

His eyes looked wonderingly into mine. "Do you mean my mother?" he asked. I laid my head on his bosom, and whispered back.

"I mean your child."

I had all my reward for all that I had given up! I forgot Mr. Playmore; I forgot Gleninch. Our new honeymoon dates, in my remembrance, from that day.

The quiet time passed, in the bye-street in which we lived. The outer stir and tumult of Parisian life ran its daily course around us, unnoticed and unheard. Steadily, though slowly, Eustace gained strength. The doctors, with a word or two of caution, left him almost entirely to me. "You are his physician," they said; "the happier you make him, the sooner he will recover." The quiet monotonous round of my new life was far from wearying me. I, too, wanted repose—I had no interests, no pleasures, out of my husband's room.

Once, and once only, the placid surface of our lives was just gently ruffled by an allusion to the past. Something that I accidentally said, reminded Eustace of our last interview at Major Fitz-David's house. He referred, very delicately, to what I had then said of the Verdict pronounced on him at the Trial; and he left me to infer that a word from my lips, confirming what his mother had already told him, would quiet his mind at once and for ever.

My answer involved no embarrassments or difficulties: I could, and did, honestly tell him that I had made his wishes my law. But it was hardly in womanhood, I am afraid, to be satisfied with merely replying, and to leave it there. I thought it due to me that Eustace too should concede something, in the way of an assurance which might quiet my mind. As usual with me, the words followed the impulse to speak them. "Eustace," I asked, "are you quite cured of those cruel doubts which once made you leave me?"

His answer (as he afterwards said) made me blush with pleasure. "Ah, Valeria, I should never have gone away, if I had known you then as well as I know you now!"

So the last shadows of distrust melted away out of our lives.

The very remembrance of the turmoil and the trouble of my past days in London seemed to fade from my memory. We were lovers again; we were absorbed again in each other; we could almost fancy that our marriage dated back once more to only a day or two since. But one last victory over myself was wanting to make my happiness complete. I still felt secret longings, in those dangerous moments when I was left by myself, to know whether the search for the torn letter had, or had not, taken place. What wayward creatures we are! With everything that a woman could want to make her happy, I was ready to put that happiness in peril, rather than remain ignorant of what was going on at Gleninch! I actually halted the day, when my empty purse gave me an excuse for going to my banker's correspondent on business, and so receiving any letters waiting for me which might be placed in my hands.

I applied for my money without knowing what I was about; wondering all the time whether Benjamin had written to me or not. My eyes wandered over the desks and tables in the office, looking for letters furtively. Nothing of the sort was visible. But a man appeared from an inner office; an ugly man, who was yet beautiful to my eyes, for this sufficient reason—he had a letter in his hand, and he said "Is this for you, ma'am?"

A glance at the address showed me Benjamin's handwriting.

Had they tried the experiment of recovering the letter? and had they failed?

Somebody put my money in my bag, and politely led me out to the little hired carriage which was waiting for me at the door. I remember nothing distinctly, until I opened the letter on my way home. The first words told me that the dust-heap had been examined, and that the fragments of the torn letter had been found!

CHAPTER XLV.

THE DUSTHEAP DISTURBED.

My head turned giddy. I was obliged to wait and let my overpowering agitation subside, before I could read any more.

Looking at the letter again, after an interval my eyes fell accidentally on a sentence near the end, which surprised and startled me.

I stopped the driver of the carriage, at the entrance to the street in which our lodgings were situated, and told him to take me to the beautiful Park of Paris—the famous Bois de Boulogne. My object was to gain time enough in this way, to read the letter carefully through by myself, and to ascertain whether I ought, or ought not, to keep the receipt of it a secret before I confronted my husband and his mother, at home.

This precaution taken, I read the narrative which my good Benjamin had so wisely and thoughtfully written for me. Treating the various incidents methodically, he began with the Report which had arrived, in due course of mail, from our agent in America.

(To be continued.)

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869
AND AMENDMENTS THERETO.

IN THE MATTER OF J. H. CHAPRON, OF VILLAGE ST. HENRI, P. of Q., HOTEL KEEPER AND TRADER.

AN INSOLVENT.

I, the undersigned, HUBERT B. LEFEBVRE, of the City of Montreal, have been appointed Assignee in this matter.

Creditors are requested to file their claims before me, within one month, and are hereby notified to meet at the Office of WHYTE, KERR & LEFEBVRE, in Merchants' Exchange Building, St. Sacrament Street, in the City of Montreal, on Thursday, the first day of April next, at 11 o'clock A. M., for the examination of the Insolvent, and for the ordering of the affairs of the Estate generally.

H. B. LEFEBVRE,
Assignee.
Montreal, 1st March, 1875. 11-11-52-116.

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INSOLVENT ACT OF 1869.

CANADA PROVINCE OF QUEBEC }
District and City of }
Montreal. }
IN THE MATTER OF GEORGE E. DESBARATS,
AN INSOLVENT.

ON TUESDAY, the sixth day of April next, the undersigned will apply to the said Court for a discharge under the said Act.
Montreal, 27th February, 1875.
GEORGE E. DESBARATS.
11-10-2-112

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