

BY ROBIN GREY

CHAPTER VIII.—(Continued.)

"How odd!" she said absently. "I nearly remembered that name again. My memory must be coming back, I think."

"Let me trust it is," said Valda rather nervously.

She leaned her chin upon her hand and looked thoughtful for a few moments, raising her eyes—

"Mr. Martineau," she said, with a little sigh, "I should like all this business set on one side for a few weeks, please. Mr. Stelling is gone for his holiday—to Lord Umfraville's for the shooting."

"To Clarisade?"

"Yes," she paused, and asked in some astonishment, "Do you know Lord Umfraville?"

"Well—yes; his wife was my cousin's generally stay there every autumn."

"Indeed? Viscount Thornbath is a great friend of Mr. Stelling's."

"Yes, but for me not to institute inquiries just yet?"

"Not just yet, please. I don't feel strong enough now—in childhood spirits enough to—She checked her self bravely. Not for worlds would she have hinted, even to herself, that she thought Bernard might be all things have taken steps to ascertain whether or no she were free. But he had chosen instead to go to Clarisade, and she was too loyal to murmur even to her own heart.

To Valda it seemed like a respite. "You will let me have a line when you wish me to pursue this matter, then?" he asked, rising to take his leave.

"Yes," said Mr. Stelling with a smile. "You may keep this copy of the will."

"Certainly, but please don't lose it."



"MR. STELLING, IT WAS VERY FOOLISH OF YOU TO LOSE ALL THE SPORT."

He lingered simply because he could not tear himself away, though he could see in every drooping movement that she was exhausted and unhappy, and wished to be alone.

He would have batted all his prospects for the privilege of taking her in his arms and soothing her, but she turned her head away, and he knew that she had been nothing so good as to leave her. He held out his hand at last reluctantly.

"Is there nothing more that I can do for you?" he asked.

"No, there is nothing," she replied, when he had left her, and she was alone. "No, I don't know how to thank you sufficiently for your kindness."

It seemed a painful wrench when he looked at the little figure from his own point of view.

"By-the-by, Mr. Martineau," she followed him to the door—"I left my left wedding ring on your table. I nearly forgot to mention it to you. Did you see it?"

"I did," he stammered. "It is quite safe—you shall have it. I have it safe," he reiterated in confusion; "but I can't give it to you."

How could he, when it was hung from his neck by a slender cord?

CHAPTER IX.

It was a warm September day. Lady Mildred Ames lay in the hammock under the shade of the spreading beech trees, and idly moved her large fan to and fro. Her brows were puckered into a frown, her large eyes were absently fixed upon the wide-spreading lawn where a small, dark figure was driven to the home covers to take the sportsman's lunch. Lady Mildred would not go; she said she had a headache, but the truth was, she was suffering from a fit of ill-temper.

She was Lord Umfraville's only unmarried daughter and, being the youngest, had been spoiled and petted during infancy, neglected whilst her sisters went to their balls and receptions, and then suddenly found herself, on her mother's death, mistress of the house. It was a bad training, but the result was on the whole better than might have been expected. Lady Mildred was very charming and not at all arrogant, though she was rather selfish.

The Umfraville family was in a bad way, having the means of support and property in Ireland. For the last twenty years the ascendancy of affairs had been

of her head, and she was so exceedingly she fitted in her surroundings. She was beginning her work well. Only her motive was not to be heard, but to inflict pain on the recumbent Valda, when he should arrive.

CHAPTER X.

On this warm afternoon, as she lay in the hammock, she was thinking it all over and wondering where Valda was, and what or who was keeping him from her. She was thinking, too, of the open admission in Bernard's letter of the night before as he leaned over her plan.

No doubt he was handsome. She thought she could win him; would it be so mad as to let him go? To let him go for the sake of a man who had never in so many words told her that he loved her, and whom, if she married at all, she would have to marry without her father's consent?

A footstep brushed on the grass. Lady Mildred half rose. Bernard was there, looking admirably fit at her.

"Mr. Stelling! I thought you were shooting."

"I was, but when I found the picnic party had arrived without you, I gave them the slip, and nearly sneaked home through the woods, hoping to have the luck to discover your retreat. I was looking for you, I assure you. I would not have missed a sight of you here for worlds!"

