

Mildred Trevanion

BY THE DUCHESS.

CHAPTER I.

"Of course, my dear George, if you wish very much to have these people here, they must be asked," said Lady Caroline, regarding her husband attentively through the handle of the tea-urn. The children had just left the room, so she thought it a good opportunity of finally learning his wishes on this subject without the intervention of Mildred's rather vehement opinions. "It is a dreadful nuisance," she said, "and I don't suppose they are the very nicest people in the world for the girls to know; but, if you see no way out of the difficulty, of course there is nothing more to be said."

"Nothing; it cannot be helped now at all events," Sir George returned, running his eyes ruefully over a letter which he held in his hand. "He was an old schoolfellow of mine, you know; and, when he expresses a wish to come and see me, what can I do but write and say how welcome he and his family will be?"

"Exactly so," assented Lady Caroline, "but it is a horrible bore for all that. And how they are to be amused is more than I can tell you. There is a son, is there not, and a daughter?"

"Yes, a son and a daughter. As to amusing them, the young gentleman will hunt, I suppose, and probably ruin one of my best hunters before he leaves; and the girl—oh, I should think she will do very well!" said Sir George, cavalierly. "Mildred will manage about that, and will get some fellows to meet her."

"How did he make his money?" Lady Caroline asked presently, and then began to think with dismay of what the whole countryside would say. It was eminently aristocratic, the countryside, and never had it as yet introduced within the sacred boundaries of its circle such a horror as a family polluted by trade.

"Cotton," answered Sir George briefly; and then indeed his wife felt that the cup of her affliction was full.

"If it only had been wine," she said, hopelessly. "I am sure I don't know what the Deverills will think; and of course the girl will be unbearable. Besides—with a sigh—"it will be such an additional expense."

"True," returned her husband, and the lines laid by care upon his face became more clearly defined; but, as I said before, darling, it can not be helped, so we must only make the best of it."

But Lady Caroline could not "make the best of it" just then, and so went out of the room to consult with Mildred, of whose sympathy she was certain, the girl being more opposed to the coming of their visitors than even she could be.

Seven children had blessed the marriage of Sir George Trevanion and Lady Caroline. First, there was Charles, the heir, a great, tall, good-looking fellow, with a careless, sweet temper—"as like his father at that age," said his mother, "as ever a boy could be." He was about twenty-six at this time, and held a commission in a cavalry regiment. After him came Florence, who resembled nobody in particular, and had married during her first season—very desirably indeed—a Mr. Talbot, of very prepossessing appearance—when he had any expression in his face, which was seldom—and the owner of considerable property about twelve miles from King's Abbott.

It was always a great source of comfort to Lady Caroline's anxious mind that Florence had "got off" so well before Mildred was old enough to make her bow to the world. Had Harry Talbot dallied in his love-making for two years longer—as some young men are in the habit of dallying—instead of coming to the point at once—like a much-to-be-applauded gentleman, as he was—Lady Caroline would not have answered for the consequences. Mildred, her father's darling, was so much more beautiful—such a slight, exquisite girl she appeared, with the darkest violet eyes and the most enviable golden hair imaginable.

And yet, in spite of all her beauty, she had not half the number of lovers her sister Mabel could count, who was barely eighteen, and not nearly so handsome, Mildred being cold and proud, and almost haughty in her manner to strangers. Pride of birth was the rock on which she stumbled. Any family without a pedigree, no matter how rich and how well received by society in general, was as an abomination in her sight.

In between these two came Eddie, who was about nineteen at this time, a merry, reckless fellow, handsome as an Apollo, and the acknowledged pet amongst all the women in the county, far and near, old and young.

Eddie and Mabel were something like each other, both being much darker than the rest of the family, who were rather Saxon in their general appearance. Mabel, or "Queen Mab," or "the queen," as she was indiscriminately called, on account of a little stately walk she had that contrasted funnily with her face and manner, which were gay in the extreme, had dark eyes of a soft hazel, and hair nut-brown to match. She was quite as tall as her sister, and, though by no means as beautiful, was pretty enough to create a sensation anywhere. At eighteen she was an incorrigible flirt, but amiable and sweet enough to prevent her from

running into extremes, and causing uneasiness in the home circle.

