

MY HALF SISTER

By ELTON HARRIS

CHAPTER IV.—(Continued.)

It was terribly galling, but until she came of age there was no help for it. Well, the only thing to do was to make the best of things, and be as happy as circumstances would permit. But this was easier said than done; there was not a soul in Chalfont she liked or trusted, and time hung heavily on her hands, for she could not always be with the Anstruthers, even had madame allowed it, and no one else came near them. Madame, had she known it, was in rather a difficulty. She greatly valued the Anstruthers' acquaintance, making a point of stopping to speak whenever she met them in Reverton, and hoping those who kept aloof from Chalfont would observe it; but, strange to say, she had forgotten Reggie, who, indeed, was not often at home, and now Kate had aroused her suspicions she was much perplexed.

She had her own plans for Mollie and if it came to a choice between them and the Anstruthers' friendship, she must reluctantly abandon their friendship.

Mollie soon found the difference; she was never left alone for a minute. Was she going into Reverton, madame was going also, or Henri would accompany her; there was nothing he would enjoy more.

"What do you think of Henri, Joyce?" asked Mollie the Saturday afternoon preceding Easter Sunday, when she had managed to evade both the Dubois, and, taking Kate to put a wreath on their mother's grave, had gone on to the White house.

The White house was not so large as Chalfont, but it had a beautiful old garden, and the two girls were wandering up and down the sheltered paths, while Kate took a solemn, dignified ride on the old swing under the trees that had recalled to Mollie her childhood days.

"He was very pleasant the few times he has been here," Joyce responded doubtfully, pausing to look at the yellow daffodils, the sweet-scented jonquils that lifted their heads from the dark mould. "But do you like him, Mollie?"

"I am afraid not," said she, thoughtfully. "You see, Joyce dear, he acts so strangely. He pretends to me that he loves England and the country, and I know he loves nothing but his beloved Paris. Yesterday he insisted upon accompanying me for a country walk, and madam said nothing, though she was angry when Reggie went with me to get moss. I know he hated it, for he had on French patent leather boots, and really could hardly limp home; and then, as I was going upstairs, I heard him swearing awfully to himself as he pulled them off. But he paid me compliments all the time, and he tells me that he adores 'le sport,' but he does not understand a gun, and he dare not drive the chestnuts, I know. And—and I cannot help thinking that because I shall have money—"

She looked at Joyce, wistfully, and Joyce not wishing to meet those sweet gray eyes at the moment, contemplated the daffodils, while she rapidly turned over in her own mind how to answer. Reverton both said and thought a great deal about the inmates of Chalfont that it would be a great pity for Mollie to know. For good or evil she was unfortunately in Madam Dubois' rare at present; therefore why make her feet more uncomfortable than was necessary.

That Henri was paying court to the heiress seemed likely enough; her fortune would be a large one to a Frenchman; and that her own darling, handsome Reggie had more than a liking for the lovely, slender girl herself was equally true. Raising her eyes from the flowers, Joyce caught sight of both young men advancing towards them, and Reggie called out:

"I have brought you a visitor, Joyce. Mollie, come and have a swing with the child, for the sake of old lang syne."

They all turned back together to the spot where Kate was slowly swinging herself to and fro. But Joyce felt far from comfortable as she stood with the young Frenchman watching the half-sisters, as Reggie's strong, brown hand on the rope sent them flying up and down—Mollie's pink-and-white face like the spring day itself; Kate's flaxen curls floating on the breeze.

It was a pretty picture enough of youth, and, perhaps, looking at two of the faces, of love. But Henri did not seem to appreciate it as he stood there twisting his silky little black moustache, while his sharp black eyes roved from one to the other, and his remarks grew fewer and fewer.

"I shall have a swing put up in my grounds," announced Kate condescendingly, as they came to a full stop.

"Mother had one made near the tennis-lawn," said Mollie, pushing back her rebellious curls, and fastening her hat.

"Oh, that is not good enough," retorted the child, her deep-set gray eyes fixed on her sister with cool insolence. "Chalfont is my property,

and I shall have everything done that I like."

