—THE—

Plot That Failed;

—OR,—

Love That Would Not Be Denied.

CHAPTER VI.

"There is Mr. Dodson," she said. "I'll tap at the window; he may as well come in this way as walk up to the front."

And so she tapped.

Mr. Leicester looked over the whole of the house, as usual, before settling upon the right window, then, when he did, he lifted his hat, with a grave smile that was also a very pleased one, and came across the lawn.

"Will you consent to make such an undignified entry?" said Violet.

"Yes," said Mr. Leicester, and, stooping, stepped into the room. "I'm afraid I'm too early," he said, shaking hands with Mrs. Mildmay and the captain. "But I thought if I left it till the middle of the day it would be too hot, and if I left it until the evening it would be too near dinner, and that after dinner——"

"We should be all asleep," said Violet, quietly.

"Exactly," assented Mr. Leicester, gravely.

"We are very glad to see you at any time" said Mrs. Mildmay. "And I think it is very kind of you to take the trouble, on such a warm day, to come and see Violet's dog; poor fellow! we cannot think what ails his leg."

"We shall perhaps be able to find out," said Mr. Leicester.

"Will you take a cup of coffee?" asked Violet.

"Yes, I will, please," he said. "Coffee is a good antidote to the heat, is it not, Captain Murpoint?"

"Yes," said the captain, who had taken the opportunity to scrutinize the young man's face during the exchange of remarks; "yes, with a little curry powder added. We used to take it with chillies every morning at Madras."

Mr. Leicester sipped his coffee and chatted in his grave way; then, when the coffee had disappeared, Violet rose to conduct him to the stables.

When they reached the stables, where Violet was welcomed by many a groom and stable-help with smiles and hat-touchings, the great mastiff Leo came limping out of his kennel, baying and throwing up its head, with mingled pain and pleasure.

"Poor old fellow," said Violet. "See, isn't it a pity? He is very fierce," she added, as the dog eyed the stranger with suspicious, threatening aspect.

"I'm not afraid of a dog," said Mr. Leicester, quietly, and without hesitation he knelt down and stroked the thick, smooth neck. The dog growled and put its paws on his shoulder.

"Oh, please be careful," said Violet, apprehensively. "Quiet, Leo! Quiet, sir."

Mr. Dodson, however, did not seem at all nervous, and, with a grave, "Poor old man!" took hold of the bad foot and examined it.

"There's a thorn in this foot, or there was, and it is festering. I prescribe a poultice," he said.

"Oh, dear me! who is to put it on?" said Violet.

"I will," said Mr. Leicester, "if you will be kind enough to order some warm water and linseed."

Violet, without any further fuss, sent one of the grooms for the required articles, and Mr. Leicester seated himself on the top of the kennel and talked to the dog until they came.

Then he mixed the poultice, applied it, and washed his hands, all with the same self-composed gravity which half amused Violet and half awed her.

This Mr. Leicester, whom she had once almost despised for being the son of a tallow melter, was gradually winning her respect and setting her thinking.

"How kind of you," she said. "I am really very grateful. But I am ashamed that you should have had so much trouble."

"Not at all. I am very fond of dogs," said Mr. Leicester, and the speech, though it seemed ungracious, was pleasantly spoken.

"If you are fond of horses, come and see my ponies," said Violet, in her frank way, and they turned to the stables.

"They are a pretty pair; they'd go well in tandem," said Mr. Leicester, thoughtfully.

"Would they?" said Violet, eagerly. "How I should like to drive them. Is it difficult?"

"No," said Mr. Leicester, "not at all, when you have acquired the knack. If you will allow me, I will show you how to drive the ponies tandem."

"Thank you so much," said Vioet, gratefully; "but are you sure that it will not bore you? I know gentlemen dislike being bored."

"No, it will give me great pleasure," he said, simply. "When will you take the first lesson?"

"Oh, you shall say the time."

"This afternoon, at five?"

"Yes," said Violet; "I shall be delighted! Oh, I forgot!" she added, quickly, and with an unmistakable air of disappointment. "I am to drive Captain Murpoint over to the village, and perhaps he would not care to risk his neck."

