Hollow Ash... Hall

BY MARGARET BLOUNT

CHAPTER XVIII.

It was a beautiful morning almost as mild as if it had been autumn, rather than a December day. The sun had advanced just high enough in the heavens to pour down his mildest and warmest beams, and the near village and the distant hills were bathed in the golden light, as, of old, the fair Eden spread its beauty forth for Adam's admiring eyes.

It was a blessed day. The most careless heart could [illegible] beauty in a thankful mood; the fresh sweet air brought a color to the most pallid cheek. It was hard to look out upon the glorious scene and realize that a world so lovely and so fair should be the home and haunt of all that was contemptible and base; that the serpent Slander, and the gaunt fiend Care, and the demon of Murder with his red right hand, could fling a shadow over all its beauty [illegible] each heart that had [illegible] most [illegible] years.

And yet [illegible]

[illegible]

would have gazed [illegible] contemplation on that lovely scene had no [illegible] words ever kindled the flame of [illegible]

[illegible]

Having undertaken the task, Mr. Cowley was determined to accomplish it; and yet he would have given worlds, as the hour drew nigh, that he had never meddled with the matter—never come to Hollow Ash Hall.

His nephew also seemed nervous and ill at ease. As for the ladies, they scarcely spoke, but sat huddled together over the drawing-room fire [illegible]

The morning was rapidly wearing away, and at last Mr. Cowley rose from his easy chair with the air of a man who had made up his mind beyond the power of a change.

"Come, Charles, [illegible]" he said, gravely.

They went out into the hall. [illegible] met them there, and [illegible] a tall and handsome gentleman [illegible] a foreign air and appearance.

"Father," said the girl [illegible] back into the library for a moment. This gentleman knows the story of the haunted room, and is [illegible] tell it to you."

Mr. Cowley started as well he might.

"And who may this gentleman be?" he asked, somewhat stiffly.

"A friend of the Vernons," was the quick reply. "Let him tell you the story of the haunted room."

They went back into the library together, and this was the substance of the story which he told them of the dead girl, the ruined family, and the deserted house:

* * * * * *

Marion Escourt had been a favored child from the very hour of her birth. True, her young mother died that she might live, but a sister of that mother, good and pure as she, took the infant to her heart, and cherished it for the sake of the dead. Marion's aunt was one of earth's saints, and, under her loving care the child grew mild, and good and gentle—beloved by every one who knew her. Her father was an old man, and, being the possessor of great wealth, he chose to indulge his only and darling child in every wish she expressed. He seemed but to live that he might please her; yet, strange to say, in spite of all this injudicious fondness, she was quite unspoiled.

A slight touch of haughtiness there might have been in her manner, but she was no more to blame for that than that her eyes were so large and dark, or her form so reed-like and graceful. With the beauty of her mother, she had inherited the stately manner of her father, and though she moved among her friends with the stately dignity of a young princess, no one seemed disposed to quarrel with what became her so well, and was so sweetly tempered with modesty and gentleness, and all good gifts.

Years passed on and added the arch fascinations of girlhood to her other charms. Her playmates were forced to select their cavaliers from the list of her rejected lovers, and yet her heart seemed all untouched.

At last she made her choice. It surprised every one. Her second cousin, George Vernon, a graceless, drinking and dicing Oxford student, won the treasure for which so many had longed in vain. Won it almost without an effort on his part—won it without knowing of its value, or knowing how to appreciate it.

When by the advice of a dear friend she knelt at her father's feet and told him of her love, the old man burst into a storm of anger, threatened her with the loss of home and friends; threatened her also with his own curse; but it was all in vain! She was his own child. She inherited all his pride and haughtiness, though these qualities had been kept in the background by the gentle teachings of her aunt; and when he attempted to thwart her dearest wishes so openly and determinedly, her pride and will were aroused, and her soul opposed in all its native fierceness to his own.

That night she fled! The morning brought a letter from her, saying that she had chosen to share poverty with her lover rather than enjoy wealth without him. At the same time she prayed her father not to cast her utterly from his heart, but to think of her in kindness and mercy, for the sake of the long and happy years they had left behind them forever.

Marion was by no means one to be discarded and forgotten where she had once been loved, and though at first her stern old father forbade all mention of her name and threatened to [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the appointed time [illegible] and either the [illegible] of the time for receiving it has passed away [illegible] came directly from Marion [illegible] her father did not even know the [illegible]

[illegible]

his letters at her feet.

