

# Kate Coventry

CHAPTER XIV.

(CONTINUED.)

Presently we were joined by Lady Scapergner. She, too, had got something pleasant to say to me.

'I told you so, Kate,' she observed, taking my arm and leading me down one of these secluded walks.—'I told you so all along. Your friend, Captain Lovell, proposed to Miss Molasses yesterday. Don't blame him too much, Kate; if he's not married within three weeks, he'll be in the Bench—never mind how I know, but I do know. I think he has behaved infamously to you, I confess; but take comfort my dear, you are not the first by a good many.'

I put it to my impartial reader whether such a remark, though made with the kindest intentions, was not enough to drive any woman mad with spite. I broke away from Lady Scapergner and rushed back into the house. We were to leave Scamperley that day by the afternoon train. Gertrude was already packing my things; but I was obliged to go to the drawing-room for some work I had left there, and in the drawing-room I found a whole bevy of ladies assembled over their different occupations.

Women never spare each other; and I had to go through the ordeal, administered ruthlessly, and with a refinement of cruelty known only to ourselves. Even Mrs. Lumley, my own familiar friend, had no mercy.

'We ought to congratulate you, I conclude, Miss Coventry,' said one.

'He's a relation of yours, is he not?' inquired another.

'Only a great friend,' laughed Mrs. Lumley, shaking her curls.

'It's a great marriage for him,' some one else went on to say; 'far better than he deserves. Poor thing! he'll lead her a sad life; he's a shocking flirt!'

Now, if there is one thing to my mind more contemptible than another, it is that male impostor whom ladies so charitably designate by the mild term 'a flirt.' It is all fair for us to have our little harmless vanities and weaknesses. We are shamefully debarred from the nobler pursuits and avocations of life, so we may be excused for passing the time in such trivial manoeuvres as we can invent to excite the envy of our own, and triumph over the pride of the opposite, sex. But that a man should lower himself to net the part of a slave, 'tied to an apron-string,' and voluntarily be a fool, without being an honest one—it is too degrading!

Such a despicable being does us an infinity of harm; he encourages us to display all the worst points of the female character; he cheats us of our due amount of homage from many a noble heart, and perhaps robs us of our own dignity and self-respect. Yet, such is the creature we encourage in our blind vanity, and whilst we veto him so pleasant and agreeable, temper our commendation with the mild remonstrance, 'though I am afraid he's rather a flirt!'

I saw the drawing-room on that morning was no place for me, so I folded my work, and curbing my tongue, which I own had a strong inclination to take its part in the war of words, I sought my own room, and found there, in addition to the litter and discomfort inseparable from the process of packing, a letter just arrived by the post. It was in Cousin Amelia's hand, and bore the Dangerfield post mark. 'What now?' I thought, dreading to open it least it might contain some fresh object of annoyance, some further inquiry or remarks calculated to irritate my already over-driven temper out of due bounds.

Cousin Amelia never writes to me unless she has something unpleasant to say; was my mental observation, and a very little more would fill the cup to overflowing. Whatever happens, I am determined not to cry; rather than face all those ladies with cold eyes when I go to wish Lady Scapergner good-bye, I would forego the pleasure

Sir Guy was very much put out, and vented his annoyance on his off-wheeler, 'double-through' that unfortunate animal most unmercifully the whole way to the station. He bade me far-well with a coldness, and almost sulkiness, quite foreign to his usual demeanour, and infinitely pleasanter to my feelings. Besides, I saw plainly that the more I fell in the Baronet's good opinion, the higher I rose in that of my chaperone; and by the time John and I were fairly settled in a coupe, my cousin had got back to his old, frank, cordial manner, and I took courage to break the seal of Cousin Amelia's letter and peruse that interesting document, regardless of all the sarcasms and innuendoes it might probably contain.

What a jumble of incongruities it was! Long stories about the weather, and the garden, and the farm, and all sorts of things which, no one knew better than I did, had no interest for my correspondent whatever. I remarked, however, throughout the whole composition, that mamma's sentiments and regulations were treated with an unusual degree of contempt, and the writer's own opinions asserted with a boldness and freedom I had never before observed in my straight laced, hypocritical cousin. Mr. Haycock's name, too, was very frequently brought on the tapis—he seemed to have breakfasted with them, walked, driven, played billiards with them, and, in short, to have taken up his residence almost entirely at Dangerfield. The postscript explained it all, and the postscript I give verbatim, as I read it aloud to Cousin John whilst we were whizzing along at the rate of forty miles an hour.

