

My Fellow Laborer.

By H. RIDER HAGGARD.

CHAPTER IV.

WHEN once we had made up our minds to get married, we both of us came to the conclusion that the sooner we did so the better; more especially as the introduction of a new factor into our relationship was to my unaccustomed mind in a certain sense improper and irksome, although by no means unpleasant. Also it wasted time and tended to direct our attention from the vast undertaking to which we were pledged. Accordingly, within a very few days of the occurrence already described, I visited a register, and having, as it seemed to me, paid several unnecessary fees, provided myself with a license. On my way back I walked down Fleet street, thinking amiably of getting married and Dr. Johnson, and intending to take the omnibus at Charing Cross. As I went I happened to look up, and my eye fell upon a notice to the effect that a certain well-known life assurance company had its offices within the building opposite. Then it was that the idea first occurred to me that I ought to insure my life, so that, should anything happen to me, Fanny might have something to keep her from poverty. As it was, she would have absolutely nothing. All that I had, and that my wife had brought with her, was strictly settled upon the boy John in such a way that I could not even give my subsequent wife a life interest in it, or a part of it. I stopped there in the street, and having given the matter a few moments' consideration, came to the conclusion that it was my duty to provide for Fanny to small extent—say two thousand pounds.

Upon this decision, I crossed the road-way, and, entering the office, some inquiries from a clerk. As it happened, the doctor attached to the company was at that moment in attendance and disengaged, so thinking that I could not do better than get a disagreeable business over at once, I sent up my card and asked to see him. The messenger returned presently, with a request that I would "step up," which I accordingly did, to find myself, to my astonishment, in the presence of an old fellow-student of my own, with whom I had in former days been tolerably intimate, but whom I had not seen for years. We greeted each other cordially enough, and after a few minutes' talk I told him the business I had in hand, and he began his medical examination with the series of stock questions which doctors always put upon these occasions.

The only point upon which he dwelt at all was insanity, and he was so persistent upon this matter that I perceived he had heard some of the rumors about me being mentally deranged, which my friends and relations had so materially assisted to spread. However, I got through that part of the business, and then I undid my shirt, and he proceeded with the physical examination. First he applied the stethoscope to my heart, and quickly removed it, evidently satisfied. Then he placed it over my right lung and listened. While he did so, I saw his face change, and a thrill of fear shot through me as it suddenly came to my mind that I had experienced some trouble there of late, of which I had taken no notice, and which had, indeed, quite passed out of my mind. Next he tried the other lung, and placed the stethoscope on the table.

"What is the matter?" I asked, keeping as calm a face as I could, for I could tell from his look that there was something very wrong.

"Come, Gosden, you are a medical man yourself, and a clever one, and there is no need for me to tell you about it."

"Upon my word," I answered, "I know nothing of what you mean. I have not bothered about my own health for years; but now I think of it, I have had some local trouble on the chest, last winter especially. What is it? It is better to know the worst."

"Our rule here," he answered dryly, "is not to make any communication to the person examined; but, as we are brother practitioners, I suppose I may dispense with it, and tell you at once that I cannot recommend your life to the board to be insured upon any terms. That is what is the matter with you, old fellow," and he went on, in terms too technical for me to write down here, to describe the symptoms of one of the most deadliest, and yet most uncertain, forms of lung disease, in short to pass sentence of death upon me.

I do not think I am a coward, and I hope I took it well. The bitter irony of the whole thing lay in the fact that while I was in active practice, I had made this form of disease a special study, and used to flatter myself that I could stop it, or at any rate stave it off indefinitely, if only I could get it in time. I might have stopped my own, if I had known about it. Ah! who shall heal the physician?

"Well, there you are, Gosden," went on my friend; "you know as much about it as I do; you may live three years, and you may live thirty, but the odds are against you lasting five. You know what an uncertain thing it is. There is only one thing certain about it, and that is, that it will kill you sooner or later. I speak plainly because we are both accustomed to face

these sort of facts. Perhaps you had better take another opinion."

I shook my head. Now that my attention had been called to it, no opinions could help me. He was perfectly right, I might go very shortly, or I might live till well on into middle life. As the event has proved, I have lived, but I am not far from the end of my tether now.

"Are you of opinion," I asked, "that my form of disease is likely to prove hereditary?"

I knew what his answer would be, but I put the question as a forlorn hope.