For all that, however, calm Mildred was more the "hearth-angel" than she was. To her, as to her mother, came all the boys, with the numerous griefs and annoyances that usually beset a schoolboy's path. Charles was very fond of asking her advice, and Eddie believed most firmly in her wisdom, generally addressing her under the title of "Minerva." Her father and mother had few secrets from her, and even Florence, who was slightly self-sufficient and given to assert herself, at times, with astonishing boldness, had been known, on two or three occasions, to come all the way from Ryelands to ask Mildred's opinion upon certain subjects.

Mildred at home and Mildred abroad were very different persons. She was most capable of loving, but her unfortunate coldness of demeanor prevented this from being universally acknowledged. Only her own people knew her tender, loving heart, and returned her affection in kind.

There were two other boys, mere youngsters, named George and Ernest, who were at present undergoing the discipline of school in some distant shire.

Sir George had discovered, some years previously, that he was not as well up in this world's goods as a man had need to be with seven growing-up children. But at the time he had put the evil thought behind him and considered it no more, until about a year back, when several circumstances had happened again to force it upon his memory. Debts somehow had begun to accumulate of late years, and now began to declare themselves with very disagreeable openness. The family lawyer shook his head solemnly; and Sir George in self-defense went home, and having sold two of his favorite hunters most disadvantageously, walked about his farm, doing gloomy penance, and was across to his wife for the first time for a number of years.

But this state of things only lasted a very few days indeed, and at the end of that time, his third hunter having fallen lame, one of those disposed of was bought back again, at a very different price from that paid for it to Sir George, and presently the other followed suit; after which their master gave up the gloomy penance, to the great relief of the household at King's Abbott, who were considerably put out by it, and having kissed his wife, did not go round the farm for several days.

Lady Caroline of course soon discovered that they were in difficulties—indeed Sir George's face was incapable of concealing a secret—and these two women, in "mamma's" boudoir, discussing probabilities and improbabilities, and the selling of "papa's" hunters, until Mildred at length suggested that the annual visit to London should be given up—for this year at all events.

The Trevanions were determined also to follow up their lately begun economical designs by having a quiet autumn and winter at home, and had actually made up their minds, with Spartan heroism, not even to invite their usual number of friends for the hunting season at King's Abbott, when there reached them the unlucky letter from the Younges, saying how much the head of the family desired to see the friend of his boyhood—namely, Sir George.

This letter put a full stop to all their plans, and was looked upon as a brain-blow in more ways than one, as not only did it insure an expensive winter, but, what was worse, upon examination it was discovered that these friends of Sir George's youth were most disreputable in their antecedents, having been in trade. A cotton merchant! It sounded horrible! Cotton could not possibly mean anything but low birth, and low birth of course meant vulgarity.

Lady Caroline groaned in spirit, and thought dismally of what the Deverills and the Blounts and the Stanleys would say, finally going off to consult with her prime minister Mildred.

"It is all over," she began; "they must be asked."

"I never heard of such a thing in my life," said Miss Trevanion. "It is perfectly indecent—their asking themselves here. But what can one expect from such people? Good gracious, mamma, fancy a cotton merchant! It quite makes me shiver. How many of them are there?"

"Four," answered her mother. "Father, mother, daughter and son."

"Any more?" inquired Mildred, sarcastically.

"No, no more. Do you not think four too many?" asked Lady Caroline with surprise—never in her life, good soul, could she understand anything approaching sarcasm. "Of course, now they are coming, Mildred, we must only make the best of it, although I do wish it had been wine instead of cotton—it is so much more respectable—and I wish also that Miss Rachel Young and her brother were not coming."

"What is his name?" Mildred demanded.

"Denzil, I believe—yes, Denzil Young."

"What a pity they didn't call him 'Brigham' Young when they were

about it!" Miss Trevanion said; and then they both laughed.

"How can you be so absurd?" Lady Caroline exclaimed; afterward changing her tone to one of entreaty, she said, "But, really, you know, darling, we must be very civil to them, if only to please your papa. You will promise to be that, Mildred, will you not?"

"I suppose I could not go to Aunt Agnes for the next two months, could I?" Mildred asked, irrelevantly.

