# "GEORGINA'S REASONS."

*A NEW AND FASCINATING CONTINUED STORY.*

BY HENRY JAMES.

had not made themselves offensive was by always remaining in the other room; though at times even this detachment, to which he owed some delightful moments, presented itself to Benyon as a form of disapprobation. Of course, after Mrs. Gressie's message, his visits were practically at an end; he wouldn't give the girl up, but he wouldn't be beholden to her father for the opportunity to converse with her. Nothing was left for the tender couple—there was a curious mutual distrust in their tenderness—but to meet in the squares, or in the topmost streets, or in the sidemost avenues, the spring afternoons. It was especially during this phase of their relations that Georgina struck Benyon as imperial. Her whole person seemed to exhale a tranquill, happy consciousness of having broken a law. She never told him how she arranged the matter at home, how she found it possible always to keep the appointments (to meet him out of the house) that she so boldly made, in what degree she dissimulated to her parents, and how much, in regard to their continued acquaintance, the old people suspected and accepted. If Mr. and Mrs. Gressie had forbidden him the house it was not apparently because they wished her to walk with him in the Tenth avenue or to sit at his side under the blossoming lilacs in Stuyvesant Square. He didn't believe that she told lies in Twelfth street; he thought she was too imperial to lie; and he wondered what she said to her mother when, at the end of nearly a whole afternoon of vague peregrination with her lover, this rustling, bristling matron asked her where she had been. Georgina was capable of simply telling the truth; and yet, if she simply told the truth, it was a wonder that she had not been simply packed off to Europe. Benyon's ignorance of her pretexts is a proof that this rather oddly-mated couple never arrived at perfect intimacy—in spite of a fact which remains to be related. He thought of this afterward, and thought how strange it was that he had not felt more at liberty to ask her what she did for him, and how she did it, and how much she suffered for him. She would probably not have admitted that she suffered at all, and she had no wish to pose for a martyr. Benyon remembered this, as I say, in the after years, when he tried to explain to himself certain things which simply puzzled him; it came back to him with a vision, already faded, of shabby cross streets, straggling toward rivers, with red sunsets, seen through a haze of dust at the end; a vista through which the figures of a young man and a girl slowly receded and disappeared—strolling side by side, with the relaxed pace of desultory talk, but more closely linked as they passed into the distance, linked by its at last appearing safe to them—in the Tenth avenue—that the young lady should take his arm. They were always approaching that inferior thoroughfare; but he could scarcely have told you, in those days, what else they were approaching. He had nothing in the world but his pay, and he felt this was rather a "mean" income to offer Miss Gressie. Therefore, he didn't put it forward; what he offered instead was the expression—crude often, and almost boyishly extravagant—of a delighted admiration of her beauty, the tenderest tones of his voice, the softest assurances of his eye, and the most insinuating pressure of her hand at those moments when she consented to place it in his arm. All this was an eloquence which, if necessary, might have been condensed into a single sentence; but those few words were scarcely needful, when it was as plain that he expected—in general—she would marry him, as it was indefinite that he counted upon her for living on a few hundred a year. If she had been a different girl he might have asked her to wait—might have talked to her of the coming of better days, of his prospective promotion, of its being wiser, perhaps, that he should leave the navy and look about for a more lucrative career. With Georgina it was difficult to go into such questions; she had no taste whatever for detail. She was delightful as a woman to love, because when a young man is in love he discovers that; but she could not be called helpful, for she never suggested anything. That is, she never had done so till the day she really proposed—for that was the form it took—to become his wife without more delay. "Oh, yes, I will marry you;" these words, which I quoted a little way back, were not so much the answer to something he had said at the moment as the light conclusion of a report she had just made for the first time of her actual situation in her father's house.

"I am afraid I shall have to see less of you," she had begun by saying. "They watch me so much."

"It is very little already," he answered. "What is once or twice a week?"

"That's easy for you to say. You are your own master, but you don't know what I go through."

"Do they make it very bad for you, dearest? Do they make scenes?" Benyon asked.

"No, of course not. Don't you know us enough to know how we behave? No scenes—that would be a relief. However, I never make them myself, and I never will—that's one comfort for you for the future, if you want to know. Father and mother keep very quiet, looking at me as if I were one of the lost, with little, hard, piercing eyes, like gimlets. To me they scarcely say anything, but they talk it all over with each other, and try and decide what is to be done. It's my belief that father has written to the people in Washington—what do you call it?—the Department—to have you moved away from Brooklyn—to have you sent to sea."