"Of course, I should consider that it would certainly be hereditary; and, what is more, it is extremely probable that your wife would contract it also. But why do you ask? You are not going to get married again, are you?"

"I am engaged to be married."

"Well," he replied, "of course it is an awkward thing to talk to a man about, but if you take my advice, you will be a little more honorable than most people are under the circumstances, and break the match off."

"I am quite of your opinion," I said, "and now I will bid you good-day."

"Well, good-bye, Gosden. I don't think it will be of any use my making a report to the board unless you wish it. Don't worry yourself, old fellow, and keep your chest warm, and you may see fifty yet!"

In another minute I was in Fleet street again, and felt vaguely astonished that it should look just the same as it did a quarter of an hour before. Most of us have experienced this sensation when some radical change of circumstance has suddenly fallen upon us. It seems curious that the great hurrying world should be so dead to our individuality and heedless of our most vital hopes. A quarter of an hour before, I was a man with a prospect of a long and useful, perhaps a most eminent career. Also I was just going to be married to a congenial wife. Now I was, as I then thought, doomed to an early grave, and as for the wife, the idea had to be abandoned. I was in honor bound to abandon it for her sake, and for the sake of possible children.

Well, I walked to Charing Cross, and took the omnibus as I had intended. I remember that there was a fat woman in it, who insisted upon carrying a still fatter pug dog, and quarreled with the conductor seriously in consequence. All this took place in the month of December, and by the time I got home it was beginning to grow dark. I went straight into the study: Fanny was there, and the lamp was lighted. When I entered she flung down her pen, and jumping up, came forward and kissed me; and, as she did so, I thought what a splendid looking woman she had grown into, with her intellectual face and shapely form, and somehow the reflection sent a sharp pang through me. Now that I knew that I must lose her, it seemed to me that I loved her almost as I had loved my dead wife, and indeed I have often noticed that we never know how much we value a thing till we are called upon to resign it. Certainly I noticed it now.

"Well, dear," she said, "have you got it? Why, what is the matter with you?"

"Sit down, Fanny," I answered, "and I will tell you, only you must try to bear it as well as you can."

She seated herself in her chair, determined way, although I could see that she was anxious, and I began at the beginning, and went straight through my story without skipping a word. As soon as she understood its drift her face set like a stone, and she heard me to the end without interruption or movement.

"Well, Geoffrey," she said, in a low voice, when at last I had done, "and what is to be the end of it all?"

"This: that our marriage cannot come off—and death!"

"Why cannot our marriage come off?"

"I have told you why, dear. A man afflicted as I am has no right to send his affliction down to future generations. People are fond of calling the inevitable result of such conduct the decree of Providence, but it is the cause of most of the misery of the world, and as medical men know well enough, a wicked and selfish thing to do."

"The world does not seem to think so. One sees such marriages every day."

"Yes, because the world is blind, and mad, and bad."

"I don't agree with you, Geoffrey," she answered, with passion. "Our lives are our own, posterity must look after itself. We have a right to make the best of our lives, such as they are, without consulting the interests of those who may never exist. If they do exist, then they must take their chance, and bear their burdens as we bear ours. All this talk about the future and posterity is nonsense. What will posterity care for us that we should care for it? We cannot affect it one way or the other; it is hopeless to expect to turn Nature out of her path. We are nothing but feathers blown about by the wind, and all we can do is to go down where the wind blows us, and when we fall, we fall as softly as we may."

I looked up in astonishment. I had no idea that Fanny held views as merciless, and, opposed to all pure altruism as they were, in a sense, unanswerable. Indeed, I had heard her express notions directly contrary, and at the moment was totally at a loss to account for the change. Of course, however, the explanation was easy enough. Theory had come into conflict with interest, and, as is often the case, even in the most highly developed people, it was so much the worse for the theory.

"I am sorry to hear you speak so, dear," I said. "I hoped and thought

that you would have supported me in a very painful resolution. The blow is hard enough to bear, even with your help; without, it is almost unendurable."

She rose from her chair, and then for the first time I realized the depth of her emotion. Her beautiful eyes flashed, her bosom heaved, and she slowly crushed the paper she held in her hand to shield her face from the fire, into a shapeless mass, and then threw it down.

