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Lady Marjorie's Love

"Delightful!" exclaimed the Countess. "But last night, when I drove home from the Vicarage it was a perfect deluge! I am so glad to see the sunshine—I hope it may last, for a perfectly selfish reason. I suppose you know that I am about to cease my shameless trespassing upon Mr. Chadburn's courtesy, Mr. Barrington?"

"I think I understood that you meant to leave the Castle shortly." Was that Jack's bark and the scampering patter of his feet? he wondered uneasily.

"Almost immediately," assented the Countess. "So soon indeed that if nothing unforseen occurs I expect to take my departure on Saturday—the day after to-morrow. And that at once explains why I so hope the fine weather may last—I am a shicking traveller—and brings me to what I wished to say. I should so much have liked to thank Mr. Chadburn personally for his kindness, and I wrote to say that I hoped I might have the opportunity. To my great disappointment, I find that that will not be possible. Mr. Chadburn writes to tell me that he regrets that business must detain him in town until Monday or Tuesday. Most provoking, is it not"

Barrington gave no sign of his own inward conviction that Mr. Chadburn's "business" was nothing but an adroit excuse to avoid the thanks of her ladyship. That the master of Castle Marling would have appeared there long before but for the presence of the Countess he had known perfectly well, almost from the date of his own arrival. He did not know what reply he made, because Marjorie was coming at last. Without looking toward the staircase he saw her little black figure appear upon it, and saw also the dowager from the distant table raise her head and include her granddaughter and himself in a comprehensive glare. But the old eyes behind their twinkling glasses must have been excessively sharp indeed to see anything but the most formal and perfunctory courtesy in the greeting that passed between them. Barrington bowed merely as Mr. Chadburn's agent had a right to bow.

"Good morning!" The eyes she tried to raise fluttered and sank before they met his; she turned to her stepmother. "Good morning Fenella!"

"Good morning, my dear." The Countess' cold eyes rested coolly and carelessly upon the pale little face. "So you have made up your mind to come down," she added. "After keeping shut up all yesterday I really wonder whether you meant to appear at all. You look miserably white. Does your head ache"

"Yes, it aches a little, Fenella," Marjorie stammered guiltily, "I— I did not sleep well."

"You look as if you had not slept at all, child. The rain disturbed you, perhaps." Lady Marlingford's tone changed. "Speaking of being disturbed," she said, "I really wish you would keep that tiresome dog quiet. He was barking terribly in the night—it was enough to awaken the whole household! What was the matter?"

"Something— something disturbed him, I think," Marjorie faltered. Her cheeks grew scarlet. Would Fenella's sharp eyes see? She glanced beseechingly at Barrington. The delinquent Jack had trotted up and was pawing at his hand, eager to be noticed. He patted the sleek little head and answered with instant readiness.

"My fault, I'm afraid, Lady Marlingford. I must ask you to lay the blame on me. Through some business that arose unexpectedly, I was very late last night—or, more strictly speaking this morning. In fact, at somewhere about two o'clock and in the worst of rain I found myself stranded at Cross Beggard, and had to knock up the old fellow who keeps the ferry and borrow his trap. I suppose the noise I made in getting in at such an hour aroused Jack—I recollect hearing him bark. Pray accept my apologies for having disturbed you—I hoped I had not done that."

"Oh, it does not matter at all! How very unpleasant for you on such a shocking night!" The Countess, all graciousness, did not even follow her stepdaughter with her eyes as she moved across to her favorite window and sank down on its cushioned ledge, the fall of the heavy curtain half hiding her. "So as I cannot have the pleasure of personally thanking Mr. Chadburn," Fenella proceeded, "I think, Mr. Barrington, I must ask you to be my ambassador. Pray say everything on my behalf that is appreciative of his hospitality—it has really been nothing less—and add that when I return to England I shall hope for the privilege of becoming personally known both to him and his son. You will charge yourself with my little message? A thousand thanks! I do trust I have not detained you too long? My own time will be so fully occupied until I leave that I feared I might not be able to find another opportunity of making my request. My dear Countess, I am quite at leisure now. Shall we go into the library and arrange that little matter Good morning, Mr. Barrington!"

The Countess with her sweetest smile and her stateliest bow, approached the Dowager, still at her table, still absorbed in her letter, and still scowling and muttering over it. The vigilant old woman must have suffered a lapse of memory for once—must have forgotten all about the little figure half hidden by the window curtain, for she arose without protest and withdrew with her daughter-in-law—a little, bent, witch-like figure with her high heels and her tall stick in the shadow of that buxom and magnificent presence.

Not until the closing of the library door was audible did Barrington approach the window. Marjorie's eyes were big and wide with apprehension, her hands shook as she clasped them in her lap, her face was as white as a lily.

"Oh," she said, with a breathless, frightened gaze, "I thought they would never go!"

"They are both gone." It was the slightest little gesture in the world that she made— scarcely more than a movement with her eyes—but he understood it and sat down on the cushioned ledge. "Don't be distressed," he said kindly. "Your own eyes and ears have told you that there is nothing to fear. No one has the least suspicion. You must forget all about it as fast as you can."

