

MRS. HAROLD STAGG.

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CHAPTER VI.

The weeks flew by; the season subsided into Lent, and after it there was another gay spell; then came the spring, and people began to make their summer plans. The Staggs were to go to their house at Beverly, as usual, and Eleanor openly expressed her pleasure at the prospect of returning to the seaside. There had been no further developments in the courtship—or more properly, no culmination of it, for Mr. Page's devotion was not a whit less marked. Indeed, his persistency was a constant source of encouragement to Mrs. Stagg, whose vigilant scrutiny had failed to detect any signs of flirtation on his part. He continued to send to Eleanor, from time to time, beautiful flowers, he rode with her in the park, he walked with her on Sunday afternoons, and what was even more significant, he had ceased to pay similar attention to other girls. Still, he had not proposed. But, as Emma sagely reflected, if ever an impatient thought seized her, presumably he was of the deliberate kind, and in so serious a matter as matrimony, preferred to move circumspectly. Nor need their departure from town prove an interruption, inasmuch as he had declared his intention of frequenting the Beverly shore with his yacht, ostensibly for racing purposes, but there could be little doubt as to what magnet really attracted him thither.

A more haunting uncertainty in Emma's mind at this time was as to her niece's feelings, regarding which, strangely enough, in her own estimation, she was considerably in the dark; so much so that she was beginning to deem it her duty to have a definite talk with Eleanor on the subject. And yet she realized the danger of an ill-considered interference. It might well be that the child was shyly in love, in which case an inopportune or meddlesome word might freeze her into secretive coldness toward her lover and induce deplorable consequences. She had believed it wiser thus far to invite confidence by indirect allusions rather than to demand it, but her forbearance had borne no fruit in the way of discovery. Could it possibly be that Eleanor was unaware that Owen Page was seriously devoted to her? That was the deduction Emma sometimes drew from her placid, unconcerned way of accepting his attentions. Eleanor seemed to enjoy being with him, and always admired his roses, and was ready to accept his courtesies, but her enjoyment and readiness were of such a rational, unembarrassed kind that Emma could not help feeling uneasy. Could any one in love appear so unconscious, so free from coyness and coquetry? Not unless she were exceptionally deep, surely, which seemed very unlikely in this instance. Moreover, Emma could not help reflecting that the innocuous she had made use of from time to time with delicacy, and yet suggestively as it appeared to her, ought to have set the child thinking, to say the least. Nothing had been left unsaid which could present Mr. Page in a favorable light or accentuate the good fortune of any girl to whose society he was partial. Ought she to go further than this and point out the fact that he was evidently fascinated by her, and that if she were not suitably encouraging she might lose the best opportunity of making a brilliant match that she would ever have in all probability? The necessary words had several times trembled on her lips, and yet she had refrained from uttering them.

One day, some weeks after they had moved to Beverly, while Emma was still in the throes of this dilemma, Harold Stagg telegraphed that he was bringing Professor Phineas Baldwin home to pass Sunday. This was an elder and only brother of Eleanor's father, a geologist, who had just been called to an important educational position connected with his specialty, in New York. He was a bachelor, and had lived a nomadic kind of life in the interest of science, residing in various portions of the West, and though he was intimate with his brother, with whom he corresponded vigorously, Eleanor, who was very fond of him, had seen him but little. At the time of Silas Baldwin's death he was abroad with an exploring expedition under the auspices of the government, but on receipt of the news he had promptly offered to give the children a home before being apprised that they had been adopted by the Staggs.

Emma, as it happened, had invited a select party of fashionable people to dinner that evening, and it did not altogether please her to have to make room at her table for a professor who might be very learned, but was almost certain to be queer; accordingly her frame of mind was by no means improved when Eleanor, in response to a casual question as to what sort of person her uncle was, said:

"Oh, he's the funniest-looking little man you ever saw, very short and round, with a face that reminds one of an owl; he blinks at you out of his great eyes just like one; but he's kind as can be, and if you get him talking on a subject in which he is interested he can be immensely agreeable."