"You have no heart," she said. "Do you suppose it is nothing to me, who was going to marry you within a week, to lose my husband and to be obliged to fall back again into this half life, this very twilight of a life? Oh! Geoffrey, think again," and she stretched out her arms toward me, and looked at me, and spoke in accents of impassioned tenderness. "Think," she went on, "can you not give up your scruples for me? Am I not worth straining a point in your conscience? There is nothing in the world, Geoffrey, that a man can profit by in exchange for his love. Soon this disease will take a hold of you, and then you will grow weak, and miserable, and incapable of enjoyment. Live now while you can, and leave the consequences to Providence, or rather to the workings of those unchanging rules which we call Providence. Look at me: I am beautiful, and I love you, and my intellect is almost as great as your own. Don't throw me away for a theory, Geoffrey."

All the time that she was speaking she drew slowly nearer to me, her arms outstretched and her great eyes glowing and changing in the shaded light. And now the arms closed round me, and she lay upon my heart and gazed into my face, till I thought that I should be overcome. But, thank Heaven! somehow for conscience' sake I found the resolution to hold to what I knew to be right. I think it was the recollection of my dear wife that came over me at that moment, and induced a sudden feeling of revulsion to the beautiful woman who lay in my arms, and who did not scruple to resort to such means to turn me from my duty. Had it not been for the thought, I am sure that being but a man, and therefore weak, I should have yielded and then there would have been no possibility of further retreat. As it were, I with a desperate effort, wrenched myself free from her.

"It is of no use, Fanny," I cried, in despair. "I will not do it? I think that it would be wicked for a man in my condition to get married. This distresses me beyond measure; but if I yielded to you I should be doing a shameful thing. Forgive me, Fanny, it is not my fault, I did not know. It is hard enough," I added, with a natural burst of indignation, "to be suddenly doomed to a terrible death without having to go through this agony," and with a sudden motion I flung the wedding license into the fire.

She watched it burn, and then sunk back in the chair, covered her face in her hands and said no more. In this position she remained for nearly half an hour. Then she rose, and with a stern, cold face that it almost frightened me to look upon, returned to her work, which was now once more the chief bond between us; nor was the subject of our engagement alluded to again for many months. Nobody had known of it, and nobody knew that it had come to an end. And so it died and went the way of dead things into what seems to be forgetfulness, but is in truth the gateway into those new and endless halls of perpetuated life on whose walls evil and unhappy records of the past, blazoned in letters of fire, are the lamps to light us down from misery to misery.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CICILIAN LOVE CHARMS.

Some of the Most Curious and Popular Ones.

The love charms of Sicily are many and curious. One, very popular and considered very powerful, is to put into an eggshell a few drops of the blood of the longing lover, says Macmillan. The shell is exposed to the sun for three days and to the dew for three nights. It is then placed on hot ashes until calcined, when the whole is reduced to a fine powder and administered secretly in a cup of coffee or a glass of wine to the object of affection. Another charm is for the witch to undress at midnight and tie her clothes up in a bundle, which she places on her head; then, kneeling in the center of her room, she pronounces an incantation, at the end of which she shakes her head. If the bundle falls in front of her it is a good sign; should it fall behind her the charm will not avail. Yet another is worked in the following manner: Pieces of green, red and white ribbon are purchased in three different shops, the name of the person to be charmed being repeated, mentally, each time. The shop-keeper must be paid with the left hand, the ribbon being received in the right. When all the pieces are bought they are taken to a witch, who sets out to find the person to be charmed. On finding him or her the witch mutters to herself, "With these ribbons I bind you to such a one." Then she returns the ribbons to the purchaser, who ties them beneath his or her left knee and wears them at church.

Too Possible.

Knicker—"We had to discharge our pastor because he mispronounced a word." Bocker—"For such a trifle?" Knicker—"Yes. He said the dear departed had gone to 'the undiscovered country from whose burn no traveler returns.'"—Judge.

The Bash Bazouks seem to be merely a somewhat idealized set of ruffians,

WHAT DO THE BIRDS WHISPER?



Grover—"Do the winds whisper through the trees the doom of our 'Perfidy and Dishonor' to American industries?"
Wilson—"I'm afraid so. And what will our English friends do?"

IMPORTERS ARE AT IT.

HAVE SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR "STOCKING UP."

Tables Showing Increased Exports During the Spring of 1897 Over That of 1896—May Delay Prosperity for Many Days.