Captain Murpoint came from the house at that moment to answer the question.

"Will you be present at a little equestrian experiment, Captain Murpoint?" asked Mr. Leicester.

The captain smiled.

"Are you going to ride three of Miss Mildmay's horses a-row?" he said, with his smooth smile.

"No; Mr. Dodson has been kind enough to offer to teach me how to drive tandem," said Violet.

"I shall be only too delighted to make a spectator."

"Will you come into the house again?" she asked, as Mr. Leicester raised his hat and paused at the walk leading to the gate.

"No, thank you," he said. "I am going down to the village for my mother. Good-morning. Good-morning, Captain Murpoint." And he sauntered off.

They repaired to the drawing-room, that being the coolest part of the house, and there the captain was most attentive. The conversation got on to the topic of music, and Violet turned over her new songs, and at last, in answer to a question whether he sang or not, the captain offered to sing.

He seated himself at the piano, struck a few chords, and commenced a barcarole in so sweet and yet powerful a voice that Violet was charmed.

The music drew Mrs. Mildmay into the room from another part of the house, and the morning, which Violet had feared would be extremely dull, promised to pass away most pleasantly.

While he was singing, Violet heard her door open.

She was standing at the piano, and she did not turn her head, but raised her eyes to a mirror which hung over the instrument, and which reflected the whole of the room.

As she did so, she saw that the door was opened by the captain's servant, and her gaze was riveted by the picture which the mirror showed her.

The man, thinking himself unobserved, was standing, with the door handle in his hand, with such an expression of infinite mockery and sardonic amusement on his evil face that Violet felt herself fascinated and strangely impressed by it.

Suddenly the captain raised his eyes, and she knew by the look of mingled anger, alarm, and suspicion which displaced the smile upon his face that he was conscious of her fixed attention upon the mirror.

He finished the song abruptly, turned his head, and saw Jem Starling, whose face instantly resumed its usual smug demureness.

"Well, James?"

"A letter, captain," said James, "marked 'immediate.'"

The captain took it.

Jem left the room.

"Pray, do not mind us," said Mrs. Mildmay, and, with a bow, the captain took out his letter, which he had thrust into his pocket.

He was almost on the point of returning it to the hiding place, for at a glance he saw that it was only a sham one—an old envelope sealed up.

However, with his usual quickness, he decided to open it, and, accordingly, made a slight fuss with the seal, and, taking out a piece of paper, read:

"The pleece inspector's cum down to-day."

Captain Murpoint smiled.

"Business, my dear madam; business men always mark their letters 'immediate,'" and he thrust the letter into his pocket, and commenced talking as if the matter were of no moment.

Violet played a little, and practiced some new song, and Mrs. Mildmay ventured to pass through the French window into the garden, the captain accompanying her.

It was after they had left the room that Violet, happening to glance at the carpet, saw a scrap of paper by her side.

It was the captain's note.

"'The pleece inspector's cum down to-day,'" she said; "why, where can this have come from?"

For the moment she thought that it must be the letter which the captain had received, but the scrap of paper had so little of the appearance of a missive that had come through the post, and the information seemed to have still less connection with the captain, hat she dismissed the idea.

"Strange," she said, and, with a laugh, she put the piece of paper in her pocket.

The captain had pulled it from his pocket with his handkerchief.

CHAPTER VII.

Five o'clock came, and with it Leicester Dodson.

It had been very warm out all day; it was warm still, but Mr. Dodson did not look at all distressed, and his velvet lounging jacket hung loosely and comfortably upon his strong, muscular frame.

"Have you courage enough to face the weather?" he said, putting his head through the window frame, "or do you give in?"

"No," said Violet, laughing; "on the contrary, I feel quite brave. I will not keep you long. Will you take a seat while I get my hat?"

He entered, sauntered to a chair, and dropped into it, prepared to wait the three-quarters of an hour which ladies usually require for donning hat and cape.

But Violet was quick and impulsive in all her actions, and before ten minutes had passed he heard her voice on the stairs again, speaking to a servant.

Before she entered the room, however, the door opened, and Captain Murpoint came in.

