

## PROLOGUE.

A young man and a beautiful young woman, lost and alone in a wilderness for months, half starved and in daily peril of death from wild beasts and still more savage Indians-this is the central theme of the most fascinating romance that has come from Emerson Hough's pen. Read and you will learn how love came to them; how they conducted themselves in this trying, unconventional situation; how the man's chivalry and the woman's purity held them steadfast to the ideals of civilization, and how the strange episode brought tragedies, estrangements Ings? No! But what is to become of and happiness.

#### CHAPTER XXII.

### Ellen or Grace.

HAVE never met any of the Meriwethers," said Grace Sheraton. "Will you gentlemen present me?"

I had assisted her to alight, and at that time a servant came and stood at the horse's head. Stevenson stepped back to the door, not having as yet mentioned my presence there. There came out upon the gallery as he entered that other whose presence I had for some moments known, whom I knew within the moment I must meet -Ellen!

By EMERSON HOUGH soul

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Still her small hands beat together softly, but she would not cry out, she would not exclaim, protest, accuse. I went on with the accusation against myself.

"I did not tell you. I had and have no excuse except that I loved you. I am here now for my punishment. You two shall decide it."

At last Ellen spoke to my flancee. 'It is true," said she. "I thought myself engaged to Mr. Cowles. I did not know of you-did not know that he had deceived me too. But fortunately my father found us before it was too late.

"Let us spare ourselves details," rejoined Grace Sheraton, "He has wronged both of us."

"Yes, he has done wrong," I heard Ellen say. "Perhaps all men do. do not want to know. Perhaps they are not always to blame. I do not want to know.

The measure of the two women was there in those words, and I felt it.

"Could you want such a man?" asked Grace Sheraton bitterly. I saw Ellen shake her head slowly. I heard her lips answer slowly. "No." she said. "Could you?"

I looked to Grace Sheraton for her answer, and as I looked I saw a strange and ghastly change come over her face. "My God!" she exclaimed, riage." reaching out her hand against a tree trunk to steady herself. "Your leavme7"

"You wish him?" asked Ellen. "You are entirely free. But now, if you please, I see no reason why I should trouble you both. Please, now, I shall g0.

But Grace Sheraton sprang to her side as she turned. I was amazed at her look. It was entreaty on her face, not anger! She held out her bands to Ellen, her face strangely distorted.

And then I saw Ellen's face also change. She put out her hand in turn. "There," she said, "time mends very much. Let us hope"- Then I saw her throat work oddly, and her words stop.

which women exchange thought. I as greatest of our great men. We did "By heaven, there's only one meaning saw the two pass a few paces apart. not know him in our valley. All of us that I can guess. You, sir, what's saw Grace Sheraton stoop and whisper something. It was her last desperate resource. It won, as courage should, or at least as much as a lie may win at any time. for it was a bitter, daring, desperate. shaming lie she whispered to Ellen. As Ellen's face turned toward me again I saw a slow, deep scorn invade it. "If I were free," she said to me, "if you were the last man on earth, I would not look at you again. You deceived me, but that was only a broken word and not a broken life! This gir! -indeed she may ask what will become of her!" "I am tired of all these riddles." I broke out, my own anger now arising shot in the street, and we can bear it and myself not caring to be made thus sport of petticoats. "Your duty is clear," went on my new accuser, flashing out at me. "If you have a trace of manhood left, then you! let the marriage be at once-tomorrow. How dare you delay so long?" She choked in her own anger, humiliation, you this morning, sir. From my scorn-I know not what, blushed in her own shame. Orme was right. I have always been a stupid ass. It took me moments to grasp the amazing truth, to understand the daring stroke by which Grace Sheraton had won her game. It had cost her much. I saw her standing there trembling, tearful, suffering, her eyes wet. She turned to me, waiting for me to save her or leave her damned.

Ellen turned to pass back toward glad as I am-that I know." the door. "Your pardon!" I exclaimed But Dr. Bond did not seem glad. to Grace Sheraton, and sprang after He paused, looking strangely at me and at our host. "Harry," said he,

"Goodby," I said, and held out my hand to her, "Let us end all these aeroles and co our best. Where is clae case." your husband? I want to congratulate him.

