

LOVE IS BEST

By Florence Hodgkinson

CHAPTER VI.

A HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD—Left her home on April 30, a young lady, aged 18, brown hair, grey-blue eyes, fair complexion, a very diminutive figure. When last seen was wearing a black tailor-made costume and a small lace toque trimmed with violets. The above reward will be paid to any one giving such information as may lead to her recovery. Apply to A. B. C. Porter's library, Wilton Place."

Two people at Easthill read that notice and knew what it concerned—Beryl Lindon, who rejoiced with all her heart that the gathering coldness of the April evening had made her put on her cloak before she left Easthill Station; and Harold Dynevor, who felt convinced that the young lady inquired for was no other than the lonely little traveler who had asked the way to Mrs. Tanner's school.

No doubt other people in the neighborhood read the advertisement, but none of them guessed it was in their power to earn the reward. Mrs. Wilnot had never seen her sister's teacher in walking attire. Mrs. Tanner never looked at the agony column. Helen Craven, who was of a romantic turn of mind, read the paragraph aloud to her family, and declared the poor girl it concerned had evidently escaped from a lunatic asylum; but Captain Tempest was at the Manor and engrossed most of her attention, so that she soon forgot the matter.

Beryl felt terribly nervous. She had expected her father to be rather relieved at her departure, and the advertisement seemed to imply he was set on finding her. She longed to confide in Mrs. Tanner; but, though she could have trusted the widow perfectly, the possession of such a secret would, if discovered, have embroiled her very much with her sister. So beyond a visit to the one draper's at Easthill-on-Sea, where she purchased a bunch of forget-me-nots to replace the violets in her toque, the advertisement made no immediate difference to Beryl.

As for Harold, he thought of it again and again. He could not get the girl's sweet, sad face out of his head. And after a few days' doubt and perplexity, during which the announcement was repeated in the paper every morning, he decided to call on Mrs. Grey, the wife of the curate-in-charge of the Easthill-on-Sea, and ask her openly for Mrs. Tanner's address.

He was prepared to face her wonder at the question, but it was spared him. The first greetings were barely over when little Olive Grey came in through the French window, with two or three school books strapped together, and a very important little face.

"You don't mean to say you send that mite to school?" Harold asked, when Miss Olive had installed herself on his knee. "Why, she can't be six!"

"Turned eight, Mr. Dynevor. I should have sent her before, only there was no school here. A young widow, Mrs. Tanner, opened one in January, and Olive was one of her first pupils."

"I shouldn't have thought there were enough children for a school to pay." "I think Mrs. Tanner must be getting on, for she has just started an assistant. Such a pretty girl! I saw her at church on Sunday and lost my heart to her. Lindon her name isn't it, Olive?"

"Yes; only one letter different from Mr. Lindon's," said Miss Olive; "and she comes from London, too."

The child ran off to her tea, and Mrs. Grey, who did not possess as much tact as kindness, suddenly asked:

"Is it true that the Lindons are coming to live at the Manor when General Craven leaves?"

"I have no idea. I know it is rumored."

"Mr. Grey thinks the rumor only got about because Mr. Lindon refused to renew the general's lease."

"General Craven thinks he will renew it in the end, but is standing out for increased rent. The agent, Wilnot, has hinted as much."

"Then it is probably true. Mr. Wilnot is very much in the big man's confidence. I do hope the Lindons won't come here."

Harold shrugged his shoulders. But he was unusually grave and thoughtful that evening. Before he went to bed he had written a very brief note to Beryl, enclosing the advertisement from the Telegraph.

"One who witnessed Miss Lindon's arrival at Easthill-on-Sea sends this to warn her she is being sought for. She may rely on his absolute silence now and always."

There was no signature. Beryl could not in the least imagine who sent the note, but she felt it was meant to be reassuring. And as May faded into June she tried hard to forget the dark shadows which hung threateningly over her pathway, and to be as happy as she could.

It was a quiet and monotonous life she led at Woodlands. After the luxury at Elchester square, the hard work, and plain fare would have been distasteful to many girls; but Beryl was only too thankful to have escaped from her gilded cage. Mrs. Tanner was kindness itself, and if the Wilnots rather grated on Beryl with the condescending patronage, she knew perfectly it was not her employer's fault, and resented their cold reproaches to the gentle widow far more than any slights to herself.

