

"I Had Terrible Backache From Kidney Disease"



Mrs. M. A. McNeill, Co-nam Sta., N.B., writes:
"I was troubled for years with terrible backache, resulting from kidney disease. At times in each month I remained in bed, the pain was more than I could stand, and to walk was almost impossible. I used about \$50.00 worth of other medicines, but with little results. Now I am completely better, after using only five boxes of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills."

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills
GERALD S. DOYLE, Distributor.

At the Mouth of the Treacherous Pit

STORY OF LOVE, INTRIGUE AND REVENGE

CHAPTER XXIV.

She was startled and unnerved by this sudden change, it seemed like a new atmosphere, a new world to her. She could hardly believe that she was the same woman who had come down to see the sun set over the river while overwhelmed by the sense of her husband's guilt. It was as though a young and vigorous defender had risen from him; as though fresh light were thrown upon this dark mystery.

"I pray Heaven," cried Gertrude, with sudden passion, "that I may never lie down to die until I have accomplished my end! Mamma," she continued solemnly, "show me my father's portrait. I shall know him better when I have seen his face. And you say he loved me, mamma—loved me very dearly."

"The did indeed, Gertrude."

"Then I am the most fitting person to work for him. Do you mean to say that of all those who loved him, there was not one to defend him or believe in him?"

"Not one," replied Dolores.

"Poor papa! Well, I believe in him and I vow that I will establish his innocence, be he living or dead! Oh, how have you lived, mamma, with this terrible cloud hanging over you? Come in-doors quickly; I long to see papa's face!"

CHAPTER XXV.

In silence Lady Allan unlocked the drawer that had not been opened for sixteen years, and took from it a little parcel tied with faded blue ribbon. Opening it, she gave Lola de Ferras's two letters to Gertrude. In silence the girl read them.

"People say it is possible to tell character from handwriting," she said then. "If I were to judge from this, I should say that the woman who wrote these letters was a combination of good and evil. There is about this writing nothing open, frank or free. I should never have trusted her. In these letters, in which you find a certain proof of my father's guilt, I read his perfect innocence. She does not say, 'Sir Karl is with me.' He was not. She writes, 'You will never see him again.' She triumphs over you. She tells you that she has her revenge; but she has her revenge, but she does not tell you in so many words that my father has deserted you. After reading her letters, I am the more certain that he is quite innocent."

Dolores could not take her eyes from the fair, flushed face, so bright, so eager, so full of proud defiance.

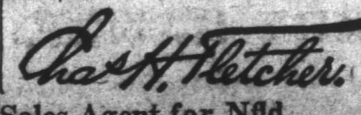
"If the whole world," she cried, "had told me that my father was guilty, I would have disputed the statement. Put the letters back again, mamma. They are like venomous snakes. I could fancy that even the paper was full of poison. Put them away, perhaps some day I may ask for them again. Now, mamma

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you? If ever the dream and hope of my life are realized, I will give it back to you framed in diamonds. One look at the pictured face will give me strength to do anything and everything."

So, far into the night, they sat talking of the same mystery which sixteen years before had thrilled all England. Gertrude, although full of hope and faith, had no satisfactory answer when Dolores asked—

"Where can he be? If he did not go away with her—at her request—where can he be? Ah, Gertrude, who shall answer my question?"

"I will, mamma. Some time or other before I die I will answer it without fail."

Then Gertrude kissed her mother and said they must all go to rest.

"Have you decided, mamma?" she asked. "Shall you see Lady Fielden to-morrow?"

"Yes, I think so. She was very kind to me, and I liked her very much; I cannot refuse to see her. And yet it will be a terrible trial to me."

"You must not look at it in that way, mamma. You must believe that the hand of Heaven has sent Lady Fielden hither, and that perhaps through her coming my father's innocence may be established."

So the girls and their mother parted, but not to sleep. Dolores was too excited. She trembled at the idea of seeing her friend again. She knew the rush of pain, the bitter, burning memories that would come over her at the sight of the well-remembered face. Years before when the blow had just fallen on her, she had met it on her knees, praying for health and strength. So she prayed now. Heaven had taken pity on her, and would do so again. As far Gertrude, with flushed face and burning eyes she paced up and down her room, talking vehemently to Kathleen. Once she threw her bare, white arms round Kathleen's neck.

"To think," she cried, "that after all we are only half-sisters! How strange it seems!"

"But we shall love each other just the same," returned Kathleen. "It will make no difference. We are both mamma's children, you know; and, Gertrude, when I was little I loved your father very much indeed. I can remember him quite well, so that you must love me even more on that account."

"I do not think I could love you better," said Gertrude; and then she talked of her father, and of what she intended to do.

"I thought, only last week, Kathleen, how pleased I should be when we went to more balls and parties, and saw more of life, and when I saw that handsome young Englishman to-day in Pitti palace, I pictured to myself how pleasant it would be to have such a lover—so young and handsome. Did you see his eyes, Kathie? But now I shall never give a thought to anything of the kind again. I feel as though one single night had changed me from a girl to a woman, with a great wrong to set right."

