

In the Fowler's Snare

By M. B. MANWELL

CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

"Better send the young people to bed, it is now daylight almost," suggested the elders, and they carefully avoided looking at each other.

That some terrible calamity had happened even Lady Jane, whose first fear had been that the bride had run away, was fully convinced.

"But, Lella, you will stay by me?" quavered the mistress of the house, suddenly transformed into a broken-down old woman.

"I will, dear aunty," gravely said Lella. "I shall see little Syb safe in bed, then I shall return to you."

Lella Desmond, slenderly graceful, soft and caressing, womanly to the finger-tips, was yet one of those loyal, strong natures we turn to lean upon in the "day of trouble."

Gervis gave her one look of reverence, then he placed his arm round that mother for whom he and this "perfect woman, nobly planned" had sacrificed themselves so fatally.

Every hour was bringing home to him the terrible blunder he had made in his life. Love between man and woman was God-given, to be prized as sacred; but under the specious pretext of sacrificing himself for the good of his house, he had torn love from his heart, and then sold that empty shell for gold. That it had been a bitter, sinful bargain he now knew.

Perhaps this impending calamity which he was helplessly waiting for the new day to discover might be heaven's punishment for what he had done.

It was still and quiet in the old house. There was a full of expectancy until the daylight should come to allow action to be resumed.

In Lella's room it was silent as the grave. Beside the white-draped bed knelt Lella herself. She was praying, with frightened tears now no one was by to see them—praying earnestly for the hapless girl who had shadowed her life.

That something dire had happened Lella instinctively knew; but all she could do was to pray for help from above.

"Lella! Sis!" A hoarse, shrill voice made her spring to her feet. Close at her side stood Syb, shivering in her little blue dressing-gown, her face working convulsively.

"I can't keep it from you any longer! I dare not, though I do hate her so!" the deformed girl was saying, her teeth chattering as much from terror as from cold.

"Speak, Syb!" Lella gripped the thin wrist, her breath coming thick and fast. Syb knew, then!

"I heard a cry, a smothered scream from the old oak chest, as I walked round the gallery; but I hated her so that I would not speak before! And when I saw you, through the open door between our rooms, praying with sobs, I knew it must be for her. So I must tell, and you'd better be quick!"

Syb slipped to the floor in a swoon. But Lella was already gone. With flying feet she was rushing downstairs from the third floor, where her bedroom and Syb's were.

"Gervis! Gervis! Come, and come quickly! Bring Barnes!" When she had reached the gallery she shrieked loudly. Her voice, sharp with fear, rang through the old house and made Gervis leap to his feet.

"It's Lella! She has found out something! Mother dear, stay here, I pray you!"

He pressed Lady Jane back on her seat. "No one knows what we have got to face!"

"Bring Barnes! Oh, be quick!" Lella's voice cried again in an agony of haste.

Barnes, the white-haired old butler, was stiff and rheumatic. It seemed as though he would never reach the top of the wide, crimson-covered staircase, and yet the old man was doing his best, though Gervis would fain have dragged him up two steps at a time.

"Where are you, Lella?" he hoarsely shouted.

"Here! here! Quick!" Round the curve of the gallery they found Lella, tearing frantically the holly and moss decorations from what had been a bank of greenery.

The blood was trickling down her hands and wrists, as the holly tore them cruelly. But, unconscious of pain, Lella continued to pull, until the old black-oak chest, which had been the foundation of the green bank, was displayed.

"Press the spring, Barnes! Nobody in Temple-Dene knows the secret but you. Press, for Gladly's dear sake!" panted the girl, madly beside herself.

"Whatever—" Barnes was beginning, and fumbling with his spectacles.

"Men, do as you're bid!" shouted Gervis, catching the infection of Lella's frenzy. And he dragged Barnes forward.

Something in his blazing eyes made the old man pull himself together. He stooped forward. With shaking hands, he felt along the carvings; but how slow he was! The watchers caught their breaths and shivered.

"'Tis in the shamrock, I do mind me. 'Tis 'bund to be in the shamrock, the spring," he was muttering. In an instant Lella was on her

knees, and there, among the carved leaves and flowers of oak, was a single dainty saamrock.

