LOVE IS BEST

By Florence Hodgkinson

CHAPTER III.

Poverty presses harder on a man's pride generally than on a woman's, perhaps because most women care more for persons than for things; and while those near and dear to them are well and happy, the pin pricks of having to go without many things their neighbors have are not so keenly felt, while to a man each is a mortification.

Harold Dynevor was a good son, and a brave man; but poverty tried him sorely, and there was a constant chafing at the injustice of circumstances which made his life harder than it might have been, but which those who knew his story thought only natural.

Harold was a gentleman farmer. He worked quite as hard as many farmers who did not own the property, but he was the last male representative of a good old county family, who had been known at [illegible] for many generations. He was popular wherever he went, his mother was devoted to him, his pretty sister Kitty looked up to him with [illegible] admiration, and Harold [illegible] a happy man. [illegible]

[illegible] Kitty gently. [illegible] work as hard [illegible] down [illegible] and I'll go and hurry tea.

"All right, dear," he said gratefully. "It [illegible] a splitting headache."

Mrs. Dynevor [illegible] anxiously.

"Is there anything wrong, Harold? You were going into Marton; did you see Mr. Proctor?"

"I saw him, mother, and got a receipt in full. There's bad news. I meant to keep it from you, but I can see [illegible] there's something wrong, so I'd better tell you the truth, for [illegible] you think it worse than [illegible]."

"You [illegible] mean that the mortgagee wants to foreclose, Harold?"

Poor lady! that was the bugbear of her life. Uplands, the land which her son farmed, was her very own. It had been her wedding portion, and the home of her married life. When bad seasons came, and expenses multiplied, with her full consent her husband raised a mortgage on the farm. They had thought lightly of it then; a few good harvests would soon enable them to pay off the debt; but it had never been paid off in all those years. It hung like an incubus about them, and Mrs. Dynevor's one dread was that some day the mortgagee would foreclose, and, if they could not find the £5,000 due to him, they would have to leave their beloved home.

"No, mother," said Harold quietly, "it's not so bad as that; but you will like the news as little as I do. It seems Mr. King has been settling his affairs, and he has transferred the mortgage on the Uplands to some one else. Proctor told me the interest was still to be paid to him, so we shall have no personal dealings with our new creditor."

"Then I don't see that it matters," said Mrs. Dynevor. "Your dear father always said Mr. King was a very honest man. Do you mean that you have heard a bad account of the new mortgagee?"

"He is a man we both have cause to fear and dislike, mother—Eustace Lindon!"

Mrs. Dynevor had grown white even to her lips—nothing could have terrified her more; but she was a brave woman, and she knew, besides, where help and strength were to be found. One silent prayer to heaven, and she answered calmly:

"There is only one thing for it, Harold—we must raise the £5,000 and pay off the mortgage. To be at that man's mercy is more than I can bear!"

"I don't see how we're to do it," said Harold, gloomily. "There's no money in the bank, and we must spend a good sum on the farm this year, for everything wants renewing. The blow couldn't have come at a worse time."

"I wonder what his object is?" said Mrs. Dynevor quickly. "He has never once been near this place since he left it with your poor Aunt Nina just after their wedding. Not a year after her death he let the Manor to General Craven for fourteen years, and, except pocketing the money from the estate, he has taken not the least interest in the property since."

"Proctor says he has married again and thinks he means to settle at the Manor. The general's lease expires [this] year, and he has refused to renew it."

"If he means to live here, of course he would want to get rid of us first," said Mrs. Dynevor quietly, "for men never like the near presence of those they have wronged."

Now, according to the strict letter of the law, Eustace Lindon could not have been said to have wronged the Dynevors, yet every one for miles around Dynevor Manor regarded him as their despoiler.

It was a sad little story, so well known that every villager could have repeated it. When Mrs. Dynevor married and settled at the Uplands, her husband had an elder brother, Frank, who was 'squire of Dene, and the largest land owner for miles round. Frank Dynevor was devoted to the young couple at the Uplands. A good deal older than his brother, Charles, and a very studious, reserved man, he had reached the age of 40 without marrying. People were beginning to look on him as a confirmed bachelor, and to regard the little boy at the farm as the heir of the Manor, when, before Harold was 5 years old, his uncle suddenly returned from a summer holiday with a wife of 18.