"My husband!" she said in wonder. and presently joined us again. What do you mean?"

"Belknap"- I began,

"Ah," she said bitterly. "You rate me low, as low as I do you." "But your father told me himself you two were to be married." I broke out, surprise, wonder, dread, rebellion, now in every fiber of my body and

"My father loves me dearly," she replied slowly. "But he cannot marry ne until I wish. No, I am not married, and I never will be. Goodby!"

I did not see Colonel Meriwether. He passed on through to his sert in Albemarle without stopping in our valley longer than overnight. Part of the next morning I spent in writing a letter to my agents at Huntington, with the request that they should inform Colonel Meriwether at once on the business situation, since now he was in touch by mail. The alternative was offered him of taking over my father's interests through these creditors, accepting them as partners or purchasing their rights or of doing what my father had planned to do for him, which was to care individually for the joint account, and then to allot each partner a dividend interest, carrying a clear title.

All these matters I explained to my mother. Then I told her fully what had occurred at the village the night previous between Ellen Meriwether and my fiancee. She sat silent.

"In any case," I concluded. "it would suit me better if you and I could leave this place forever and begin again somewhere else."

She turned to me slowly, with a smile upon her face. "Whatever thee us this minute-a moment like this, says," was her answer. "I shall not you know." ask thee to try to mend what cannot

be mended. Thee is like thy father." thee. Go, then, thy own way. Only hear me, thee cannot mend the un- hear me? Get out!" mendable by such a wrongful mar-

But I went, and under my arm I bore a certain roll of crinkled, hairy parchment.

This was on the morning of Wednesday, in November, the day following thing proper here. What's wrong, doctor? Is my girl sick?" the national election in the year 1860. News traveled more slowly then, but we in our valley might expect word from Washington by noon of that day. hair slowly. If Lincoln won, then the south would secede. Two nations would inevitably be formed, and, if necessary, issue would be joined between them as soon as the leaders could formulate their plans for war. Our state was divided. our valley especially so, peace sentiment there being strong. Few of us there, whether Unionists or not, had much better than contempt for the un- further word. "Curse you," he thuncouth man from the west, Lincoln, that dered, "explain yourself or I'll make

most pathetic figure of our history, you wish you had! What do you in?" He turned nercely upon me

# Local NeWs

Hon, E. C. Metzger of near My- Rawls' home. nard was a county seat visitor S. L. Furlong, the weather seer "suppose you go look in the hall for yesterday afternoon.

vening on No. 2.

Orson sharp of Eagle, who has returning via Omaha. been an attendant at the institute "How's the girl? She ought to be with yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Gilmore of Murray motored after the week-end shopping.

J. E. Wiles and wife returned the Epworth Assembly.

A marriage license was issued business, vesterday in Omaha to Carl

arrived from Omaha on the morn- tauqua. ing train today and will visit time.

daughter, Marie, returned from ing. California this morning, arriving on No. 4, after an absence of several weeks.

George Melzmuelker arrived from Buffalo, New York, yesterday afternoon and will visit his aunt, Mrs. George Wagner, for a few months.

Omaha passengers this morning to a circus.

boarded the early train for Omaha to her home this afternoon, this morning, to take in the Ringling show.

tournament. seems to me I'm interested in every-

> and Richard Cromwell, Weeping night. Water tennis players, returned to their homes yesterday afternoon, nesday night.

J. J. Lohnes went to Omaha "No. sir. It belongs to another profession," said Dr. Bond dryly, taking this morning to accompany his snuff and brushing his nose with his son, Harry, home from the hospital. Harry has had a serious Colonel Sheraton looked at him for seige of sickness, caused by the space of a full minute, but got no coughing a kernel of corn into his windpipe and drawing it into his lung.