It was the spring! Pressing it hard as she could, the carved lid clicked as it opened about an inch. Then Gervis, with strong arms, forced it back on its hinges, and a muffled cry broke from his lips.

CHAPTER XI.

Lying huddled in the musty chest was a little figure in gleaming silver brocade, stained here and there with bunches of crushed holly berries.

It was Gladly, stiffened and immovable, but with widely opened, round blue eyes.

That she was dead was the first muttered thought of both Gervis and Lella.

"No! 'Tain't death!" quickly said old Barnes, glancing at their white faces. "See ye, Mr. Gervis, there's a row of air-holes down each side o' the chest. I saw 'em made myself in the old squire's time, purpose-like, in case o' this very kind o' thing that's happened now!"

But Gervis was not listening. He and others who had rushed to the gallery were carefully lifting the small, stiffened form. A mounted groom had already been dispatched for a doctor.

"But something must be done at once," said Gervis, as they laid the unconscious girl on an Indian rug on the polished floor of the gallery.

"Somebody was trying to force brandy through the marble white lips.

"Not a drop will go down! What are we to do until the doctor comes?" piteously cried Lella, who, kneeling down, had slipped her arm under the little sunny-brown head.

"Fetch Mr. Ansdell!" commanded Gervis, with a sudden inspiration. Surely the American could give some help in the pressing emergency, otherwise, what was the value of his so-called scientific reputation?

Mr. Ansdell! Everybody then remembered that, oddly enough, the scientist had not been once seen during the hours of anxious search. It was curious, to say the least of it. And still more curious did it appear that no Mr. Ansdell hurried to the gallery in answer to the summons.

"Never mind, here's young Doctor Goring himself, which is better," ejaculated Lady Jane, who had struggled upstairs more dead than alive from sheer fright, and looked on helplessly.

"It's a trance!" at last pronounced the doctor, a young man, with all the latest medical and scientific theories at his finger-ends. "She has been hypnotized! Who has done this mischief?"

He stood up and glanced round upon the awe-struck group sternly.

There was no answer, and Doctor Goring went on wrathfully: "Somebody has got to answer for this night's work! The poor young lady has been brought to death's door, evidently, by some vile experiment. Now, then, clear out of this every one of you! Excuse my bluntness, Lady Jane, but this is not a moment for polite speech. I've got a life to win back if I can, and I can't have a crowd round me. Your ladyship can remain, and, yes, I must have Miss Desmond, if I've anybody."

One by one the spectators departed from the gallery, and the young medical enthusiast set to work, with the result that in a quarter of an hour Gladly feebly opened her lips and spoke.

"I want Lella," was the whisper. And when she saw that it was Lella herself who was supporting her head the bride's round eyes closed contentedly.

"She will sleep now. We must carry her to her bed," said Doctor Goring, well satisfied.

"You are wanted, sir, at once," came an urgent whisper; while Gervis, lifting his wife in his arms, carried her straight.

"What! another case?" The doctor wheeled around, and he was silently beckoned to the quarter of the house known as the bachelors' wing.

Lying back in his chair in front of a writing table, and grasping a folded paper, was a dead man.

The room was in perfect order. There had been no assault, no murder, no suicide, so far as one could judge at the moment.

But that death had entered the half-open stare of the black eyes, the dropped jaw, and the marble hue of the long, lean fingers gripping the sheet of paper spoke all too clearly.

Little wonder that Paul Ansdell had failed to join in the search for the missing bride, failed to obey the summons for his helpful skill.

"He has been dead quite a couple of hours," said Doctor Goring gravely, secretly wondering what would be the outcome of this double tragedy.

"You must keep this business from the ladies as long as you can," he said, turning to Gervis, who had been hastily sent for. "There must be an inquest, of course; and, meantime, I should take possession of that folded paper. See, I've managed not to tear it. You'd best lock it away until you hand it to the coroner, Mr. Templeton."

"Why," gasped Gervis, as he caught sight of the close, upright handwriting, "my wife wrote that! What villainy is this? See here!"