There was not the least mystery about his young wife's antecedents. She was an officer's daughter, and had been brought up in an orphan asylum which found her a situation as soon as she was old enough. She had been in it just six months when Mr. Dynevor came on a visit to her employer, and converted their little nursery governess into the mistress of the Manor.

If the family at the Uplands were disappointed, they made no sign, and welcomed the bride warmly. Frank Dynevor told his brother he meant to settle a small fortune on little Harold, "in case farming failed;" but he was not a businesslike man, and, being in sound health, no doubt he thought there was no hurry, and he might well wait till his nephew was out of the nursery.

The baby who arrived at the Manor within a year of the wedding was a girl. She was 2 years old when her father [illegible] to go out to [illegible] to hunt up some information for a [illegible] he was writing. Nina [illegible] From that voyage he [illegible] And Mr. Eustace Lindon, a fellow [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] with power to bequeath it to whom she pleased.

No wonder the Charles Dynevors were [illegible] would not have [illegible] the estate to Lillian, but that it should revert to her mother, that a girl who had never seen the old home three years before should have power, if her child died, to leave it away from the family who had owned it for centuries, was terrible.

Perhaps their sense of injustice made the Charles Dynevors keep aloof from the young widow, and so they did not realize how quickly her acquaintance with Eustace Lindon ripened into intimacy; and it came on them like a thunderbolt when a year and a day after her husband's death, Nina married the specious adventurer and went abroad with him.

Very little news of her reached Eastbill. That she had a second child—another daughter—and that her health failed so rapidly she was obliged to live always in the south of France, was all the Dynevors heard in the first few years. Then there came a formal letter from Eustace Lindon, acquainting them with his stepdaughter's death; and, barely six months later, another to announce that his wife had passed away.

"She will have left him all the ready money; but she can't be so base as to bequeath him the Manor," Charles Dynevor said to his wife.

"I don't know. She was perfectly infatuated with him, and I suppose she would think of her child," replied Mrs. Dynevor.

But there was no mention of her child in the will. Mr. Dynevor paid half a guinea for a copy of it. It had been made immediately after the death of her firstborn, and it simply bequeathed "all property of which I may die possessed, real or personal, of every description whatever, to my dear husband, Eustace Lindon."

It had been drawn up by an English lawyer, and witnessed by the doctor and nurse who attended little Lillian in her last illness. Everything was perfectly in form. Mr. Proctor, the leading solicitor of Marton, who had been at school with Harold Dynevor, and remained his close friend, said that to upset it would be quite impossible.

So Eustace Lindon enjoyed his thousands and the Dynevors grew poorer every year. The father lived till his only son was old enough to take up the burden he had borne so bravely. His dying words charged Harold to be good to his mother and Kitty, and never, if he could help it, accept any favor at the hands of Eustace Lindon.

"I can't explain it to you, my boy," said the dying man, solemnly, "but I have thought a great deal about the past since my illness began. I would not say a word to your mother, lest she should brood over it; but I can't help feeling Lindon did not play straight. Your Aunt Nina was little more than a child when he married her; but she was singularly frank and true. Knowing as she did that Dynevor Manor had been in our family for centuries, I can't believe she would have left it away from the old name willingly."

"Do you mean you think the will was a forgery?" asked Harold.

"No; I believe it was obtained from her by undue influence. When she was very ill he must have worked on her fears in some way or other. I can't explain what I think, Harold, but I seem to know Nina Lindon never did us such a wrong willingly."

"I could understand it better if she had left anything to her child," said Harold. "The injustice to us would have been the same, but it would have been more natural."

Mr. Dynevor shook his head.

"It's a mystery we shan't fathom here, my boy. Only, with the instinct God sends sometimes to the dying, I seem to feel that Lindon is to blame. If he comes to live at the Manor, avoid him by every means in your power."

And that was the story of the past. It was not strange that, remembering his father's last words, it was torture to Harold Dynevor to think that the mortgage on his mother's home was held by Eustace Lindon.

