

ALL FOR RICHES.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE STORY OF THE WAIF.

"Oh, Mrs. Whitney, let me carry this sweet child to my room and watch over him while he sleeps! I will bring him here as soon as he awakes. Please, may I?"

"Certainly," replied Mrs. Whitney, allowing her face to express all the surprise that she could not concentrate in her voice.

Mrs. Grant waited for no further words, but fled to her own room with the tiny embroidered garments clasped with the child to her breast.

Once in her own room, this singular little woman gave way to an irrefragable fit of weeping. Locking the door after she had closed it, she threw herself upon her couch, and with the sleeping child pressed close to her heart, murmured:

"Oh, poor little deserted one! How could thy cruel mother thrust thee out of her heart to the cold mercy of strangers? Why did not she hold thee to her breast and face the world with thee? Poor little one! The disgrace was not in thy little body, that thou wert alive was not the shame. It was cruel to hide the fact that thou wast her child, even though the finger of scorn pointed at her, though it was disgraceful to fight against all the world for thee! Poor little forsaken one!"

She kissed the calm little face, pressed her lips again and again upon the sweetly closed lips, and heavy lids with their long golden locks, and the rounded, peach-bloom cheeks. Never before in the little life of Frankie Whitney had he felt the warm kiss of love upon his tender flesh and under the new sensation he awoke.

His little arms closed about Mrs. Grant's neck, and he cried:

"What a nice dream I had. I fort all de roses in de garden was got into my lap, an' I had so more than I could lift, an' den somebody lifted me wite you, an' wun wis me, an' do so!"

By way of explanation he pressed his lips to those of Mrs. Grant, and gave her a hearty kiss.

"Don't you know what 'so' means?" she asked, returning the kiss.

"No, I does't. Nobody does so in my face, but Chrissy's mover does so to his face," he replied.

"This is a kiss!" and Mrs. Grant repeated the words each time she kissed him, feeling that it was a pleasure to teach the dear boy the meaning of the word.

She had ceased to weep now, and was chatting and laughing gaily with Frankie.

Suddenly, in the midst of all this enjoyment, came a quick, resolute knock upon the door.

With the little boy in her arms, Mrs. Grant went to open the door. Mrs. Whitney stood before her.

WOMAN ESCAPES OPERATION

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Elwood, Ind.—"Your remedies have cured me and I have only taken six bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

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"Did you take the clothes which I showed you in the nursery? I went to put them away, and not finding them, supposed that you must have forgotten to leave them there," she said smilingly.

"Oh, yes," returned Mrs. Grant, "I forgot to leave them. But have you not decided to give Frankie to me? We have been having a glorious time. Come, Mrs. Whitney, I will give your boy the handsomest country seat there is anywhere about here, if you will formally 'make over' the boy to me."

For a moment Mrs. Whitney hesitated. She knew that Mrs. Grant meant to offer her a splendid home in exchange for Frankie, but late was stronger than love in her heart, and she replied:

"Nothing under heaven could tempt me to part with the child. He must return to the nursery now; Chrissy is awake and wants him. Come, Frankie. Go with me."

"No, no! I want to stay! I will stay!" screamed the child, clinging to Mrs. Grant.

"Please, let him stay a little longer," pleaded the lady.

"No, Chrissy wants him. Come to me, Frankie."

"No, no, no, me!" cried Frankie, clinging close to Mrs. Grant.

"Then I shall whip you," replied Mrs. Whitney, bringing her hand down upon the slender cheek of Frankie with great force.

The flesh reddened in an instant, and the child commenced to scream loudly.

Mrs. Whitney repeated the blow, but Mrs. Grant received it full upon her head, which she interposed to ward off the force of it.

"Please, do not strike Frankie!" cried Mrs. Grant, her eyes flashing fire.

"And you will please remember that it is not your place to interfere with the management of my children," retorted Mrs. Whitney.

Then seizing the little boy rudely by the arm, she dragged him, shrieking, to the nursery, and Mrs. Grant could hear the blows repeated, and the wild shrieks of the child after the door had closed. She sat down upon the edge of the couch, and with her hands clasped over her heart, listened until her face grew white and stony and her lips bloodless.

"I was to blame, if I had not urged Mrs. Whitney to allow me to keep the child, he would not have resisted. Why could not I have let his adopted mother manage him without my interference? In future I will be more guarded."

She remained sitting in deep thought with the little garments neatly folded upon her knees, until the door again opened, and Mrs. Whitney entered, saying:

"I have had a great deal of trouble with that child. He is so willful that I am obliged to whip him nearly every day. He has been such a trial to me that I have not a particle of affection left in my heart for him. I have to whip him dreadfully sometimes, and he has carried the marks of punishment for a week at a time without doing a bit of good. The ugly little rascal!"

"But, my dear Mrs. Whitney, why do you whip him when you admit that it is of no use? Could you not rule him with kindness?" asked Mrs. Grant.

"I have no kindness in my heart for him. He was the bitter response."

"Then Heaven pity the little darling, and grant that your power over him will be of short duration!" retorted Mrs. Grant, with spirit.

"Why, Mrs. Grant?"

"I can't help it. I hate to see a child abused; and a dear little fellow like my pet, you cannot need such treatment as you describe. I think you are cruel!"

"Gently, Mrs. Grant. Remember that I stand in the position of that child's mother," coolly replied Mrs. Whitney.

