Street
Power, Miss Martha, LeMarchant Rd.
Power, Ed., Nagle's Hill

R
Ransom, John
Ryan, P. J., late Grand Falls
Ryan, Miss Bridget, Military Road
Ryan, Frank, card, Water Street
Ready, Bridget, Adelaide Street
Richard, N. F.
Roberts, James, Cabot St.
Rose, George F.
Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul
Ross, Mrs. Chas.
Rogers, Wm. J.
Rodgers, Miss Nellie, New Gower Street
Robinson, Jennie, slip

S
Sparks, W. R.
Stanford, Benjamine
Stapleton, Patrick, Lime St.
Starks, Roland Geo.
Sparks, T. W., Water St.
Snelgrove, Patrick, Power's Street
Shea, James, New Gower Street
Seviour, Mrs., Hamilton Avenue
Steed, Miss Nellie, McFarlane St.
Smith, D. T., Long's Hill
Smith, P.
Smith, David
Simmonds, Mrs. George Hamilton Street
Scott, Miss Annie D.
Scott, Miss Provie, care Samuel Miller

T
Try, Thomas, Notre Dame St.
Tamble, Ester, Castle Ray
Taylor, Miss Ellen, Military Road
Trainer, M., card
Tuner, D., Pleasant St.
Tierney, Matthew, Water Street
Tobin, Mrs. K., Gower St.
Thomas, George
Thompson, Catherine J., card
Thomas, J. A.
Tucker, Mrs. Catherine, Cross Roads

W
Walsh, Miss K., Field St.
Walsh, J. A., card
Wagg, Albert, Queen's St.
Wallen, Ethel, card
Wakefield, Miss M. Y.
Way, Archibald
Wells, John, Murray St.
Whelan, Miss Lena, New Gower Street
Wells, Ernest, care Gen'l P. Office
Willson, Whitworth
Wiseman, Miss Julia, LeMarchant Road
White, C. J.
White, Mrs. L.
Williams, Mrs. Martha, Atlantic Avenue
Wilson, R. D.
Willson, Wm., late Millertown

General Post Office, Aug. 26, 1911.

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JOB PRINTING Executed.

Harbor Grace Notes.

Mr. Goodland, the new Principal of the C. of E. High School, and his bride, arrived last week and have taken up their residence in the cottage on Victoria Street. School opens on Thursday.

Miss McKinnon, who has been engaged to take charge of Victoria St. School, arrived from Sydney by Saturday's express and commenced her duties this morning. Both the above teachers we welcome to our town and trust that their term may be very successful and enjoyable, alike to the scholars and themselves.

Mrs. Selby Parsons, who with Mr. Parsons arrived from Grand Bank on Tuesday, intend leaving this afternoon for Broad Cove, Bay de Verde, to visit some relatives whom she has not seen for a number of years. Although absent from home, Mrs. Parsons keeps herself well posted in home doings by the newspapers, particularly the **Telegram**, whose columns are always scanned for Harbor Grace Notes. About a month will be spent with relatives in different parts of this bay.

Miss Stirling, the popular principal of Spencer College, St. John's, is in town on her annual visit. She is the guest of Mrs. Dugald Munn. Her many friends here are always pleased to meet Miss S. and give her a hearty welcome to town.

Mr. Dugald Munn, who had been on the West Coast on a business trip, returned by Tuesday's express. We hear that some very important business was awaiting his arrival which may be of great benefit to the town generally.

Miss Prew, of St. John's is in town and is a guest at Gordon Lodge.

The Regatta Committee at a recent meeting passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the following St. John's gentlemen who by their donations helped in no small way to the success of the Regatta: Right Hon Sir E. P. Morris, Hon. R. Watson, Hon. D. Morison, W. D. Reid, Esq., J. W. Withers, Esq., John Cormack, Esq. (Queen Insurance Co.), and James Parker, Esq.

Mrs. R. S. Munn and Miss Munn, of Bracheul, will leave shortly for Montreal where they will spend the winter and possibly take up residence there permanently. Their friends here will be sorry to part with them.

Mrs. Collis, of Heart's Content, mother of Mr. A. Collis, the well known voice trainer and musician, arrived last week and will remain a couple of weeks.

The Port Saunders brought in two whales on Saturday.

The potatoes imported by the Agricultural Society last spring are of a very fine quality—large, floury and of excellent flavor. The Society are to be congratulated on the result of the experiment.

CORRESPONDENT.

Harbor Grace, Aug. 28th, 1911.

OBITUARY.

MARGARET LYNCH.

There passed away yesterday morning, after a long illness, Margaret Ann Power, relict of the late Joseph M. Lynch. The death of the deceased occurred at her sister's residence, 203 New Gower Street, and in her last moments she was fortified by the rites of Holy Church. She leaves to mourn her one sister, Mrs. L. J. Gearin, and one brother, Mr. Walter M. Power, of St. Louis, with a niece, Sister M. Seraphina, of the Order of Sisters of Charity.

T. J. GREENE.

Pressure on our space yesterday precluded reference to the demise of Mr. T. J. Greene, which sad event occurred Sunday at his residence, Gower Street. Mr. Greene was a man who was widely known and greatly respected and who had many friends, not alone in St. John's but in many other parts of the Island. In his earlier days he filled an important position in the office of the late Hon. Jas. Fox, and later and for many years held the onerous position of accountant and confidential clerk in the office of Messrs. Shea & Co. Socially as well as commercially Mr. Greene was a favorite and for many years he held office in the Benevolent Irish Society, and for a lengthy period identified himself with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. For several years also he was secretary of the Regatta Committee. Mr. Greene married twice, his first wife being Miss O'Driscoll, sister of the late Rev. Fr. O'Driscoll; while his second wife was Miss Hackett, daughter of the late Capt. Wm. Hackett. Besides his widow, Mr. Mort Greene, who does business on Water Street, Sister Winnifred of the Order of Mercy and several other children survive him, to whom the Telegram extends its condolence.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.