'P. S.—I am sure my dear Kate will give me joy. You cannot have forgotten a certain person calling at Dangerfield this autumn for a certain purpose, in which he did not seem clearly to know his own mind. Everything is now explained. My dear Herod (is it not a pretty Christian name?)—my dear Herod is all that I can wish, and assures me that it was all along intended for me. The happy day is not yet fixed; but my dearest Kate may rest assured that I will not fail to give her the earliest intelligence on the first opportunity. Tell Mr. Jones I shall be married before him, after all.'

The last sentence escaped my lips without my meaning it. Had I not come upon it unexpectedly, I think I should have kept it to myself. John blushed, and looked hurt. For a few minutes there was a disagreeable silence, which we both felt awkward. He was the first to break it.

'Kate,' said he, 'do you think I shall be married before Miss Horsingham?'

'How can I tell?' I replied, looking steadfastly out of the window, whilst my color rose and my heart beat rapidly.

'Do you believe that Welsh story, Kate?' proceeded my cousin.

I knew by his voice it couldn't be true; I felt it was a slander; and I whispered, 'No.'

'One more question, Kate,' urged Cousin John, in a thick, low voice: 'Why did you refuse Frank Lovell?'

'He never proposed to me,' I answered; 'I never gave him an opportunity.'

'Why not,' said my cousin.

'Because I liked some one else better,' was my reply; and I think those few words settled the whole business.

I shall soon be five-and-twenty now, and on my birthday I am to be married. Aunt Deborah has got better ever since it has been settled. Everybody seems pleased; and I am sure no one can be better pleased than I am. Only Lady Horsingham says, 'Kate will never settle.' I think I know better. I think I will make none the worse wife because I can walk, and ride, and get up early, and stand all weathers, and love the simple, wholesome, natural pleasures of the country, John thinks so to, and that is all I need care about.

I have such a charming *trousseau*, though I am ashamed to say I take very little pleasure in looking at it. But kind, thoughtful Cousin John has presented brilliant with an entirely new set of clothing; and I think my horse seems almost more delighted with his finery than his mistress is with hers. My cousin and I ride together every day. Dear me! how delightful it is to think

## MAGNAB MARSH & COEN,

LATE JOHN MAGNAB & CO.,

Hardware Merchants,  
5 FRONT STREET EAST.

## Greener Guns;

We have just opened out a large consignment of these celebrated Guns, and invite the attention of all who wish to purchase the

**BEST AND CHEAPEST**  
Guns offered in Canada.

They will shoot harder and closer than any other Guns made.

We have also received a large consignment of Newcastle

## CHILLED SHOT

And have all sizes in stock, which we offer to the trade only. Price very much reduced. Send for Catalogue and Price Book of Guns.

MAGNAB, MARSH & COEN,  
5 Front-St., Toronto

Agents in Canada for

Mr. W. W. GREENER,

—AND THE—

Newcastle Patent Chilled Shot Co.

[LIMITED].

## FOR FINE CIGARS,

AND UNADULTERATED SMOKING AND

## TOBACCOS

GO TO THE

## VIRGINIA TOBACCO AGENCY I

NO. 26 TORONTO ST., Toronto. 310-ty

## WINDSOR HOTEL

(LATE MANSION HOUSE)

Cor. King & York Sts., Toronto.

This centrally located Hotel has been re-opened under entirely new management; it has been re-fitted through, and is now one of the best managed and best kept hotels in the City. The fine location of the "Windsor" affords inducements to the travelling public which no other house in the City can offer. Being situated on the north side of King St., it commands a view of the principal thoroughfare; a line of street cars passes the door every five minutes for all parts of the City, at once renders this hotel the most convenient stopping place in the City. 302-ty SCULLY & FINNIGAN.

## Daniels' Hotel,

Prescott, Canada.

The only first-class House. Large parlours and sample rooms. Omnibusses meet all trains and steamers.

L. H. DANIEL,

187-ty.

Proprietor.

## D'ARY'S GALVANIC BELTS, BANDS AND INSOLERS.

All those who suffer from Severe Weakness, Lassitude, Nervous Debility, Impedency, Loss of Vital Energy, Lumbago, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Paralysis, Sciatica, or any disease of the Nervous System, will find upon trial that D'ARY'S Galvanic Belts &c. are the only reliable and permanent remedy. By giving them a trial you will get cured. They are made of the most approved

## ROYAL OPERA BILLIARD PARLOR.

99 King St., West, - - Toronto.

## FIRST-CLASS TABLES.

JAMES MAGINN, Proprietor.

Sole Agent in Canada for J. M. Brunswick Billard & Co. Billiard Tables. 2, O-ty.