"Oh, Mildred!" cried poor Lady Caroline, tears coming into her eyes at the mere idea of being thus deserted in her need.

"I am a selfish wretch," declared Miss Trevanion, caressing her mother's hand and becoming penitent on the spot. "Of course, mamma, I will not leave you on any account in the hands of these terrible barbarians. I only said it half out of mischief and bad temper; why, you might be devoured by the time I got back! Have you told Mabel?"

"No, I came to see you first about it. What rooms shall we give them? The blue rooms, do you think, or the rooms in the western wing?"

"The blue rooms; they are the farthest off," said Miss Trevanion.

"Very good. I will tell Holland. Do you know they are coming on Friday, if—as Mr. Young says in his letter—we can conveniently receive them on that day? Dear me, Mildred, I wonder what they will be like, and how long they will stay?"

"Oh, as to what they will be like," said Mildred, toasting her pretty feet comfortably before the fire, and looking as wise as Solomon, "I can tell you that. The old man will be like a Yorkshire farmer, only worse, because he will have a strong dash of Manchester mixed with his turnips, and he will be always using horribly old-fashioned words, and he will be very attentive to you, and will probably call you 'mam.' And Mrs. Young will be large and fat and red, like the cook; and Miss Young will be a mincing, silly schoolgirl, ready to die with laughter at everything Mabel says; and 'Brigham' will be a—boor, of course."

"What will the county say?" ejaculated poor Lady Caroline, elevating her hands and eyes, perfectly aghast at the pretty picture her daughter had drawn. "Really, Mildred, I shall die of shame."

"That will not do a bit of good," returned Miss Trevanion; "and of course you must be prepared to hear the county say all manner of unpleasant things—that they do not know what Sir George could be thinking of to invite such people to his house, and that the said people are extremely disgusting, and so on."

"But for all that you will be kind and civil to them—will you not, Mildred, my love?" her mother asked again, anxiously watching the girl's proud, beautiful face.

"Oh, yes, I will be civil to them," Miss Trevanion said; and then she kissed her mother and went out of the room.

(To be continued.)

Sidney Smith's Sneer.

If Sidney Smith were alive today he would realize that in the last eighty years of the century just closed considerable progress had been made in this country—more perhaps than in any country in the civilized world. It was only in 1820 that, in one of his savage attacks on our people, in the Edinburgh Review, he sneeringly asked: "In the four quarters of the globe, who reads an American book? Or goes to an American play? Or looks at an American picture or statue? What does the world yet owe to American physicians or surgeons? What new substances have their chemists discovered or what old ones have they analyzed? What new constellations have been discovered by the telescopes of America? What have they done in the mathematics? Who drinks out of American glasses? Or eats from American plates? Or wears American coats or gowns? Or sleeps in American blankets?" The records of the nineteenth century show that these questions have been answered pretty conclusively to the British mind, if not always satisfactorily to the British pocket, remarks the Washington Star. Perhaps some snarler of the present period would like to submit another lot!

Markings on Mars.

Astronomers now agree that the markings on the surface of Mars form a complete network of narrow, straight lines crossing the entire face of the planet in all directions, and are always visible. The narrowest are thirty to forty miles wide. Two hundred of these so-called canals have been charted. Many observers believe them to be stretches of land darkened annually by vegetation and laid out in strips to facilitate irrigation. It is supposed from the unity in the design of the network that the inhabitants of Mars are under one government and are highly skilled in the engineering demanded by the fact that the planet is entirely without rainfall. Students in hydraulics expect great things from the continued study of Mars.

Tenant Swindled Children.

A man living in a tenement in Battersea, London, told the children of the neighborhood that the penny-in-the-slot gas meter was a new and splendid bright red money box, specially designed to accommodate the savings of economical youngsters. On this assumption they cheerfully dropped their copper savings into the slot, and the ingenious deceiver burned the gas which cost him nothing. When the collector came and cleared away all the pennies the chagrin of the children was intense.

A SETTLED QUESTION.

IS THE TARIFF NO LONGER OPENED TO CONTROVERSY?

Dangers of Too Much Confidence Demonstrated by the Fact That Protection's Enemies Are Only Biding Their Time for Another Attack.

