

Jephthah's Daughter:

A Story of Patriarchal Times.

By JULIA MAGRUDER...

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CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

She knelt behind the curtain of her window as the troop came near, escorting their leader to his home, but her father knew this way of hers, and sent a glad glance upward as he dismounted. Adina saw and understood the look, and quick as thought, glanced upward, too; but while the look of Jephthah lingered on Namarah's case, the look of the young man was hastily withdrawn, and even in the golden flush of the sunset the hue of his cheek deepened. Namarah saw that it did, and the consciousness suddenly reminded her that she was thinking of some one else beside her father, at the moment of his return from battle, and that was a thing that had never happened before. She rose to her feet and flew down the stairs to meet Jephthah at the entrance to his chamber, as the body of soldiers passed onward down the street.

Into his arms she sprang, her soft flesh crushed against the metal of his armor, and her hands clasped tight about his neck; nor would she loose her hold when he had kissed and fondled her repeatedly.

"Dost thou love thy old father so indeed?" he asked. "And art thou trembling? Why, maiden, thou art a soldier's child, and battles are his daily work. Wilt thou never lose thy timorousness? Thou lovest thy old father too much, my little one. Thou shouldst have some one else to spend thy woman's heart upon. I would fain see thee married, with a husband and children of thy own to love."

But at these words, behold the maiden burst into great sobs, and clung to his neck weeping, and declaring earnestly that she wanted no husband—she wanted no love that would separate her from her father.

Then did Jephthah soothe and caress her full tenderly, until the smiles had scattered the tears, and she took his armor from him, as was her custom, and led him to his favorite seat, that he might rest.

As she stood holding the great breast plate in her little hands, she said suddenly:

"Am not I as good an armor bearer as the tall young man thou sentest here this morning?" Whereat she laughed, softly and blushed again.

"That thou art," answered Jephthah, fondly. "No one could perform the office better than thou dost do it. But what thou shouldst do of the young man Adina?"

"He seemeth to be a soldier-like young man enough," Namarah answered, carelessly, and fell to polishing with a fold of her white gown the shield she was holding.

"Thou carest as little for him, I see, as for the others of his kind; but, Namarah, see that thou ever treatest him kindly when he cometh in thy way. But for his courage in the sudden attack this morning, thy father might be with thee now dead instead of living."

CHAPTER III.

As he told the story of the young man's bravery and self-devotion, Namarah's eyes grew brilliant, and her breath came thick and fast; and as Jephthah dwelt upon the imminent danger that had threatened both, a look so terrified came into her face that he said again, as he had said so often:

"Thou lovest thy old father too much."

It often happened, after this, that the young man Adina would come to the house in company with Jephthah, or by his ordering or permission, and make his way to the great room where were kept all manner of pieces of armor and weapons, and other trappings of war. And at times it transpired that, as he approached the house, Namarah would be in the garden feeding her doves. Sometimes he would pass on with only a gracious reverence to her, but again he would walk bolder and come near, laughing with her to see the white birds scatter at his approach, and then, as he would stand very still by Namarah's side, settle back contentedly at her feet and go on with their breakfast. He delighted to see her feed them from her mouth; and they soon grew so accustomed to him that they would fly to her without heeding him, sometimes perching for a moment on his shoulders, and hopping thence to hers.

"They are carrier birds," she said one morning, as she stood beside her thus. She looked up in his face and smiled, but quickly her eyes dropped to the doves at her feet.

"Hast thou tested them?" he asked. "And wilt they, indeed, bear tidings to thee from afar?"

"Truly, I cannot tell thee of mine own knowledge," she made answer; "but I know it is their nature, and I feel assured that if one of my birds should be taken far away it would return to me."

"Maiden, I well believe it," he replied. "And at these words, so gently spoken, lo, there came into her cheeks again that treacherous rose-color which he alone, or the mention of him, had power to summon there."

"Dost thou believe it?" she made answer. "Then, truly, thou mayst test it

some day. When next thou goest on a journey, thou mayst take one of my white doves with thee, and we shall see whether or not it will return."

