

GRANTLEY MANOR

A TALE

LADY GEORGINA FULLERTON,
Author of "Lady Bird," "Ellen Middleton," &c

CHAPTER XI.—Continued.

"If not there—here," she said, and in this simple manner gave her assent to the trial she was about to endure.

What tears she shed in silence—what deep tears that day's anguish left behind it, what fears haunted the night that succeeded it—fears such as those of a child who walks in the dark, who clings with terror to the hand that leads him, but which he dares not wholly trust—none knew but herself. But there was a light in her path even in that stormy hour; and narrow as was the way she trod, a ray fell upon it, and each step she took was firm, though the next was hid in darkness.

During the days that followed, Edmund was by turns gloomy and desponding, or joyous and sanguine, according as imagination presented to him the future in a dark or in a light aspect. He was distracted about the present, and tortured his brain to devise some plan by which he could leave Geneva in safety, and hasten to Ireland himself to pave the way towards the acknowledgement of his marriage. One morning, after he had spent a night of restless agitation, letters were brought to his wife, from her father, and from the English consul at Geneva, informing her that Colonel Leslie was returned to England, and on receiving the news of Leonardo Ferrari's death, had written to direct that his daughter should proceed to Geneva, there to join Mr. and Mrs. Warren, old friends of his own, who were on the point of returning to England, and who had agreed to take charge of her. There was a note enclosed in the packet from Mrs. Warren herself, written in a courteous and friendly tone, and expressing the pleasure she felt in the prospect of making Miss Leslie's acquaintance, and offering to come herself and fetch her from Verona, if it would be more convenient, or more agreeable to her. Agitating and complicated as the state of things was becoming a smile crossed Edmund's countenance, at the strangeness of the coincidence which thus appeared to throw his wife under the protection of his own relations, and hazardous as was the step, and great as appeared the risks that attended it, he soon came to the conclusion that the summons must instantly be complied with, and the difficulties met as they arose, and braved if they increased. This turn in their affairs would enable him to proceed alone to Ireland, and Geneva once established in her father's house, acknowledged openly as his daughter, idolized as she must be by all who came near her, would stand in the eyes of the family in a very different light from the Italian girl, the niece of an Italian priest, the very name of whose country, and of whose creed, would be abhorrent to their most cherished prejudices. The sight of her father's handwriting strangely effected a change, and for the first time a sense of guilt and remorse took possession of her soul. Instead of being (as poor Leonardo had assured her), in some remote part of India, he was returning to his own country at the very moment when she had married without his consent, and she must meet him again with a secret in her heart, and in his home and by his side bear his own name, which she had neither the right to assume, nor the power to forego. At least a child in years, quite a child in guileless simplicity, she was to begin life with a woman's heart, and a woman's hardest trial—marriage, she was to bear the torment of suspense and the burden of long concealment—innocent, she was to endure the trembling anxiety, the keen apprehension of guilt, she almost flinched from the task, and her courage well-nigh forsook her. But even remorse—fifteen years of recollection could be termed remorse, where even error had scarcely been—was not selfish in that pure heart and gentle spirit. Her sin, for such she now called it, was confessed in deep penitence, and each suffering in store for her she hailed as the purifying expiation which God would appoint and at last accept. On the following day, she spent an hour in the chapel, where she had so often knelt, and in the place where she had received Father Francesco's parting blessing, she prayed for him, and her heart whispered that he was praying for her. Perhaps it was his prayer which was obtaining for her at that moment the peace and the strength she so much needed. As the shades of evening were closing, Edmund Neville came to fetch her. He had stood without the church, and leaning against the column, he had heard her sob faintly audible in the silence of the darkening aisle, and he had writhed with the pangs of self-reproach, and the bitter grief of parting; and when through the heavy folds of the curtained door she glided out into the moonlight, and stood before him with a smile of divine sweetness and calmness, his soul melted within him, and weeping like a child, he fell at her feet and implored her forgiveness. She put her hand on his lips, she kissed his forehead, she murmured a blessing in his ear, and smiled through her tears. At last it was she who tore herself from his arms, who pointed to the travelling carriage which was waiting at the gate, and who spoke of hope and of courage, as he almost cursed himself for the misery he was inflicting upon her and upon himself. It was not till she had lost sight of him, that she trembled at the thought of what the morrow would bring forth.