"You know?" The whisper was so faint as to be almost inaudible.

(To be Continued.)

Dangerous Prophecies

By RUTH CAMERON

"IT IS when we are young that we say, 'I shall never' and 'I shall always'—not knowing that we are only time's atoms in a crucible of incredible change. An old man scarce dare say 'I have never,' for he knows that if he searches he will find probably that he has. 'All—all is change.'"—Booth Tarkington.

"There's one thing I'll never do," I heard a young girl say the other day, apropos of a friend's marriage to a young man wih more prospects than salary, "I'll never marry a man who is getting a cent less than $40 a week."

If it were possible for me to lift the veil that lies across my future, I would not do it. I believe most of us are happier knowing just the present, but I must say I would like to be able to look ten years ahead into that girl's future, and see if anything happens to that cock-sure assertion of hers.

I suppose you thought when you read that opening sentence that I was going to use it to launch myself into a tirade upon the extravagant matrimonial standard of the girl of to-day. Not at all. Of course the remark did suggest that line of thought. But as England's great story-teller so often says, "That's another story." What it set me to thinking most seriously was this: that it's a mighty risky business to prophesy what we will or will not do under this or that condition."

Is there anyone among my readers, I wonder, who is not doing at least one thing which he has said he never would.

I doubt it.

Of course there's a chance that this cock-sure young person may stick to that vow, but I think there's every bit as good a chance that she won't—perhaps better.

I well remember an energetic young woman who used to be horrified because her newly married friends were paying $35 and $38 a month for rent. When she married, she used to say, she would never pay more than $25. She is now paying $40 a month.

Another young business woman who knew too well the danger that wives run when they go serenely away for the whole summer and leave their husbands to shift for themselves, was very fond of saying, "When I'm married I'll go away with my husband on his vacation, and perhaps I'll stay a week or two more, but I'll never go off for the whole three months. I don't think it's right."

For the first two years of her married life she was true to that "never"; then the babies came, she wanted the country air for them, and now she goes away in May and comes back in October.

Of course she didn't reckon with the power of maternal solicitude when she made that vow; but that's just it, we never can reckon, we never can realize, just how we would feel under conditions we haven't experienced, and therefore we have no business to say what we would or would not do.

It is as if a man should pretend to solve an equation with two unknown quantities—himself and the conditions.

We know in part and therefore we ought to prophesy in part.

Or, better still, not at all.

Ruth Cameron

Yes

ALL teas may look alike to you—but the difference in Red Rose Tea is in the taste and the smell. Another marked difference is the agreeable strength that puts real quality in the cup with less tea in the pot. Will you try it.

RED ROSE TEA "is good tea"

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It is needless to suffer any longer with rheumatism, and be all crippled up, and bent out of shape with its heart-wrenching pains, when you can surely avoid it.

Rheumatism comes from weak, inactive kidneys, that fail to filter from the blood, the poisonous waste matter and uric acid; and it is useless to rub on liniments or take ordinary remedies to relieve the pain. This only prolongs the misery and can't possibly be cured.

The only way to cure rheumatism is to remove the cause. The new discovery, Croxone, does this because it neutralizes and dissolves all the poisonous substances and uric acid that lodge in the joints and muscles, to scratch and irritate and cause rheumatism, and cleans out and strengthens the stopped-up, inactive kidneys, so they can fillter all the poison from the blood, and drive it on and out of the system.

Croxone is the most wonderful medicine ever made for curing chronic rheumatism, kidneys troubles, and bladder disorders. You will find it different from all other remedies. There is nothing else on earth like it. It matters not how old you are, or how long you have suffered, it is practically impossible to take it into the human system without results. You will find relief from the first few doses, and you will be surprised how quickly all your misery and suffering will end.

An original package of Croxone costs but a trifle at any first-class drug store. All druggists are authorized to sell it on a positive money-back guarantee. Three doses a day for a few days is often all that is ever needed to cure the worst back-ache or overcome urinal disorders.

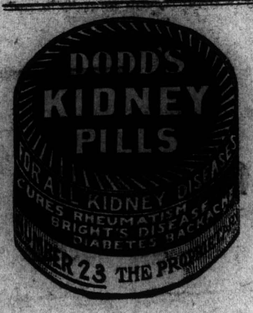
Were Fined

LONDON, May 6 — Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Anna Munro, militant suffragettes, who were arrested last evening, while attempting to hold a meeting in Hyde Park, when bbrought up at the police court today and charged, choose fourteen days imprisonment in preference to the payment of a fine of five dollars each. "Of course we will not pay" they told the magistrate.

Loss of Appetite is also loss of vitality, vigor, tone. To recover appetite and the rest take Hood's Sarsaparilla—that strengthens the stomach, perfects digestion, makes eating a pleasure. It also makes the blood rich and pure, and steadies the nerves.

Anarchists Busy

PARIS, May 6.—Rumors of anarchist designs against the life of King Alfonso of Spain during his coming visit here, have caused considerable anxiety to the police authorities of Paris and to the French government. Comprehensive precautions have been taken to prevent the commital of any outrage.



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