Reggie took his hand off the ropes with a muttered exclamation that sounded not unlike "little beast," and asked Mollie to come down to look at the tennis court, and as Henri seemed determined to go also, Joyce disregarded her brother's appealing eye, and watched them off, for she had noticed the sudden flush on Mollie's face. She knew how tenderly the girl regarded everything her mother had done, and in some wrath determined to have a word with the vain-glorious owner of Chalfont, whom, indeed, she would dearly have enjoyed shaking.

Kate was looking after the retreating trio with rather a disconcerted expression, for her sharp ears had caught Reggie's remark, and she liked Reggie; her boasting had been principally to impress him with her importance.

"Every one seems to like Mollie!" she said crossly. "I suppose it is because she is a L'Estrange; Jane and Harriet say so. Though I think it is horribly mean of the Reverton people not to call on us, and make such a fuss over her, for, as Jane often says, I am the heiress and mistress of Chalfont, and much richer than Mollie."

"I will tell you why every one likes Mollie," replied Joyce, regarding the stylishly arrayed little Imp severely. "It is not alone because she is very pretty, but because she is always pleasant and sunny. Who ever heard Mollie say biting and unkind things on purpose to hurt people, or boasting about her possessions?"

"I suppose you mean that I do." And Kate sat still on the swing, and flung her curls back with an angry gesture.

"Yet Mollie has got some money, you know, or Aunt Clare would not make such a fuss of her. Harriet says that she is sure she means to marry her to Henri; I heard her. But Jane says that with my persuasion I ought to marry a title; and I intend to."

And having delivered herself of these sentiments in her high childish voice she pushed the swing off with one thin, black-silk-stockinged leg.

"Who are Jane and Harriet?" asked Joyce shortly.

"My servants."

"Oh! And when you marry this nobleman, suppose you have two dear little girls, you will naturally leave this property to the younger?"

"Certainly not; that would not be fair. I should leave the most to the elder, or divide it." Kate had begun with lofty eloquence, then she caught Joyce's eye, and, being a very quick child, saw the pit into which she had fallen, and stopped abruptly. "You think Mollie has not been properly treated? The people in Reverton think so," she ended, below her breath.

"That has nothing to do with us, Kate," Joyce said gravely. "But if you can see this, perhaps—though you are so young—you can also see how well Mollie behaves. She does not grudge you anything, though Chalfont was her home before you were born. She never says bitter things to you, yet who has the most reason? I wonder you don't love her!"

Joyce never forgot the strange old look on the little thin face, as the child glanced at her after a dead pause. There was something both sad and weird about it; she might have been a hundred, with all the cares of life on her small shoulders, and looking at her Joyce remembered with a wave of compassion that she was but 10, and, if report said true, her life had never been as other children's. She had been a tool in her father's hands from birth; she was one in her aunt's now. Spoiled from policy, neglected from want of affection, left to the care of ignorant servants, who flattered her for their own ends and filled her head with nonsense, what chance had the unfortunate little heiress had?

"Come along," she said, holding out her hand to the silent child. "I see my mother beckoning to us from the drawing room window; let us run and call the others in for some tea."

CHAPTER V.

The White House was one of the most comfortable of homes; no dissension was ever heard there. The very servants, who had been in Mrs. Anstruther's service for years, seemed to share the prevailing harmony of contentment, and took a pride in serving the family faithfully.

And Mollie could not but notice the difference as, after a somewhat quiet walk home along the country road that separated the two houses by about a mile, the gates of Chalfont had eluded to behind them, and a morose-looking maid opened the hall door.

No household could have been happy under Madame Dubois' tyrannical rule. Mollie had quite made up her mind to that; and also another point—namely: That both mother and son were to be kept at arm's length; that she was a L'Estrange, and could not—could not stand them!

And she had walked home in a fer-

ment of indignation because Henri, after all the rebuffs she had given him, had actually dared to call her "Mollie" before the Anstruthers and a few visitors who had come in, and assumed airs of proprietorship as he marched them home.