"It was the last will and testament

of Gladys Templeton, and, in correct legal form it assigned everything the testator possessed to Paul Ansdell of Montreal, revoking all former wills and codicils. The document was duly signed, and the signatures and addresses of two Americans were appended.

Not a flaw was there from beginning to end of the deed.

"You hold the key that unlocks the whole of this night's mystery," briefly said the young doctor. "This unfortunate man must be a reckless adventurer, whose wits have put in his hands a most dangerous weapon. He is, we will discover, a criminal hypnotist, a so-called scientist, seeking some tool to further his own ends. Yes, yes; you'll see we'll find out that's what he is—was, I mean," said the medical man.

He was right in his surmise, as the inquest brought out, bit by bit, partly from papers belonging to the dead man, partly from the unwilling evidence of Gladly, who had been more or less under hypnotic influence since the night of the fire in the snow-shed.

As for the villain's own death, it was proved to be from natural causes, and due to long-standing heart disease, that caused a breakdown at the crucial moment of his career.

But the jury's verdict was the popular one—"By the visitation of God."

Five years have passed away.

So many changes have happened to Temple-Dene and the Templetons that Lady Jane has come to look back upon the days when she wore faded silks and lived a sorely pinched life as the happiest she has known.

Today she no longer wears her favorite blue, for Francis Templeton has gone to his grave, his heart eaten out by the melancholy nothing would dispel.

So Lady Jane wears widow's weeds and has learnt the old lesson that "contentment is great gain."

The dainty American bride, so fragile and highly strung, never managed to weather the repeated shocks to her frail system. Like a broken flower she withered, until decline set in.

In Lella's tender, supporting arms, her weak hands clinging tight round Lella's soft throat, Gladly died peacefully.

"Take care of my Gervis, Lella. You will do it better than I," with the wondrous intuition of the dying she whispered at the last.

And now that the years have gone round, Gervis begins to think it is time Lella was taking care of him.

Between the two there is a perfect understanding, and by and by their wedding bells will ring out; for though "sorrow endureth for the night, joy is bound to come in the morning."

(The End.)

CHILD POLITICS.

The "Junior Republics" Alarm the City of Detroit.

Detroit is learning that the "junior republics" established in the various schools of the city, which at first thought was a fine thing, is having evil results. The mayor protests and shows a condition that is hardly beneficial.

The citizens of these junior republics, for example, balloted recently on such questions as these: Do you favor city ownership of the street railway system at the appraised value of \$17,500,000? Do you favor the appropriation of \$150,000 for the erection of another high school building? Do you favor expansion? (this involving a discussion of the Philippine question.) But more than this the "junior citizens" developed so rapidly as to become lobbyists. Children were asked to interview aldermen or school inspectors to urge appropriations for schools. In short, the junior republics did not confine themselves to theory, but got into practical politics with a unanimity and dispatch that was something appalling.

The Detroit Free Press protests that innocent children that are already struggling against ninety-nine fads in learning to read, write and cipher, ought not to have their heads further muddled by an attempt to master the methods and processes by which the people of the country are governed.—Indianapolis News.

Food's Lowest Daily Cost.

By actual experience the Ruskinites, a colony of socialists near Waycross, Ga., have demonstrated what is probably the lowest possible daily cost of food. They live at an actual cost per capita of less than 10 cents a day. Of course this could not have been accomplished except through co-operation. Everything they consume is bought at wholesale in large quantities and is cooked in the community. In the community dining room tables are set for 300 people. Those who do not wish to eat with the crowd are allowed the privilege of purchasing company stores and cooking them at home.

Ancient Deed in Philadelphia.

The first deed conveying property to the proprietor of Pennsylvania, William Penn, is written in old Dutch, and is now preserved in the city hall. The property was what is now known as Lemon hill, including the mansion and the Schuylkill river front, where the old Fairmount waterworks was located. There Penn kept his barge and some rowboats, the barge carrying an admiral's pennant. It is said there is only one man in Philadelphia who can read this deed.

It is not work that kills men; it is worry. Work is healthy; you can hardly put more on a man than he can bear. But worry is rust upon the blade. It is not movement that destroys the machinery, but friction.—H. W. Beecher.