Washington, D. C., July 21, 1897.

The completion of the tariff bill by the senate has given the importers a much more accurate idea of what its final provisions are to be and they now seem to be engaged in the final round of gathering into their warehouses every article upon which the proposed new law is likely to increase the rates of duty. The treasury receipts this month have averaged more than a million dollars a day for the business days of the month and it is evident that the rush of importations is going to continue up to the very day of the final enactment of the new law.

This means, of course, that the revenue during the first few months of the new law will be light. Careful estimates made by experts lead to the conclusion that much more than a year's supply of foreign wools have been brought into the country in the past four months and that in many other articles the requirements for a year are now in warehouses, duty paid. It is not improbable that the custom receipts under the new law may drop in its first two or three months to a lower point than has been known in many years, perhaps in the memory of this generation. If this proves to be the fact the people should and doubtless understand the cause—the enormous importations which have been made in view of the expected increase in duties.

No other tariff law in the memory of the present generation has offered this

"Hurrah for the Dingley Bill."



special advantage in the period of its preparation to those desiring to profit by advance importations of a large class of articles. The various tariff acts which have been passed since the war have been in every case a reduction in general terms, and consequently have not stimulated the importations prior to their final enactment as has been the case in this instance. The Wilson law increased the rates of duty on sugar and it is well remembered that in this particular article its final passage was preceded by the importation of enormous quantities of sugar by which alone there was caused a great reduction in the revenues under the unfortunate law during its first few months. But there has been no case since the war tariffs, prior to this one in which the pending measure promised a general advance all along the line, and as a consequence no such incentive to general over-importation in nearly all classes of articles affected by the tariff. The result will be that instead of the revenues being reduced by excessive importations of two or three articles, as was the case three years ago, when the Wilson law went into effect, the Dingley law, when it takes effect, will find many months' stock of nearly every class of foreign

goods in hand and as a consequence, very light importations during several months of its early history.

A few examples will indicate to some extent this enormous increase of importations during the past few months. The monthly summary of Finance and Commerce just issued shows the May importations of dutiable cattle to be 46,975 in number against 10,067 in May of last year, while the April importations of cattle in 1897 were 62,849 against 13,411 in April of last year. The May importations of caustic soda amounted to 9,570,755 pounds against 4,229,150 in the corresponding month of last year, while the April importations were also more than double those of April, 1896. The importations of chicory root in May were over 3,000,000 pounds against 1,360,000 in May, 1896, while in April the importations were nearly 8,000,000 pounds against 1,230,000 of the preceding year. The prospect of a duty on Egyptian cotton has stirred up the importers of that article, the May importations amounting to 2,500,000 pounds against 1,383,000 in May of the preceding year, while the April importations were nearly 9,000,000 against a trifle over 5,000,000 in April, 1896.

The following tables show the importations of dutiable and non-dutiable goods during March, April, May and June of the present year compared with the corresponding months in last year.

Importation of articles free of duty March to July, 1896-97.

	1896.	1897.
March	\$31,016,387	\$41,114,784
April	28,595,839	50,889,374
May	25,738,242	26,708,068
June	25,130,538	41,169,090

Importation of dutiable articles March to July, 1896-97.

	1896.	1897.
March	\$35,439,276	\$35,226,690
April	30,053,940	50,433,032
May	32,472,617	42,655,485
June	31,053,248	48,660,000

Some idea of the loss of revenue of the Dingley bill occasioned by these large importations will be shown by the increased customs receipts March, April, May and June of 1897 as compared with those months of the preceding year. This comparison will not of course show the entire loss of revenue to the Dingley law, because the duty which would have been collected upon these same articles under that law are several millions in excess of the rates which have been collected on them under the present tariff, but even these figures give something of an idea of the shortage in the customs revenues which may be expected under the Dingley law during its first few months by reason of the importations which preceded its enactment. The customs receipts in the past four months compared with those of the corresponding four months of the preceding year, are as follows:

Custom receipts March to July, 1896-1897.

	1896.	1897.
March	\$13,344,215	\$22,833,576
April	11,733,742	24,474,351
May	10,748,733	18,855,011
June	11,351,803	21,560,151

J. H. WILLIAMS.

South American Ignorance.