Kitty and the tea tray came in together. There was a capable woman servant at the Uplands, but she had her hands pretty full, and both Mrs. Dynevor and her daughter were thoroughly domesticated, sweet, housekeeping women, both of them; not learned in 'ologies and sciences, perhaps, but well gifted to make those about them happy.

Harold felt quite refreshed after his tea, and asked his sister cheerfully if any one had been there that afternoon.

"Only Helen Craven. She wants us to go to dinner there next week. I said Tuesday would suit you best."

When the Cravens settled at Dynevor Manor they made it perfectly clear to the family at the Uplands that they regarded them as friends and equals. The young Dynevors had spent some of their happiest days at the Manor, and Helen Craven was Kitty's closest friend.

"Tuesday will do nicely," said Harold. "I shall be glad of a little talk with the general. He may be able to tell me something about his landlord."

"Helen was quite radiant," went on Kitty. "It seems Alick is coming home next week on leave, and is going to bring his friend Captain Tempest with him."

She spoke with studied carelessness, and yet the speech had cost her an effort. Kitty and her mother were both dreadfully afraid Harold cared for Helen Craven. Loving him as they did, they were of course persuaded he could have won the general's daughter had he only made up his mind to woo. [illegible] his poverty and [illegible] silent, and it had [illegible] when they [illegible] interest Helen [illegible] of her brother's [illegible] to see that [illegible] already more to [illegible] So [illegible] to Harold [illegible] he would [illegible]

[illegible] Kitty's [illegible]

"[illegible] the wind in that direction? Well, we will miss Helen dreadfully, Kitty [illegible] but she is 22, and I suppose it's time she began to think of such things, and Jack Tempest's a [illegible] good fellow. I took a great fancy to him when he was [illegible]. I only hope you'll have as good fortune, Miss Kitty, when your time comes."

Kitty and her mother exchanged congratulatory glances, which seemed to say, "He does not mind; he could not have cared for her really after all."

(To be continued.)

PASSING OF THE BELL.

No Longer Used to Record the Joys and Sorrows of Humanity.

The solemn and impressive custom of announcing death by the tolling of the church bell will soon be but a [illegible] and distant memory. The passing bell has itself passed away, and its slow, measured accents no longer tell the story of the departure of one more soul. The brief notice in the daily paper, while it conveys explicit information, fails to give something that the bell's tolling carried with it. The solemn rhythmic tones awakened a momentary vibration in the breast of every listener and bade each pause for sympathy and meditation. The bell admonished the sinner to repent and warned the thoughtless to take heed and mend his ways. It spoke clearly and comprehensively, and bade all scattered and preoccupied inhabitants attend its story. The bell's voice is identified with all the deepest and most sacred human emotions, says the Atlantic Monthly. It has betokened the joys and sorrows of all mankind for centuries. Is its voice to die away and have no part in the life of the future? The wedding bells ring out no more save in some song or story. The Christmas chimes are seldom wafted to our ears. The church bells ring but faintly now and under constant protest. "The curfew tolls the knell of parting day" only in verse; a sunset gun today gives greater satisfaction. The Angelus sounds merely in pictorial form; the fire bells give place to still alarms; the dinner bell is silenced in polite society and sleigh bells are discarded. What is the future of the bell? That happy silver tongue that has rung out the joys of all the world; that solemn tone that has mourned for the nation's dead and voiced the nation's woes, and summoned to their knees the nations' worshipers?

NOBLE RED MAN.

Difficult for the Indian to Become Self-Supporting.

How to make the Indian self-supporting is a problem which William L. Brown tackles in the Southern Workman. He would solve the problem by making the red men a race of goat herders. He says: "The question of self-support for Indians is a difficult one. The limitations imposed upon them by the nature of the country in which they live and the lack of an inherited habit of work, together with the pauperizing tendency of the ration system, make it difficult for them to progress very rapidly toward self-support. And so a training having this end in view should be one of the features [illegible] the question is one in which the schools should be [illegible] It has been suggested that [illegible] in some localities. The Indians' familiarity with and love for animals makes herding a natural calling for them, and they can therefore be easily trained in the care of stock. Then, too, goats can sustain life where cattle cannot. That goat culture may be made profitable there is little doubt, since there appears to be a ready market for the various products. Statistics show that the importation of the skins, from which the chief value is derived, increased 28 per cent in the fiscal year of 1898 as compared with 1897. Most of the goat skins used in this country are imported. It has been estimated that the market value of the importation of these skins amounts to twenty million dollars."