"I guess that won't do much good. They want me in Brooklyn, they don't want me at sea."

"Well, they are capable of going to Europe for a year, on purpose to take me," Georgina said.

"How can they take you, if you won't go? And if you should go, what good would it do, if you were only to find me here when you came back, just the same as you left me?"

"Oh, well!" said Georgina, with her lovely smile, "of course they think that absence would cure me of—cure me of——" and she paused, with a certain natural modesty, not saying exactly of what.

"Cure you of what, darling? Say it, please say it," the young man murmured, drawing her hand surreptitiously into his arm.

"Of my absurd infatuation!"

"And would it, dearest?"

"Yes, very like. But I don't mean to try. I shan't go to Europe—not when I don't want to. But it's better I should see less of you—even that I should appear—a little—to give you up."

"A little? What do you call a little?" Georgina said nothing for a moment. "Well, that, for instance, you shouldn't hold my hand quite so tight!" and she disengaged this conscious member from the pressure of his arm.

"What good will that do?" Benyon asked.

"It will make them think it's all over—that we have agreed to part."

"And as we have done nothing of the kind, how will that help us?"

They had stopped at the crossing of a street; a heavy dray was lumbering slowly past them. Georgina, as she stood there, turned to her lover, and rested her eyes for some moments on his own. At last: "Nothing will help us; I don't think we are very happy," she answered, while her strange, ironical, inconsequent smile played about her beautiful lips.

"I don't understand how you see things. I thought you were going to say you would marry me!" Benyon rejoined, standing there still, though the dray had passed.

"Oh, yes, I'll marry you!" And she moved away across the street. That was the way she had said it, and it was very characteristic of her. When he saw that she really meant it, he wished they were somewhere else—he hardly knew where the proper place would be—so that he might take her in his arms. Nevertheless, before they separated that day he had said to her he hoped she remembered they would be very poor, reminding her how great a change she would find it. She answered that she shouldn't mind, and presently she said that if this was all that prevented them the sooner they were married the better. The next time he saw her she was quite of the same opinion; but he found, to his surprise, it was now her conviction that she had better not leave her father's house. The ceremony should take place secretly, of course; but they would wait awhile to let their union be known.

"What good will it do us then?" Raymond Benyon asked.

Georgina colored. "Well, if you don't know, I can't tell you."

Then it seemed to him that he did know. Yet, at the same time, he could not see why, once the knot was tied, secresy should be required. When he asked what special event they were to wait for, and what should give them the signal to appear as man and wife, she answered that her parents would probably forgive her, if they were to discover, not too abruptly, after six months, that she had taken the great step. Benyon supposed that she had ceased to care whether they forgave her or not; but he had already perceived that women are full of inconsistencies. He had believed her capable of marrying him out of bravado, but the pleasure of defiance was absent if they kept the marriage to themselves. Now, too, it appeared that she was not especially anxious to defy—she was disposed rather to manage, to cultivate opportunities and reap the fruits of a waiting game.

"Leave it to me—leave it to me. You are only a blundering man," Georgina said. "I shall know much better than you the right moment for saying: 'Well, you may as well make the best of it, because we have already done it!'"

That might very well be, but Benyon didn't quite understand, and he was awkwardly anxious (for a lover) till it came over him afresh that there was one thing at any rate in his favor, which was simply that the loveliest girl he had ever seen was ready to throw herself into his arms. When he said to her, "There is one thing I hate in this plan of yours—that, for ever so few weeks, so few days, your father should support my wife." When he made this homely remark, with a little flush of sincerity in his face, she gave him a specimen of that unanswerable laugh of hers, and declared that it would serve Mr. Gressie right for being so barbarous and so horrid. It was Benyon's view that from the moment she disobeyed her father she ought to cease to avail herself of his protection; but I am bound to add that he was not particularly surprised to find this a kind of honor in which her feminine nature was little versed. To make her his wife first—at the earliest moment—whenever she would, and trust to fortune, and the new influence he should have, to give him, as soon thereafter as possible, complete possession of her. This rather promptly presented itself to the young man as the course most worthy of a person of spirit. He would be only a pedant who would take nothing because he could not get everything at once. They wandered further than usual this afternoon, and the dusk was thick by the time he brought her back to her father's door. It was not his habit to come so near it, but to-day he had so much to talk about that he actually stood with her for ten minutes at the foot of the steps. He was keeping her hand in his, and she let it rest there while she said—by way of a remark that should sum up all their reasons and reconcile all their differences:

"There is one great thing it will do, you know; it will make me safe."

