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Wine men are not cisterns, but
springs.

A FATAL WEDDING

BY BERTHA M. CLAY.

"I will go to papa," said Sybil. "If there is anything wrong, he will tell me." She opened the door, but her sister sprung after her, with a desperate cry. "Not there, Sybil! You must not go there—it will kill you!"

"Better that than this," cried Sybil. With rapid steps, deaf to Irene's cry, she went down the broad staircase and through the hall. The same dead silence seemed to have fallen everywhere. Her sister followed, with wild, agonizing fear in her every look.

She placed her hand on Sybil's as she turned the handle of the door. "Come back!" she cried, hoarsely. "It will kill you!"

But Sybil flung off her grasp, and opened the door.

There was a cry of dismay. Ah, no! that the sight did not kill her where she stood. The squire sat as one paralyzed with dismay, and before him, a mocking smile on his face, stood the husband she had believed dead—Lyster Ayrton.

She uttered no cry or scream—the life-blood seemed to rush back in her heart, and then ebb away, leaving her white, cold and all but senseless. He went up to her with outstretched hand.

"Sybil," he cried, "this is a poor world, come home. I know you believed me dead, but I did not die. Have I fallen so low—and I so utterly vile that even my wife has no word for me?"

She placed her hands before her eyes, with a low cry they heard it never forgot. She could not have touched his hand with her own if she would, for the squire stood between them.

"Do not lay a finger upon her," he said, sternly, to Lyster Ayrton. "She shall never more be wife of yours."

"And why not?" he asked, hoarsely. "She is mine—I claim her—the law will give her to me."

"The law shall not!" cried the old man.

"I have never done one single thing which can justify a separation between us," he interrupted. "Ask her if I have."

The squire turned round to her. She still stood motionless.

"My darling," he said, "you will not return to him. I am rich, and I will give the whole of my substance to save you. I will expend it all to free you."

"I will aid you," said a stern voice, and turning round, the squire beheld Sir Rupert. "Neither Heaven nor earth could sanction such a deed as the yielding up of your daughter to a man like that."

"Gently, Sir Rupert," said the mocking voice; "we know where the shoe pinches. Even if I don't have her, you can't. With all due respect, let me remark that your interference is out of place."

Out of place—and she, whom he had loved so long, and believed to be free, was to have been his wife on the morrow! No need to remind him that she was lost to him. Men have died on the rack, yet suffered less than Sir Rupert Dacre in that hour.

"She is my wife, and I claim her," said Lyster Ayrton. "Who shall take her from me? I appeal to you, Sybil. Have I ever done anything which would justify the law in siding with me?"

She, the spoiled, indulged, petted child, rose then into sublime majesty.

"Those whom God hath joined," she said, "let no man put asunder." Father, I married Lyster Ayrton years ago of my own free will. I gave up all the world for him. He claims me—his claims are just. I must go with him!"

"It is madness!" cried the squire. "It is right," she said. "If my heart breaks in the doing of it, it must be done. Remember always, I brought my own fate upon me!"

They looked on her in astonishment. She who had been so delicate, so fragile, so tender of heart, stood erect and brave, no faltering in her voice, no quivering on her lips. She unclasped Irene's clinging hands, and went over to Lyster Ayrton's side, while a smile of triumph brightened her face, and the squire muttered an oath.

"It is right," she said, firmly. "No man has power to break my chain, or set me free. Until death, I am Lyster Ayrton's wife."

They were too much bewildered to speak. They had anticipated some, cry—anything but this sublime bravery.

"Perhaps," said Irene, in a cold voice, "Captain Ayrton, before taking advantage of my sister's high wrought feelings, will explain to us how he comes to be alive, when we—"

"Hush! he was dead," interrupted Captain Ayrton, with a smile and a bow. "I shall be happy to oblige Miss Jocelyn."

CHAPTER XXVI.

"A WOMAN MAGNIFICENT IN HER DEPAIR,"

"The fact is," continued Lyster Ayrton, "I ought not to be alive. It is rather a disgrace to me under the circumstances; everything possible was done to kill me, and I really ought to have died."

"I was stabbed by a native chief and thrown aside as dead. I remember all the incidents of our expedition—the fight in the Golden Valley, the murderous blows and my own share of them. But I do not know how I lay, left by friends and foes, as he dead. It was an Englishman who found me; a clever man, too, for he saved my life."

He carried me across his shoulder through the valley and over the hills to his own clearing. For two long months I lay in his little tent, senseless and near to death.

"He might have saved a better life. He saved mine. But it was nearly a year before I was able to leave him and find my way home to Victoria. People there were all frightened at me. My old friend persisted in believing he had left me dead in the Golden Valley, and considered that my ghost was trying to impose upon him."