So as Kate skipped off after the sulky-looking maid, she turned abruptly to the young man, who was lounging in the doorway furtively watching her with a faint cynical smile in his round black eyes. She was but a school girl, this young English meek, but she was adorably pretty, with a skin—ah, such lovely white skin—what would not Celestine or Lucie give for it!

"Monsieur Dubois," she said gently, fixing her clear gray eyes upon his dark face, "now my half-sister is gone I wish to speak to you—to remind you that we are mere acquaintances, and to such I am not 'Mollie,' but Miss L'Estrange. I am sorry you have forced me to mention this. I hoped that you understood it."

For a moment they stood facing each other, but her eyes never quailed before his; she had spirit and courage, this mere school girl, he recognized, yet a very evil look came into his face for a second ere he replied:

"And why for not, mademoiselle; you are my mother's ward, and that long-legged Anstruther he calls you what he please, doesn't he?"

"The Anstruthers are old family friends," she said hurriedly. "But it is not a subject to argue. I simply state my wishes, which I feel sure you will respect."

"Do not be too confident," he muttered between his teeth. "It is possible that I may resent being treated worse than this other fellow—"

"You have no right to resent anything, monsieur," she interrupted, with a haughty gesture. "I am alone here, but I can appeal to Madame Dubois, as I am in her care."

And she paused irresolutely as his mocking laugh fell upon her ear.

"Bah, mademoiselle, she lives but for me!" he said, with veiled insolence. "I am master here."

It was true Mollie's heart was beating uncomfortably fast; the prospect looked gloomy; but she had plenty of spirit, and Henri's whole manner was so detestable that her pride came to her aid and stilled her fears.

"If I am not treated with ordinary politeness, and allowed to live in peace, I shall complain to my trustees," she retorted, with flashing eyes.

"Of no use at all," he returned, with a sweeping bow. Then, coming closer and laying a small claw-like hand on her arm: "See here, Mollie, you are in my mother's power absolutely for two years, and she has an awful temper when opposed. You had better be friends with me, I, Henri Dubois, offer you my friendship."

Mollie shrank from his touch, from the sound of his thin, false voice, with unutterable loathing, realizing, poor child! with terrible distinctness that, like the man in the parable, she had fallen among thieves; then she drew back, throwing up her head with a scornful jeer, while her knees trembled so much that she leaned back against the door for support.

"You have again disregarded my wishes, monsieur." And by a great effort she spoke firmly. "I have nothing more to say." And she went down the steps into the garden.

(To be Continued.)

Reasons of French Preparations.

Lord Salisbury is not wrong when he alludes to the very unfavorable feeling toward England existing throughout the world, but to suppose that this feeling can lead to anything more unless England herself provokes it, especially to believe that this pretended explosion is to occur at any precise date, such as November of the present year, is simply idiotic and ridiculous. In any case we are sure of one thing, that France at any rate is contemplating nothing of the kind, and in the present state of the world a coalition could not be formed against England without France. It is true that for some time past we have become accustomed to contemplate the possibility of a rupture with England, and we have even made definite preparations in consequence, but we have been compelled to do this by circumstances that were not of our seeking, which we have been very reluctant to take into account.—Paris Journal des Debats.

The Sustaining Power of Bananas.

One of the most courageous marches ever taken was that of Col. Willcocks to Kumasi. We hear that during the march from Kumasi the whole party lived on bananas. On one occasion they even waded shoulder high through a river for two hours. Does anyone want a higher test of endurance on a vegetable diet than this?—The Vegetarian.

Supreme Bench Dignity Infringed.

That the dignity of the Supreme Bench is sometimes burdensome is illustrated by a remark made by Justice Brewer to a Washington official. The justice was about to take his vacation, and he said: "I am glad I am going to a resort where I can wear one gallus, no collar, and roll up my pants."

Finest Roads in World.

Bermuda and the Bahama Islands boast of the finest roads in the world. They are made of coral, and are as smooth as a dancing floor and never dirty. The coral is smoothed and pressed with rollers until it is practically solid.

OUR POLICY RIGHT.

SENATOR NELSON LAYS BARE THE AGUINALDO PLOT.

Protectorate Plan Advocated Would Violate Our Treaty Pledges and Turn the Islands Over to the Tagal Assassins.

