

She Overreached Herself

By ESTHER VANDEVEER

When Thomas Deane was an old man his wife died, and he became dependent upon his daughter, Hester, for care and companionship. Unluckily at this very time Hester fell in love with a man of whom her father did not approve.

When Hester Deane married George Martindale without her father's consent Mr. Deane took into his home Edna Tiernan, a niece of his wife's about his daughter's age, and turned over to her his household affairs. Mr. Deane soon became so dependent upon Edna that despite the fact of his being three times her age he wanted her to marry him, for he was a widower and Hester was his only child.

Now, Edna was in love with a man who was paying her a great deal of attention, but had not proposed to her. If he would marry her she might tell her aged lover that she was already spoken for, but if she told him that she was free, but would not marry him, she might lose her home, and she had nothing to live upon. The man she wanted, Edgar Thorne, was well to do and could give her a good home. But from all appearance he had no intention of making her his wife.

Edna endeavored to steer a middle course between the two men, but one evening Mr. Deane, entering a room suddenly where she and Thorne were together found them locked in each other's arms. Thorne in order to protect the girl told Deane that she was his wife.

Deane, after Thorne had left the house, questioned Edna about the situation. She confirmed Thorne's statement, claiming that Thorne was not able to support her, and they were waiting till he was in a better financial condition to acknowledge the marriage and live together.

Deane was perplexed to know what to do. He was inclined to forgive his daughter for marrying without his consent, bring her back with her husband and still give her the care of his household. He said nothing to Edna about this, but when she saw a letter he had written to Hester on his desk she surmised what it meant. Seeing him commit the letter to a maid to be mailed Edna took it from the maid's hand, saying that she would attend to its posting. The letter never reached its destination, but in due time a reply was received by Mr. Deane from his daughter stating that she would not forgive her father for his treatment of her and she and her husband would continue to live where they were. This letter was forged by Edna.

Deane fell sick after this, and Edna took care of him, he being entirely dependent upon her ministrations. During his illness he was obliged to rely upon her for assistance in the execution of certain papers, whereby it became evident that he possessed a considerable property.

At once it became Edna's object to induce him to make her his heir. He was gradually sinking, and she dominated him in his weakness. A few days before his death she induced him to permit her to send for a lawyer to make a will. Mr. Deane gave orders when the man arrived that he be shown to the sickroom and no one else be admitted. The will was executed and Edna informed that all the property had been willed to her. But the attorney was instructed to retain possession of the document. Being assured by both men of the truth of this statement, Edna was satisfied and content to wait for the end, which was a matter of only a few days.

After the death of Mr. Deane Edna called on the lawyer who had drawn the will and asked to see it. It was shown her, and she read that all the testator's property was willed to Edna Tiernan Thorne.

Edna was not so dull as to suppose she could inherit under this will unless married to Thorne, and even then, the property having been left to her as Edna Thorne when she was Edna Tiernan, she doubted if the will would hold good. Without a word to the lawyer she went away to find Thorne. On meeting him she told him of the situation. On hearing it his face fell. He had married another woman, keeping his marriage a secret from Edna, fearing that she would make trouble for him. Being a grasping man, he regretted his marriage, for Edna now gave him to understand that the Deane property was considerable.

Edna was crushed at the failure of her efforts. She confessed to the attorney for the estate that she was Edna Tiernan, but not Edna Tiernan Thorne. He told her at once that the will was void and that if no valid will was found Hester Deane Martindale, being heir at law, would come into possession of the estate.

No other will was found, but Hester had no difficulty in proving her claim to her father's fortune as his only child. It turned out a surprise to every one, it having been supposed that Mr. Deane was in very moderate circumstances.

The only offset to Edna's crime was her confession to Hester that she had destroyed her father's letter forgiving and recalling her and had written him a forged reply.

Hester Martindale treated magnanimously the woman who had so abused her. Remembering that Edna had nursed her father in his last illness and that he had intended to leave his property to her, Hester granted her an income for the balance of her life, but Hester would never permit the forger to come near her.

RACE IN TENNESSEE ORGANIZE FOR VICTORY

(Continued From First Page)

of supreme interest. They are supplied by the Election Board and are for Memphis and Shelby County only:

Lily White and Local Option—For Congress, Farley 1604; Marks, Floterial Senator 1569; Senate, Dye 1859; Crenshaw 2354; Voght, Floterial Representative, 1706; Representatives Billingsly 2958; Broens, 2867; Etlinger, 1942; Gilmore, 2027; Morris, 2163; Parr, 1832; Powell, 1871.

Lincoln Republican League—For Congress, Wayman Wilkerson 2220; T. H. Hayes, Floterial Senator, 2756; Senate, H. M. Bomar 2321; B. M. Roddy 2371; G. W. Atkins, Floterial Representative, 2327; Representatives, N. Bowles, 2463; A. E. Clouston, 2195; Ned Clowers, 2136; Ed Lewis, 2289; J. T. Settle, Jr., 2557; J. B. Willis, 2662; O. W. Williams, 2578.

These figures ought to read twice the size, but the election officers didn't wear any religion to the polls that morning, and threw the Ten Commandments out of the window when they got there.

Mr. Church announced the morning after election that the fight has but opened. And behind him are the colored people, without a break, of the largest Negro city in the world.

Wayman Wilkerson, candidate for Congress, ran away with his lily-white competitor. According to the daily press he ran ahead of Farley, lily, 4 to 1.

The Crescent Whist club met at the residence of Mrs. L. Perry last week, Mrs. Gillam being hostess. The first prize was won by Mrs. Walker and the booby by Mrs. Gillam. The hostess was presented with a beautiful hand-painted plate. A dainty luncheon was served. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Mae Jackson, 2716 Burdette street. Mrs. W. White is president and Mrs. Belle Taylor, secretary.

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