

A PRECIOUS INHERITANCE.

CHAPTER XIV.

Madam Conway's Disasters.

The very idea was overwhelming, taking from her at once all desire for dinner; and returning to her room, she tried, by looking over the books, and examining the carpet, to forget how hungry and faint she was. Whether she would have succeeded is doubtful, had not an hour or two later brought another knock from the umbrella, and driven all thoughts of eating from her mind. In grim silence she waited until her tormentor was gone, and then wondering if it was not time for the train, she consulted her watch. But alas! 'twas only four; the cars did not leave till six, and so another weary hour went by. At the end of that time, however, thinking the depot preferable to being a prisoner there, she resolved to go; and leaving the key with the clerk, she called a carriage and was soon on her way to the cars.

As she approached the depot she observed an immense crowd of people gathered together, among which the red coats of the firemen were conspicuous. A fight was evidently in progress, and as the horses began to grow restive, she begged of the driver to let her alight, saying she could easily walk the remainder of the way. Scarcely, however, was she on terra firma when the yelling crowd made a precipitate rush towards her, and in much alarm she climbed for safety into an empty buggy, whereupon the horse, equally alarmed, began to rear, and without pausing a moment, the terrified lady sprang out on the side opposite to that by which she had entered, catching her dress upon the seat, and tearing half the gathers from the waist.

'Heaven help me!' she cried, picking up and beginning to wish she had never troubled herself with Theo's mother-in-law.

To reach the depot was now her great object, and as the two belligerent parties occupied the front, she thought to effect an entrance at the rear. But the door was locked, and as she turned the corner of the building she suddenly found herself in the thickest of the fight. To advance was impossible, to turn back equally so, and while meditating some means of escape she lost her footing and fell across a wheelbarrow which stood upon the platform, crumpling her bonnet and scratching her face upon a nail which pro-

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traded from the vehicle. Nearly dead than alive, she made her way at last into the depot, and from thence into the cars where she sank into a seat, and drawing hershaw closely around her, she tried to conceal the sad condition of her dress. She indulged in meditations not whole complimentary to firemen in general, and her late comrades in particular.

For half an hour she waited impatiently, but though the cars were filling rapidly, there were no indications of starting; and it was almost seven ere the long and heavily loaded train moved slowly from the depot. About fifteen minutes previous to their departure, as Madam Conway was looking ruefully out upon the multitude, she was horrified at seeing, directly beneath the window, the veritable woman from whom, through the entire day, she had been hiding. Involuntarily she glanced at the vacant seat in front of her, which, as she feared, was soon occupied by Mrs. Douglas and her companion, who, as Madam Conway divined, was 'Sam Babbit's wife.'

Trembling nervously lest she should be discovered, she drew her veil closely over her face, keeping very quiet, and looking intently from the window into the gathering darkness without. But her fears were groundless, for Mrs. Douglas had no suspicion that the crumpled bonnet and sorry figure sitting so disconsolately in the corner, was the same which but the day before had mourned her with a call. She was in high spirits, having had, as she informed her neighbor, a 'tip-top time.' One one point, however, she was disappointed. 'She meant as much as could be to have seen Theodosy, but she wan't to hum. Her grandmother was in town,' said she, 'but if she was in the room she must have been asleep, or dreadful deaf, for I pounded with all my might. I'm sorry, for I'd like to scrape acquaintance with her, bein' we're connected.'

An audible groan came from beneath the thick brown veil, whereupon both ladies turned their heads. But the indignant woman made no sign, and in a whisper loud enough for Madam Conway to hear, Mrs. Douglas said, 'Some Irish critter in liquor, I presume. Look at her jammed bonnet.'

'This remark drew from Mrs. Babbit a very close inspection of the veiled figure, who, smothering her wrath, felt greatly relieved when the train started and prevented her from hearing anything more. At the next station, however, Mrs. Douglas showed her companion a crochet collar, which she had purchased for two shillings, and which, she said, 'was almost exactly like the one worn by the woman who stopped at her house the day before.'

Leaning forward, Madam Conway glanced contemptuously at the coarse knit thing, which bore about the same resemblance to her own handsome collar as cambric does to satin. 'Vulgar, ignorant creatures!' she muttered, while Mrs. Babbit, after duly praising the collar, proceeded to make some inquiries concerning the strange lady who had shared Mrs. Douglas's hospitality.

'I've no idea who she was, some wazy critter they was takin' to the hospital.'

Another groan from beneath the brown veil, and turning around, the

kind-hearted Mrs. Douglas asked if she was sick, adding in an aside, as there came no answer, 'Bein' fightin', I'll warrant!'

Fortunately for Madam Conway the cars moved on, and when they stopped again, to her great relief, the owner of the blue umbrella, together with 'Sam Babbit's wife,' alighted, and amid the crowd assembled on the platform she recognized Betsey Jane, who had come down to meet her mother. The remainder of the way seemed tedious enough, for the train moved but slowly, and it was near ten o'clock ere they reached the Hillsdale station, where to her great delight, Mr. d am Conway found Margaret awaiting her, together with Arthur Carrollton. The moment she saw the former, who came eagerly forward to meet her, the weary, worn-out woman burst into tears; but at the sight of Mr. Carrollton she forced them back, saying in reply to Maggie's inquiries that Theo was not at home, that she had spent a dreadful day, and been knocked down in a fight at the depot, in proof of which she pointed to her torn dress, her crumpled bonnet, and scratched face. Maggie laughed aloud in spite of herself, and though Mr. Carrollton's eyes were several times turned reprovingly upon her, she continued to laugh at intervals at the sorry, forlorn appearance presented by her grandmother, who for several days was confined to her bed from the combined effects of fasting, fright, firemen's muster, and her late encounter with Mrs. Douglas, senior.

