

Eventually

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GOLD MEDAL FLOUR

Why Not Now?

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Sunshine After the Storm.

CHAPTER XII.
PERTAINING TO WOMEN
(continued)

REMEMBER. About history? 'Social Duties' and 'Woman's Influence', and that kind of thing. Yes, and she read and explained 'Gibbon's Rise and Fall' to us. I did not understand her then. 'And now you know all about a woman's influence.' 'Eh, Bessie?' 'I think I do. And as for the history of the 'Rise and Fall', the history of everything that has a history is one of 'rise and fall. I hope the day may come when people will find some better excuse for meeting than a dinner. Eating with company is not as nice as it is to sip my coffee and cut my beefsteak and take my ease over it at my own fireside.' 'How was Amber looking?' 'Very handsome. She had on a lovely work of art in black, and if she would only dress her front hair better I should have no fault to find with her.' 'It hangs down into her eyes and makes her look like a Skye terrier. But I suppose Amber would catch cold without her bang. She has worn it for years and years, so to speak.' 'What of Mr. Montgomery Banks?' 'He is very rich.' 'The only thing he said directly to me was: 'Will you take an ice?' I am going to.' I declined the ice, for it did not strike me as a joy and honor forever to eat an ice because he eat one.' 'Then I suppose Jack was the greatest beau there?' 'Perhaps every one, mentally, did so.'

The greatest beau was a certain Doctor St. Ange. He has become Doctor Carter's assistant in some way or other. I took a dislike to him. 'Why?' 'Just because I did. He is very elegant and very handsome, but I do not like him. And I never before saw hands that appeared cruel. He did. Yet they were beautiful hands—white, cold, graceful; but they looked wicked. I could not help thinking what a blow they could give. I should say the man was physical a gentleman and morally a scamp. That is what I heard some one say of Cousin James, and he reminded me of him.' 'I thought it was too nice a distinction for you to make.' 'I can feel when it applies, though. Yet what can we tell of people in a drawing-room? We were all well-dressed, and we all had the same mannerisms, and we all talked alike, and for practical purposes we all thought alike. No one said anything out of order but Miss Radway and Will Carter, and we listened and did not dare to approve. I do think Will Carter is good company. When he talked, I wanted him to go on talking. But the topic was unfortunate. We could not risk our reputations on it.' 'What was the dreadful subject?' 'Woman's rights. Miss Radway began it. She was talking about woman-culprits having a right to a jury of women. Doctor Carter listened with polite coldness, and said he thought most women would prefer a jury of men. Doctor St. Ange said it would be a merciless law, because the cruelty of women to woman would far outweigh the inhumanity of man to man. Then Montgomery Banks posed and simpered and made some horrid little state jokes about women, and put on such airs—and yet nobody kicked him.' 'Perhaps every one, mentally, did so.'

Amber tried to turn the subject, but Will was perverse. He said by retorting that the great masters of ancient song taught us, that woman had, must, shall and will have her own way. He said the 'Iliad' proved that neither man or gods could stand against her. He said Thetis coaxed Jupiter, and Juno outwitted him, and Pallas Athene fairly snapped her fingers at the Thunderer. He was beginning on the 'Odyssey', when Amber politely rose and led the way to her private sitting-room. Amber is possessed of a correctly modern mind. She is always able to do the right thing at the right time. Miss Radway tried to resume the subject when we ladies were alone, but we had our dresses and dress-makers to discuss, and Woman's Rights of Suffrage did not seem interesting. I like Miss Radway, but I do wish she would not talk on tip-toes about women. The mantle of 'Woman's Rights' is a great deal too wide and too long for her. I think that is all that happened.

'What did Jack say?' 'Jack talked to me, mainly. I do not think his conversation would interest anybody else.' 'And what do you think of Amber's house?' 'It is very fine especially in Persian rugs and satin-wood cabinets. The one for her music had a Bartolozzi engraving. And oh, father, the mantles in oak! Well, they made me think of the far-back centuries, and of Mr. Orchardson's pictures. I shall imitate Amber in nothing. I liked the parquetry flooring and dados, but where does she get the servants to keep her fine wood-work polished? Amber says it improves with time. I wish we did!' 'We ought to do so.' 'But we do not, and that is a fact. I wish I had not seen that Doctor St. Ange. I am afraid he is no angel.' 'I would not trouble myself about the man. Amber is sufficient for herself.' 'What made you think of Amber in connection with him?' 'Did I do so? I had no motive in it. I am now wondering about Doctor Carter's income. Amber's way of living must be trying to a slender income.'

'Amber is not extravagant. There never was any need to tell Amber to go to the ant and consider its thrifty ways. Thrift is at the bottom of all her plans. She told me Will Carter always kept her in flowers. I wonder if she intends St. Ange to take Will's place as special attendant. Will is going to Europe on Saturday.' 'It is not our affair, Bessie. Doctor Carter would not thank any one for speculating about his domestic arrangements.'

'When a man brings into his domestic arrangements a St. Ange, you can no more help thinking of him than you can help thinking of the satin-wood cabinets or the Wedgewood service. Miss Radway, with her eyes closed to a slit, looked at Doctor Carter and then at Amber several times in such a peculiar manner. I say her. She was wondering if they were suited to each other—if they were happy—or something of that kind.'

'Nonsense! Miss Radway was considering some problem of the verities or the eternities. A mere question of domestic happiness would not interest her.'

'Yes, it would. She thinks she is strong-minded and carries a volume of Mill in her pocket, but at heart she is more sentimental than a school-girl. She was as interested as could be in Jack. I do not believe she liked St. Ange.'

