

POETRY.

ENDURANCE.

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.
How much the heart may bear, and yet not break!
How much the flesh may suffer, yet not die!

SELECT STORY.

AN UNBROKEN PROMISE.

A CASTAWAY.

PART II.

CHAPTER IX.

"At last I thought I saw my way to carrying out this idea. A grand ball was to be given at a French banker's to which no one was to be admitted except in mask and domino, the supper-hour being named for the period of identification, when disguise was to be laid aside. Invitations were sent to the Heriots and myself, and accepted by all; but, acting on the advice of an anonymous letter, written by me in the same hand and style as those previously sent to him, Major Heriot pleaded illness just before the time of starting, and begged us to go alone. The anonymous letter told him that he would that night have an opportunity of observing Mr. Yeldham's conduct towards his wife. Mr. Yeldham's dress he knew, as he had a hand in its selection; Mrs. Heriot and Miss Hastings would be dressed in similar dominos, black with rose edgings. And as the ladies were exactly alike in height and figure, he must, if he would keep an eye of observation on his wife, be careful to remember the sole distinguishing mark; which was, that she would wear a small lavender-colored bow sewn on the hood of her domino, whereas her sister's would be perfectly plain.

"Determined," said Mr. Drage, taking her hand. "I have seen you under a great many phases, and I want you to be successful in this as in all the others."
So the letter was written to the rector's father, and in the interval between its despatch and the receipt of the reply, Madge endeavored to school herself for the task which she had undertaken to execute. It was no light matter, she knew right well, but she knew also that her best chance of going through with it successfully, was to cultivate the callousness with which, for so long a time, she had regarded Philip Vane and his affairs, and from which she had only been roused by the sudden shock of the news concerning him. The indignation roused by that news, the strange feeling of jealousy that anyone should occupy what was her lawful position, the curious desire to claim that position, which she had long since calmly yielded up directly she saw about to be taken by another—all these disturbing sensations had passed away and left her calm and equal-minded as she had been for months, for years previously. Whether or not her equanimity would desert her when she saw her husband face to face, she could not say. She endeavored to rehearse in her mind all that might probably take place on the occasion of their first meeting; all the sneers and brutalities which he would hurl at her, when he heard the object of her visit, and when she knew that her preparation, she conducted herself, so far as the rehearsal was concerned, to her entire satisfaction.

"I often try to think of it after we have parted, and I am at home again alone, but I never can recollect it exactly; I only know that he talks very clever and very charmingly, and I am only required to say a word here and there."
"Oh, Madge, it is no use my beating about the bush any longer, and attempting to deceive you; I have read over what I have just written, and I might as well put in some words which you already know, that I am really in love with Gerald, and think there is no one like him in the world. Don't think this is a sudden fit of frenzy, and that I have gone mad; it has been growing and growing ever so long, ever since we were at Westover together, and he used to give me drawing lessons."
"Min! Madge, he does not make love to me—at least, I mean to say, exactly make love; he is far too honorable to do that. The summer evenings are so pleasant, and he is so patient with my ignorance and my folly; so careful to prevent its ever occurring to me that I am not moving in his sphere, or that there is any difference in our rank in life, and so handsome—you have no idea, Madge, what he is like now—that I cannot help loving him immensely."
"I do not know that I should have taken even you into confidence, Madge, if it could have gone on in this way, but I am sensible enough to know that it cannot be done, and whatever you may say now, and there will be no more long walks, and then all my chances of seeing Gerald, save for a few moments at a time, are over; and then I sometimes think that if I were to give up seeing him it would kill me, for the young man is so handsome, and he is so very polite, but she is the old C.A. order, looking me up and down, and through and through, and "Miss Pierpoint" me whenever she addressed me. When I rose to go, I almost expected her to ring out her order "Miss Pierpoint" to be shown out." Gerald looked annoyed, and I rather think the introduction was a failure. He has not said much about it since, only that Mrs. Entwistle was peculiar, and that allowances must be made for her as an invalid, etc.

"Now, dearest Madge, write to me at once, and tell me what we shall do about meeting; and don't fret yourself about what I have told you, for it is all perfectly right, and I will be entirely guided by your advice."
"Your loving" "ROSE."
TO BE CONTINUED.
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