"Really?" said Emma, faintly, with something like a little sigh in spite of her habitual aplomb; and as she gazed out over the sea she saw accurately in her mind's eye a blinking little personality sitting silent from course to course, unless the

Devonian period or some other equally august subject were introduced.

As though divining her aunt's quandary, Eleanor suddenly exclaimed, with genuine fervor:

"Why couldn't Uncle Phin. and I dine by ourselves in the nursery? It would be such fun! We have lots to talk about; no one would miss me, and he would enjoy it ever so much better, I know. It wouldn't cause any extra trouble, for I will carry the dishes up and down myself, and then your dinner wouldn't be disarranged."

"Don't be absurd, dear," replied Emma, though she could not help wishing that such a program were consistent with due hospitality. "Your uncle will dine with us, of course. If I had only known in time, however, I would have asked one or two people likely to be more congenial to him."

Eleanor's description of the bachelor professor's appearance was certainly not exaggerated. In the early stages of acquaintance he evidently sought refuge in an imperturbable taciturnity, relieved if he were brought to bay by a free use of the word "ma'am" in addressing ladies of every age, which prompted Emma to keep him as quiet as possible after making him known to the company. He was a man of fifty, with a thick brown beard and a bald head. His large eyes took in the surroundings in contemplative fashion, and he seemed in no wise disturbed that he had not brought evening clothes with him, an omission which weighed considerably on Emma's mind, not for the reason that it made any real difference, but because she was sure that he, poor man, must feel so embarrassed. When he re-entered the room, just before dinner, in his gray homespun suit, with a red bandana protruding from the breast pocket, she really pitied him, but she could not help congratulating herself that she had placed his seat at table between herself and Eleanor.

After they sat down to dinner, Uncle Phineas continued for some time very silent, beaming so effusively, however, on his niece, that Emma began to fear lest he should hold her hand or indicate in some other equally unconventional way the satisfaction he felt in being with her again. He was an excellent trencherman and did full justice to the good things passed to him without seeming at first by his presence, soon bubbled forth regardless of it. There was gay chatter, some of a personal character, and by and by several humorous anecdotes, one of which amused Professor Baldwin so much as to draw from him a guffaw of such intensity that there was a pause after it, and a lady opposite him surveyed him through her lorgnette interrogatively, while the young men winked at each other as much as to say: "Who is the humorous old party?"

"That reminds me of an incident that happened when I was in California some years ago," said Uncle Phineas, slowly, in a quaint, dry way that made everybody stop eating and listen. Emma felt on tenter-hooks, and she glanced anxiously toward Eleanor; but she had turned toward her uncle with an air of delighted interest. There was nothing to do but let him go on; and go on he did in so graphic and absorbing a manner that several of the company were chuckling with satisfaction before the end, and when that came there was a roar of delight.

"That's a capital story!" exclaimed some one, and Harold Stagg, who was laughing heartily, checked himself to cry:

"A glass of wine with you, Professor!"

"The old boy is waking up," he whispered, after putting down his glass, to the lady next him.

There was now a disposition to include the professor in the general conversation, and he rewarded expectation by contributing two or three more pertinent stories, one of which led to his beginning to talk about his travels. From one matter he branched off to another, and soon the entire company was hanging on his words. His observations as well as his experiences were out of the ordinary run, and in two or three instances he had had narrow escapes that elicited ejaculations of horror from the ladies, and envious "by Joves!" from the sporting gentlemen present. When at last Emma gave the signal to leave the table, everybody felt the dinner had been too short.

She was all smiles, and in passing from the room seized the opportunity to squeeze Eleanor's hand, and whisper: "He's delightful, my dear!" His very want of toilet seemed to her now to add to his effectiveness, and she almost hoped that when he returned to the parlor he would talk about the Stone Age, or deliver an informal address on shells, so exquisite was her sense of relief. When he did return, however, he relaxed into oracular silence, which he was not cajoled into breaking beyond the needs of bare civility before the company separated. On the contrary, he himself presently slipped away with Eleanor across the lawn for a saunter along the shore. As they did not return in time, Emma explained his absence on the ground that he had probably found some bowlder or crustacean specimen which had lured him into oblivion of everything else, a sally which evoked a general laugh as they said good night. There was much to be par-

doned to a man of his evident peculiarities, who had seen so little of society, and, really he had made himself remarkably agreeable, and quite borne off the honors of the occasion.