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CHAPTER XV.

Arthur Carrollton and Maggie.

MR. CARROLLTON had returned from Boston on Thursday afternoon, and finding them all gone from the hotel, had come on to Hillsdale in the evening train, surprising Maggie as she sat in the parlor alone, wishing herself in Worcester, or in some place where it was not as lonely as there. With his presence the loneliness disappeared, and in making his tea and listening to his agreeable conversation, she forgot everything until, observing that she looked weary, he said, 'Maggie, I would willingly talk to you all night, were it not for the bad effect it would have on you to-morrow. You must go to bed now,' and he showed her his watch, which pointed to the hour of mid-night.

Exceedingly mortified, Maggie was leaving the room, when, noticing her evident chagrin, Mr. Carrollton came to her side and laying his hand very respectfully on hers, said kindly, 'It is my fault, Maggie, keeping you up late, but I only send you away now, because those eyes are growing heavy, and I know that you need rest. Good

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night to you, and pleasant dreams." He went with her to the door, watching her until she disappeared up the stairs; then half wishing he had not sent her from him, he too, sought his chamber; but not to sleep, for Maggie, though absent, was with him still in fancy. For more than a year he had been haunted with a bright, sunny face, whose owner embodied the dashing, independent spirit, and softer qualities which made Maggie Miller so attractive. Of this face he had often thought, wondering if the real would equal the ideal, and now that he had met her, had looked into her truthful eyes, had gazed upon her sunny face, which mirrored faithfully her every thought and feeling, he was more than satisfied, and to love that beautiful girl seemed to him an easy matter. She was so childlike, so artless, so different from any one whom he had ever known, that he was interested in her at once. But Arthur Carrollton never did a thing precipitately. She might have many glaring faults, he must see her more, must know her better, ere he lavished upon her the love whose deep fountains had never yet been stirred.

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A Petitioner Makes Reply.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your esteemed paper to make a reply to a short letter signed 'A Young Fellow Who Wain't There,' concerning a petition which he says requests that the S. S. Argyle leave off Great Paradise and make Little Paradise a port of call which Mr. Editor, is a deliberate lie, or the writer is labouring under a false impression in which case I, as one of the petitioners, can assure him that the petition sent to and presented by Mr. Devereaux from Little Paradise, Little Bona, Great Bona, S. E. Bight and Great Paradise contained no such request, nor was Great Paradise anywhere mentioned in the petition. Excepting that seventeen out of said harbor joined with the residents of the other settlements in the prayer that the S. S. Argyle call at Little Paradise, also for erection of a wharf thereat.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to ask him wherein is this petition famous or what claim above the general rule of such petitions has it got to fame? None whatever, sir, more so than it roused the ire of a few what Walt Mason would call Chautaukas, and who feared the Argyle would be taken off Great Paradise if a wharf were erected at Little Paradise.

And so signing a petition for public improvement is patriotism is it? Then it is at a very low ebb in Young Fellow's mind. I wonder what he would call the feelings of Robert Emmet or George Washington or of the gallant Wallace, I guess it must amount to something like super-patriotism in his mind. In the olden days patriots were few and the man whose breast was animated with that then high and holy feeling was hailed as a hero from the days when Judas Maccabeus defended his country from the inroads of the Syrian despoiler, but now, Oh what a change twist now and then! No matter in what light a man regards his country if he can sign a petition he is a patriot in those days according to Young Fellow's law.

Again, I must ask him is it because the voters of any particular place are opposed to the Government? Is that any reason why they don't contribute to the support of that Government financially? Must not the Representatives of any district, Liberal or Tory, look after the interest of the people they represent whether they be Liberal or Tory?

If Governments acted like Young Fellow would fain have them act, then a Liberal District in a Tory Government or vice versa would fare very badly. Young Fellow displays his ignorance of such matters.

As to the allegation that the people of Little Paradise would not allow the Tory candidates to speak at that place, is a deliberate falsehood. I was present at the meeting held in the schoolroom at which Messrs. Morris, Howey and Devereaux spoke and I can testify that no voter of Little Paradise interrupted that meeting in any way except to ask a question, despite the fact that they were Liberal to the core and are yet.

And now a word of advice to Young Fellow. Don't place your political or social convictions too fixedly on any particular object, for Sir Robert Bond to whom we will all be faithful to a certain extent, says it is only fools that do not change their opinions sometimes.

I would likewise assure him, Mr. Editor, that I hold no brief from the people of Little Paradise nor do any person therein know of this letter being written, and it is only because the petition to which he referred interests all the petitioners as well as the people of Little Paradise, though the violence of the attack fell on them, that I decided to cross swords with him.

Thanking you in anticipation for space,

I remain, yours truly,

JAMES J. DRAVY,
Little Bona, P. B., April 24th, 1912.

Fire Alarm.

In response to a fire alarm call from box 13, at 7 o'clock last night, the East End Company were called to Harvey's Buttery Factory where a tub, laying near the main boiler, had ignited. The fire was quenched by the watchman of the premises without the aid of the firemen. No damage was done.

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This jaunty Russian model was made of dark blue serge with stitching for a finish. The special feature of this style is the 'body and sleeve in one,' but it has a shoulder seam that extends over the sleeve, to the cuff. The design is a simple one and is appropriate for all suitings. The pattern is cut in 3 sizes: 2, 4 and 6 years. It requires 3 3/8 yards of 26 inch material for the 6 year size. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

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Girl's Dress in Kimono Style, with Gored Skirt, and Band Trimming (with Front Closing).

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