

"There must be two kinds of women in the world as well as two kinds of men," thought Ronald very sadly; but he cheered up when his mother's eyes smiled down at him.

CHAPTER IX.

To a certain extent Ronald had reinstated Uncle Ben as a hero; and he had to own to himself that he was a puzzling sort of hero, with many discrepancies and many weaknesses altogether inconsistent to so glorious a character, but he accounted for these by assuring himself repeatedly that Uncle Ben's body was but a wreck, riddled through with sword wounds and shot but that his bright and courageous spirit still reigned victorious.

It was difficult, however, to form any such theory with regard to Miss Green. Ronald thought it all out most carefully, but in no one particular could he discover heroic traces in this good lady. Her straightforward and everyday history was revealed to him by Violet, and he soon discovered that Miss Green had never been very poor, had never known the hunger which mouldy bread could appease, that she had no aged mother to share her hardly-earned crust with; in short, that Miss Green belonged to a rather prosperous tribe of old-fashioned governesses, that she had the honor of training many families of distinction, and had a nice little nest-egg put up for the time when she could work no longer. Miss Green was one of those persons who insist upon obedience and who usually get it, hence her success with the parents of her pupils. She was a thoroughly conscientious and well meaning woman, and many children might have been happy with her.—Bright children who had known sorrow, who lived together in the happy companionship of brotherhood and sisterhood, might have got on with her, and laughed merrily and been joyous out of school hours, and have attended to her directions and taken her many rules in good part. But she was not the woman to break in the sensitive and high spirited child who was now given to her charge. Ronald was not the least afraid of her; it was literally impossible for him to feel that sensation towards any one; but he was thoroughly uncomfortable in her presence. She rubbed him the wrong way; she brought out the worst that was in him.

Ronald had spent the eight years of his little life in the companionship of a very brave and generous and honorable-minded man; he had never been intimate with any woman except old Dorothy and Mrs. Benson. He was very fond of these two, but he considered them vastly inferior to his father, and his father represented more or less all other men to Ronald. It never occurred to Ronald that men could have small ways or do mean things, or be anything but high-spirited and generous and noble, but he had always suspected that women were possessed of little weaknesses. This he gathered from

his intercourse with Mrs. Benson and Dorothy, for his father had been most careful to plant in the boy's breast a feeling of chivalry for all women.—He had done this by telling him of his mother, and by showing him, with a thousand little turns of speech and a thousand little actions, how her very weakness—for she had been ill a long time before her death—had but drawn out in him love, and care, and devotion to her. Ronald was only eight years old, but his father had already given him a code of morals simple and explicit enough.

"Never, my son," he would say, "never at any time of your life do anything to hurt a woman: that is the act of a dishonorable man and coward. Never, my son," he would also say, "do anything to lower your own self-respect."

These sayings of his father's came back to the little boy now, and helped him very much in his dealings with Miss Green. He was a very keen little reader of character, and he studied his governess a great deal. Many and many times she reproved him for staring at her. He looked away at once when she made these complaints, and fixed his sweet eyes on the lesson book he could not master, he was so longing to be out romping in the sunshine.

"It's plain she won't put herself in my place, so I must put myself in hers," he muttered to himself on one of these occasions; "she can't understand what awful things fidgets are. How still she sits, and when I looked at her just now to find out how she could remain so many minutes without moving, she did not like it—I saw she did not like it. Well, whatever happens, I must not pain her, for father would not like that. A boy to hurt a woman would never do—never."

"Violet, you have said your task very nicely; you may go out in the garden," said the governess. "Ronald will follow you presently. Sir Ronald, I observe that you are murmuring to yourself. I can not allow you to learn your Wordsworth in that way. You are to endeavor to retain the verses in your memory without whispering them."

[To be continued.]

MARRIED.

HUGHES-LAURISANNE.—At Belize, in St. Mary's Church, by the Rector, June 19, Alfred G. Hughes to Emily P. Laurisanne.

DIED.

SAYLE.—Entered into the rest of Paradise, on June 27th, at Cow Bay, C.B., Christina, the beloved wife of Charles Sayle. "Grant her Lord Eternal rest."

DOWLING.—On Tuesday, June 4th, at No. 2 St. James' Terrace, Winchester, Eng., Caroline Jane, wife of the Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, late Rector of Christ Church, St. Stephen, Canada, aged 47, whose body has been laid at rest in Hurstley Churchyard, near Leicester.

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