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LORD WHARTON'S NIECE — AND — THE HEIR TO REGNA COURT.

CHAPTER X. MORTALITY.

He smiled condescendingly, and stroked his slight mustache. He was up at the Court again the next day, and behaved himself so well that, being just lunch time, Claire asked him to remain for the meal. He accepted, and kept so careful a guard upon himself that Mrs. Weston, to whom he had been especially polite, was quite impressed in his favor.

"The son is a great improvement on the father, Claire," she remarked. "Mr. Mordant is—almost a gentleman."

It was a pity Mr. Mordant Sapley could not hear her.

She ran upstairs as she spoke, and presently came down again with her hat on and went around to the wing. She had got into the habit of going around there, or watching from the end of the terrace and often Gerald was unaware that she was looking on, and that she was more frequently looking at him than at the work. Sometimes she took off his coat and lent a hand at the more dangerous portions of the demolition, and once or twice Claire had discovered that she was holding her breath as she watched him standing on the edge of one of the broken walls, with the stones falling from quite under his feet. He was sitting on a heap of debris, smoking his pipe, when she came up that afternoon, and he rose with a capital air of indifference, but respectful politeness. "He had learned to set a guard on himself—like Mr. Mordant."

"How fast you are getting on!" said Claire.

"Yes, thanks to Mr. Lee," said Gerald, indicating the young builder, who touched his cap and looked pleased as he moved away.

"A capital fellow," said Gerald. "It was a rare piece of luck getting hold of him. But, then I am lucky."

"Are you?" asked Claire, with a faint smile.

"Yes," he said. "When things are at their worst I always drop on my feet, Miss Sartoris."

He smiled, and not for the first time, Claire noticed that he not only smiled with his lips but with his eyes, and that they were very handsome and expressive at such times.

"I think we are rather astonishing the natives," he said, looking at the broken wing. "It takes their breath away."

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ed lips, and a rather pale face, for her promise.

"I promise," she said. And she said it almost meekly; the Claire Sartoris, mistress of Court Regna! "It was foolish; I thought—"

She stopped and bit her lip.

"You thought it wasn't coming down just yet!" he said. "Oh, but it is never safe to trust a wall in that condition!"

"It doesn't matter what I thought," she said, with a faint smile. "I will not go so near again."

She turned from him as she spoke, and went slowly back to the house; but she passed quickly to her own room, and, locking the door, "let herself go." The restraint she had put upon herself broke down, and with her hands covering her face, she swayed to and fro like a stately pine buffeted by the wind. She could still see him standing by the threatening wall, and she could still hear his stern voice, feel the hard grip of his hand. The shadow of the terror she had endured, mingled with a vague, mystical pleasure and delight that bewildered and frightened her by its strangeness.

He had been angry with her—had "bullied" her; but she knew that his anger had proved his regard for her safety, his consternation for her danger, and she felt no resentment.

After a while the reaction passed, and she sank into a chair in a kind of stupor, in which she kept asking whether she would have sprung toward the wall, as she had done, to save, say, one of the workmen?

Gerald also suffered from a reaction, and when she had disappeared, he stood looking at the building as if he had lost all interest in it, as if, indeed, he rather hated it, and, after a time, he walked off. He was scarcely conscious that he had spoken, grasped her so roughly; he could only remember her terrible danger, and every now and then, as he strode along to the cottage he took off his hat and wiped the perspiration from his brow.

When he had got home he felt as if he could not remain indoors, as if the small room were not large enough for his quivering nerves. And presently he went down to the beach. A boat belonging to Captain Hawker was dancing on the water near the shore, and, singing up to the captain, who was in his accustomed seat outside the cottage, for permission, he pulled her in by her chain and went on board.

A sail would do him good, blow all the poisonous out of his brain, and drive the remembrance of her peril out of his mind.

He was setting the sail when he heard a step on the beach behind him, and looking around, saw Claire. He had his hand on a moment with the sail in his hand, then stepped ashore.

"I want to apologise for my—"

he began, but Claire, with a swift rise of color, interrupted him.

"Do not speak of it," she said. "You were quite right. It does not matter. Are you going for a sail?"

"Yes, he said, accepting her refusal to hear more.

"It is a lovely evening," she said.

"I seemed to him that she looked at the boat with a look that was possible only on the spur of the moment. Almost without thinking, he said:

"Would you care to come, Miss Sartoris?"

Claire looked beyond him.

"Are you going far?" she asked, quietly, though her conscience whispered that she was wrong.

"As far as you like—I mean, I only intended running over to the island and back."

(To be continued.)

away. We shall begin rebuilding at the end of next week. I want it all, or nearly all, covered in before the winter is upon us."