And then a wonderful thing happened. Mrs. Grey, who was the nearest

approach to a friend the widowed school mistress had at Easthill, descended on Woodlands one day, and begged Mrs. Tanner to lend her young assistant to help at a kind of open air fete she was getting up for the church building fund.

The curate's wife never forgot that the widow was unfortunate, that her husband's death had brought her from a pleasant, easeful rectory to fight for her bread. Mrs. Grey had helped the enterprise at Woodlands in many ways, not least by her kindness and friendly sympathy with Woodland's tenant. She told her difficulties as frankly as if Mrs. Tanner had been her sister.

"You know we are not rich, but just because Frank is the curate I have to take a stall and do my utmost to make things go. I'm not clever at bazaars, and I had depended on my sister coming to help me. I've just had a letter to say she has sprained her ankle—nothing serious; but she won't be able to put her foot to the ground for a fortnight, and the fete is next week. Do lend me Miss Lindon! It's a Wednesday, and so, being a half holiday, the school can't suffer. Besides, I'm pretty sure all your pupils will be there. I don't ask you to come"—she looked kindly at the crape-trimmed dress, "it would be hard on you to appear at a gay scene so soon, but you might lend me your assistant."

"I will spare Miss Lindon to you with pleasure," said Mrs. Tanner; "but are you sure she will be of any use? She is a dear little thing, but almost painfully shy. She has been with me over two months, and I know no more of her than I did the day she came."

"Well, may I ask her and see what she says?"

Mrs. Tanner fetched Beryl and explained what was required of her. The girl blushed crimson.

"I never was at a bazaar in my life," she told Mrs. Grey, "but if you think I can be of any use I shall be glad to do my best."

Mrs. Grey was delighted and Beryl left the room, pledged to be her chief lieutenant on the eventful Wednesday. "You know," said the curate's wife, when Beryl had gone, "she is so pretty she is sure to charm money out of people's pockets, and there was really no one else I could ask. Mrs. Craven has taken a stall, and her daughter and Miss Dynevor will help at it. There wasn't a girl in Easthill I could think of who would have been of any use."

Mrs. Tanner hesitated. "Ought it to be a very grand toilet? I am not sure what Miss Lindon has in the way of finery."

"Every one is to dress just as they please. The sellers are to wear a favor of black and gold to distinguish them. I'll send over the one I made for Cicely."

Mrs. Tanner and Beryl talked over the bazaar after supper that night.

"It will be a little glimpse of gaiety for you," said the elder woman kindly. "This is a very dull life for you, Miss Lindon."

"I am not at all dull," said Beryl, simply.

She had altered since she came to Easthill. The scared, anxious look had gone from her face, and, in spite of hard work, she looked younger and brighter. She really quite looked forward to the garden fete, as its promoters called it, as a festival; for, after all, she was young enough to enjoy the sight of pretty things and bright faces.

CHAPTER VII.

Mrs. Tanner almost started when Beryl came to show herself when she was dressed for the fete, and yet the girl only wore the white cashmere which had been her best attire last summer. It was very soft and clinging, falling from waist to hem in long, straight folds, the bodice trimmed with a little white silk, and a broad sash of the softest surah knotted loosely round her waist. Her hat was white, too, and trimmed with a long white feather and a quantity of chiffon. She looked far more like some rich wandering princess than a humble school assistant.

"Shall I do?" asked Beryl, a little anxiously.

"You had better put a cloak over your dress for the drive, the lanes are so dusty," said Mrs. Tanner. "You look charming, and I am sure Mrs. Grey will think so."

That lady drove up then in her rather shabby pony carriage. The fete was to be held in the grounds of Dynevor as the last people to think three miles from Woodlands, so she had arranged to call for Miss Lindon.

"I'll bring her back safely," she promised Mrs. Tanner, "but I can't promise when. The fete opens at 3, and we are supposed to go on till we've sold everything."

She talked very pleasantly to Beryl as they drove along, saying she would introduce her to Miss Dynevor, who was about her own age.