Instead of proceeding to England at once, he lingered for some weeks secretly in the neighborhood of Geneva, where a long illness of Mrs. Warren's protracted their stay. To catch a glimpse of his wife as she passed through the rooms of the Palazzo—to meet her for an instant in the streets, and exchange a few hurried words with her, was the whole object of his delays, for separation and uncertainty had augmented tenfold his passion, and almost robbed him of his senses. At last she left Geneva, and then he travelled day and night to England: When he reached his home, he found his parents in utter ignorance of the object or of the nature of his attachment, and before he could speak on the subject, two hours after his arrival, his father led him to the window, pointed to the ancestral trees, the wide lake, the smiling villages, the parish church, whence at that moment the bells were

pouring forth a joyous peal in honor of the return of the heir of those broad lands in a slow and impressive manner—

"Edmund, if ever in a moment of infatuation it should have crossed your mind to ask my consent to your marriage with a Roman Catholic, dismiss at once and forever that thought, for I swear," and he laid his hand on the large family Bible which was placed on the table, "by that sacred book, and that Heaven which it reveals, never to grant it. I have made your mother promise not to hear one word from you on this subject, or even to allow you to name to her the person, whoever she may be, who has suggested to your mind the possibility of such a marriage. Now we understand each other.

(To be continued.)

A Boy's Composition on Girls.

Girls are very stuck up and dignified in their manner and behaviour. They think more of dress than anything, and like to play with dolls and rags. They cry if they see a dog in the far distance, and are afraid of guns. They stay at home all the time and go to church on Sunday. They are always sick. They are always funny and making fun of boys' hands and they say how dirty. They can't play marbles. I pity them, poor things. They make fun of boys and then turn round and love them. I don't believe they ever killed a cat or anything. They look out every night and say oh ant the moon lovely. This is one thing I have not told, and that is they al-ways now their lessons bettern boys.

Various Ways of Carrying Money.

Men have various ways of carrying money. Butchers, grocers and bakers carry it in a crumpled wad. Bankers in nice clean bills laid full length in a morocco pocket-book. Brokers always fold their bills once; doubling their money as it were. The young business man carries it in his vest pocket, while the sporting man carries it in his trousers pockets. Farmers and drovers carry theirs in their inside pocket, whether it happens to be fifteen dollars or fifteen cents. Editors carry theirs in their peoples pockets.—Qu'Appelle Progress.

"Henry," she said disconsolately, "you didn't give me a birthday gift." "By Jove, that's so!" said Henry "But, you see I can't realize that you ever have birthdays." Then she was happy, and he smiled the mean subtle smile of a man who has saved money.

Fashionable Mother (languidly)—"Well Sarah, how is baby to-day?" "Nurse—" "He cut two teeth this morning, ma'am." Fashionable Mother still more languidly—"That was very careless of you, Sarah. You ought not to let a young baby play with a knife."

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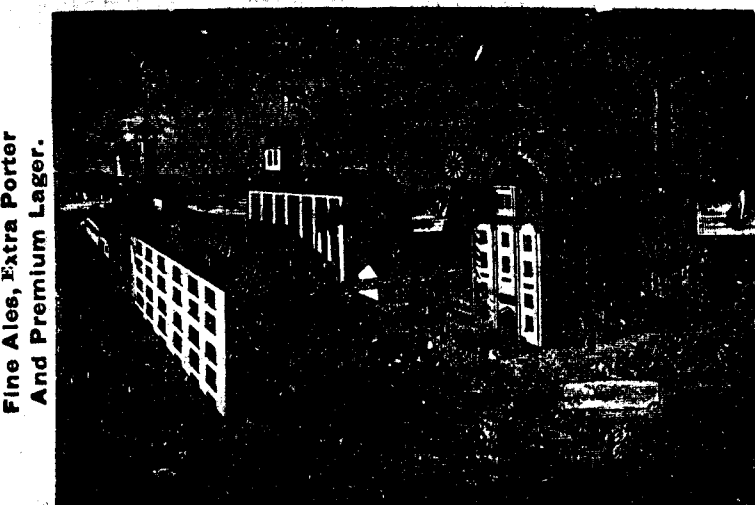
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