"And you may remember that this cruelty cannot be carried on in my house. If you must abuse little Frankie, you must do it somewhere away from me. I detest a meddlesome person, and I would scorn to interfere between a mother and her child, but I love Frankie Whitney, and he shall not be abused in my house. Remember!"

With these words, Mrs. Grant opened the door for Mrs. Whitney to pass out, and that lady, bowing with a scornful smile, took the little garments from Mrs. Grant's hands and left the room.

"My husband will soon be here," murmured the young wife, after she had closed the door, "and I must appear contented and happy—as if nothing had happened. I would not have him know that I have found trouble in my beautiful home!"

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With these words, Mrs. Grant went to the mirror, and calling Jane, sat before it while her hair was dressed anew. Then she removed her crumpled collar—putting on a fresh one—and with a snatch of song floating from her lips, danced into the parlor like a stray sunbeam fluttering from a rare vase of flowers to pause before a dim old picture, where her husband joined her, and together they discussed its worth.

"Have you examined the mansion to your satisfaction?" asked Major Grant, when they had turned from the picture and resumed their seats opposite to each other by the wide window.

Mrs. Grant replied in a sweet tone: "How very kind you are; and now that we are speaking of it, I will tell you what I wish to have done. I would like to have the suite of rooms opposite ours newly papered and painted, and entirely new furniture put in them. We will go down to New York to select the furniture. The carpet must be a royal velvet, and the furniture black walnut and marble. The paper hanging must be milk white, with a slender trailing vine of gold across it. We will shut these rooms up for guests who may visit us by and by."

"But, my love, those rooms are already occupied by my nephew and his wife," remonstrated Major Grant. His wife replied:

"I know that. But how easy for them to change. They may have the large room over the dining room, and the two smaller ones over the closets adjoining it. This is a magnificent house. Where is the one about here that comes next in point of excellence?"

"I used to think that Doctor Burleigh's house, about half a mile above here, was as near this in beauty as any that I know of. Others may have improved, however, since my leaving the place for a few years of travel."

"We will look about us when the weather grows warmer," answered Mrs. Grant. "By the way, you may go down in the kitchen regions with me; I wish to be introduced to your servants as their new mistress."

Major Grant leaned over to kiss his wife before he arose to ring the bell. A servant quickly responded.

"Call all the servants together, and tell them that I wish to see them in the parlor," was the order given; and in a few moments every man and woman belonging to the establishment stood in the presence of its real master and mistress.

Major Grant did not understand the nature of womankind well enough to know that he was inflicting a bitter wound in the heart of Mrs. Whitney.

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He supposed she looked upon her stay at Laurel Glade in the same light that he did, and did not for one moment suppose that she could wish to rule in a house where she was only a dependent.

All unconsciously he wounded her pride when he said, as he led Evangeline Grant before the assembled group of servants:

"This is your new mistress. I hope you will all love to do her bidding, and I can truly say that a woman more gentle and kind was never introduced to her husband's home to rule over his possessions."

The servants all bowed low, and Mrs. Grant, addressing each by name, as mentioned by her husband, had some pleasant words for every one of them, and they retired highly pleased with the change.

Mrs. Whitney sat sullen and defiant until the dinner hour arrived. Then the family went into the breakfast room, where the meals had usually been served.

To be continued.

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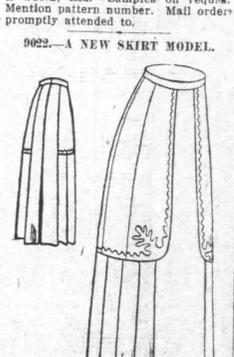
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The French Navy and the German.

The great display of enthusiasm at Toulon which accompanied the recent French naval manoeuvres, brought out an extraordinary display of acerbity in the German press. It has long been the fashion with the German press to belittle the French navy, and this time the papers seem to have regarded it as an affront to Germany that the French themselves should take any pride in their warships. The speeches of President Fallieres and M. Delcasse, the Minister of Marine, seem to have caused special offence.

The point that Delcasse dwelt on was the high standard of preparedness which had been reached by the French naval force itself, but he said that it was animated by the single ambition to be as genuinely ready as was the French army to respond at any moment to the country's call. This declaration was treated in Berlin and other German centres as a threat 'voissically brutal and empty.' Only the 'Voissachische Zeitung' kept its head. It said that M. Delcasse could hardly have said less, and it credited him with holding in the French Cabinet a prudent and moderate position throughout the Moroccan crisis.

The German press to the contrary notwithstanding, the French naval display at Toulon was very impressive. Absolutely no lame ducks were paraded, and no new vessels which were not complete and in commission were placed in line. The warships mustered were ninety in number, including five 18,000 ton battleships of the Danton class. All were tuned up to battle pitch with their full complement of men, stores, armament and ammunition, just as if they were to tackle a hostile fleet the next day. The flags of four Vice-Admirals and eight Rear-Admirals were flying. The fleet represented a displacement of nearly 420,000 tons and carried 37,000 men and 1,247 guns.

Almost simultaneously the German annual review took place at Kiel. The fleet which Emperor William reviewed consisted of twenty-six battleships, many of them, however, by no means of the Dreadnought class; four large cruisers, eight small ones, seventy-five torpedo boats, eight submarines and two divisions of 'mine searchers,' about 130 vessels of all sorts and sizes. The column as it passed the imperial yacht 'Hohenzollern' was about eight and a half miles long, but many of the vessels in it, at any rate according to English appraisal, were far from being of real efficiency.—New York Sun.

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