"Mr. Stelling! It was very foolish of you to lose the sport."

"So long as you don't add that it's very impertinent of me to intrude I'm content! Your pose is really perfect. To be able to sketch a little while you lie in bed, I think is a fine thing. I try my hand."

"Oh, nonsense! At all. Oh, you won't be so unmerciful as to say, 'Do I have five minutes?' He had taken out a small book and leaning against the smooth trunk of a beech, was sketching rapidly.

"There! That fan fits in well—we'll call the picture 'A Summer Day.' Keep your hand and arm still for a minute, please. Do I weary you?"

"No," she said, smiling—"I am too comfortable. You can't have done anything in so short a time."

"Just enough for a remembrance," he said. "You keep so still. My sister and her friend Mrs. Watson were sitting down so dreadfully. I shall tell them to follow your good example."

(To be continued.)

AN ECCENTRIC MAN.

The progressive corporation of Bath has just placed a commemorative tablet upon the wall of the crescent once occupied by William Beckford, one of the strangest characters who ever spent his declining years in the renowned city of Bath and hot springs. His tomb and monument are such conspicuous objects on the heights of Lansdowne and the most casual visitor can hardly fail to be familiar with some of the eccentricities of this great dilettante.

Beckford, who is best known as the author of the Arabian Nights (written in one sitting of three days and two nights), claimed descent from the Saxons. He inherited vast wealth and energy in his early years, and he built a wonderful house at Fonthill, in Wiltshire, which cost over a million. Presently the evil days came—vast sums lost in Jamaica through his speculations in the value of his estates and lawsuits resulting therefrom led Beckford to sell Fonthill at a ridiculous price and to retire to Bath broken in health and fortune.

Here he spent the rest of his days a recluse, shut up with his books and fancies. One comical house would not suffice him, he had treasures, so on either side were purchased, one being connected with a covered way on the second floor, which can still be seen. His passion for building suggested Beckford erected a great tower on the hill a mile above his house wherein to study, and when he died his remains were laid to rest in a granite sarcophagus which was prepared during his lifetime. The property was then sold for a tea garden, but the building remained standing. Beckford, repurchased it and to save it from desecration gave it to the rector of Walcot as a cemetery. The tower has since been repaired, and is now more possible to enjoy the wonderful view from the summit, which is 950 feet above sea level.

Castellar a Newspaper Man.

Cadiz Correspondence Chicago Record: The late ex-president of Spain, Emilio Castellar, was a newspaper man all his life, and after he had practically retired from journalism in 1864, Spanish laborers kept him alive in the esteem of his countrymen. Yet his conspicuous work as a journalist, no less than as a man of affairs, was during the third quarter of a century. In the '60s, when Castellar had become famous by his share in the meeting of the Seating Real, where Gonzales Bravo, the master of the great fortune, was the rising leader of the young democracy, he wrote his first article for El Triunfo. He dissolved his connection with that journal when he sought to brand him as a monarchist. As a member of the National, on the other hand, he abandoned because it was too radical. Then he joined the staff of Democracia, a position in 1864 to found the short-lived Democracia, which he published and edited for two years.

Boys of the Olden Time.

Boys have always been boys. There is no doubt that them and Ham pitched coppers or played jackstraws and that the boys of the olden time, Noah, who couldn't and then, he to feed the stock himself, or that David held up two fingers to Jonathan when he was in the position of a fugitive, they therewith went in swimming in the Jordan against the express prohibition of their mothers—Minneapolis Journal.

Small Set Strong.

Mr. Norcross says you like spirited horses; what is your favorite breed?

Mr. South-Toe tells you the truth, and a pony of brand.

George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, recently delivered an address before the New York Press Association. Among other notable things, he said:

Four years ago I predicted that active efforts toward the extension of American commerce by commercial bodies, supported by a liberal and broad-minded policy on the part of our government, would undoubtedly secure to the United States the benefit that came from a great and varied commerce, and I said that the New York Press Association, and similar associations all over the country, could formulate a public policy that would insure the important results outlined.