Senator Knute Nelson opened the Republican campaign at Alexandria, Minn., September 1 with a masterly speech on the Philippine question, delivered in his usual concise and convincing manner. The town hall was packed to the doors. Senator Nelson held the attention of his audience and at times the applause was deafening. He was at his best.

The speech was entitled "The Philippine Question in Its Various Aspects." Senator Nelson opened with this convincing statement:

"That our country had good ground for declaring war against Spain and that the war was a just one, fairly and humanely carried on to a most successful, honorable and glorious issue, is conceded by all, and is not a matter of controversy. The American people, without regard to party, are responsible for the war. The bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for war preparation and the resolution declaring war were passed by a unanimous vote of both houses."

He then rapidly stated the events which led to Dewey's victory and to the advent of Aguinaldo on the islands by the courtesy of Dewey.

Suspicion was first directed toward Aguinaldo by General Anderson when on July 18, 1898, he notified the war department: "I suspect also that Aguinaldo is secretly negotiating with the Spanish authorities as his confidential aide in Manila."

On the 24th of the same month Aguinaldo advised General Anderson of the "undesirability of disembarking North American troops in places conquered by the Filipinos without previous notice to this government" (meaning to himself).

Review of Events at Manila.

Senator Nelson renewed the events of June and July in a rapid manner effectually disproving the time worn and long disproved argument that Dewey entered into an alliance with Aguinaldo.

As early as June 9 Aguinaldo is known to have been in secret negotiation with Captain General Augustine, the Spanish commandant at Manila. His idea was an alliance to drive the Americans from the islands.

LATER ON A GENERAL MASSACRE OF OUR FORCES AND OF ALL WHITE PEOPLE WITHIN THE CITY WAS CONTEMPLATED.

On the 7th of January, 1899, Aguinaldo wrote from Malolos to a friend in Manila, among other things, as follows:

"I beg you to leave with your family and to come here to Malolos, but not because I wish to frighten you. I merely wish to warn you for your satisfaction, although it is not yet the day or the week."

The Uprising Against Our Flag.

Senator Nelson gave full details of the barbarous orders from Theodore Sandico for an uprising in Manila, to be accompanied by the burning and looting of the city and the murder of all foreigners including Chinese. Concluding Senator Nelson said:

"I have thus aimed, in this brief but authentic narrative of Aguinaldo and his insurrection, to show you the inception and nature of the Tagal rebellion in Luzon, and the character and purposes of Aguinaldo and his military chiefs."

Aguinaldo's Lust for Power.

"It is evident that lust of power and self-aggrandizement, rather than the real freedom of the Filipinos, has been the aim and purpose of Aguinaldo and his chiefs from the beginning till the present time."

"The insurrection which he and they started in 1896 they abandoned for a price in December, 1897. When war came on with Spain and Dewey was about to start for Manila, they saw an opening and easy way to start another insurrection. To Dewey they professed a desire to aid him in expelling the Spaniards—their hereditary tyrants and oppressors."

"Among themselves they planned, through the aid of Dewey and his forces, to enter Luzon, procure arms and start an insurrection, ostensibly against Spain, but really in hostility to the United States. They came to Luzon under false pretenses and with base treachery in their hearts."

"They had no sooner landed and gotten their insurrection afloat and armed their forces with weapons, furnished by Dewey, than they began to open negotiations with the Spanish commander, for the purpose of combining with him to expel our forces from Manila. Failing to get this cooperation, they laid siege to Manila for the purpose of capturing and looting it before the arrival of our forces. When our troops finally landed, they received them in an unfriendly and hostile spirit, and continued to harass and annoy them in various ways. And when Manila was captured by our forces, without their co-operation, and they were not permitted to enter and loot the city, they threw off the mask, and assumed a belligerent attitude to our forces. They next opened negotiations with Gen. Rios at Iloilo, for the purpose of making common cause, and combining him against our forces, and through his planity they secured possession of the city before the arrival of our forces."