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.

Missouri Course in Horticulture.

The Missouri State Agricultural College is to give this winter a course in horticulture. The term will begin Jan. 1 and will close March 22. This course, running parallel with the short course in agriculture, is intended to give a thorough acquaintance with all the practical details in connection with the establishment and running of a nursery, commercial orchard, a vegetable garden or a flower establishment—in short, to make professional horticulturists. The course consists of 216 lectures and practical demonstrations, divided as follows:

Nursery Work.—A study of grafting, budding, growing, grading and packing of nursery stock, including eighteen afternoons in the grafting shop under the personal supervision of an experienced and successful nurseryman. The aim is to give skill in these various operations.

Orcharding and Small Fruit Growing.—Treating of soils and locations adapted to the different kinds of fruit; varieties to plant; methods of planting, pruning and cultivating orchards; the harvesting, barreling and marketing of the fruit. Daily practice is given in each of these operations, under the supervision of an experienced orchardist. The nursery and orchard work will be given in January and February.

Market Gardening and Hot-Bed Forcing.—Covering the entire range of vegetable growing both out-doors and under glass. Daily practice will be given in the management of hot-beds, cold frames and green houses devoted to the production of vegetables. Courses will be given also in floriculture and landscape gardening.

Plant Diseases.—Twenty lectures on the nature of the destructive diseases of fruits and the best methods of preventing such attacks. Ample practice will be given in the mixing, testing and applying of spraying solutions.

Entomology.—Sixty lectures and demonstrations will be given on the habits of the numerous insects that bear an important relation to horticulture, and the best methods of combating the injurious ones.

Students in the course in horticulture will have the same training in botany, carpentry, blacksmithing, drainage, manures and fertilizers, bookkeeping, etc., as will those who take the agricultural course, and will have an additional course in steam heating and steam fitting for green houses.

Requirements for Admission.—No entrance examination or special preparation is required. Any intelligent person with common school education will be able to pursue either course with great profit. The cost is from \$40 to \$60 per term.

Horticultural Observations.

It is said that the orange crop of the country is very large, and it is estimated that it will exceed 8,000,000 boxes.

According to Prof. Georgeon Alaska has about 100,000 square miles suitable for cultivation. Much of this land is said to be suitable for the production of fruit, especially small fruit. We may yet see great apple orchards spring up in the section of Alaskan territory bordering on the Pacific ocean. It is entirely likely that much of that section of country is especially adapted to the growing of the hardier varieties of apples.

It is reported from New Jersey that the San Jose scale there is under control to such an extent that its further spread is problematical. It is asserted however that there is no probability that it will be exterminated. As New Jersey nurseries were largely instrumental in spreading the pest throughout the whole country east of the Rocky mountains the probability is that that state is pretty well supplied with the scale.

The recent successful season with peaches in Michigan has stimulated the planting of new orchards, and it is believed that more peach trees will be set out next year than ever before. The same thing is likely to be done in all of the peach growing states, especially in the South. The great freeze of two years ago put back to a considerable extent the business of peach production, but the reaction has set in and more orchards than ever will be set out.

A few years ago the United States department of agriculture introduced into California a fig fertilizing insect from Smyrna. Previous to that time the figs produced on fig trees in California had proved a disappointment to the growers, being small, seedy and insignificant. The advent of the insect changed matters to such an extent that the figs are now four times as large as before and filled with delicious pulp. This puts fig-growing in California on a firmer basis.

Turkestan Alfalfa.

The introduction of Turkestan alfalfa into this country seems likely to prove of great benefit to American farmers. Prof. N. E. Hansen was sent to Turkestan by the department of agriculture to secure plants likely to be of use in the United States, and the seed of this clover was obtained with the seed of some other plants. Turkestan is a vast country, consisting

mostly of steppes and marshlands. As a large part of the country is not adapted to field tillage the people follow cattle raising to a very great extent. The climate of the country is very similar to that of the semi-arid west. The summers are very hot, dry, long and cloudless. The autumns and springs are mild and rainy, and the winters usually open with but little snow. Severe frosts sometimes occur, but they are of short duration. The evaporation is said to be greater than the rainfall.