"Oh, here you are, Mr. Dodson," he said. "Can you tell me at what time the post goes out?"

"Six o'clock," said Leicester.

"So soon?" returned the captain. "I am afraid I shall be compelled to deprive myself of the pleasure of accompanying you. I have some rather important letters to write, and shall barely have time to get through them."

(To be Continued.)

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1136—1086.—A SPLENDID COAT SUIT.

Green serge with braid and bands of fur for trimming, is here shown. The suit is composed of Ladies' Coat Pattern, 1136, and Ladies' Skirt Pattern, 1086. The coat has the fronts cut in vest effect, and is dart fitted. It has added skirt sections over the hips. The low neck opening is finished with revers that meet a coat collar in notches. The skirt shows one of the now so popular tunic styles, with panel front and yoke top. The cut is cut in 6 sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust measure. The Skirt in 6 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. It requires 8 yards of 44 inch material for a 36 inch size. The Skirt measures 2 yards at its lower edge.

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1139.—A SIMPLE FROCK FOR MOTHER'S GIRL.

Girl's Dress with Long or Short Sleeve and with Collar or in Round Neck Outline.

Blue cashmere with trimming of soutache braid is here shown. Brown or red serge with facings of striped or plaid woolen would also be effective. The waist portions are cut in one with the sleeves, and these may be in short or wrist length. The skirt is a three piece model with a lap tuck at the centre back. The Pattern is splendid for all wash materials, such as galatea, kindergarten, cloth, poplin, percale, gingham, seersucker and chambrey. Also for velvet, silk, cloth or novelty woolens. It is cut in 4 sizes: 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. It requires 2¾ yards of 36 inch material for an 8 year size.

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LOCAL ARRIVES.—The local Carbonear, via Brigus, arrived i city at 12.30 p.m. to-day.

EXPRESS DUE.—The Lintros press is due in the city at 6 p.m

VICTORY

BOWRING'S SHIPS.—The pero left Exploits at 9.40 a.m. The Portia left Rose Blanche at to-day.

COASTERS SUMMONED. boys summoned for coasting city inclines were before court and let off on paying costs.

TO LOAD SALT BULK.—Th J. D. Hazen entered St. Jacque terday to load salt bulk codn the Gordon Pew Co. of Glouce

AS FAR AS RENEWS.—The ern Shore train, which leaves 5.30 this afternoon, will only go as Renews.

NOTICE! C. C. C. BA The C.C.C. Band will me morrow, Sunday, in their Rooms, Mechanics' Hall, a a.m., for the purpose of par with the Second Newfoun Contingent. Full kit. By BANDMASTER.—jan9,1i

WEATHER.—It is fine all o line of railway to-day, with northwest wind prevailing. T perature ranges from 15 to 40

The Regular Monthly M of the St. John's Mechani ciety will be held in their Monday evening at 8.15 All members are requeste present. JAS. J. LEAH retary.—jan9,1i

FOR PATRIOTIC PURP Mrs. Keegan is arranging a and a dramatic sketch in the on January 20th in aid of the tic Fund and the Belgian Fun under the patronage of His Ex the Governor. Particulars will later.

Don't forget Dance in Belgian Relief Fund, T. meury, Monday, Jan. 11 8.30 p.m. Music by T. A. Tickets for sale at Atlantic store, Geo. V. Trainer's a Wadden's, Water Street. joyable time in store for who attend.—jan7,3i,th,s.

GEORGE ST. CHURCH.—Th odists of the 2nd Nfld. Regim R. N. Reserve will parade to Street Church, on Sunday mo 11 p.m. A special service will during which they will be a by the Pastor, Rev. N. M. Guy.

DR. DeVAN'S FEMALE PILLS medicine for all Female Complaint or three for $10, at drug stores. Ma address on receipt of price. THE SCO Co., St. Catharines, Ontario.

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ST. ANDREW'S CONCERT the auspices of the Women's ary Society, the ladies of St. Congregation will hold a gen cert in the Presbyterian Hall day night next. An excellent gramme has been prepared a joyable time is assured all tend. The performance will 8.15 p.m.

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