This was doubtless the general verdict, but underneath it in the minds of nearly every one was a sentiment of pity for Mrs. Stagg, that she should have on her hands such a white elephant. And in truth while her fears were tranquillized, Emma felt far from easy in the company of Uncle Phineas after the glamor of his dinner table successes had been partially dispelled by a night's sleep. In mapping out the arrangements for the next two days, at the end of which he was to take his leave, she was not averse to allowing Eleanor to appropriate him to her heart's content, though she insisted on accompanying him on a preliminary drive, and pointing out to him precisely to whom every house of importance along the shore belonged. Then she became willing to let Eleanor sit beside him in the back seat of the wagonette, while she got in front with Harold, with a glowing consciousness of duty performed. From the ceaseless flow of words, it was evident to her that they were enjoying themselves. Every now and then she caught a word that made her prick up her ears and perhaps give Harold a nudge if the subject were especially serious or abusive. Nor did they seem ever to get to the end of what they had to say; when they were not driving they were strolling through the woods, or climbing over the rocks, as much absorbed in each other's society as two young lovers. Emma reflected that if she would only appear more like that when she was with Owen Page, there would be no cause for anxiety.

Professor Baldwin, on the morning of his departure, took leave of his hostess with a show of deep respect that was pleasing to Emma. To his thanks for her hospitality, he added some enthusiastic words, out of his niece's hearing, as to Eleanor's charms.

"If my brother were alive, he would say that he could have done no more himself; and I thank you and your husband, ma'am, for your goodness and your care."

Mr. Stagg had no intention of deprecating her right to the praise bestowed, especially as the thought was in her mind that, if her niece by marriage had not been deprived of her father, she would have been a very different appearing person; but she was much gratified, and she said, with a modest smile:

"Eleanor is a nice, good girl."

"Yes, ma'am, and more; she is an intelligent, noble woman!"

Emma was slightly appalled by the enthusiasm of the professor's tone, which was heightened by the further expansion of the owl-like eyes.

"We have done our best," she murmured.

"And you have your reward, ma'am. She is an unusually fine young woman. I am an old bachelor, ma'am, but I envy the man who wins her as his wife."

For an instant, the thought crossed her mind that Eleanor might have confided in him, but she dismissed it as improbable. Still she felt that she looked a little conscious as she replied, with slightly mysteriousunction:

"We have that in mind, Professor Baldwin. We will take care that she does not throw herself away."

(To be continued.)

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

Book of the Bible is of the Most Intense Interest.

The question who wrote the epistle to the Hebrews is one which still remains unanswered. Endless suggestions have been made by Biblical scholars. The book has been ascribed in turn to Appollon, Luke, Aquila and Priscilla in collaboration, and others; but there is no consensus of opinion, so one claims for his own theory that it should be considered anything but a guess. There is a strange fascination about this veiled prophet, so full of the poetry of an earlier faith, who has given to the world his conception of Christianity—to him a religion of conscience and of hope, to which he had "fled for refuge" from a decaying ceremonialism, a religion in which he had found "a strong consolation." Even to the unlearned the book is very literary, and those who know confirm this instinctive judgment. The writer drops the threads of his argument to find illustrations and ornaments, and by no means disdains fine verbal effects. Hebrews has nothing of the eternal simplicity which has kept the meaning of the Gospel clear among the swords and pens of ten thousand theologians. No book in the New Testament—unless, perhaps, Revelations—has suffered more from the theory of verbal inspiration. Something of the writer's real mind has been, we suspect, irremediably overlaid with the conclusions of dogmatists; but for all those who desire to know what a cultivated man, who was not St. Paul, though about Christianity before the end of the first century, it remains of intense interest.—London Spectator.

Not Entirely Complete.

An English genius has invented a motor that will reap, sow, plow, mow, haul, thrash and grind grain, cut turnips, turn the churn and make itself generally useful. All the farmer has to do is to sit on the fence and watch it go by. The farmer's wife will never forgive the inventor for letting the machine stop short of washing the dishes, cooking the meals, making the beds, sweeping, scrubbing and washing.