Overconfidence is a more subtle but a scarcely less dangerous evil than is lack of confidence. It has betrayed the American people more than once. Because the country has been prosperous so long, because its prosperity had grown continually greater, the majority of us got to imagining that we would go on being prosperous, no matter what we did or what policy we adopted. The people began really to believe that business and politics had little or nothing to do with each other, and so they voted for a change in 1892. We have gotten over that folly now and are not likely to make the same mistake again. But our overconfidence is laying another trap for us. This time it takes the form of saying that the tariff question is settled, that there is no need of counting that as an issue any more. Only a few days ago the New York Sun said editorially:

"The tariff question has been removed from controversy, and practically has settled itself. * * * This policy of developing American industry has received a practical vindication so complete that there remains only feeble academic opposition to it. Politically it is accepted by all parties. It did not provoke controversy in either of the two last national campaigns."

The Sun forgets, apparently, that the platform of the Democratic party adopted at Kansas City last July denounced the Dingley tariff law. It forgets, apparently, that Mr. Bryan, the late Democratic candidate for the presidency, is still on record as declaring that a protective tariff is vicious in principle, or it would not say that politically protection has been "accepted by all parties." The editor of the Sun must have been curiously unobservant of the words and writings of many political writers besides Mr. Bryan; he must have skipped many things in recent editions of many papers which must be on his exchange table, his neighbor, the Times, among the number, if he thinks that the only opposition to protection is either feeble or academic.

There can be no doubt in the mind of any person of sense or judgment of the fact that the American people are, by an overwhelming majority, in favor of the system of protection. So far as belief goes, the tariff is settled; but not all the free traders are by any means convinced. They are only biding their time, and not until denunciations of protection are eliminated from all political platforms, both state and national; not until the leaders of all the political parties are men who stand on a protection record will the tariff question be no longer a political issue. The policy of protection is safe enough if a little guarding is done, but no policy and no principle is safe if its friends forget it. Its enemies will not be so forgetful, and the Sun and every other protectionist paper which is inclined to think that the tariff is no longer an issue in politics and needs no further defending will do well to remember that the enemies of protection are always watchful. The tariff is settled for all time in favor of protection only if the protectionists of the country see to it that they are equally watchful.

IT HAS STOOD THE TEST.

Englishmen Beginning to Recognize the Value of Protection.

Not the least important among the results of the recent election is the emphatic indorsement of protection as a national policy. After the two trials of a different policy under Mr. Cleveland, the first election of Mr. McKinley was a distinct verdict in favor of a return to protection. His re-election emphasized that verdict, for while the tariff was not the paramount issue it cut an important figure. This second verdict of the people means that for many years to come protection will be the fixed policy of this government.

It will be strange if the extraordinary prosperity of the United States under this policy does not have an effect abroad. It used to be the fashion of British statesmen, followed by their American free trade imitators, to deem protection as unscientific, opposed to sound economic laws, crude in theory and hurtful in practice. They said it would surely give way before advancing intelligence and a better understanding of true economic principles. The present position of this country is an effective answer to those claims. A policy that has made the United States the most prosperous country on earth, the most dreaded rival of all other commercial countries and the prospective mistress of the world's markets cannot be disposed of by calling it unscientific or crude. The success of protection as demonstrated in the United States is one of the great commercial facts of the nineteenth century and likely to become still more prominent in the twentieth century.

There are special reasons why the success of the policy is likely to set British statesmen and the English people to thinking. The United States began the war with Spain with a full treasury, prosecuted it to a successful conclusion with the greatest ease financially, and is now about to make a large reduction in taxes. On the other hand, England had serious difficulty in financing the war in South Africa, and her chancellor of the exchequer is now recommending an increase of taxes. There is no resort as yet to new tariff duties, even for revenue. The proposed increase of taxes is on free trade lines

being an increase of income tax, stamp duties, taxes on wines, tobacco, tea, etc. But there is a limit to this kind of taxation, and some Englishmen are beginning to wonder why parliament does not try the method of raising revenue that has proved so easy and successful in this country. A writer in the "National Review," referring to the coming needs of the government for naval armaments, etc., asks, "Whence are we to get the millions that will be needed if our national position is to be rendered secure?" He characterizes free trade as a political fad of the past and says: "A tariff offers us at once a means of raising funds or naval armaments, or obtaining allies and of weakening the enemies who are plotting our fall." It will be hard to overcome British conservatism to the extent of substituting protection for free trade as a government policy, but stranger things have happened. England has condescended to learn a good many things from America in recent years and it may be the unexampled prosperity of this country under protection will finally convince them that it is not such a crude and unscientific theory after all. Meanwhile the United States will adhere to it and continue to make its splendid results an object lesson to other nations.—Indianapolis Journal.