Lee came back and spoke to him, and they went among the ruins. Claire stood looking up at the men at their work of demolition, and lost sight of Gerald for a moment or two, then she saw him standing near the old wall. He had his back to it and to her, and was giving some instructions to Lee, who had mounted to the roof. Claire was thinking, half unconsciously, how completely Gerald was master of the situation, that his very attitude, and the quiet ring of his musical voice, were eloquent of his self-dependence, and she felt a slight thrill of admiration, the tribute of which every woman pays to the strong man who is lord of himself and others.

Then, suddenly, the little pleasant glow was dispelled, for she saw, or fancied that she saw, the wall near which he stood tremble and shake. Her heart leaped, and then seemed to cease beating for a moment. If the wall were to fall while he was standing there, it would come down upon him and kill him. She tried to call to him, but to her horror her tongue seemed to refuse to answer to her will. The terrible dumbness lasted but a moment, but when she did call, her voice was drowned by the noise of the picks and the falling stones, and did not reach him.

She saw the wall again quiver like a high living thing—there was no fancy about it this time. And Gerald still stood looking up at Lee, with a smile, and all unconscious of the doom that threatened him! She felt as if she could not move, as if she were rooted to the spot for a second that appeared an age to her, then she sprang forward and had almost grasped his arm, when Gerald, as if he had been watching the wall all the time, quietly stepped back. As he did so, the mass fell with a terrific noise. He smiled, and nodded approvingly, then heard a kind of gasp behind him, and turning sharply, found Claire at his elbow. One of the stones had rebounded, and fallen close at her feet, and for the moment he thought she had been struck.

His fear for her turned him sick and white, and he caught her arm and drew her back. As is the way with Gerald's kind of man, his emotion made him stern, and it was in a tone that sounded like passionate anger that he demanded:

"Why did you come so close? How could you be so imprudent? My God! the wall might have fallen upon you! Come back!"

Claire's face was deadly white, and the terror still lingered in her eyes as she raised them to his. But even when the color had come back, she did not show any resentment of his manner and speech. "And she did not say, 'I came to save you!'"

Her eyes fell, and she stood quite still. Gerald drew a long breath, his hand was still on her arm, and none too gently, and he wiped the sweat from his brow.

"Is your passion, Miss Sartoris," he said. "I am afraid I was rough and unmanly; but you gave me a nasty fright. Let me beg of you never to come so near again—never to pass that mark." He dug his heel into the lawn. "I must ask you to promise me, please," he added, with a touch of his former sternness.

Claire tried to smile, but the smile would not come. She felt her hand begin to tremble on her arm, and perhaps, he was conscious that it was so trembling, for he withdrew it. But he still waited with tightly-compress-

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Wool Blankets for bed coverings instead of comfortables are growing more and more popular. Here are All Wool Blankets, light & fluffy yet extra warm; full size, with neatly finished edges.

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The sort of Turkish Towels that suggest quantity purchasing while this price prevails; neatly hemmed ends; Terry striped borders.

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Astrachan and Brushed Worsted, buttoned front, collar, sleeves and pockets with silk binding.

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All Wool plaid combination, pleated, button trimmed; colours: Fawn, Brown.

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Blue Serge, yard \$1.50
Blue Serge, yard 98c.
Mellon Cloth, yard 68c.
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Ladies' Tuxedo Sweaters

Charming new styles of finest weaves. The seasons brightest new colors. A complete range of styles and sizes that is sure to meet with your satisfaction. Come in while our lines are still complete.

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Men's Sleeveless Sweaters

They're comfortable to work in, or for added warmth under coat. We have them in all sizes, different colors too, in a fine stitch and extra heavy knit; splendid values.

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Low in price. We're sure of the favor with which these plain color Jerseys will be received, and this price will surely gain every school fellow's attention. Guaranteed pure worsted yarn in a fine weave.

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For the purpose of treatment of Tuberculosis, a joint meeting of the Society of Medical Bacteriologists, the Society of Medical Chemists, the Society of Medical Physicists, the Society of Medical Pathologists, the Society of Medical Therapists, and the Society of Medical Hygienists, was held at the Hotel de Ville, Paris, on the 10th of December, 1925. The meeting was presided over by Sir George Pickens, President of the Society of Medical Bacteriologists, and was attended by a large number of distinguished scientists from all over the world. The following are some of the papers read at the meeting:

1. The Tubercle Bacillus, by Dr. Robert Koch.
2. The Pathogenesis of Tuberculosis, by Dr. Hans Knudsen.
3. The Immunity in Tuberculosis, by Dr. Paul Ehrlich.
4. The Treatment of Tuberculosis, by Dr. Carl Neuberg.
5. The Prevention of Tuberculosis, by Dr. Albert Sabin.

The meeting was a most successful one, and it is hoped that the results of the discussions will be of great value to the medical profession in the treatment and prevention of this terrible disease.