"But, Gertrude, you are not serious? You do not mean that you will give your life to clear up a mystery which has puzzled older and wiser heads than yours?"

"My dear, I will, I shall live for it. Do you not love the memory of your father, Kathleen?"

"Yes, but I never saw him. I have only the instinctive love that I suppose every child has. I think—nay, I am quite sure—that I love your father best. But, Gertrude, do not fix all your hopes on fathoming this mystery. Depend upon it, mamma knows best. It would be a pity to spoil your life. Remember, three have been ruined already; do not add yours to the number. What a strange story it is! And we have lived here sixteen years in happy ignorance of it all."

"It is like a romance," said Gertrude; "but you must recollect something of it—the names and the faces. Do you remember Harry well?"

"Yes—him and your father best of all. And I remember a large house full of pictures, and with great trees round it."

(To be continued.)

BEARS KILLED WITH BOW.

CORDOVA, Alaska, July 15—(A.P.)—Despite the fact that the majority of hunters in Alaska use rifles and shot-guns for game, a hunting party composed of three men and two women returned here in June from the Yakutat district with seven brown bears killed by bow and arrow.

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£10,000 FOR THIRTEEN OUNCES OF WOOD AND VARNISH.

The price of the 600 Strads which are known to be in existence usually ranges from £500 to £1,500, but in a few instances these figures have been greatly exceeded.

Two violins, at least, are worth no less than £10,000 each. The first of these magnificent instruments is the "Emperor Stradivarius" that once belonged to the collection of the late, Mr. George Haddock. It is two hundred years old, and Joachim, the famous maestro, declared it to be the finest violin he had ever seen. The only one comparable with this is that left by Paganini to the city of Genoa. A sum running into five figures sterling was offered for it.

An Edinburgh man once paid £2,000 for a Strad, which, in common with many of its brother instruments, had a strange history. It was bought in 1827 by an eccentric named Tarisio, who gave up his trade as a carpenter and started searching every nook and corner of Italy for Cremona violins.

He lived alone in a wretched attic in Milan, and when he died in 1854, he was found surrounded by a confused heap of 250 fiddles.

Hearing of the collection, a Paris dealer rushed off post-haste to Milan, and purchased all the instruments for the nominal sum of £3,166. One of them was worth £2,000. During the Franco-German War he buried it in a damp-proof, air-tight box, keeping it underground and away from all harm, until peace had been proclaimed.

Sarasate, the great violinist, left a Strad worth £2,000 to the Conservatoire of Madrid, and a similar gift to Paris. One of these instruments had at one time been the property of a Geneva blacksmith, to whom it had been given by a traveller who could not pay for the shoeing of his horse. For years it hung upon the walls of the blacksmith's house, until another horseman, M. Boisier, a collector of violins, happened to pass that way.

The blacksmith asked him to buy the violin for any price he cared to name, or else find a purchaser. M. Boisier carried it away, cleaned off the smoke, discovered the Strad Mark, and did not defraud the humble blacksmith.

The favourite violin of Eugene Ysaie—a magnificent Strad, valued at £3,000, that was stolen from his dressing-room in St. Petersburg a few years ago—once changed hands

for thirty-five shillings, having been sold at that price by an unknown traveller to the waiter at a railway restaurant in a small Moravian town.

A Good Investment.

Some sixty years ago a stranger came into the shop of a London musician named Betts, and offered a violin for the low sum of a guinea, Betts jumped at the bargain, put down his guinea, and secured the fiddle.

After remaining in his family for a number of years it was disposed of under the name of the Betts Strad to a foreign nobleman. The price paid was £1,400—not a bad investment!

Less than ten years ago £700 was paid for a Strad that had been played upon by a strolling player in the Notting Hill and Marylebone districts of London, whilst £1,600 has been paid for a fiddle that was knocked down at a public auction to a labourer for six shillings.

Fortunately for him, the son of toll knew something about fiddles, and disposed of his treasure to a dealer for £600. Ultimately the latter sold it for £1,600.

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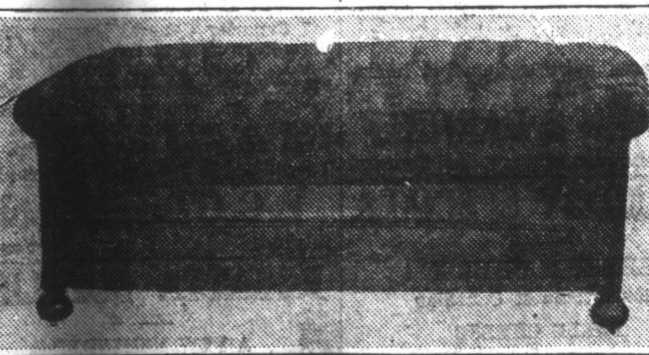
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