The [illegible] of whom I [illegible] in using them. Mr. Vernon and the [illegible] spoken word to tell [illegible] all he was feeling [illegible] the long ardent glances of [illegible] handsome hazel eyes told the story only too well, and smiling sometimes to herself at this new proof of her power of fascination, she gave him some slight encouragement from time to time. He did not love her, and yet at last, he walked up and down his room at midnight, thinking, while she was sleeping quietly and would have laughed heartily at his employment had she known it. He was only doing what a thousand men have done before him—what a thousand more will do after him—flinging himself at the feet of a woman who would lead him through a tempest of passion and leave him at last bankrupt of faith, of feeling and honesty, and all else that to the noble heart makes life at all worth living.

CHAPTER XIX.

And all this time what was Marion doing?

This house was even more lonely then than it is now. There were few country seats around, and even with their tenants, Mr. Vernon had little or no intimacy. People did not quite understand him or his position. There were rumors afloat that touched his character closely, and even Marion was supposed to be not a lady, a relative and his wife, but a person of inferior birth; some even thought her a servant, who had consented to reside with him without troubling herself about the formal ceremony of marriage. He must have known that this was the general impression, and yet he never contradicted it in any way. So no one ever came to the Hall, and Marion wondered a little at the unsocial neighborhood and heard nothing for a long time of the [illegible] intimacy her indifferent husband had formed.

At last the tale leaked out through the good offices of her own maid. She was shocked and indignant, but something impelled her to seek Mr. Vernon at once and know the truth. She went down into the study, where he was lounging in an easy chair, smoking a cigar, and thinking, probably, much less of Mrs. Vernon than of Mrs. Moore. He laid aside the cigar and she sat down beside him and began her hopeless task.

Hopeless—how hopeless every woman must know. For all men, even the best and bravest, and gentlest, are cowardly in their dealings with women, and will evade a downright inquiry if it is in their power to do so. It happened, therefore, as a mere matter of course, that Mr. Vernon told his wife an absolute falsehood, and made her believe at last that she had been slandered, by the reports she had heard—highly colored ones, let us own.

She believed him.

But the next day both he and Mrs. Moore were missing.

The had fled to Australia together.

The shock drove Marion mad for the time. And in her frenzy she destroyed the life of her infant, which was born before she recovered.

(To be continued.)

TRAMP STEAMER'S CHANCE.

Big Trade Awaiting Development from America's Inland Ports.

In Leslie's appears a most interesting article upon the possibilities of Chicago as a seaport. The author, W. D. Hulbert, sums up his argument by remarking that when all is said and done the fact remains that transportation by water is almost invariably [illegible]

[illegible]

Discovered a Useful Secret.

[illegible]

Trenches for Her Husband.

[illegible]

Done in Crepe Paper.

One of the cleverest designers of crepe paper novelties has outdone herself this year, and while not slighting the inevitable Easter lily she has made a real feature of the swan. A big swan, an immediately white as any that float upon the little lake at the zoo, is made of white crepe paper, with touches of gilt along the edges. This swan is hollow and the ripply paper plumage on her back may be brushed aside when it will be found to be only a new way of making a candy box. Another smaller affair is nothing so dainty nor wantable unless you desire a box that will shut. This one is in the shape of a green paper moss nest, Mrs. Swan standing on guard at the top.

Limits of the Audibility of Sound.

An interesting matter from a scientific point of view in connection with the death of Queen Victoria is the distance at which the sound of firing was heard when the fleet saluted as the body was conveyed from Cowes to Portsmouth. Letters in the English journals of science show that the sounds of the guns were heard in several places at a distance of eighty-four miles, and that at a distance of sixty miles the concussions were sufficiently intense to shake windows and to set cock pheasants to crowing as they do during a thunderstorm. There appears to have been but little wind to interfere with the propagation of the sound.—New York Post.

FAST SAILING FROM EUROPE.

The Four-Master Kenilworth Comes Over in 18 1-2 Days.