"So be it, maiden," he replied. "There is even now a message I would fain send thee by it, had I the courage."

And as he spoke he turned and left her, before the wonderment his words had roused found voice in speech.

"What message?" she murmured again and again, speaking in hushed silence to her own heart as she wandered alone about the garden, or sat with her maidens at her embroidery. They were engaged upon the task of working a rich vestment for the high priest, and no one had so fine an eye for the blending of colors, nor such deft fingers in handling the brilliant silk and golden threads with which they wrought, as Namarah. But as she sat at work today her mind and senses were preoccupied, so that the silks got tangled in her fingers, and the colors were mismatched in a clumsy manner that none had ever seen in Namarah before.

That evening, when her father Jephthah came home, there was a look upon his face that made Namarah anxious. When their evening meal was ended, he called the maiden to him, and fondling her with more than his usual lovingness, he revealed to her the care he had upon his mind.

"I have not told thee of it, child," he said, "because that I refrained to cause thee uneasiness until the time were come; but of late there hath been great trouble and strife in the land of Israel, and the children of Ammon have made war against it. And in consequence of this a strange thing has happened unto me, for, behold, the elders of Gilead have come to fetch me out of the land of Tob that I may be their captain to fight against the children of Ammon. But I spake unto them and said: 'Did ye not hate me and expel me out of my father's house, and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?' And the elders of Israel said unto me: 'Therefore we turn again unto thee now, that thou mayst go with us and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.'"

Then said I unto the elders of Gilead: 'If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the Lord delivers them before me, shall I be your head?' And behold they answered: 'The Lord be witness between us, if we do not according to thy words.'

Now, as he spake, the maiden Namarah had felt her heart within her smitten with a great and mighty fear. "Go not, my father," she pleaded, hanging about his neck and hiding her face against him. "Did not the elders of Gilead thrust thee out and disown thee? Why goest thou then to fight against their enemies?"

But Jephthah answered and said: "These be the enemies of the Lord, my daughter, who have lifted up their hands against His people Israel, and I must even go forth to meet them, strong in the power of his might."

But Namarah only wept and clung to him, and said:

"Let my words find favor with thee, O my father, and go not forth to battle, lest thou lose thy life, and I be left alone and comfortless."

"I would fain have thee take my tidings more submissively, my little one," made answer Jephthah, as he stroked the masses of her unbound hair. "Thy father is a soldier, and thou art a soldier's child; and I would have thee gird my armor on, and wish me God-speed against the enemies of the Lord and His people, trusting in His power, to bring me back, triumphant and victorious into thy arms again."

But Namarah seemed to get no comfort from his words, and answered only:

"Do not leave me. Thou art all I have."

"My child, my little child," said Jephthah, with a mighty sweetness in his voice, "if often grieves thy father's heart that it is even so. Thou never knewest a mother's care and love, and though, God knoweth, I have tried to let thee feel no lack of tenderness, yet often it doth trouble me that thou hast on earth no binding tie of love save this to me; and it would even fill my soul with comfort to see thee wed to one who might worthily cherish thy youth and protect thy tenderness."

But Namarah, with her face still hid against him, only shook her head, as if in strong opposition to his words.

"Child, bethink thee," Jephthah said, when he had gently kissed and stroked her head in silence for a moment. "It must never be for thee to die unwed, for who knows but the will and purpose of the great God may be that thou shalt be chosen among women to be the mother of thy people's deliverer? It hath even seemed to me that in the eyes of the Almighty thy meekness and pureness and humility may have found such grace, that this great honor, wherewith one woman is to be honored above all others, may come to rest upon thee. Forget not this, my daughter, and order thy mind to become a

true and loving wife, as thou hast been to me a true and loving daughter. Whether this glory above all glories may be destined for thee or not, grieve not thy father's heart by refusing to be wed, so that he may see thee with thy children about thee before he dieth and sleepeth with his fathers."