From May to September very little rain falls, often only 1.1 inches, and in many parts of the steppe regions, which are removed from the mountainous districts, there is absolutely no rain during the entire summer season. Dry winds from the north and northeast prevail during the summer, with a temperature of about 130 degrees F. (40 degrees Celsius), which generally dry up the whole Turkestan basin until vegetation cannot exist without irrigation. The extent of watered lands in Turkestan is, in comparison with its whole area, by no means great, not more than 2 1/2 per cent, which is altogether insufficient for the subsistence of its population. This deficiency is partially redeemed by the growing of wheat, barley and millet, which depend on the winter moisture in the soil and a sufficient fall of rain during the spring.

The following extracts from an article by Prince V. I. Massalski, of the Russian department of agriculture, show its great value to the arid regions of Russia than the European varieties:

Lucern clover (*Medicago sativa* var. *Turkestanica*) is the chief forage in use throughout Central Asia, and to the settled population of Turkestan is of the highest importance, since during the summer it forms the chief and in winter, prepared in the shape of hay, the only fodder for cattle. It is of all the greater importance because, within the regions populated by settled inhabitants, there are no meadows, soft herbs and other grasses that grow up in the early spring in certain parts of the steppes are quickly dried up by the hot rays of the sun and give place to coarse, prickly stubble or, in any case, to less nutritive grasses that are in general unfitted for sheep, camels, or steppe cattle, and still less fitted for horses or the cattle of those who are settled in the oases and are thus closely confined to the foreland or rivers, in most cases far removed from the steppes.

Massalski describes the native methods of cultivation and irrigation, and continues: The native lucern would seem to be a cattle fodder that cannot be replaced in countries as dry and hot as Turkestan and the Transcaspian province. Parallel experiments that have been made in the Merv oases, in the Transcaspian province, in growing native and French lucern, under widely different conditions of water supply, have shown that the native lucern, particularly where there is a lack of water, is vastly superior to the French in the crop it yields, and that it is able to grow satisfactorily with a minimum supply of water, a supply so small that the European lucern would perish with drought. It possesses a very large root system, and its leaves are covered with thick down. This, in conjunction with a deeply channeled leaf, enables the plant, on the one hand, to imbibe the moisture from the deeper layers of the soil, and, on the other hand, to exhale it in very small quantity.

Cavalry Horses Scarce.

Veterinary Surgeon John Tempeny, Ninth United States Cavalry, says: "There is a great scarcity of the cavalry type of horses because of the great draft the United States and other governments have made in the last two years. In Wyoming, for instance, our government gathered up all of the desirable, high standard horses, and the English army officers came along and picked up 600 others, for the Englishmen are content to put up with a lower grade of animal than the American authorities. There are no more cavalry horses in Nevada, and the market generally is bare and will be for some time. Prices are stiff, and our government was paying \$100 to \$125 for the grade of animal required; but the demand for the Philippines is falling off with the return of quieter times there, and the war in South Africa is over, so there is not much call now for horses for army purposes, and generally prices are going down. This electricity business is curtailing the horse market. Horseless carriages and the trolley are superseding the noble steed."

Examining Our Soils.

The national government has undertaken a good work in the soil survey. To a great extent Americans have had to conduct their farming operations blindly, as to the kind of soil in which they had to operate. They have been able to name their soils only according to the clay or sand content mostly and had to assume that a sandy soil in one place well filled with humus was equal to a sandy soil in another place well filled with humus. As a result many an extensive operation in farming has proved a failure in one place when it would have proved a success in another place. The movement to survey the soils of the whole country means that the whole system of agriculture is to be placed on a firmer and more scientific basis. In a recent report the government officials show that this work is done at a cost of only \$1.40 per square mile. The benefits to be derived are incalculable.

Mexico is pronounced an ideal sheep country on account of its good pasturage, its fine climate and cheap labor,

AGRARIANS AFTER OUR WHEAT.