Parents Liability for Child's Fare.

A parent entering a railroad train with a child not subject but old enough to be required to pay fare, is [illegible] Northern Pacific [illegible] 49 L. R. A. [illegible] contract [illegible] child's fare and on refusal [illegible] to be expelled from [illegible] the child, even though [illegible] to pay his own fare [illegible] to him if he has paid it.

GOV. BLISS' MESSAGE

Urges That Justice be Done to All Classes of Property.

COST OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Changes Should be Made in Primary School Fund—Suggests That Sale of Cigarettes be Prohibited—Asks for Economy and a Short Session.

Lansing, Mich., January 3.—The following is the full text of Gov. Bliss' message:

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives:

Michigan enters upon the long highway of the twentieth century in the van of the procession of the states of this great republic. [illegible] of the forty-first legislature is the distinction of being the first legislative assembly of this century. [illegible]

[illegible]

Reform in the Tax Laws.

[illegible]

Cost of State Institutions.

[illegible]

Economy.

[illegible]

Short Session of the Legislature.

[illegible]

State Public School.

[illegible]

Insurance Department.

[illegible]

Prison for Women.

Your attention is called to the subject of a state prison for women. There is need of a prison or reformatory for the care of the incorrigibles whose presence in the Industrial Home for Girls exerts an injurious influence upon others not so far advanced in the ways of wickedness. If the incorrigibles could be cared for elsewhere there is ground for belief that the influence of the home in a reformatory way would be materially improved. Additional argument for the establishment of the proposed institution may be found in the fact that the state now farms out the care of women sentenced for violation of the criminal laws. The proposition to establish a prison for women is worthy of attention, because through favorable action the state will be taking a step in the direction of further coping with crime.

Supplies for State Institutions.

All things being equal, state institutions should be required to purchase their supplies in Michigan.

Fire Warden System.

There is great merit in the proposition that the legislature should enact a law creating a state fire warden system, seeking [illegible] to prevent [illegible] destruction of [illegible] Michigan. [illegible]

The Forestry Problem.

[illegible]

Changes in Penal Laws.

[illegible]

Regulation of Transportation Service.

[illegible]

Anti-Trust Law.

[illegible]

Pure Food Laws.

[illegible]

Fish and Game Laws.

[illegible]

Treasury Department.

[illegible]

[illegible]

The Common School System.

[illegible]

Michigan Chickamauga Commission.

[illegible]

Appropriations for State Institutions.

It is not intended at this time to go extensively into the matter of state institutions, reserving that subject for future consideration. The total of the appropriations deemed necessary for the maintenance and improvement of these institutions is sufficiently large to invite careful scrutiny. The following table shows the aggregate of the proposed appropriations for 1901-1902, asked by the state institutions which report to the state board of corrections and charities, and the recommendations of the board thereon:

Institutions	Place	Current expenses (2 yrs.)	Specials	Total	Approved	Not approved
Michigan Asylum for the Insane	Kalamazoo		$40,643 12	$40,643 12	$40,643 12	
Eastern Michigan Asylum for the Insane	Pontiac		15,000 00	15,000 00	15,000 00	
Northern Michigan Asylum for the Insane	Traverse City		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$12,067 00
Upper Peninsula Hospital for the Insane	Newberry		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
State Asylum for the Insane	Ionia		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Michigan State Prison	Jackson		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,000 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,500 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7,500 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	700 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	25,225 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	40,000 00
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Total			$530,[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$151,357 00

[illegible] to south side of river.

[illegible]

Michigan Agricultural College.

[illegible]

Asylums for the Insane.

[illegible]

The Pan-American Exposition.

[illegible]

Dairying.