"Did Jack like him?" "Oh, no! When I said St. Ange was horrid, Jack said so, too." "Poor St. Ange! You must ask him here with the doctor and Amber." "Indeed I cannot. The house is all tossed up, and going to be more so every day. I told Amber we were moving out, to let the workmen in, and she got under the situation at once. Jack and I are making lists of things I had better buy in Europe. We have not got through the china list yet. Still I shall call at Doctor Carter's as often as I can. St. Ange interests me."

Her first call was with Jack, and being a formal and anticipated one, was as barren as such calls always are. A hurried "run in" on the following day discovered Amber in tears. She said it was because of a letter from "poor Clara," and she lifted, rather ostentatiously, a black-bordered letter lying on the table. Bessie did not disbelieve her, for a rather sad conversation on the circumstances of Mrs. Shepherd followed.

"Her mother has just died," said Amber, "and Clara has gone to Vermont to bring her father to Mayberry. It does seem hard for a beautiful woman to be tied with a sick old man at a desolate farm like Mayberry."

"The sick old man is her father, and I dare say she likes to make him happy and comfortable."

Then her eyes wandering round the room, she saw upon the piano a violin.

"Are you learning that instrument, Amber?" she asked, with a new interest.

"No."

"It is quite fashionable now, for ladies. Lena Desrosiers says: 'It makes a girl look cunning.'"

"Yes, I have seen Lena look cunning, and coddle her head down to the wood thing in a very fascinating way."

"Does Mr. Will Carter play the violin with you? Or Doctor Carter?"

"Will plays the organ, nothing less. Doctor Carter is interested only in worms, invisible worms. The violin belongs to Doctor St. Ange."

To be continued.

Most Ills of Life

come from errors in diet, from too little exercise or from the mistakes we commit without thinking of consequences. These sicknesses may be slight at first, but they hinder work, prevent advancement or bring depression and spoil enjoyment. What is worse, they lead to serious physical disorders if not checked in time; but you CAN check them easily and quickly. They will

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The Evening Chit-Chat

By RUTH CAMERON

THERE is a bachelor woman of about forty-five who occasionally visits in the capacity of dressmaker several homes in our neighborhood. She is rather plain featured. She has no special talents. She is not a brilliant talker or a particularly traveled or cultured woman. She does not, of course, have the attraction of wealth to recommend her. And yet, the other day, when her name came up in the conversation, someone said:

"Yes, I like Miss L's dressmaking, but I like her even better. I just enjoy having her come to the house somehow." Everyone who knows her echoed the sentiment.

Why?

"Just this I think—she's so HEARTY. 'I wonder if you know exactly what I mean by that word? I'm not quite sure it can carry all the meaning I want it to take to you.' 'What I mean is: 'So full of energy and enthusiasm, so much interested in everything, so happy, so alive, so full of life—so HEARTY.' 'Maybe an illustration will describe the quality best.' 'When you ask Miss L. how the world has been treating her since you saw her last, instead of giving an answer such as, 'All right, I guess,' or

"Pretty well," as most of us do, no matter what our blessings, she tells you "splendidly." And she says it in such a vigorous, happy, God-in-His-Heaven-is-alright-with-the-world voice that you actually feel braced up as if something particularly nice had happened to yourself. "I have heard people ascribe Miss L's popularity simply to the fact that she is interested in other people's interests, but I don't think it's wholly that. That helps immensely of course, as it always will in this world of egotistical little people who want nothing so much as an audience. "But I think the whole foundation of her charm is in the fact that she is so keenly interested in everybody's doings—her own as well as other people's. "I heard a clever young college man tell what he thought much liked best in a woman and it was just this quality—heartiness. "I don't care whether a girl is pretty or plain, and I don't particularly care about brains," he put in, "but I do want a girl who's thoroughly alive and interested in what's going on about her." "I've heard girls say: 'I'd give anything to be pretty.' "Why? "Because that makes people like you." And yet these same girls are not cultivating that quality, or maybe more, friend-winner quality which lies quite within their reach. "I wonder why."

Ruth Cameron

Household Notes.

Potato water is good to take mud stains from cloth.

A pinch of salt will make the white of an egg beat quicker.

A root-bound fern soon indicates its condition by drooping fronds.

Sunflower seeds make better bait than cheese for the mousetrap.

Equal parts of milk and luke-warm water are excellent for sponging palms.

Jellied veal can be deliciously seasoned with lemon juice and celery salt.

A pinch of borax in cooked starch will make the clothes stiffer and whiter.

It is better to wipe off meat with a wet cloth than to let water run over it.

A bread pudding may be deliciously flavoured by a few slices of candied orange peel.

Dried lemon peel sprinkled over coals will destroy any disagreeable odor in the house.

To place ferns upon the window sill means their death, as they cannot live in a cold draft.

When blowing out a candle, hold it high and blow upward to keep the grease from running.

A better iron rest than the ordinary metal stand is a firebrick, as it does not cool the iron so rapidly.

Hot biscuits, generally buttered and spread with currant jelly are delicious served with game.

Clean copper by rubbing it with

Not Sisters

Now and again you see two women passing down the street who look like sisters. You are astonished to learn that they are mother and daughter, and you realize that a woman at forty or forty-five ought to be at her finest and fairest. Why isn't it so?

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8864—A SPLENDID MODEL FOR GENERAL OR DRESSY WEAR. Girl's Dress with Slide Closing. Prunella in a pretty shade of red, with black satin bands, will make up this design most effectively. For dressy wear, poplin, cashmere, velvet or silk would be appropriate; broad lawn and other wash fabrics are likewise suitable. The fronts are full below the round yoke and at the waistline the fulness in front and back is gathered beneath the belt. The skirt falls in graceful plaits. The closing is at the side. The Pattern is cut in 5 sizes: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 years. It requires 3 1/2 yards of 36 inch material for the 10 year size. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

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