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BAIRD & CO. WHOLESALE AGENTS ST. JOHN'S

Better a Peasant Than a Peer.

CHAPTER XXIX. SYMPATHETIC CONFIDANTE.

"Yes, grandmother!" he says, mockingly. "But boys have their feelings. If you mean do I love her, why, yes, I do. What next?"

"Have you seen her to-day? When did you see her last?" asked Jeanne.

"Three days ago, and then only to how to I fancy—mind, it is only fancy—that her people perhaps the count don't approve of our acquaintance for she has not taken her usual ride, nor been down by the stream, and the last time I saw her she looked pale and strange, and her companion stuck close by her side, and walked on so that she couldn't stop. Perhaps I have seen the last of the Princess Verona, and the best thing, too, under the circumstances."

He speaks lightly, but Jeanne's loving eyes are sharp, and she sees the twitch of pain which passes over his handsome young face.

"Hal—Hal!" she says, with a sigh. "I am sorry, very sorry; I wish you had never met her."

"That do not!" she says, with a sigh. "As Tennessee says:—

"This letter to have loved and lost, Than never to have loved at all."

"That's not," says Hal, with calm ingenuity. "It's all very well for you to quote poetry at that description, you who have loved and won, and are lucky in every way."

Jeanne looks up with a sudden quiver of the delicate lips.

"Do you think so?" she says, with a sudden yearning to tell him all; another moment and she would have told him, and how much would have been spared to her and others!

But before Hal can invite confidence, an interruption comes in the shape of a low pony-carriage, which approaches them around the bend of the road. A lady is driving with another by her side, and Jeanne, whose eyes are sharp, utters a low exclamation.

"Hal, what a beautiful girl! Who are they? Do you know?"

Hal looks up and starts; then he controls himself.



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Packets (two sizes) may be obtained everywhere.

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FOR DAINTY FABRICS

Illustration of a woman in a long dress.

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White English Longcloth, 40 inches wide, was 70c., now 50c. yd.

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D.A. McRae

Forty-Two Years in the Public Service--- The Evening Telegram

side again, where Jeanne is saying adieu.

"You will come? Be sure!" she adds, in a lower tone. "May I say what I feel?—that we shall be friends!"

"I hope—I am certain," says Verona, with such a sweet, confiding look in her dark eyes that, as Jeanne says afterward, she can scarcely help kissing her.

Then, just giving her tiny hand to Hal for a half-moment, the princess gathers her reins together, and waiting till Jeanne climbs to her perch again, drives on.

Barly is she out of hearing before Jeanne, with her face all aglow, and her eyes sparkling, exclaims:

"Hal, she is the loveliest, sweetest little creature I ever saw in my life!"

"That's exactly what I think, unfortunately!" says poor Hal.

"And it is a shame and a disgraceful piece of cruelty!" says Jeanne. "A girl like a school-fellow, and now she is shy and reserved. Watches her, you think?"

"I did," says Hal.

Jeanne sets her teeth.

"Her face, so cold and set, made me feel as if—as if I could drag that poor child out of her reach. Hal, that woman is set to watch her!"

Hal's lips tighten.

"You think so, eh?"

"I am sure of it," says Jeanne, decidedly.

"Certainly, she is very different—the princess, I mean," says Hal, musically. "She used to laugh and talk like—like a girl to a school-fellow, and now she is shy and reserved. Watches her, you think?"

"I am certain," says Jeanne. "Did you notice how the woman looked when the princess said she would call? I saw her thin lips compress, and her eyes go down."

"But she can't understand English," says Hal.

Jeanne shakes her head.

"I don't believe it."

Hal nods assentingly.

"You are getting sharp, Jeanne," he says, approvingly. "I don't believe it either, but what does it all matter? He will, with a sigh. "You know what is to happen. Besides—a princess!"

For the first time, Jeanne remembers her title.

"You are a Bertram," she says, with a slow hauteur. "And the brother of an English marchioness!"

"And as poor as a church mouse," says Hal. "Don't talk about it. Jeanne, I can see only too plainly that what I want, and you would help me to, can't be. But you are a good girl to think about me in the midst of your own happiness. Isn't there an old proverb in our family that no Bertram can be happy in his love? I suppose fate is satisfied with disproving it in one instance—you are happy enough for all the family put together!"

"Hal," says Jeanne, trembling.

"Hal," also says Bell, leaning forward, "there's Baden!"

And once more Jeanne's confidence is nipped in the bud.

"Bertram give me the reins," says Hal; and he changes places. "Now for the herds and flocks. Have you arranged where to stop? No? Then we'd better go to the principal hotel. Let's see, you have been polishing up your German, haven't you? If not, we shall have to shove old Bell forward."

Jeanne laughs remorsefully; they have both forgotten that faithful, devoted friend, as faithful, devoted friends are forgotten until they are needed!

At the principal hotel, the appearance of an elegantly-appointed carriage and the beautiful young English mildly create an excitement which is raised to fever heat when it is learned that other carriages are to follow, and both Jeanne and Bell are required to explain that all they need is some light refreshment for themselves and horses.

"Call for some beer and Johannisberg," says Hal; "they're sure to have 'em. And mind, if you ask for anything to eat, they'll bring you veal. It is the only meat they go in for; that's the reason why you don't see any cows or bullocks about—they kill them when they are calves!"

Great tankards of beer and a bottle of wine are brought, a glass of the latter Jeanne just sips, and, leaving word that they are gone to the celebrated gardens, they start for a walk.

"Here's a fine opportunity for you to moralize, Bell," says Hal, as they enter what used to be the gaming-house. "Now, then, for a sermon on the evils of gambling."

But Bell merely expresses his admiration for the magnificent apartment in which so many thousands have met their ruin, and they go into the gardens.

"Evening is the time," says Hal; "there's a band and a regular promenade concert, and the whole place is lit up with lamps, and—hullo, what's the row?" he breaks off to inquire, for as they walk down one of the grand paths, lined with tables, they hear voices raised in dispute.

A group of persons is seated around a table at a little distance, and a confabulation is hovering to and fro, laboring to explain something which some one of the party will not allow of explanation.

"English," says Hal, sententiously. "I pity the poor waiter," and he turns 'pon his heel."

But food-natured Bell hesitates.

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