## Kentucky Live Stock Record,

No. 10 JORDAN'S ROW, LEXINGTON, Ky.

B. G. BRUCE, - Editor and Proprietor.

PRICE \$3 PER YEAR

NOW READY.

## The Dominion Rules

—OF—

## RUNNING & TROTTING

PRICE 25 CENTS.

Address SPORTING TIMES Office, Toronto. 248-ty

"O. K."

## BARBER SHOP

—AND—

BATH ROOMS,

100 King Street, West, - - Toronto

THE BEST IN THE CITY.

270

G. W. SAITH, Manager



## Our Premiums.

GOLDSMITH MAID,

An elegant chromo 18 1/2 x 24 inches. Nine colors.

## LULA.

In six colors; 22 1/2 x 28 inches. In her trot against time at Rochester last Fall.

A choice of the above pictures is given to our advance paying subscribers for 1876-7. Write name and address plainly.

P. COLLINS & CO.,

SPORTING TIMES OFFICE, Toronto, Ont.

## Whelan's White Rose Billiard Hall

66 JARVIS ST.

## STANDARD

# Sporting Books

—AND—

## WORKS OF REFERENCE

FOR SALE AT

THE "SPORTING TIMES" OFFICE

Field, Cover and Trap shooting, by A. H. Bogardus, champion wing shot of America.—Embracing hints for skilled marksmen; instructions for young sportsmen haunts and habits of game birds; flight and resort of water fowl; breeding and breaking of dogs, &c. Price \$2 00. Reminiscences of the late Thomas Asheton Smith, Esq., or the pursuits of an English country gentleman. Price \$2 25.

Military men I have met. Illustrated. By Lindley Sambourne. \$2 00. The trotting horse of America; how to train and drive him; with the reminiscences of the trotting turf. By Hiram Woodruff. 18th edition, with new appendix, tables of performances, &c. \$2 50.

Blaine's Encyclopedia of rural sports, or complete account (historical, practical and descriptive) of hunting, shooting, fishing, &c. New edition, 600 engravings on wood, from drawings by Leech, Aiken, Landseer, &c. \$6 00. Lewis' American Sportsman, containing hints to sportsmen, notes on shooting, and the habits of the game birds and wild fowl of America.—Numerous illustrations. \$2 75.

Trotting's British Sports and Pastimes. \$2 00. Upton's Newmarket and Arabia; an examination of the descent of racers and coursers. Colored illustrations. \$2 50.

Norris' American Fish Culture, embracing all the details of artificial breeding and rearing of trout; the cultivation of salmon, shad, and other fishes. Illustrated. \$1 75.

Xonett's The Dog, edited with additions by E. J. Lewis. Illustrated. \$3 75. Castlemon's The Sportsman's Club in the saddle. Illustrated. \$1 25.

Castlemon's The Sportsman's Club afoot. Illustrated. \$1 25. Castlemon's The Sportsman's Club among the trappers. Illustrated. \$1 25.

Gilmore's Prairie and Forest; a description of the game of North America, with personal adventures in their pursuit. Illustrated. \$1 50.

Stonchenge's British rural sports, comprising shooting, hunting, coursing, fishing, hawking, racing, boating, pedestrianism, with all rural games and amusements. Ninth edition. Illustrated. \$5 50.

Norris' American Anglers' book, embracing the natural history of sporting fish, and the art of taking them, with instructions in fly-fishing, fly-making, and rod-making, and directions for fish breeding. Illustrated with 80 engravings on wood. \$5 50.

Sonchenge's The Horse in the table and the Field; his management in health and disease—80 engravings. \$2 50.

McClure's American Gentleman's table Guide containing a familiar description of the American stable; the most approved method of feeding, grooming, &c., of horses. \$1 25.

Dominion Turf Rules, for the guidance of contests of speed—running and trotting. 25cts.

Any of the above works will be sent by Post, or express, on receipt of price.

Address,

P. COLLINS & CO.,

"Sporting Times" Office,

Toronto, Ont.

## THE

# N. Y. CLIPPER.

PUBLISHED

## EVERY SATURDAY.

TERMS:

Single copy, 10 Cents. Per annum, \$5 00 in advance.

To clubs of four or more, a deduction of 50 cents is made from each yearly subscription.—Subscribers in Canada and the British Provinces \$1 extra, to cover postage.

Advertising under the head of Amusements, 15 cents per line, for each insertion.

Miscellaneous and Sporting advertisements, 20 cents per line each insertion.

Extracts from other papers, incorporated in