"Please don't," said Beryl shyly—"I mean, she might not like it. Miss Dynevor of Dynevor must be a great lady, and I am only a teacher."

"My dear," said Mrs. Grey, "the Dynevors are the last people to think less of you for that. And so far from being great, they have fallen on very evil times. Harold farms his own land; but it's all he can do to struggle on these bad times, and if Kitty does not have to earn money, she

works very hard at home."

"But the Manor is called after them."

"And it ought to be theirs, only it isn't." She went on to give Beryl the full and particular story of Nina Dynevor's infatuation for Eustace Lindon, and the wrong it had led to. Beryl only kept silent by an effort. It was terrible to listen to the reproach of her own parents and say nothing; but deep down in her own heart the girl felt her gentle mother had never done the wrong ascribed to her. No, the will which left the Manor away from the Dynevors had been extorted from her weakness, not made of her own free will.

"I hope I have not tired you out," concluded Mrs. Grey, "you are looking very pale."

"I am generally pale, thanks."

The general stood on the steps of the Manor to welcome them. He looked a little astonished as Mrs. Grey introduced her companion—the girl was so unlike what he had expected; but he soon led the way to the huge marquee which had been erected in the grounds for the five stalls held by the elite of Easthill.

A smaller tent was devoted to flowers, yet another held refreshments, a ladies' orchestra—from Brighton, be it whispered—discoursed sweet music in a third. Mrs. Grey and Beryl hastened to their places, while the general went back to await the advent of the great lady who was to formally declare the fete open.

It looked to Beryl like fairyland; and when a few minutes later things were in full swing, and the people began to flock in, she proved herself quite an expert saleswoman. Many of the visitors thought Mrs. Grey's assistant the prettiest girl present.

"Harold," whispered Kitty Dynevor to her brother, when he made his appearance, "your fair traveler is here."

"What do you mean?" He asked, bewildered.

"Don't you remember asking if there were a school at Easthill-on-Sea, because a girl was making her way to it at the station one day? Well, the girl is just here at Mrs. Grey's stall; but she doesn't look like a school teacher, does she?"

She did not. It flashed on Harold that he had never seen a sweeter face. He thought the shadow on the grey eyes was lighter, and he wondered if she had ceased to worry over the hundred pounds reward offered for her recovery. She did not look in the least like a fugitive or a runaway.

Mrs. Grey's voice broke on his meditations.

"Mr. Dynevor, do take Miss Lindon to the house to have some tea. Mrs. Craven has some in the dining room specially for our benefit; the tent is only for outsiders, you know, who pay as they go. I have been there long ago; but I couldn't find any one to send with Miss Lindon, and, as she has never been inside the Manor, she does not like to go alone."

"I shall be only too pleased," said Harold; and the two left the marquee together.

It was not far, only a few hundred yards as distance went; but it seemed miles to Beryl because all the way she was trying to decide a question. One glance had told her that Mr. Dynevor had been at Easthill station when she arrived, therefore it must be he who sent her the advertisement and words of kindly warning. Should she allude to it or not?

It was only when she was in sight of the old Manor house that she made up her mind.

(To be continued.)

ODD OCCUPATION.

Professor of Being Buried Alive Testifies in a Courtroom.

One of the witnesses in a recent lawsuit in Cleveland was Edward Kaehn. The Cleveland Leader says: "The examination of Kaehn proved to be very amusing. On the cross-examination Prosecutor Keeler demanded to know the business of the witness. The witness said that he lived at 325 Lake street, and was known as Prof. James Smith, and that his specialty was being buried alive for exhibition purposes. He declared that he never had really died, but claimed that he could lie in a grave six days and nights. He averred that he was ready at any time to be buried for \$500 per week, providing that there was a proper and an unmistakably trustworthy committee to play the role of resurrection angels should they be needed to save his life. He was rather reluctant about 'tipping off his act,' as he expressed it, but Judge Neff became interested and wanted to hear all about it. Kaehn declared that he has been placed in a coffin which had been properly upholstered, and that it has been lowered into a grave 6 feet 4 inches deep. An air shaft is constructed and the grave closed.

"What is the air shaft for?" asked the prosecutor.

"For air," replied Kaehn, "and for sending down the beer, water and grub."

