

THE MOTHER'S WARNING.

So you're going on your journey? Well, dear, I wish you joy...

It may be we may never meet again... I wish you joy to-day...

LADY CANNISH;

A STORY OF THREE RAINY DAYS.

"You shall hear the tale of my troubles some day," she faltered...

"Indeed you will," answered, with genuine earnestness, and a silence followed.

He had forgotten me. I had ceased my pacing to and fro when he entered the room, and had stood by the table...

"No, I—I don't think I have forgotten," he said, with a hesitation unusual to him...

"Ellen, if you cannot keep that child quiet, will you kindly take it out of the room?"

It was Adeline who spoke, and without a reply I passed from the room. I had heard Sir Marmaduke take his departure...

"But, my dear Adeline, if you had happened to have a collar on," said mamma.

"I cannot take to notice me," she said, scornfully, "since he accepted our invitation to tea."

"I wish it had been dinner instead of tea," sighed mamma.

"It does not matter at all," cried Adeline, with a little laugh.

"How so?" I suddenly asked, turning quickly on Adeline.

"Has Sir Marmaduke proposed to marry you already?" Adeline glanced at me, mamma spoke.

"Another speech like that, my dear, and you must earn your bread as governess."

of chess. They were too absorbed to notice me as I took my usual place on a low seat in a recess by the fire...

"How like this is to the old times," he said. "We used to sit here and play at chess; and you, Nellie, would sit where you are now, with the freight just touching your face, and only that you are a little taller and a little more womanly..."

"Did he count time by his years? My face flushed with pleasure, and I was about to reply, but Adeline caught the chessman with her sleeve, and scattered half of them on the hearth-rug, and in apology, and then the commencement of a new game, I had no opportunity to go; and, as the servant had gone to bed, I went down stairs with him to let him open and secure the door after him."

"If you like," he said. "The reason—one of the reasons, of course—that your sister did not marry me was that I did not ask her, and never had the slightest intention of doing so."

"I looked at him in silence, while the dawn of a sudden hope, conviction, something I knew not what, rendered me unable to speak or to stir."

"I had seen some one else I thought would make a better wife, he went on, becoming earnest and anxious, 'and some one I had not really begun to love, although she was not then a woman, but Nellie—in a quick, low, whisper—'do you understand?'"

"Yes, I understood. I understood many things now, my own self included. I could not speak, but I held out my hands to him, and he took me by the arms."

"Oh, Nellie, the time has been long to wait," he said, tenderly, and I had so little hope to cheer me."

"Why didn't you tell me then—seven years ago?" I asked.

"How could I, when the chances were that I should never come home again? How could I have condemned you to a weary waiting time that?"

"Marmaduke, you've been very good to me!"

"And I will be good to you, my patient, uncomplaining darling, come, we will go now."

"His kind words to me, so unaccounted to kindness, were more than I could bear, and my heart fell fast; but, held fast by every all my weariness and bitterness of heart away; and then he had a quiet talk about the past, and the future that he saw while I was in the room."

"In short while I came in to lay the cloth for tea, and I was obliged to help Marmaduke, and he helped, and we were happy and merry, and I was astonished at my own merry laugh and my own words of heart, and still more astonished when I looked at my glass and saw my face with its shining eyes and dark hair."

"Suddenly mamma came into the room in her every-day dress, so I knew she must have been in some time to have got her usual dress on. She was surprised to see Marmaduke."

"We did not think you were come," she exclaimed, as she shook hands with me, and then she turned to Marmaduke, who soon entered the room."

"Have you been here long?" she inquired of Marmaduke.

"I scarcely know," he answered, looking at his watch. "Anyhow it has not seemed long," he added—and I knew he was not lying to me, but I would not take any notice."

"I bused myself at the table, anxious to avoid mamma or Adeline's notice of my having come."

"When I was seated at the table, I dared not lift my eyes to Marmaduke's. 'Will you take a cup of tea?' I asked, looking calmly at the tea-pot."

"Don't cast your eyes upon me as you are asking Sir Marmaduke to take poison. When will you learn to be sensible?"

"I looked up and met Marmaduke's eyes fixed on mine, and I could not help breaking into a most conscious smile, which he returned with a look of surprise."

"What are you laughing at?" inquired mamma.

"Nothing," I said, and went on pouring out the tea."

"And why," asked mamma, when all was served, "when you give me a cup of hot water instead of tea? Are you trying to play tricks on me?"

"Certainly." And while I sat quite in front of the fire he sat on one side.

"I wonder if you remember the old times as well as I do?" he began.

"Do you remember saying good-by to you?"

"You are not so affectionate now as you were once," he said.

"I made no reply, and he continued: 'Do you remember the question you asked me about Adeline?'"

"Now the reason for this 'quiet little love' was coming in, I thought."

"And do you think the reason is removed?"

"Of course it is," I answered, contemptuously; "you are Sir Marmaduke now, and have plenty of money."

"That was the reason you imagined, and doubtless it would have been a reason all others, and to the present moment remains unchanged. I said I would tell you what it was when I came back. Shall I?"

"If you like," he said.

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"I scarcely know," he answered, looking at his watch. "Anyhow it has not seemed long," he added—and I knew he was not lying to me, but I would not take any notice."

But it was not so bad as I feared. I went boldly into the drawing-room after he was gone, and found mamma sitting alone by the fire.

"Where is Adeline?" I exclaimed.

"She has gone to bed," answered mamma; "and Ellen, I do not suppose your sister will ever speak to you again; and I cannot but say she is justified."

"Mamma, I said, softly, longing to put my arms round her neck, but not daring to do so, 'let me kiss you, and tell you how happy I am!'"

"An unhappy child has more need of her mother; I am going to sit with Adeline; and mamma left the room."

"I would not be cast down; I fetched up the kitten, and told it everything, omitting nothing, and it purred its little throat, and I held it close to me, and I put it down to its box in the kitchen Ann was just going to bed. In rather a shy way she said:

"I've said it, Miss Nellie, from the fact that there was no cause to fret; but I thought it was best to leave things alone, for they were in safe hands with Sir Marmaduke. Eh, but he's a sharp one, and has seen what's what through it all. Look, it's been as good as a play!" and she offered her honest congratulations.

"I smiled as I thanked her, and then I went up stairs to my little bed-room, and the third rainy day ended as I knelt by the bedside in a trance of unutterable thanksgiving."

"I would relate the history of yet another day that dawned a couple of months later; but it does not come under my category, inasmuch as it is left to the imagination, for it is the reverse of a rainy day; and it brightly bride the old saying that 'happy is the bride who marries in a hurry, and never was a wife happier than this wife who on the day she changed her insignificant little name of 'Nellie' to that of the honored one of Lady Cannish."

Cheap Run.

IS IT ADULTERATED WITH POISON?—A NICE CHEMICAL, the chemist of Bellevue Medical College, who recently appeared as an expert in the Voucher trial, and has been giving his views on the adulteration of liquors, in papers, as follows: "That the spirituous liquors, as used in nearly all badly adulterated liquors, are not only adulterated, but adulterated in a manner that is dangerous to the health of the consumer."

"The adulteration of liquors is a very rapidly increasing evil, and it is a safe rule to be on the watch for the liquor of the poor, and the more of high price liquor, the more likely it is to be adulterated."

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