"Safe from what?"

"From marrying any one else."

"Ah, my girl, if you were to do that——!" Benyon exclaimed; but he didn't mention the other branch of the contingency. Instead of this he looked up at the blind face of the house—there were only dim lights in one or two windows, and no apparent eyes—and up and down the empty street, vague in the friendly twilight; after which he drew Georgina Gressie to his breast and gave her a long, passionate kiss. Yes, decidedly, he felt, they had better be married. She had run quickly up the steps, and while she stood there, with her hand on the bell, she almost hissed at him, under her breath, "Go away, go away; Amanda's coming!" Amanda was the parlor maid, and it was in those terms that the Twelfth-street Juliet dismissed her Brooklyn Romeo. As he wandered back into the Fifth avenue, where the evening air was conscious of a vernal fragrance from the shrubs in the little precinct of the pretty Gothic church ornamenting that charming part

TO BE CONTINUED.

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## TORONTO RAILWAY TIME TABLE

**Departure and Arrival of Trains from and at Union Station.**

**GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.**

**Departures, Main Line East.**

7.15 a. m.—Local for Belleville.
8.30 a. m.—Fast express for Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, Portland, Boston, etc.
11 p.m.—Mixed for Kingston and intermediate stations.
5.30 p.m.—Local for Cobourg and intermediate stations.
8.00 p.m.—Express for main points, Ottawa Montreal, etc., runs daily.

**Arrivals, Main Line East.**

1 p.m.—Local from Cobourg.
9.15 a.m.—Express from Montreal, Ottawa and main local points.
11.30 a.m.—Fast express from Montreal, etc.
6.55 p.m.—Mixed from Kingston and intermediate stations.
10.30 p.m.—Express from Boston, Quebec, Portland, Montreal, Ottawa, etc.

**Departures, Main Line West.**

7.55 a.m.—Local for all points west to Detroit.
1 p.m.—Express for Port Huron, Detroit, Chicago and all western points.
4.00 p.m.—For Goderich, Stratford and local points north of Guelph.
6.25 p.m.—Mixed for Stratford and intermediate points.
11.15 p.m.—Express for Sarnia and western points; sleeping car for Detroit.

**Arrivals, Main Line West.**

7.55 a.m.—Mixed from Stratford and intermediate points.
8.10 a.m.—Express from Chicago, Detroit, Port Huron, and all western points.
11.30 a.m.—Local from London, Goderich, etc.
7.10 p.m.—Express from all points west, Chicago, Detroit, etc.
11.15 p.m.—Local from London, Stratford, etc.

**Departures, Great Western Division.**

7.15 a.m.—For Niagara Falls, Buffalo and local stations between Niagara Falls and Windsor.
9.25 a.m.—For Detroit, St. Louis and points in the southwest.
12.20 p.m.—For Detroit, Chicago and the west and all points east from Hamilton; runs daily.
3.55 p.m.—For Niagara Falls, Buffalo, New York, Boston and local stations between Hamilton and London, and Brantford, St. Thomas, etc.
6.30 p.m.—Local stations between Toronto and Niagara Falls.
10.45 p.m.—For Niagara Falls, Buffalo, New York, Boston and all points east and west of Hamilton.

**Arrivals, Great Western Division.**

8.25 a.m.—Express from Chicago, Detroit, Hamilton, etc.
10.15 a.m.—Express from London, St. Catharines, Hamilton, etc.
12.55 p.m.—Express from New York, Boston Buffalo and all points east.
4.30 p.m.—Express from New York, Boston Chicago, Detroit, London, etc., runs daily.
7.05 p.m.—Mail from Buffalo, Detroit, London, Hamilton and intermediate stations.
7.45 p.m.—Express from Detroit, St. Louis, etc.
10.55. p.m—Local from London and intermediate stations.

**Suburban Trains, Great Western Division.**

Leave Toronto at 7.40, 10.55 a.m., and 2.25 and 4.20 and 6.05 p.m.