NEBRASKA IN GENERAL

VALUE OF SCHOOL LANDS.

What Commissioner Folmer's Report Will Show.

The report of Land Commissioner Folmer will show that the schools of the state will ultimately have more than \$11,000,000 of interest bearing values contributing to their support. At present the total interest bearing values belonging to the fund is \$9,746,451.25. More than half of this amount, \$5,459,228.25, is in securities of the state, counties and the recently purchased bonds of Massachusetts. The remainder is made up of the sale contracts and lease contracts, bearing interest. Besides this income the fund will have the rental of school lands, which under the present law cannot be alienated. The table giving these statistics is the first of the kind ever compiled. It is as follows:

Permanent common school securities	\$5,072,228.75
Cash on hand	131.30
Total	\$5,072,360.05
Permanent university securities	101,050.97
Cash on hand	643.05
Total	\$101,694.02
Agricultural college securities	224,892.14
Cash balance	674.51
Total	\$225,566.65
Normal endowment securities	59,000.00
Cash balance	812.49
Total	\$59,812.49
Total educational securities in permanent school fund	\$5,459,228.25
Value of sale contracts	2,257,245.11
Value of lease contracts	2,029,977.89
Total interest bearing values	\$9,746,451.25

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

Commandant Cole of Grand Island Makes Report.

Commandant Cole of the soldiers' home in Grand Island has completed his biennial report and recommends quite a number of necessary improvements owing largely to the increased number of members cared for at the institution.

The report shows an increase in membership in the biennium of twenty-one per cent over that of two years previous. On November 30, 1900, there were, according to the records of the institution, 342 members. There were on November 30, 1902, 415 members, of whom 313 were men and 102 women. Among the recommendations are \$4,000 for a new brick building for the quartermaster and commissary's supplies. This would give room in the basement of the main building for another ward for members. An appropriation of \$7,500 is also recommended for better fire protection in and about the home grounds, including a better piping of the building and a pipe leading to the cottages and barns, resetting the boilers, the erection of a small building for laundry purposes and enlarging the engine rooms and improvements on the sewerage system.

Finds Foods Adulterated.

Deputy Food Commissioner Bassett has filed with the governor his biennial report. The commissioner speaks of the need of guarding the public against foods which have been preserved by the admixture of dangerous chemicals, such as hydrofluoric acid, a dangerous corrosive, and others. Out of 228 samples of food products analyzed by the chemist of the food commission, 163 were adulterated or not sold in compliance with law, the report stated. The commissioner desires the legislature to make an appropriation to fit up a laboratory so that he will not be under the necessity of using the university laboratory, which he has been doing for the last two years. He recommends a direct appropriation for the maintenance of the commission rather than the present plan of allowing the commission to depend upon fees.

Recommends Normal Schools.

W. F. Fowler, superintendent of instruction, in the advance sheets of his report, which will be concluded by the first of the year, makes the following recommendations:

1. Exchange the industrial school for boys at Kearney with the state normal school at Peru.
2. Establish a new normal school at Lincoln.
3. Provide for junior normal schools at Alliance and McCook.
4. Recognize more liberally the first class private normal schools and denominational colleges of high standard.

In support of the first recommendation, that is, an exchange of the Kearney and Peru institutions, he calls attention to the distance, lack of railroad facilities and the expense in reaching Peru as obstacles to a large attendance of students there.

Paper Changes Hands.

MCCOOK—After editing and publishing the Hayes Center Republican for eighteen years, Judge M. J. Abbott has been compelled to relinquish the paper to the mortgagee, R. May of Hayes Center, who will run the paper until he can realize on his mortgage.

BRIEFLY TOLD.

Two new delivery routes are soon to be established at North Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jobman of Gage county last week celebrated their golden wedding.

Nebraska City has of late been shy on water and private wells have been resorted to.

Train Dispatcher L. E. Cann of McCook died suddenly in Salt Lake, whither he had gone for his health.

Rufus Hook, a farmer living near Glencoe, had his arm caught in the cogs of a corn sheller and sustained serious injuries.

