

THE GYPSY QUEEN'S VOW.

By JANIE O'BRIEN.

(Continued.)

"Do tell!" ejaculated Mr. Toosy, who saw it was expected of him to be surprised, and who, consequently, was, though he could see no earthly reason for it.

"A baby," went on Mr. Harkins, "a real baby, alive and kicking!"

"Pshaw! it ain't possible!" said Mr. Toosy, in a voice betraying not the slightest particle of emotion.

"Incredulous as it may sound, it's true," said Mr. Harkins, solemnly. "The way I found it was this: I was comin' along one night after bringin' home a cow, and I was layin' in Lunnun, a singin' to myself that there song 'The Roast Beef of Old England,' a thinkin' no more 'arm, Mr. Toosy, nor a lot of young pigs goin' to market," said Mr. Harkins.

"It wasn't a dark night, Mr. Toosy, nor a light one, the moon was a shining like everything when I was a singin' that song, and I was layin' in Lunnun, a singin' to myself that there song 'The Roast Beef of Old England,' a thinkin' no more 'arm, Mr. Toosy, nor a lot of young pigs goin' to market," said Mr. Harkins.

"Why, Mr. Harkins, I may tell you as a friend, for I know you won't mention it again," said Mr. Toosy, lowering his voice to a deeply confidential and strictly private cadence.

"My pa died when I was a little shaver about so-year-old, and ma and I were pretty poor, to be candid about it. Well, then, three years ago my ma died, too, which was a serious affliction on me, Mr. Harkins, and I was left plunged in deepest sorrow and poverty. The niggers worked the farm, and I was employin' my time in cultivatin' a pair of whiskers to alleviate my grief when I received a letter from an uncle here in England, tellin' me to come right on, and if he liked me he'd make me his heir when he died. That's what brought me here, Mr. Harkins, and I'm stoppin' with my uncle and his sister, who is an unmarried woman of forty-five or so."

"Hand the hold chap's live yet?" inquired Mr. Harkins.

"Mr. Harkins, my uncle, I am happy to say, still exists," said Mr. Toosy, gravely.

"Humph! 'As he got much pewter, Mr. Toosy?"

"Much what?" said the mild owner of the freckles. "You'll excuse me, I hope, Mr. Harkins, but I really don't understand."

"Green," muttered Mr. Harkins, contemptuously to himself. Then aloud: "Ow much do you think he'll leave you?"

"Well, about two thousand pound or so," said Mr. Toosy, complacently.

"Two thousand—pound!" slowly articulated the astounded Mr. Harkins, "O my heye!—w-y, you'll be rich, Mr. Toosy! What will you do with all that here money?"

"Why, my aunt, Miss Priscilla Dorothea Toosy, and I are going home to Maryland (that's where I used to live, Mr. Harkins), and we are going to fit up the old place and live there. Aunt Priscilla never was in America, and wants to see it real bad."

"Two thousand—pound!" still more slowly repeated Mr. Harkins. "Well, things is 'tounishin'. Just think of me now, the honest 'ard-working father of ten children, hand you won't catch nobody going hand d'ying hand leavin' me one single brass farden, while here's a cove more'n 'alf a haer. I say, Mr. Toosy, you wouldn't lend me a guinea or two, would you?"

"Why, certainly, Mr. Harkins," said Mr. Toosy, briskly drawing out his purse. "I'm real happy to be able to be of service to you. Here's two guineas, and don't put yourself out about payin' it."

"Mr. Toosy, you're a brick!" said Mr. Harkins, grasping his hand with emotion. "I won't put myself out in the least, since you're kind enough to request it, but if you come and dine with me some day, I'll give you a dinner of boiled potatoes and roast hounies fit for a king. Will you come?" urged Mr. Harkins.

"Certainly I will, Mr. Harkins, and it's real kind in you to ask me," said Mr. Toosy, politely. "See you're in a hurry, so I'll bid you good-day now. Most certainly I'll come, Mr. Harkins. I'm obliged to you."

CHAPTER IX.
THE SECRET REVEALED.

"I was so young—I loved him so—I had no mother—God forgive me!" and I fell—

—BOWING—
And how fell the news of Reginald Germaine's innocence of the crime for which he was condemned, and his sad end, on the other 'personages' connected with our tale?

To his mother came the news in her far-off greenwood home; and, as she heard he had perished forever in the stormy sea, reason, already tottering in her half-crazed brain, entirely gave away, and she fled, a shrieking maniac, through the dim old woods.

To Earl De Courcy it came in his stately home to fill his heart with sorrow and remorse. Hauntingly before him arose the agonized, despairing face of the lonely woman, as on that last night she had groveled at his feet, shrieking for that mercy he had refused. Proud, stern man as he was, no words can express the deep pity, the heartfelt sorrow he felt, to the thought of that lonely, despairing, childlike woman, a wanderer over the wide world.

(To be Continued.)

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