A REPUBLICAN TRIUMPH.

What Sound Principles Have Done for American Trade.

The present era of American prosperity, which has attracted general attention throughout the world, is identified with a Republican tariff. American manufacturers are going forth to every continent, and those who purchase them are not troubled in the least about the Dingley law. Under a system of moderate protection our manufacturers and artisans have advanced until they are able to supply to foreign markets a better article at more favorable prices than can be obtained elsewhere. Our goods go to old manufacturing centers abroad. Formerly a few American specialties were disposed of in Europe, but the demand has greatly broadened. This is the third year of the Dingley law. Our exports in 1900 were double those of 1888 and five times those of 1862. Exports per capita are \$19.42, against \$10.46 in 1870. Imports per capita are \$10.90, against \$11.96 in 1870. With total foreign exports in 1900 amounting to \$1,470,000,000 and exports of manufactures of \$440,000,000 a year, the whole list of free trade arguments is damaged beyond repair.

Supporters of a wise protective tariff meet the same old weapons whenever it is proposed to apply the principle to a new industry. The Democratic assault upon the beginnings of the tin plate industry was especially savage. Yet that branch of manufacture in the United States today is of immense extent and value. At the present time Democratic invective and ridicule are directed at the ship subsidy bill intended to revive and build up our merchant marine. The industry in Europe is subsidized and encouraged in every possible material way, yet the Democratic party contends that it is public robbery and favoritism to aid our own shipping, though it has been cut down by protected competition to an insignificant total. The methods that have developed our enormous foreign trade and our manufactures will be equally effective when applied to our merchant shipping.—Port Townsend (Wash.) Leader.

GERMANY AND PROTECTION.

The fact of American prosperity under the protective policy of the Republican party is causing much talk in other countries. But the economic conditions existing in other or in old European countries are entirely diverse from those existing here. The German government has decided to yield to the demands of the Agrarians and to impose a protective tariff. The agitation has been long and persistent and the government yielded only with great reluctance. It is probable that a protective tariff will be imposed in the near future, which will put Germany theoretically upon the same plane as the United States in regard to foreign nations. Of course the Germans cannot expect the same benefits from a protective tariff as those enjoyed by this country. Germany does not produce enough meat and enough foodstuffs for her own population. The imposition of a protective tariff will, therefore, raise the price of meat and of breadstuffs to such an extent that the general public will suffer for the sake of increasing the profits of the Agrarians.—Wichita (Kan.) Eagle.

RACHEL STILL MOURNS.

The deposits of wage earners in our savings banks, under Cleveland and the robber Wilson tariff and free soup, decreased \$37,000,000 in 1894. During the last four years under McKinley, the Dingley protective tariff and the full dinner pail, their savings have increased \$500,000,000. And during all these four years of McKinley has gone up the piteous wail of Fifty-Cent Dollar Bryan, Anarchist Altgeld, Shotgun Tillman, Boss Williams and Gentle Blackmail Croker: "Oh, wage earners, wage earners, how often would we have relieved you of the grievous burdens of full dinner pails and savings for a rainy day, and ye would not. Behold, ye must bear these heavy loads as long as McKinley and vile protection piles them upon you!" Then George Fred further weepeth and mureth, "It is plain that Republican voters do not understand the dangers of the situation." And George refuseth to be comforted.

A good bale of cotton is worth \$9, against the former \$20, and the cotton seed, once a waste product, brings \$5 or \$10 to the bale.

Laxative Foods for Horses.