The Republican valley district poultry association will hold its sixth annual exhibition in McCook December 31, 1902, January 1, 2, 3, 1903.

The Fremont and Blair high schools will debate the question, "Resolved, That labor unions are an injury to the public." Fremont will have the choice of sides.

Miss Gertrude Enlow, a teacher in the public schools of Beatrice, had her face and hands badly burned during school hours by the explosion of a coal stove.

John Thompson, who lived two miles southwest of Blair, was run over by a train and killed. He was on his way home from Blair. Thompson was about 45 years old and single.

Orders were received in Nebraska City to get things ready in the starch works so as to start that monster plant as soon as possible. This factory belongs to the trust and has been closed since early last spring.

Nebraska turkeys are evidently in great demand in Chicago, a prominent newspaper of that city having instructed its representatives in Omaha to get bids to supply 1,000 of the birds for that paper's Christmas work.

The jury in the district court at Grand Island in the case of Jamieson against the Burlington railroad returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff of \$1,220. Jamieson was a brakeman and received injuries on the road.

The Greeley County Sunday school convention was held at Greeley December 6 and 7. All sessions of the conventions were very well attended. Prof. H. M. Stiedley, field secretary of the State Sunday School association, took a very active part in all sessions.

The sugar beet season just closed has been very satisfactory in that part of Nebraska about McCook. Over 600 carloads have been shipped to Grand Island from McCook alone. The yield per acre under fair circumstances has been from fifteen to twenty tons, and as high as \$5.25 per ton has been received by farmers.

A. M. Hargis, proprietor of the Grand Island Business college, has purchased the Security bank building for \$14,000 and will in the future occupy the greater part of the building for the college. It is a stone front, erected in 1899, at a cost of about \$50,000. It was recently owned by the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance company.

Willard Williams of Ashland, who was at the Mead hotel for a few days, was surprised the other evening, while seated at the desk, by his sons, Herbert and Albert, whom he had not seen or heard from for fifteen and twenty years respectively. The boys, or rather men, are located in Cuba, N. Y., and are prosperous and well-to-do residents of that town.

Edward Fry, agent for the Standard Oil company at Beatrice, was found lying near his wagon on the public road five miles east of that city in a dying condition. Examination developed the fact that the large freight wagon had passed over his stomach, inflicting fatal injuries. Medical assistance was immediately summoned, but Mr. Fry expired before anything could be done to relieve him of his suffering.

Orders have been issued by the Union Pacific for the immediate building at Sidney of an additional ten stalls to the roundhouse, a new boiler house with a battery of three boilers of 250 horse power, a large new well near the ice house and electric lighting plant, a large sandhouse, an addition to the machine shops and a complete remodeling of the Union Pacific hotel to be modern in every particular.

Deputy Food Commissioner Bassett has made public his biennial report to the governor. He urges a larger appropriation on the part of the legislature, as the present one, which is almost entirely contingent on the fees of the office, will not suffice to employ a clerk and chemist or to maintain a laboratory. He also asks that the present law which provides against the adulteration of foods, but which names penalties for the adulteration of vinegar and dairy products only, shall be changed in order to provide penalties for all adulterations or the use of preservatives which are harmful.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

SOUTH OMAHA.

CATTLE—There were 34 or 35 cars of corned steers included in the receipts and at noon the greater part of them were in first hands. The market was very uneven, but as a general thing the decline amounted to fully 50c as compared with the close of the week. In some cases sales looked fully 75c lower, but those were rare instances.

The cow market was in fully as bad shape as the steer market, and up to a late hour very little business had been transacted. The general market may safely be quoted 50c lower for the week, but the same as noted for steers, the prices were very uneven. It now takes a good bunch of corned cows to sell much over \$3.00, so that prices are at the low point of the year.

Bulls eased off a little again and so did stags. Year calves were scarce and did not show much change.

The stocker and feeder market was also very slow and lower. The demand from the country has been very light all the week, and prices may safely be quoted 25c lower, with common stuff almost unsalable at any price.