The fastest passage across the Atlantic under sail in several years ended last week when the American four-masted ship Kenilworth, Capt. Taylor, passed in the Delaware Capes, 18½ days after leaving Liverpool, says the New York Sun. She had raced across the ocean to Philadelphia to get first chance at a cargo of water pipes destined for Java in the East Indies. Her trip recalled the days of the clippers to the ship brokers on the Maritime Exchange in Philadelphia and when the arrival was posted on the bulletin board they cheered the four-master and her skipper. While it is the fastest passage in recent years the Kenilworth's is not a transatlantic sailing record. The Dreadnaught, the famous Boston clipper sailed from Sandy Hook to Queenstown in the '50's in nine days and seventeen hours, a northwest gale boosting her along all the way. On another trip she reached Liverpool from New York in thirteen days and eight hours. The Mary Whitridge, a Baltimore clipper, sailed from Baltimore to Liverpool about the same distance as from Philadelphia in thirteen days and seven hours forty years ago. [illegible]

[illegible]

NEW FAST TRAIN TO COLORADO

Via Missouri Pacific Railway.

[illegible]

Mississippi's Small Vote.

[illegible]

What Do the Children Drink?

[illegible]

BACKACHE

SHOULD WARN WOMEN.

MISS LUCY ANNIE HEISER, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Miss Lucy Annie Heiser, a graduated nurse of nine years' experience, trained and graduated from the Homoeopathic Hospital of Minneapolis, Minn., writes as follows:

Albert Lea, Minn., Nov. 8, 1899.

The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, Ohio:

Gentlemen—Although my school does not believe in patent medicines, I have found it to be a fact that Peruna is a grand and valuable medicine. I have known it to cure Mrs. Sampson, suffering with an inflamed womb, aggravated by malaria, after the doctors had failed to help her. Another of my former patients suffered with a complication of female diseases; she was so thin, nothing but skin and bones, but Peruna cured her and she is to-day in good health and good flesh. Facts prove that Peruna revives lost strength and restores to the sick that most wonderful blessing of life—health.

Lucy Annie Heiser.

If all the tired women and all the nervous women, and all the women that needed a tonic would read and heed the words of these fair ladies who have spoken right to the point, how many invalids would be prevented and how many wretched lives be made happy.

Peruna restores health in a normal way.

Peruna puts right all the mucous membranes of the body, and in this way restores the functions of every organ.

From Mrs. Amanda Shumaker, who has charge of the Grammar Department of the Public Schools of Columbia City, Wash., also Past Grand of Independent Order of Good Templars, Dr. Hartman received the following letter:

Columbia City, Wash.

"I can speak only good words of the repeated benefits I have had from the use of Peruna.

"*Too constant application to work last winter caused me to have severe head and backache and dragging pains. I could not stop my work, neither was I fit to go on. Reading of the beneficial results from the use of Peruna I purchased a bottle and within a few days after using it, began to feel better.*

"I constantly improved and before the seventh bottle was completely used, all pains were gone, my strength was restored, and I now seem ten years' younger.

"If I get tired or feel bad, Peruna at once helps me, and I feel you deserve praise for placing such a conscientious medicine before a suffering public."

Mrs. Amanda Shumaker.

Mattie B. Curtis, Secretary Legion of Loyal Women, Hotel Salem, Boston, Mass., writes:

"*I suffered for over a year with general weakness and debility, manifested especially in severe backache and headache.*

Mattie B. Curtis.

"My physician prescribed different medicines, none of which seemed to help me any until a [illegible] advised me to try Peruna as it cures [illegible] of constitutional headache and stomach troubles. I at once ordered a bottle and before it was used felt greatly improved.

"I have taken [illegible] bottles and for two months have [illegible] entirely free from these maladies. Several of my friends are using Peruna with beneficial results, especially in cases of troubles with the [illegible] and other pelvic organs, together with weaknesses peculiar to women."

Peruna is a specific for the catarrhal derangements of women.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

San Francisco, 1901.

On account of the Fifth International Convention of the Epworth League at San Francisco in July, the Southern Pacific Company and its connections will sell Exceedingly Low Rate Round Trip Tickets. In fact, tickets will be sold from the East for the round trip to San Francisco at rates much less than the normal one way fare, and further, they can be purchased to read westward via any of the Southern Pacific's three routes. [illegible] H. E. TOWNSEND, G. P. & T. Agent, St. Louis, Mo.

A Bottle-Washing Machine.

A bottle washing machine is being built for a brewing company in Milwaukee which will wash, scrub and rinse, outside and inside, 40,000 bottles in a day of ten hours.