"I found pretty much the same kind of welcome there as I found here. My wife, considering herself a widow, had gone home, and I was left alone."

"I could not follow her, because I had no money. There seemed no need for writing; she would know that I was alive soon enough. I worked hard for some months, and here I am."

"There was a minute's dead silence; then the squire said, solemnly: 'You have chosen between us, Sybil—choose again. Do not be led away by a false notion of honor. Stay with me—your home is here.'"

"The house shall be my home, my people my people, used to be the old reading of the marriage vow," said Lyster Ayrton, lightly.

The squire turned from the mocking voice with unutterable disdain.

"Choose, my darling," he said. "Think of the poverty, the misery, lying before you. I shall keep my vow. No furthering of my money shall go to that man's support."

Lyster Ayrton's face fell considerably.

"Come," he said, "let there be peace between us. I do not want any ill-will."

"Hush!" said the squire, sternly. "There is nothing in common between you and me. I have not a word to address to you."

During all this time Sir Rupert's eyes lingered with despair on the pale, brave face he loved so well. He said no word to influence her; but now he stepped forward.

"Sybil," he said, "as your father's friend, let me speak. I do not think duty calls you to go with this man."

"I am his wife," she said, slowly. "What can part us but death?"

Looking at her, they thought the parting would soon come.

Once more the old squire interposed appealingly, his voice broken and his chest heaving in agonizing emotion.

"Stay with us, Sybil—stay with us," he cried.

"Let me end this scene," she said. "My husband claims me. I go with him. I shall be as one dead to you, father—to you, Irene—to you—"

She hesitated as her eyes fell upon Sir Rupert. She could not look at him remembering how they had parted one short hour ago. A bitter cry rose to her lips.

"Let me go," she said; "I can bear it no longer."

They crowded round her—the gray-headed father, the weeping sister, and the brave man whose wife she was to have been on the morrow. They prayed to her to remain in words that would have turned a heart of stone; but she never faltered or wavered in her resolution. In that hour she rose supreme—a woman magnificent in her despair.

"There need be no hurry about it," said Lyster Ayrton.

"I can not hope," he continued, looking wistfully at the squire—"I can not hope that the hospitality of Glynn will be extended to me, but there is no word for my wife to leave her home at this hour of night."

"I go with you now," she said, steadily. "I would suffer anything rather than remain another night under my father's roof. Irene," she continued, turning to her sister, "let what I have said be sent after me. Comfort my father after I am gone."

"A mad, foolish proceeding," said Lyster Ayrton. "A long walk to the station and a journey to London are marriage offers, and also bring into the industrial market a class of competitors with whom the standard of wages is simply what is sufficient to support the individual. Among the working class marriages are not less frequent; but the home is apt to be less comfortable on account of the tendency of women to go out to work. In the light of these facts it is held by many that the monogamous family is a relic of a decaying form of civilization.—Philadelphia Press."

"The early bird catches the worm," remarked this observant boarder, occasionally.

"The early robin catches pneumonia," was the cross-eyed boarder's amendment.

A CLEAN MAN.

Outside cleanliness is less than half the battle. A man may scrub himself a dozen times a day, and still be unclean. Good health means cleanliness not only outside, but inside. It means a clean stomach, clean bowels, clean blood, a clean liver, and, new, clean, healthy tissues and fibers in every organ of the body. The man who is clean in this way will look it and act it. He will work with energy and think clean, clear, healthy thoughts.

He will never be troubled with liver, lung, stomach or blood disorders. Dyspepsia and indigestion originate in unclean stomachs. Blood diseases are found where there is unclean blood. Consumption and bronchitis mean unclean lungs. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery prevents these diseases. It makes a man's insides clean and healthy.

It cleans the digestive organs, makes pure, clean blood, and clean, healthy flesh. It doesn't make the flabby fat of corpulence, but the firm flesh of health.

It restores tone to the nervous system, and cures nervous exhaustion and prostration. It contains no alcohol to inebriate or create craving for injurious stimulants.

Mr. John L. Coughenour, of Glen Savage, Somerset Co., Pa., writes: "My appetite was unusually poor, and I was weak and nervous as though I had been starved for months. My heart throbbed continually and I was short of breath. Finally I wrote to you for advice and you informed me that I had indigestion and a torpid liver. I did not think your diagnosis was right, but I ordered six bottles of Golden Medical Discovery from you and began its use. After using three bottles I began to improve slowly and soon went to work, and I have been working ever since."

Constipation is the most unclean uncleanness. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure it. They never gripe.

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Less Lasting and Smaller are the Families of to-day

Than Formerly—some Statisticians That Turn Light on the Subject—The Movement of Liberation the Cause.

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