Namarah made no answer, but her fluttering breath grew calm and though she spake no word to signify her acquiescence in his desires, yet neither did she gainsay him any more, a thing wherewith her father marveled. However, he spake not the thought that was in his mind, but was thankful in the silence of his heart.

After these weak and faint-hearted words, the brave spirit of the girl came to her again, and she went about her household duties, and particularly the preparations for her father's going forth to war with a courage even greater than her wont. Her father she loaded more and more with endearments and caresses, but she ever avoided speech about his coming dangers in the field, except that once she said to him suddenly, and with her head bent low over her work:

"Will it be that thou takest with thee thine armor-bearer—the young man, Adina?"

And Jephthah answered: "Ay."

"Then," said she, with her head still bent, "it is well done, for truly he hath said to me that he would shield thy body with his own. But go not into danger, my father. Be careful of his life and of thine own."

"Thou speakest unwisely, maiden, and not as a soldier's daughter. Thou knowest that in battle a brave man must not shun the place of danger, but if he trusteth in the Lord no harm can hurt him. Adina also is a man that feareth God, and therefore will we trust to be delivered and brought home in safety."

"Amen!" the maiden said, full reverently, and bent her head more lowly yet, as one who prayeth.

The full moon rose o'er Jephthah's garden on the eve of his going forth to battle, and Jephthah's daughter stood alone and held her heart to listen. Her white robe fluttered in the cool air of evening and clung about her slender limbs; and standing there, her pale face settled into a mute repose, she looked like a fair white statue, clad in a wind-blown raiment. No sound disturbed the stillness of the night, except the cooing of the doves in their house close by. But, after long waiting, there mingled with this the tread of approaching footsteps. The folds of her white gown trembled on her breast, as if the heart beneath them fluttered. Nearer came the footsteps through the trees, beneath the overhanging vines, until the moonlight revealed the tall form and noble features of the young man Adina.

"Is it thou, O maiden?" he asked, stopping a few paces from her. "The God of Israel bless thee that thou hearest my prayer, and hast let me speak to thee, before I go to battle. Hast thou no thought, Namarah, of the words I have come to speak?"

The doves cooed and gabbled with their little muttering sounds, but Namarah answered not. They stood a pace or two apart—the maiden Namarah and the young man Adina—but still the silence was unbroken.

"Hast thou even brought me here to break my heart, Namarah?" the young man said. "I love thee maiden, and unless thou'lt love me in return, the God of Israel grant that I may fall in battle, for my life is naught to me without thee."

(To be continued.)

Master of the Steam.

There is one thing for which an engineer is noted. This is the absolute obedience of orders. He is brought up on that from the time he starts to firing till he becomes a graduate and takes charge of an engine. Then he becomes the instructor of others, and, of course, never loses the main point. This is a story told illustrative of this. Two men were applicants for positions on one of the railroads in Boston not long ago. They both wanted to be engineers, and there was but one place vacant. The superintendent before whom they appeared asked one a question, which ran after this fashion: "Suppose you were on a siding with orders for a train to pass. A message would go over the wire that the oncoming train for which you were waiting was two hours late. What would you do?" The first one was asked the question, and he pulled his hat down over his face and said: "I dunno. That is the conductor's job, not mine." The superintendent said he might leave his address, and if they needed him they would drop him a line. The second man was standing at a respectful distance, with his cap in his hand, and was asked the same question. "I tell you, sir," he said, "if the orders looked all right, and I thought the signature was good and all that, I would stand on that siding forever." "I guess you had better report to the roundhouse for duty," said the superintendent.—Boston Journal.

In the Tunnel.

A young governess, going on a long journey, was recommended, among other means of precaution when passing through a tunnel, always to put her hand in the pocket in which she kept her money, so that it might not be stolen. She acted upon the advice, and on coming to a tunnel put her hand in her pocket, but was startled on finding it already occupied by another. She grasped the intrusive hand and held it firmly until the train emerged into daylight, when the gentleman sitting next to her explained, with a smile, that both hands were in his pocket.—Weekly Telegraph.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Horticultural Observations.