Hall's Catarrh Cure

Is taken internally. Price, 75c.

Worth makes the man; the want of it makes him worthless.

The greatest liar is he who talks most of himself.

[illegible]

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

[illegible]

Are You Using Allen's Foot-Ease?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Even the cowardly engineer whistles at danger.

Turn the Rascals Out

We are speaking of the grip microbes. The well and strong can resist their poison; the sickly and weak are their prey. Baxter's Mandrake Bitters are nature's remedy for expelling all poison from the system. At druggists in liquid or tablets at 25 cents per bottle or box.

PENSION JOHN W. MORRIS, Washington, D.C. Successfully Prosecutes Claims. Late Principal Examiner U.S. Pension Bureau. [illegible]

SPEED!

A lightgrade tire, to be worthy of its name, should possess four virtues—speed, easy riding qualities, ability to wear, ease of repair.

G & J Tires have all these virtues. When punctured, take off the outer cover, repair the inner tube and go on your way in a jiffy. [illegible] Catalogue free.

G & J TIRE COMPANY, Indianapolis, Ind.

When Answering Advertisements Kindly Mention This Paper.

Dyspepsia

Most people eat more than is good for them. The stomach tries to digest all that's put into it, but if repeatedly overloaded, it goes on a strike. That's indigestion. Rich, over-sweet, indigestible food weakens the stomach and makes it unable to take care of the material put into it. More food taken into a weakened stomach than the stomach can digest, stays there, forms gases and rots, bringing on all the horrors of dyspepsia. The only way to cure dyspepsia is to clean out the digestive canal with CASCARETS. Keep it clean with Cascarets, eat light food sparingly, and give the stomach a chance to rest up and get strong again.

Be sure you get the genuine CASCARETS!

"For six years I was a victim of dyspepsia in its worst form. I could eat nothing but milk toast, and at times my stomach would not retain and digest even that. Last March I began taking CASCARETS and since then I have steadily improved, until I am as well as I ever was in my life." DAVID H. MURPHY, Newark, O.

Cascarets

BEST FOR BOWELS AND LIVER.

THEY WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP

THIS IS CCC THE TABLET

10c. 25c. 50c.

NEVER SOLD IN BULK.

DRUGGISTS

GUARANTEED TO CURE all bowel troubles, appendicitis, biliousness, bad breath, bad blood, wind on the stomach, bloated bowels, foul mouth, headache, indigestion, pimples, pains after eating, liver trouble, sallow complexion and dizziness. When your bowels don't move regularly you are getting sick. Constipation kills more people than all other diseases together. It is a starter for the chronic ailments and long years of suffering that come afterwards. No matter what ails you, start taking CASCARETS today, for you will never get well and be well all the time until you put your bowels right. Take our advice; start with CASCARETS today, under an absolute guarantee to cure or money refunded.

GUARANTEED TO CURE: Five years ago the first box of CASCARETS was sold. Now it is over six million boxes a year, greater than any similar medicine in the world. [illegible] STERLING REMEDY CO., New York or Chicago.

Turquoises from Mount Sinai.

The Egyptian turquoises, so called, come in reality from Mount Sinai. The highly-valued Persian stones are obtained from Nishapur in the most primitive manner. A wooden wheel, operated by the feet of two men lying on their backs, brings the broken rock to the surface in bags; the fragments are smashed with hammers, and when a turquoise is discovered it is put aside and sent with the next batch to Meshed to be cut.

SOZODONT for the Teeth and Breath 25c

At all Stores, or by Mail for the price. HALL & RUCKEL, New York.

If afflicted with sore eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water

PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS

I CURE FITS FREE. A Full-Size $1 Treatment of Dr. O. Phelps Brown's Great Remedy for Fits, Epilepsy and all Nervous Diseases. Address O. PHELPS BROWN, 98 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y.

IN 3 OR 4 YEARS AN INDEPENDENCE ASSURED

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If you take up your home in Western Canada, the land of plenty. Illustrated pamphlets, giving experiences of farmers who have become wealthy in growing wheat, reports of delegates, etc., and full information as to reduced railway rates can be had on application to the Superintendent of Immigration, Department of Interior, Ottawa, Canada, or to J. Grieve, Saginaw, Mich., or M. V. McInnes, No. 2 Merrill Block, Detroit, Mich.

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