"Then you always had to have air, did you?" continued the prosecutor.

"Oh, no. Sometimes I was completely buried for twenty-four hours. In a case of that kind a bucket of water was placed in the coffin and several sponges saturated with water. The water evaporated, and that furnished all the oxygen I needed to live on."

Godmothers to the Bells.

An odd ceremony took place in France not long ago in the baptism of two new bells for the Church of Prognac, in the department of the Gironde. Two pretty children, Miles, Mirville de Girodor and Odette de Braquillage, were godmothers to the bells, and were dressed, respectively, in pale blue and pale pink.

State Capital Observations.

Expressions Emulative for the Good of Republican Supremacy.

LINCOLN, Jan. 21.

Well, the first week of the big battle for the two United States senatorships has passed and still victory resteth not with any of the aspirants, more's the pity.

Unless appearances are deceptive and everybody is misled the situation has settled down to a deadlock that may last possible all winter.

Repeated attempts have been made to secure a caucus, but for some reason each attempt has failed.

One of the surprises of the balloting has been the strength exhibited by Senator Currie of Custer county, who polled eighteen votes on the first joint ballot, 20 on the second and 22 on the third. From this it is evident that Mr. Currie will be a very important factor in the fight.

Up to date there is little change in the voting, but rumors are rife of an outbreak among the supporters of some of the candidates. The expected explosion may come at any time. Its anticipation is sufficient to attract a large crowd daily.

As the senatorial struggle hangs on and the strife daily becomes more bitter, the rank and file are looking on with anxious eyes and hoping that nothing will arise that will have a bad effect on the party in the state. They are not tied up with the candidates, nor have they any special grudge against any of the gentlemen who desire to go to Washington as United States senators. Their greatest desire is to see a happy solution of the middle and one which will leave no bad blood existing after it is all over.

Out of all the measures introduced relating to kidnapping and fixing a penalty for kidnappers nothing radical need be expected. The various bills introduced fix punishment ranging all the way from one year in the penitentiary to a death sentence, but the more severe treatment is not likely to find favor. Referring to the subject one of the most prominent members of the senate said:

"All this talk about making kidnapping a capital offense is, in my opinion, entirely out of place. To restore capital punishment for any crime less than murder in the first degree would be a distinct step backward. The tendency everywhere is just the other way. Instead of increasing the number of crimes punishable by death the movement is to abolish the death penalty altogether. I have no sympathy with kidnapping or kidnappers, but believe they should be promptly and effectively dealt with by means of a good, stiff penitentiary sentence, but with a death penalty attached it would be impossible to convict them before a jury if they were apprehended. Even the optional death penalty, to be determined by a jury, would not accord with modern ideas. I expect to see some legislation enacted on kidnapping, but the death penalty will, in my judgment, be cut out."

W. H. Barger of Hebron was in the city several days last week in attendance on the state board of agriculture. As a member of a committee appointed to push a bill through the legislature to prevent the destruction of game birds that are of great benefit to the farmer, Mr. Barger called on members of the legislature. He is strongly opposed to the indiscriminate killing of birds. With several state societies and all the state and national sportsmen's organizations behind this bill it is believed that it stands a good show of becoming a law. It should become a law. When one considers that \$30,000 worth of game is shipped out of the state yearly it ought to urge him to call a halt on the indiscriminate killing of game in the state, and support a measure calculated to preserve for home enjoyment the fin, fur and feathered game of the state.

The combined appropriation in these two bills is from \$10,000 to \$25,000 less than has been given by the legislature at former sessions and if this saving can be made good to the end of the session the credit will be with the legislature. Whether the amount will be sufficient is not yet known. The reduction was made mostly in the amount for incidental expenses. Formerly from \$40,000 to \$55,000 was appropriated, whereas this session has started with an appropriation of \$30,000.

The following are the amounts: For the years 1897 and 1899, \$90,000 for salaries and \$40,000 for incidental expenses; for 1893, \$85,000 for salaries and \$55,000 for incidental expenses; for 1895, \$85,000 for salaries and \$40,000 for incidental expenses.