Irrigation on a large scale is seldom feasible for the middle west. Yet in many places it will pay the gardener to do a little experimenting. From this he may get only an increased fund of information, and he may get real benefits. We do not suggest that the first experiments be on any large scale. There are here and there brooks running through nearly level fields, and such brooks are susceptible of being utilized at some part of their course in irrigating at least a few square rods of garden land or of land on which small fruit is being grown. We hope that many trials of this kind will be entered on, and that the results will be reported to the Farmers' Review. We have in this part of the country some notable examples of the success of irrigating garden patches. At the asylum at Kankakee, Ill., a 40-acre garden patch has been under irrigation for years, and it has produced enormous quantities of garden truck. Here and there successful experiments of this kind are being carried on as far east as the Hudson river. We do not believe it will pay to irrigate gardens, except where the natural conditions are such that it can be done successfully and at little cost, but we are certain that many opportunities of that kind exist that are now not recognized.

Why not beautify the farm by setting out here and there a few evergreens? Deciduous trees have their advantages, but the advantages of the evergreens are peculiar to themselves. In winter, when other trees are bare, the evergreens have a peculiar interest. Who has not contrasted an evergreen forest in winter with a forest of oaks or other trees? Even in the cold and windy days there is a calm among the evergreens that rests and almost warms one. We do not advise the planting of evergreens in excess, nor in positions where they will surround the house, but in places where they may be of value and beauty. We have seen them planted so thickly about houses that they became a menace to the health of the family. We have seen them planted in lawns by the hundreds and so close that many of them had to die out and presented the appearance from year to year of red and unsightly dead trees. But planted in a grove and on land that is of little value for other things they add to the beauty of the farm. Often there are rocky hill tops that can be utilized. In the east most of the mountains are forested with evergreens that have taken root and developed even where the soil would appear too poor and thin to support anything. This fact should be a suggestion on how to utilize our bare and rocky hill-tops.

Radishes.

To have fresh, crisp, brittle radishes they should be grown quickly—that is, the soil should be quite rich and kept constantly loose and fine as deeply as possible by frequent hoeings. They are quite hardy, and the first sowings may be made in the open ground when the trees are starting in leaf. A selection of varieties maturing in succession should be planted, or else fresh plantings should be made every week or ten days. Small plantings made frequently will give the most satisfactory results for the home garden. For the earliest plantings select the small, very early varieties. Later in the season the larger summer varieties should be grown, and in July and August sowings of the winter varieties should be made. In August and September sowings should be made of small early spring varieties for fall use.

Sow the seed thinly in shallow drills one-half inch deep and cover with fine soil; make the rows far enough apart to admit of frequent workings, and when the young plants are well started thin out the small early varieties to two inches apart in the row, summer varieties to four inches and winter varieties to six inches apart. Gather while young and tender and just before needed for the table.—Burpee.

Conservation of Moisture.

Howard B. Cannon, writing in the Michigan Farmer, tells of a visit to the Michigan Agricultural College and of his attendance at a lesson in soil physics. In part he says:

On one table there stand twenty cylinders of galvanized iron. Each cylinder is so constructed as to allow a column of soil thirty inches deep to stand with its lower end touching water. There is no evaporation allowed save from the upper end of the cylinder, where the soil is exposed to the air. The area of this surface is one-tenth of a square foot, which makes comparison with field areas easy; all results may be figured in terms of acres and tons. The twenty cylinders were used to study the effect of cultivation to various depths, and also the effect of various mulches, sets of ten being used for each purpose. The cylinders in which the effect of cultivation to various depths as shown in terms of water evaporated during the period, were carefully filled with good soil. From two cylinders soil was removed to the depth of one inch; this portion was worked up in the hands till thoroughly loosened, then it was replaced and the excess struck off. Two cylinders received a similar cultivation two inches deep, two more three inches deep, and two were broken up to the depth of four

inches. The remaining pair of cylinders served as checks.