Surrender of Manila.
When Manila surrendered and there

were no longer any Spaniards to fight, they renewed their siege against the city and our forces with increased vigor. They planned to burn, sack and loot the city, and to strike down and slaughter every living human being in it, except their own people; and two brutal, though abortive, attempts were made to carry out the barbarous and demonic plan.

If we study the records and proceedings of their so-called government, it is apparent that it is nothing but a pure dictatorship—a mere military oligarchy of Aguinaldo and his chiefs (all Chinese mestizos)—with no basis of choice or consent among the masses. It exists and is tolerated, such as it is, through fear and ignorance. Ignorance of the Americans, their character and system of government; and fear of Aguinaldo, his junta and armed followers. Is it not plain to any unbiased mind, after studying the record of Aguinaldo and his junta ever since the insurrection of 1896, that it is as much our moral duty to relieve the Filipino people from the incubus and tyranny of this military oligarchy as of Spanish rule? It would be a greater misfortune and greater calamity to hand the Filipino people over to the mercies of such a government than to have left them in the hands of the Spaniards. Is it not our moral as well as our legal duty to suppress, first of all, this insurrection, started under such false pretenses, with such treachery and under such auspices and leadership as this Tagal rebellion in Luzon?

Bryan Indorsed Administration.

We acquired the islands fairly by conquest, ratified and confirmed by a treaty, which had the indorsement of Mr. Bryan. He was at Washington on the eve of its ratification and urged his party to join in ratifying the treaty. The insurrection of 1898 would never have had an inception nor flourished but for the fact that our flag was in the islands, and permitted Aguinaldo and his chiefs to land.

Coming into the islands under our flag, our protection, and our assistance, as they did, Aguinaldo and his chiefs had no more legal or moral right to set up a claim or title hostile to the United States than a tenant, coming into possession by the permission of his landlord, has the right to question or set up a hostile title to the latter. We acquired, by conquest and treaty, as complete a title to the Philippine islands as to Porto Rico, and we have taken no more steps to obtain the consent of the Porto Ricans than of the Filipinos. The government we have established for the Porto Ricans is a government we have given them, and not a government they have given themselves.

Merely a Tagal Affair.

According to the most conservative data, the Philippine group embrace an area of about 120,000 square miles and a population of 7,000,000. Luzon has a little more than one-third of this area and a little less than one-half of this population. There are three different races and over eighty different tribes, of various degrees of civilization, in the group. Most of the people belong to the Malay race; less than one-half million belong to the other two races. The principal tribe is the Visayas, occupying the Visaya group of islands, situated between Luzon on the north and Mindanao on the south. The Visayas occupy an area of 28,000 square miles, number about 2,600,000 and are as civilized and intelligent as the Tagals. The next tribe, in numbers, is the Tagals, who occupy Luzon, and number 1,664,000—about one-half of the population of this island.

The insurrection is a Tagal insurrection, and the insurrectionary government is a Tagal government. The other tribes and the people of the other islands had no voice and were not represented in the formation or management of this government. The Tagal government of Aguinaldo in Luzon originated in and rests wholly upon military force, and has not, even in Luzon, to say nothing about the many other important islands, come into existence or continued by the free choice or voluntary consent of the people sought to be governed. Its scope and authority is limited to the territory occupied by its armed bands and detachments in Luzon. The consent of the governed is neither asked, sought nor expected. The great mass of the people are as helpless and where within reach of the Tagal government under as abject subjugation under Aguinaldo's military oligarchy as they ever were under the Spaniards in the years that are past.

Bryan Would Haul Down Old Glory.

It is to such an insurrection and to such a government that our adversaries would have us lay down our arms and surrender our control and authority. It is this insurrection, and this government that we should have encouraged and set up as a permanent establishment and have made ourselves the protectors of. It is to this government of Aguinaldo's that we should retrocede the title and authority we acquired from Spain.

When we ratified the treaty we should have given assurance of all this, and then all would have been well. It is because we have failed to do all this, and because we are suppressing the insurrection, bringing order out of chaos and attempting to give the Filipinos a just, safe and liberal government—superior to any they have ever had or possibly could acquire through Aguinaldo and his chiefs—that we are guilty of imperialism and guilty of threatening the liberties of our own people by an increased standing army.