HOGS—There was a liberal run of hogs at all points so that prices continued their downward course. The market here opened right close to a dime lower, with the bulk of the sales going from \$5.85 to \$6.05, and as high as \$6.07½ and \$6.15 was paid for choice hogs. Packers, however, were not bidding those prices freely, and in fact there was only one buyer on the opening market, so that sellers did not have much opportunity to cut loose. After about 30 loads had changed hands, trading came to a standstill, as packers dropped their bids to \$5.00½, or fully 15c lower than yesterday's average.

SHEEP—Quotations for fed stock: Choice lambs, \$5.00½ to fair to good lambs, \$4.50 to \$4.75; choice yearlings, \$4.10 to \$4.35; fair to good yearlings, \$3.75 to \$4.00; choice wethers, \$4.50 to \$4.75; fair to good, \$4.00 to \$4.25; choice ewes, \$3.50 to \$3.75; fair to good, \$3.00 to \$3.25; feeder lambs, \$3.00 to \$3.25; feeder yearlings, \$2.50 to \$2.75; feeder wethers, \$2.50 to \$2.75; feeder ewes, \$1.50 to \$2.25. Grass fed stock 25c to 50c lower than corn-fed.

KANSAS CITY.

CATTLE—Corn cattle 10c to 15c lower; cows and heifers, 40c to 75c lower than last Friday; calves, 50c to 75c lower than Monday; choice yearlings and dressed beef steers, \$3.30 to \$3.50; fair to good, \$2.60 to \$2.80; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$2.75; western fed steers, \$3.00 to \$3.25; Texas and Indian steers, \$2.50 to \$2.75; Texas cows, \$2.00 to \$2.25; native cows, \$1.50 to \$1.75; native heifers, \$1.75 to \$1.95; canners, \$1.00 to \$1.20; bulls, \$2.25 to \$2.75; calves, \$3.00 to \$3.50.

HOGS—Market 7½c to 10c lower; top, 6.10; bulk of sales, \$5.90 to \$6.10; heavy, \$6.00 to \$6.10; mixed packers, \$5.97½ to \$6.10; light, \$5.85 to \$6.02½; yorkers, \$5.95 to \$6.02½; pigs, \$5.50 to \$5.90.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Market strong to higher; native lambs, \$4.00 to \$4.25; western lambs, \$3.85 to \$4.10; fed ewes, \$3.00 to \$3.25; native wethers, \$3.00 to \$3.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.00 to \$2.25.

MAY HASTEN CANAL ACTION.

Trouble in Venezuela an Excuse for Taking Matter Up Again.

WASHINGTON—At the instance of Secretary Hay, Dr. Herran, Colombian charge d'affaires, called at the state department Friday to discuss the canal treaty negotiations, that the secretary might be able to report the exact status of the canal to the cabinet.

Dr. Herran was unable to give the secretary any reply from the Bogota government as to the price which Colombia will accept for the lease. It was explained to Dr. Herran that in view of the many other weighty diplomatic matters pressing for attention at this time and the growing impatience at the capital at the delay in the conclusion of a canal convention, immediate action by the Bogota government was imperative.

Dr. Herran cabled the foreign office at Bogota the wishes of the state department and called attention to the serious complications that may arise out of the Venezuelan situation.

Elect Haytian President.

PORT AU PRINCE, Hayti—The chamber of communes finished the election of senators Friday and the national assembly will elect a new president within a few days. The majority favor Senecque Pierre, whose election is assured in case General Nord, the war minister, who will enter the capital with his army on Sunday, does not oppose him.

Bank Bandits Make Haul.

SANTA FE, N. M.—A report has reached Santa Fe that the private bank of Hillsboro was held up in broad daylight on Wednesday by robbers, who escaped with something over \$30,000. Soon after midnight three men were heard galloping at a furious rate through Fairview, a mining camp, heading for the Black range. A sheriff's posse is in pursuit.

Texas Line is Not Bought.

TOPEKA, Kan.—E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe, denies that his road has purchased the Texas Central Reports to the effect that the purchase is about to be made are erroneous, as the Santa Fe does not want the Texas road. The short line from Albuquerque to Galveston will not be built yet, and for this reason no Texas acquisitions can be used, but the contract for constructing the Santa Fe short line will soon be let.

The protocol of the commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba has been signed.