Governor Dietrich appointed H. E. Stewart of Omaha to the position of superintendent of the state institute for the deaf and dumb in that city. Mr. Stewart served several terms as a teacher in the Omaha institute and is now engaged in a similar capacity in the Iowa state deaf and dumb school at Council Bluffs, although he maintains his residence in the Nebraska metropolis. He was highly recommended to Governor Dietrich, among his indorsers being Former Superintendent Gillespie.

At their meeting last Monday the presidential electors of Nebraska cast their votes for William McKinley for president and for Theodore Roosevelt for vice president.

The competition for the post of messenger to carry the vote to Washington enlisted almost as many candidates as the senatorial contest. The messenger would have the honor of delivering the returns that reflect the most significant victory of the whole presidential campaign.

The apportionment bills that have already been introduced by various members of their own accord as the product either of their own figuring or of some mathematical constituent all strike terror to the representatives in various districts that are being shifted around like pawns on a chess-board. The apportionment committees will have to take these bills and work them out anew into some apportionment bill, when it comes up for final action, will have to be brought before the caucus and made a caucus measure.

"A great many people want to know," said Chairman Lindsay of the republican state committee, "when the bill favored by the committee will be forthcoming, and have taken it as a matter of course that the committee or its officers will prepare an apportionment bill. I do not believe this is one of the duties of the committee, and if we did prepare one it would have no more claim for the support of the republican members than any of them. I believe, however, that the matter is so important that it should be delegated to a committee of representative men familiar with all parts of the state and with the political complexion in various counties. They might be members of the legislature or might be outsiders called in to assist with advice, but they should proceed only after the most careful investigation and consultation with the interests of every section. The trouble with most of the bills prepared by the individual members is that while they strike it all right in their immediate localities, they fly wide of the mark in more distant parts of the state. The next apportionment will have to hold good for at least three legislatures to come and it is of great importance to the people generally."

There is nothing but praise heard for the state senate's action in the Douglas county contests in seating the two fusion senators whose seats were contested. It shows that it is possible for a republican legislature to act without political bias, which is more than the fusionists did four years ago with the same opportunity. There were evidences of fraud, but it was a question whether that fraud was sufficient to have changed the result.

The former secretary of the state banking board and chairman of the democratic state committee has accepted a position as cashier in a well-known national bank at Lincoln, although as a good Bryanite he has been denouncing national banks right along. The national bank is a bad thing when a popocrat is in office, but becomes a good thing when it offers him a lucrative position.

Nebraska is once more to the fore with the fine achievement of Consul Church Howe at Sheffield, in allaying a disturbance raised by the exporters there against the consular office. With his inborn natural diplomacy Consul Howe has stilled the troubled waters and restored serenity all around. All Uncle Sam need do when confronted with turbulent conditions abroad is to draw on Nebraska for more consuls.

The state senate will probably have an opportunity during the coming week to confirm several gubernatorial appointments. The populist governors assumed to make their appointments without regard to the confirmation of the senate, holding back the commissions until after the legislature had adjourned. There was no good reason why the constitution should have been suspended for the benefit of populist officeholders.

The Pigman-Beam contest was before the house committee on privileges and elections the latter part of last week, an attempt being made to reopen it. The committee took no action, as it had already decided not to unseat Beam or to go into a recount. The committee's action is interpreted to mean that the case is definitely settled.

Governor Dietrich on January 17 signed two appropriation bills, one setting aside \$85,000 for salaries of members, officers and employes, and one appropriating \$30,000 to pay incidental expenses of the legislature.

The legislators lost no time in passing those bills which appropriated money to pay them their salaries. Bills of this character never have to have a passport to get through the lines.

Governor Dietrich has appointed Dave Shannahan of Omaha grain inspector for that city. The station at Omaha is a fairly good paying office and several applicants were after the position.

New Way to Ship Bananas. An American in Jamaica has built a plant for evaporating bananas. The thoroughly ripe fruit is placed in a heated oven for not more than forty-eight hours, during which time the sugar crystallizes. It takes six pounds of fresh bananas to make one pound evaporated. The process prevents decay and cuts down freight charges.

Train Robbery Recalled.

The overland train was robbed by Jack Brady and others of \$50,000 on the Yolo side, near Sacramento, Oct. 11, 1894. Part of the stolen money was found by a tramp who was taken in charge by officers Aug. 29, 1895.