Bryan's Imperialism.

BUT IT IS ONLY ON HIS CRITICISMS THAT MR. BRYAN IS LOFTY AND SOARS TO IMPERIAL

HEIGHTS. WHEN HE COMES TO LAY DOWN A PROGRAM OF HIS OWN HE IS LESS ELUSIVE, LESS STARTLING, AND APPROACHES REPUBLICAN GROUND NEARER THAN HE APPREHENDS.

In his Philippine program he would, first, establish a stable form of government. That is exactly what the Republican party aims to do. But this implies that there is no such government there now, not even Aguinaldo's government. What Mr. Bryan admits by implication we assert as a positive fact, and we further assert that the first step in the establishment of a stable form of government is to suppress the existing insurrection and insurrectionary government, and that a stable form of government can not well be established before this is done.

Different in Case of Cuba.

Even this Mr. Bryan admits by implication, for he says we should do as we have done in Cuba. And what have we done there? When our forces went to Cuba there was a Cuban republic and a Cuban army. There was no Filipino government nor Filipino army when Dewey entered Manila bay. In Cuba, through our efforts, and aided by the good sense of Gomez and his chiefs, the Cuban republic has been permitted to expire and the Cuban army has long ago been disbanded, and by the aid and co-operation of the Cubans we are engaged in the effort of establishing de novo a stable government there. Had Aguinaldo and his chiefs followed the example of Gomez and his chiefs we should before this have been long on the way towards establishing a stable government in the Philippines. Under the circumstances we have not, as Mr. Bryan contends, been dilatory in establishing such a government. In 1846 our armed forces took possession of California, and continued to hold it pending the Mexican war, the ratification of the treaty of peace, and until it became a state in 1850. California never had a territorial form of government, but remained under the control of the army from 1846 until it became a state. There was no insurrection in California, and yet for upwards of two years after the treaty of peace, it was governed through the military department of the government, and this was held by our supreme court to be a valid and constitutional government, nor were we accused of being dilatory in giving California a state government. But it is asserted that the Filipinos are entitled to absolute independence, and that we have no right to govern them without their consent.

Our Duty a Sacred One.

If this is true, what right have we to impose any form of government upon them?

They may insist that they have the right to establish just such a form of government as they see fit and that it is not our business to establish any form for them. What then? Are we to abandon the scheme or are we to watch, wait and pray for their consent, or are we to go on regardless of it. And in case we do go on to establish a stable government without their consent, and they see fit to resist and to go into an insurrection—as they are now doing—against our present efforts to establish a stable government, and we resort to arms to repress such resistance and insurrection—as they are now doing—against our present efforts to establish a stable government, and we resort to arms to repress such resistance and insurrection and insist upon establishing a stable government at the point of the bayonet, will not this bring us back into the slough of imperialism with the ghost of a standing army in the background? There is only one sure escape from such a gloomy outcome. It is to leave it to the Filipinos to say what constitutes a stable form of government. But if we do that there is really no occasion for our giving any consideration at all to their form of government. There is no need of giving them any form of government at all. That should be left wholly to themselves.

As to a Protectorate.

Having given the Filipinos a stable form of government, Mr. Bryan would give them their absolute independence and then protect them from the interference of other nations. If it is our duty to establish a stable form of government, it follows that it is our duty to see that such a form of government is maintained, for without it, we cannot afford them adequate protection against other nations. If we assume a protectorate over the islands, foreign governments would expect and require, and would have a right to expect and require that we maintain a stable government there. A government that would protect the life, property and commerce of foreigners to the same extent as among the civilized nations of the world.

Without such a government we would, before the world, have no more right to say in foreign nations, you must keep out of the Philippines, than we have to say to foreign nations at this time, that you must keep out of China.

The Protectorate Humbug.

If we were to assume a protectorate over China it would be our duty to see that China accorded ample protection to the lives, property and business of foreigners. And recent events have demonstrated what a task this would be. And the Filipinos, in all their entirety, with their more than eighty different tribes and their varied and inferior degrees of civilization, are far less fitted for self-government than the Chinese, who have maintained an organized government for centuries.