Propose a Law Which Is Expected to Shut It Out of Germany.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The agrarian party in Germany, having successfully brought about a law at the last session of the Reichstag prohibiting, in effect, the importation of American canned meats, is now using its powerful influence to increase heavily the import duties on all grains entering the empire, notably on wheat, reports United States Consul Diederich, at Bremen, to the state department. The aim of the agrarians, according to the consul, is to make Germany entirely independent of all countries for its breadstuffs and food supplies. "It is difficult to see," says Mr. Diederich, "how the proposed national legislation can have any other effect in the long run than to enhance the price of the daily bread so needful to every man, woman and child in this country. It is impossible to understand," he says, "how the proposed duty can increase the crops of wheat throughout Germany or decrease the appetite of the German people."

"At present, however," says the consul, "there seems little doubt that the proposed law will be passed by the Reichstag. As a large portion of the importation of wheat is American grown this will seriously affect the interests of the American farmer. A duty of 40 or 50 cents on every bushel of wheat," concludes Consul Diederich, "cannot fail to be well nigh prohibitive and the consequence will be more limited markets, fiercer competition and lower prices to the producers."

CHOATE IS TO RETURN HOME.

Probability That He Will Not Return to His Post in England.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A dispatch to the Journal and Advertiser from London says: Ambassador Choate will, it is said, sail either on Saturday or the week after by the United States, the death of his partner, Charles C. Beaman, having rendered his presence in New York necessary.

The news of Mr. Beaman's death was a great shock to him, as he had no idea that his partner was even falling. It is believed here that Ambassador Choate will not return to London. He is not a rich man and his life here as ambassador entails not only the loss of his professional income, but is likewise a heavy drain on his purse, as his salary is barely sufficient to pay his house rent. This in itself rendered him disinclined to retain the ambassadorship for another four years, and now that his partner in the firm of Evarts, Choate & Beaman is dead his return to America for good has become more than ever probable.

CLEMENTS HAS A CLOSE CALL.

Narrowly Escapes Losing All of His Command.

JOHANNESBURG, Monday, Dec. 17.—Details of the defeat of the British at Nooitgedacht indicate that General Clements' entire force had a narrow escape from capture. The Boers' plans were splendidly laid. If the main British column had tarried a little longer there would have been a complete success for the Boers, who exposed themselves undauntedly, yelling and waving their arms. Their rushes were only stemmed by artillery.

All accounts indicate a heavy Boer held a prayer meeting. Their hymns could be heard by the retreating British.

All accounts indicate a heavy Boer loss.

Colonel Legge exhibited splendid bravery. He shot five Boers with his revolver before he fell with three bullets in his body.

Foreign Business of Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A statement prepared by the division of insular affairs, war department, summarizing the trade of the Philippines for the ten months ended April 30 last shows that the imports of merchandise during this period amounted in value to \$16,450,255. Gold and silver to the value of \$1,714,951 were also imported, making the total importations \$18,165,206. Of this amount \$1,183,486 represented the goods brought in from the United States. Manila hemp formed the principal article of exportation \$9,217,803 worth being sent out of the islands during the period named. Of this amount \$4,285,107 worth went to Great Britain and \$3,096,095 worth to the United States. The total exportation of merchandise, gold and silver is set down at \$11,038,314. European countries took \$7,284,166 worth of this and exports to the value of \$3,284,292 came to the United States.

Contracts for War Vessels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The board of naval construction, considering the bids for the construction of battleships and cruisers, has settled these points:

One of the big armored cruisers shall go to Cramps, one to Newport News and one to the Union Iron works in California. One battleship shall go to the Fore River Engine Works at Quincy, Mass.

Cabinet Takes It Easy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—At the cabinet meeting today it was announced that Captain Asa Rogers of Petersburg, Va., would be appointed collector of internal revenue to succeed the late Colonel James Brady. Nothing of importance transpired at the meeting, both Secretaries Hay and Root reporting that they had nothing to communicate.

To Increase His Salary.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—At the request of the secretary of war, the house committee on insular affairs today reported a bill increasing the salary of the commissioner of education of Porto Rico from \$3,000 to \$4,000. When Prof. Brumbaugh of the University of Pennsylvania, accepted the position at the urgent request of the president and Secretary Root, it was the understanding that his salary should be increased. He received \$5,000 at the University of Pennsylvania.