At that time we had no idea that a war between one of the old nations of the earth and our young republic would be fought; at that time we had no idea that American manufacturers would be furnishing locomotives to the English railroads, as well as Japanese, and no one thought four years ago that American bridge building could go into the open market and successfully compete for the building of a great steel bridge in Egypt; nor that in a great part of time American companies would be building railroads into the interior of China from the most important seaports and furnishing locomotives to the score to nearly every country on the globe. The letter from a friend in Tokyo, Japan, written only a short time ago there was this significant sentence: "You will be interested in Japan. The Japanese Empire is a new wall of my office a framed picture of your 'Empire State Express,' and we expect in the near future to be hauling Japanese 'Empire State Express' on an American locomotive." The new line in Japan nearly 100 locomotives that were built in the United States. In Russia they have over 400 of our locomotives, and nearly every year in Great Britain has ordered locomotives from this country since the beginning of the war with Spain.

In this connection it is interesting to note in passing that the second American locomotive was built at the West Point Foundry, near Cold Spring, on the Hudson river, and was called the "Best Friend." From that day to this the locomotive has been one of the best friends of all our people. But it is not alone our locomotives that have attracted the attention of foreigners who have visited our shores. Our railway equipment generally has commanded admiration and has won recognition for the highest credit, namely, imitation by many of our sister nations. Prince Michael Hilkevitch, Imperial Minister of Railways of Russia, since his visit to the United States a few years ago, constructed a train on much the same lines as the New York Central's Lake Shore Limited. Only a short time ago, at the request of one of the Imperial Commissions of Germany, the New York Central sent to Berlin photographs of the interior of the extension of the West coast and other data in relation to the operation of American railways. Several other countries have asked for similar information, and there is a general waking up of foreign nations to the subject of transportation, brought about mainly by the wonderful achievements of American railways.

The admiration of foreign nations for us is not by any means confined to railways. One incident that startled the entire world, and riveted the attention of the people everywhere, was the American achievement in machine work, was that of the United States battleship "Oregon," built at the Union Iron Works in San Francisco, and which steamed a distance of three thousand miles, without losing a bolt or starting a rivet, and arrived at her post of the island of Cuba prepared to perform any service required of her; and then having given a most satisfactory account of herself on that memorable 3d of July, 1898, of Santiago, she steamed to the Pacific, and without unnecessary delay, and that great ocean to join Admiral Dewey's fleet at Manila. On her arrival the Secretary of the Navy received one of those condensed messages, for which the admiral—has shed undying luster upon the name of the American navy—is so noted, which ran as follows: "Manila, July 30, 1898.—The Oregon and Iris arrived here today. The Oregon is in fit condition for any duty. Dewey."

Few Know It.

Elia Whittier, a recognized authority on the subject of love. Speaking of it she says: "Very few people really love. I dare say not one-third of the human family ever experienced the passion in its true length and breadth. Scores, yes, hundreds of people go to their graves believing that they have known love, when they have only known its pale shadow—a warm friendship, or a tender affection, or a good comradeship."

Secrets of the Trade.

"We make our own ice cream," said the restaurant proprietor. "Consequently we know just what it contains." "You do," replied the patron, "but I don't."—Chicago Post.

When Hostilities Begin.

Visitor in Olympia—Let me see. You are the goddess of love and marriage. I believe it.

Venus—Only of love. Mars looks after the marriages. He is the god of war, you know.

must be of a superior quality, and the demand for American manufacturers began to increase and is increasing with each day, until hundreds of thousands of dollars are expended each day, and business in the United States was never in a more prosperous condition than it is on the 31st day of June, 1899.

It has been said by a great American writer that "trade follows the flag." Our war with Spain has placed our flag upon the islands of the Pacific, and the word "trade" is being written in large letters between the Pacific coast of the United States and Japan and China, and as we contemplate our growing commerce with responsibility which are reminders of the prophetic statement made at the completion of the first continuous line of railroad between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, by the joining of the Union and Central Pacific railroads, more than thirty years ago, that prophet of his time, Thomas H. Benton, who, standing on the summit of the Rocky Mountains and pointing toward the Pacific ocean, said: "There is the East; there is India." 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