Evaporation for 23 days as follows:

Depth of Cultivation.	Evaporation, Grams.	Equivalent expressed in tons per acre.
0 in.	442	212
1 in.	274	131
2 in.	156	74.9
3 in.	107	51.4
4 in.	55	26.41
4 in.	66	31.69
3 in.	96	46.1
2 in.	138	63.3
1 in.	262	125.8
0 in.	451	218

Averaging the results from the individual cylinders there is shown the following results—speaking in terms of tons of water evaporated from one acre: No cultivation, 215.1 tons; one inch deep, 123.7 tons; two inches, 70.6 tons; three inches, 43.75 tons; four inches, 29.05 tons.

The set of cylinders used to show the effect of mulches of various kinds of soil were arranged as follows: The cylinders were carefully filled with good soil. Two were left for checks and two inches of soil removed from each of the other cylinders. This was replaced by coarse sand, fine sand, clay and muck.

During the twenty-eight days the amount of water evaporated from each group was as follows: Check, 464 grams; coarse sand, 37½ grams; fine sand, 45 grams; clay, 535 grams; muck 173½ grams. In this it appears that a little fine clay placed above the good soil helps to pump it out.

Preparing Soil for Millet.

The preparation of soil for millet does not differ greatly from the preparation required for growing the corn crop. The millets, like corn, are surface feeders, and so can use the fertility in the soil to best advantage when it lies near the surface. For this reason the plowing does not need to be deep, and the surface of the soil should receive the most attention in the tilling. The soils that are heavy with clay should be avoided, and the same is true of soils with more than a fair proportion of sand. It is evident that since the plants feed near the surface a too sandy soil will expose the roots to the effects of drought. As it is during the heat of summer that the millet receives its time for development it is obvious that it is not advisable to place the roots in a position that will make them certain to be dried out. Millets stand drought well and grow rapidly, but they must have a fair soil in which to become well established.

For the spring crop of millet the land must be plowed just after the plowing for corn has been finished. It is useless to put the seed in while the ground is cold and damp, for it is subject to the same dangers as is corn; it will rot in the ground and have to be replanted. It might be put in at the same time as corn, but where the corn crop is being put in there is no necessity of putting in the millet till after the corn crop, thus giving time to do the corn planting properly. Millet grows and matures much quicker than corn, hence the lack of necessity for haste.

When soils that contain much clay must be used, a good deal of work will have to be done to get them in shape. This work cannot be done till the ground is dry enough so the clods can be pulverized by the working. It does not pay to attempt to grow millet on badly prepared clay soil. One reason why the preparation is often delayed till after corn planting is that by late preparation the weeds are given a chance to start and are then turned under. They do not again come to the surface till the millet has got to growing, when it will keep them down.

Use Mature Boars and Sows.

James Bray, at a Canadian institute, said: A farmer can go into swine breeding with very little outlay of capital, and the returns to be secured from this branch of stock raising are very substantial. A farmer in going into hog raising must be careful to get the breeds best suited to the requirements of the market, and if districts were to adopt the same breed of hogs it would be to the advantage of all the farmers to breed from immature stock as light weight pork is given the preference in the markets; but in the end the results from this immature breeding are not beneficial. It is only by proper selection and retention of the best animals, as well as the best breeds, that the best results can be secured. The use of mature sires is one of the surest means to ensure improvement and success in swine breeding. The sires should be kept in comfortable and commodious quarters. The sow should not be bred too young, for by so doing her development will be retarded. The sows should be bred as near the same time as possible, so that there will be a uniform lot of pigs to feed and market. Care must be exercised in the bringing up of the litters. They should be fed a liberal allowance of skimmed milk, shorts and ground oats after weaning, and then gradually brought on to barley meal.

After weaning the sows must be properly looked after, they should be well fed and let run on pasture. Great care should be taken not to have the

Growing Nasturtiums.—The seeds of nasturtiums may be planted in the spring where the plants are to grow, when the trees are well out in leaf, or they may be started earlier, in pots indoors, for planting out in the flower-bed or vases, and giving earlier bloom than from the seed sown in the open ground. When planted in pots not more than one or two seeds should be planted in each pot.

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