Returning leave Mimico 8.35 and 11.35 a.m., and 3.00, 4.55 and 7.25, calling at Queen's wharf, Parkdale, High park and the Humber, both coin and returning.

**Sunday Trains, G. W. Division.**

Trains leaving Toronto for Hamilton at 12.20 and arriving from Hamilton at 4.30 p.m., run on Sundays, but do not stop at intermediate stations.

**Departures, Midland Division.**

7.35 a.m.—Mixed—Blackwater and intermediate stations.
7 a.m.—Mail—Sutton, Midland, Orillia, Coboconk, Haliburton, Lindsay, Port Perry, Whitby, Peterboro, Lakefield, Port Hope, Madoc, Belleville, Hastings, Campbellford and intermediate stations.
4.10 p.m.—Mail—Sutton, Midland, Orillia, Coboconk, Lindsay, Port Perry, Whitby, Peterboro, Port Hope and intermediate stations.
4.55 p.m.—Mixed—Uxbridge and intermediate stations.

**Arrivals, Midland Division.**

11.45 a.m.—Mail 9.45 a.m.—Mixed from Uxbridge and intermediate stations 9 p.m.—Mail. 6.10 p.m.—Mixed.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.**

**Departures Credit Valley Section.**

7.10 a.m.—St. Louis express, for all stations on main line and branches, and for Detroit, Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas city.
1.05 p.m.—Pacific express, for Galt, Woodstock, Ingersoll, St. Thomas, Detroit, Chicago, and all points west and north west.
4.10 p.m.—Local express for all points on main line, Orangeville and Elora branches.

**Arrivals, Credit Valley Section.**

9.20 a.m.—Express from all stations on main line and branches.
5.35 p.m.—Atlantic express from Chicago and all points west and stations on main line.
8.10 p.m.—Montreal express—All stations on main line and branches.

**Departures, Toronto, Grey and Bruce Section.**

7.20 a.m.—Mail for Orangeville, Owen Sound, Teeswater and all intermediate stations.
10.45 am.—S. S. express for Orangeville and Owen Sound direct.
6 a.m.—Mixed from West Toronto.
4.40 p.m.—Express for Orangeville, Owen Sound and Teeswater.

**Arrivals, Toronto, Grey and Bruce Section.**

10.45 am.—Express from Owen Sound and intermediate stations.
8.35 p.m.—Mail from Owen Sound and intermediate stations.
5.35 p.m.—Mixed, arrives at West Toronto.

**Departures, Ontario and Quebec Section.**

9.00 a.m.—Limited express for Peterboro, Norwood, Perth, Smith's Falls, Ottawa, Montreal, and intermediate points.
3.35 p.m.—Express for Peterboro, Norwood and all intermediate stations.
7.55 p.m.—Montreal express for Peterboro, Norwood, Perth, Smith's Falls, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and all points east.

**Arrivals, Ontario and Quebec Section.**

9.05 a.m.—Express from Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Brockville, Peterboro, and intermediate points.
12.20 p.m.—From Peterboro, Norwood and intermediate points.
10.25 p.m.—Toronto express from (same as 9.15 and intermediate points).

**NORTHERN RAILWAY.**

*Trains depart from and arrive at City hall station, stopping at Union and Brock street stations.*

**Departures.**

7.45 a.m.—Mail for Muskoka wharf, Orillia, Meaford, Penetang and intermediate stations, making direct connections at Muskoka wharf with Muskoka boats.
12.00 noon—Steamboat express for Muskoka wharf, Collingwood and Meaford, making direct connections at Collingwood with steamers for Sault Ste. Marie and Port Arthur.
5.05 p.m.—Express for Collingwood, Penetang, Orillia and Barrie.
12.30 p.m.—Muskoka special express each Saturday during July and August for Muskoka wharf, connecting with steamers for Lakes Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph.

**Arrivals.**

10.15 a.m.—Express from Collingwood, Orillia, Barrie and intermediate points.
1.45 p.m.—Accommodation from Meaford, Collingwood, Penetang, Muskoka wharf Orillia, Barrie and intermediate points.
8.15 p.m.—Mail from Penetang, Muskoka, Orillia, Barrie and intermediate stations.
1.55 p.m.—Muskoka special express, Mondays only—July and August.


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