Abandoned Farms Taken Up.

The "abandoned" farms of Massachusetts are fast being taken up. Three years ago there were 330 thus classed in the state. A recent enumeration shows there are now but 136.

RULES IN PHILIPPINES

Public Discussions of Proposed Measures Held in Manila.

NATIVES TAKING PART IN THEM

Taxation the First Subject—Land to Bear Its Share of Burdens Instead of Assessments on Industry—Putting Matters to Rights.

MANILA, Jan. 19.—The public discussion of the general code of government for municipalities began today. Commissioner Dean C. Worcester outlined the bill and compared the conditions from the general orders of the military governor, under which many local governments were operating. Commissioner Worcester offered two amendments, disqualifying from voting and holding office men who violate their oath of American allegiance or who remain in armed opposition after February.

The commissioner elucidated the taxation features, referring to the benefits of taxing lands and buildings as against the present special taxes on occupations and industries. One-fourth of the proceeds of real estate assessments will be devoted to public schools.

Municipal councils are authorized to license theaters, places of liquor selling, public conveyances, hotels and cock fighting, or to prohibit cock fighting for the first year, until the tax collections are available.

Half of the internal revenue of each municipality will be paid into the municipal treasuries.

Commissioner Worcester did not enlarge on the section confining the exemption of church property to properties used exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes. This much discussed feature received the approval of the administration at Washington previous to the making public of the bill.

The bill centralizes considerable responsibility in the provincial governments, for the establishments of which another bill is being prepared.

The public discussion, which is taking place in the municipal hall, is proceeding by sections, the natives participating.

It is rumored that Aguinaldo visited his mother in Cavite province and narrowly escaped capture during the recent roundup of one of the villages in Cavite.

RULING ON BANKRUPT LAW.

A Matter in Which There Is Much Interest Among Business Men.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Argument was begun in the United States supreme court today in the case of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., appellants, against the Chicago Title and Trust company. The case involves the construction of the bankruptcy law and much interest is manifested in the proceeding among business men generally. The case comes to the supreme court from the circuit court of appeals from the Seventh circuit of the court, where it is ordered that the claim of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., creditors of Frank Bros., bankrupts, be disallowed on the ground that moneys paid by an insolvent to a creditor in the usual and ordinary course of business within four months preceding the date of the filing of a petition in bankruptcy by the insolvent constitutes a preference under sections 57c and 60a, and 60b of the bankruptcy act, irrespective of the fact that the creditor receiving such payment is not aware of the fact that his debtor is insolvent, or that a preference is thereby intended. On account of the conflict of decisions construing the mentioned sections of the bankruptcy act, great confusion has arisen and is likely to arise in the administration of bankrupt's estates until the pending case is adjudicated.

China Clinches Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A message was received today from Peking, dated last evening, stating that the Chinese plenipotentiaries had signed and delivered the protocol. This removes the last doubt that had arisen as to the sealing of the agreement, for it would not have been accepted by the Spanish minister, who is the dean of the corps, unless it bore all the seals and signatures necessary to give it full force.

Cattle Growers Organize.

SALT LAKE, Jan. 19.—The American Cattle Growers' association has been organized by the representatives of fifteen transmississippi states. The association is designed to fill the same field with reference to the cattle industry that is occupied by the National Wool Growers' association to the sheep industry. It is claimed that the men present at the meeting represented a capital running into the hundreds of millions. The temporary officers are all of Colorado. Adjournment was taken to a meeting to be held at Denver some time in March.

Is Not Coming to America.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 19.—Frickle Eloff, Kruger's grandson, is here from the Hague. He says: "Kruger has no intention of going to America at present, although pressed with invitations. He possibly might go later if he considered the interests of the Transvaal demanded it."

Amendment for Ft. Omaha.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Senator Thurston said that it was out of the question to tack on an amendment to the army bill providing for the utilization of old Fort Omaha as a military school. He has the matter in hand and had asked the leaders about the advisability of offering an amendment, but they advised against the measure as too likely to put the bill in jeopardy, and he, therefore, accepted the judgment of Chairman Hawley and members of the committee on military affairs.