The imports from the United States to the Argentine Republic in 1896 amounted to \$11,210,475. The exports from the Argentine Republic to the United States amounted to \$6,401,382. These official figures show the difference in the commercial balance between your country and mine of \$5,000,000 against the Argentine Republic.—Carlos Lix Klett, editor from the Argentine Republic, at Cincinnati, O.

It is surprising how intensely ignorant our South American friends are of the actual trade affairs of their own countries. As a matter of fact, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, we bought from Argentina goods worth \$9,313,385 admitting almost the whole of them free of duty, only \$379,141 worth paying any tariff through our customs department. On the other hand, we sold only \$5,491,216 worth of American goods for shipment to Argentina. Instead of the trade balance being \$5,000,000 against the Argentine Republic it was \$3,822,169 against the United States.

Japanese Protection.

A special dispatch from Bernes, Switzerland, says that the Bundesrath has refused to ratify the commercial treaty with Japan, owing to the prohibitive duty placed upon clocks and watches.

And this is the same Japan that so recently protested against certain protective features of the Dingley tariff!

REPUBLICAN HOT SHOT.

Indications now warrant the assertion that the new tariff law will be sufficient to meet the running expenses of the government after the first few months of its operation. The fact that it will not produce sufficient money to meet running expenses in its early history will be because of the fact that several months' supply of foreign goods including a year's supply of foreign wool, have been imported into the country during the consideration of the bill, and consequently the imports of the first few months will be comparatively light and the earnings of the law correspondingly small.

The bounty on beet sugar was the closing proposition of the Republican senators at Washington. All other work upon the tariff bill had been completed. A proposition to pay a quarter of a cent per pound bounty on all beet sugar produced in the United States during five years after the enactment of the pending tariff bill was offered by Senator Allison, and would have been promptly passed but for the threat of Chairman Jones of the Democratic national committee and other Democratic senators, who announced that they would delay the passage of the bill indefinitely rather than allow the insertion of this provision of the bill. It is well enough that the people of the United States should understand that it was the Democratic party in the senate, led by the chairman of the Democratic national committee, which threatened to filibuster indefinitely and thus delay the tariff bill, for which the people are asking, rather than consent to this slight encouragement of the beet sugar industry in which the farmers

Thank You, Mr. President.



of the United States are so greatly interested.

"It is in such times as these that demagogues thrive; it is in just such times that they should be shunned. They can lead men astray, but they can not correct a single real or imaginary grievance under which men suffer. There is too much demagoguery abroad in the land; there is too much false doctrine taught pertaining to governmental functions; there is too much encouragement of the spirit of socialism, and all that it implies, including communistic and chimerical schemes for a 'social democracy,' so-called; there is too much toleration of disrespect for courts and constituted authorities; there is too much clamor for class legislation; there is too much inculcation of the idea that men can become rich without effort—by the mere fiat of the government instead of earning wealth in the good old fashioned way; and there is too much attention paid to cranks, blatherskites, and political adventurers, entitled to no consideration, but who seem to have obtained the public ear, and are seeking to pull down the pillars of society."—David Bennett Hill.

Indications warrant the belief that the new tariff law will be satisfactory to a larger number of people than any other tariff measure ever put upon the statute books in this country.

The prosperity already visible among the farmers and the prospect that it is to be continued has been recognized by the financiers of the east, who have just issued orders to their representatives in the Mississippi valley to return to the liberal business methods which existed prior to the present depression by making farm loans freely at low rates of interest.

Silver leaders are quarreling among themselves, Mr. Bryan having indicated great dissatisfaction over the fact that all features of the Chicago platform, except that of 16 to 1, are being neglected by the Democrats in many states, while Mr. Towne, on the other hand, is reported as urging that the course be followed and all features of the Chicago platform, except silver, ignored.

The new tariff law will thoroughly meet the popular demand, changes made by the conference committee being such as to bring it thoroughly in line with the wishes of the people, especially those features relating to sugar, wool, and other agricultural interests.

It is rumored that Mr. Bryan will find himself so busy in Nebraska during the coming campaign that he will not have time to go to Ohio for those three hundred speeches which he promised. The fact is, the Ohio convention gave William J. a cold shoulder by omitting to do anything for him except to give him "three cheers" when his name was brought to the front. Whether Ohio is tired of Bryan, or Bryan is tired of Ohio, is a little uncertain, but there is, nevertheless, a possibility that they may not pull together in harmony this fall.