In the feeding of horses the owner must take into serious consideration the kind and amount of work to be done in making up a ration that will prove at once economical and nutritious. He can afford to feed in one way when the horse is idle or doing but light work but this feeding would be wrong and wasteful of animal tissues if the animal were at hard labor. The food at all times must supply a sufficient amount of material to maintain the horse without loss of weight. This is the food of maintenance. The latter food is sufficient if the animal be doing nothing but must be augmented whenever the animal is to perform labor or produce a healthy foetus. Where work is expected every day the bowels must be so regulated that nothing of value is lost. When the animal is idle work does not remove any surplus nutrients of the food not required for repair of tissue or actual maintenance. If the bowels in the latter condition should become constipated and the surplus matters be not removed through the kidneys and sweat pores the liver and kidneys become surcharged and the blood sluggish and impure. These facts show the importance of a right use of succulent food for horses. While the horse is working hard the succulent food is a positive injury in that it tends to remove undigested, as a result of laxity of the bowels, food nutrients that are daily required for formation of muscle supply or vim and vigor and in other words repair of tissue waste. Where on the other hand the horse is idle the succulent food may be and usually is required to overcome the tendency to constipation and its accompanying train of evils. In the former case the feeding of bran daily would be detrimental in the latter case it would be useful and profitable. The hard working horse keeps its bowels in condition by exercise and utilizes all of the food nutrients supplied him so long as his digestive organs are kept in good condition. If he be fed bran daily he will continually suffer from what may be called subacute indigestion and fail to derive the proper amount of nourishment from the sound oats given him in addition to the bran. When Sunday arrives, however his wonted exercise is stopped and he is unable to throw off the surplus food nutrients not needed by work. If he has been daily fed bran he will now be liable to suffer from acute indigestion if given a bran mash. This being the case the feeding of a bran mash to a horse that has been taking dry bran throughout the week is a dangerous practice. Where the hard working horse not fed upon bran but getting large quantities of oats during the week is given a bran mash on Saturday night the effect will be good and the practice is to be commended. Occasional bran mashes are also excellent for idle horses when fed upon corn, and a small quantity of bran will make the crushed oats feed to colts more effective. We say these things for the reason that bran causes opening of the bowels by irritating the bowels. It does not give a great amount of nutrients although its analyses would lead one to suppose that it was even more nutritious than oats. It is indigestible and passes through the intestines in many cases wholly undigested. It acts as a laxative for the reason that it is a foreign body, and is thrown off as useless by the irritated intestines. For this reason it is an excellent preparation for a physic ball as when fed in the shape of a bran mash without any other food for two or three feeds the bowels are opened up somewhat and rendered fit for the purgative effects of an aloes ball. Carrots act in a somewhat different manner. They do not prove laxative on account of any irritating effect but on account of real succulence and have the special power of acting nicely upon the pores of the skin. They may be fed to a horse in poor condition when bran would only aggravate the impoverishment. Roots are relished by horses and digestible but bran must be fed with caution.

Live Stock Items.

Consignments to the sheep pens at the Chicago stock yards last Saturday included a band of 604 seventy-pound Angora goats that sold for \$3.30 per hundred.

The demand for sheep in the Chicago live stock market is well sustained, especially for choice mutton sheep suitable for the export trade. There is also a call for lambs but at prices \$1.00 to \$1.25 lower than last year at this season.

Lambs are selling fairly well at Chicago. The closing prices for the week ending January 19 were 10 cents higher than the previous week. Prime native lambs and lots from the alfalfa sections of Colorado brought \$5.50. This, however, is 65 cents below last year's best price at this period. Feeding lambs are not going off very rapidly, at prices ranging from \$4.00 to \$4.50. It is interesting to note that Colorado's first shipment of lambs arrived this year three weeks earlier in the season than last year. The crop from that state is said to be of a quality that has never been excelled.

Otto Franc, a prominent cattleman of Meeteetse, Wyo., is quoted by the Omaha Journal as saying: "Ours used to be a great cattle country, but it is mostly sheep now, and they are driving out the cattle. On my range there used to be 20,000 head of cattle, but I can only keep now 1500 breeding cows and ship the increase when they are yearlings. We cattlemen have got into the habit of raising alfalfa and timothy hay and feeding our stock through the winter, allowing the sheepmen to have the winter range. There are now probably a million sheep on the range which my neighbors and myself formerly used for 40,000 cattle. As we have less cattle we are breeding them up rapidly and improving the quality."