[illegible]

Expenses of State Officers.

[illegible]

Records of Michigan Soldiers.

Michigan is very proud of the heroic part its soldiery has played whenever the interests of the nation have required of them any sacrifice. So that the state may possess a complete record of the service of all its soldiers and sailors who served in the war of the rebellion and in the war with Spain, the legislature should make ample provision for the completion of this work, now under way. The bill ought to be framed in such a way that the compilation may be completed during the ensuing two years.

Supervising Architect.

The advisability of creating the office of supervising architect is submitted in the belief that it will be a business investment on the part of the state which the circumstances will warrant. This officer should have control of the preparations of plans for new state buildings and for all repairs and improvements. The state is growing, and the needs of its public institutions are keeping pace with the increase in population.

Good Roads.

To keep abreast of the times and up to the standard of other progressive states, it behooves us to carefully consider the good roads problem, so that some economical and equitable plan may be devised which will result in better roads. Good roads are a business proposition and Michigan should take a business interest in their development.

The State and Naval Militia.

Michigan is proud of the military arm of the state government, and the legislature should make wise provision encouraging the maintenance of the present effective organization. The naval militia deserves well of the state, and I speak for them your consideration.

Cigarettes.

Firmly believing that the growing use of cigarettes is a menace to the youth of Michigan, I call attention of the legislature to the evil, and advise the most stringent legislation possible, in order that the sale of cigarettes may be discouraged if not prohibited.

Enlargement of State Board of Corrections and Charities.

Because of the greater responsibilities imposed upon and the additional work required of the state board of corrections and charities, and because there is need of the services of a woman in this important part of the state machinery, the enlargement of the membership of this board by one is advised. It should be provided that one of the members of this board be a woman. While speaking of the state board of corrections and charities, I desire to mention the invaluable services thereon of the Rt. Rev. George D. Gillespie, who has served the state so unselfishly and to such good purpose.

A. T. BLISS,
Governor.

Lansing, January 3, 1901.

LITERARY NOTES.

"The Moon Maiden" and "The Curio Dealer" are new pieces by Richard Carle.

"The Country Judge," a new pastoral play by Alice E. Ives and Jerome Eddy, will be produced in New York next March.

Friends of Robert Buchanan have formed a committee for the purpose of raising a fund for the maintenance of the author, who is no longer able to work.

"Richard Mansfield's Acting Edition of Shakespeare's King Henry V." will soon be published. It is understood that Mr. Mansfield's arrangement of the play is based chiefly upon Rolfe's edition of Shakespeare.

Dr. Winthrop Ellsworth Stone, president of Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind., is only 38 years old. Prior to his selection as president he had been vice president for eight years. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural college and took a post-graduate course at Gottingen.

Among books a tale recently written by Edward Perry Warren is called "The Prince Who Did Not Exist." It concerns a prince in a fairy book who was in the most doleful straits because he had fallen in love with a real young lady who was not in the book, whereby she was prevented from expressing even a sisterly interest in him.

ALCOHOL ON THE NERVES.

T. S. Clouston, M. D., Medical Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, writing in the American Mother for October on the effects of alcohol on the nerves gives the following results from scientific observations:

1. That alcohol in excess distends the capillaries in the brain, thickens the membranes, causes destruction of nerve substance and produces brain degeneration, and no excuse can be found for this excessive use.

2. Alcohol in moderation liberates energy, but with marked loss of control; interferes with co-ordination of muscular effort and with clear thought.

3. That even where days elapse between the giving of moderate amounts the brain more quickly feels the effect of subsequent doses, showing permanent injury.

4. That even moderate use tends to create a craving for repetition.

5. That for young brains the effects are always dangerous and the finer the brain the more dangerous.

6. That for people over fifty alcohol is always dangerous.

This leaves at the most, very small leeways for the use of alcohol. That man certainly is not wise who begins, even in middle life, a habit which after fifty years of age will be dangerous to him, while inexcusably culpable is he who gives to his child that which destroys the integrity of his brain and consequently interferes with his moral development.

The distance from the farest point of polar discovery to the pole itself is 460 miles.