Superintendent A. H. Water-

W. S. Smith and wife of Murray

are in the city, guests of the

of Rock Bluff's, was in the city to-John Gorder drove in from his day and registered at the Perkins. arm yesterday and boarded the L. J. Mayfield, editor of the train for Omaha, returning last Louisville. Ourier, transacted business in the county seat today,

Crede Harris of near Union this week, returned to his home drove to the county seat today and visited with friends and looked

up from that village this morning Creamer and Mrs. Yardley of near Homer Shrader, Mrs. Charles and looked after some business Murray were in the city today and dined at the Perkins.

J. D. Lewis and wife and son. from Lincoln this morning, where Wayne, of near Union, were they have been in attendance at Plattsmouth visitors today, Mr. Lewis having been called here on

Miss Viola Haynie departed for Weideman and Geneva E. Roberts, Glenwood on the afternoon train both of Greenwood, Cass county. today, where she will visit friends James Hunter and wife and babe for a week and attend the chau-

Mrs. John Livingston and chil-Plattsmouth relatives for a short dren, who have been visiting her sister, Mrs. Beins, at Havelock for James Robertson and wife and a short time, returned this morn-

> W. Moreland and family of Anita, Iowa, who have been visiting his brother, E. W. Moreland and family, for a few days, returned to their home on the morning train today.

Miss Bessie DellesDernier, who has been attending the institute for a week while visiting Miss A. S. Will, wife and family, and Jessie Fox, returned to her home Mrs. Wymer of Virginia were in Elmwood yesterday afternoon. Miss Gretchen Boeck of South to take in the Ringling circus. Omaha, who has been attending This is Mrs. Wymer's first visit the County Teachers' Institute in this city for the past week, be-

Otto Puls and wife drove in ing a guest at the home of Mr. from Mount Pleasant precinct and and Mrs. Henry Boeck, returned

F. H. Speck and wife and two daughters motored over from Ray Hitchman returned to his Weeping Water with Bert Philpot home at Weeping Water Wednes- yesterday afternoon and will day afternoon, having spent a spend Sunday with Plattsmouth couple of days here in the tennis relatives. Bert came for the M. W. A. orchestra, which played for Leslie Dunn, Ralph Girardet the Weeping Water ball last

For good, cheap lands in western Nebraska write C. B. Schleichhaving remained over for the er, Brady, Neb. 640 acres in each smoker at the Morgan home Wed- place. Can locate several parties close together. 7-29-1mo.

> Hay fever and asthma make August a month of intense suffering to many people. Foley's Honey and Tar Compound gives prompt ease and relief, and is soothing and healing to the inflamed membranes. Wm. M. Merethew, N. Searsport, Me., says: "A few doses of Foley's

> > D. C. Bybee, teaming contract-



my saddle bags. I have left my medi-

The young man turned, but for no

reason apparently, stopped at the door

"May I ask for Miss Grace this morn-

"Yes." interjected Colonel Sheraton.

ing, doctor?" I began politely.

Her eyes fell upon me. She steppe back with faint exclamation, leaning against the wall, her hands at her cheeks as she stared. I do not know after that who or what our spectators were. I presume Stevenson went on into the house to talk with Colonel Meriwether, whom I did not see at all at that time.

The first to speak was Grace Sheraton. Tall, thin, darker than ever, It seemed to me, and now with eyes which flickered and glittered as I had never seen them, she approached the girl who stood there shrinking. "It is Miss Meriwether? I believe I should know you," she began, holding out her hand.

"This is Miss Grace Sheraton." said to Ellen, and stopped. Then I drew them both away from the door and from the gallery, walking to the shadows of the long row of elms which shaded the street, where we would be less observed.

For the first time in my life I saw the two together and might compare them. Without my will or wish ] found my eyes resting upon Ellen. Without my will or wish, fate, nature, love, I know not what, made selection.

Ellen had not as yet spoken. "Miss Sheraton," I repeated to her finally, "is the lady to whom I am engaged to be married."

The vicious Sheraton temper broke bounds. There was more than half a sneer on my flancee's face. "I should easily know who this lady is," she said.

Ellen, flushed, perturbed, would have returned to the gallery, but I raised my hand. Grace Sheraton went on. "An engagement is little. You and he, I am advised, lived as man and wife, forgetting that he and I were already pledged as man and wife."

"That is not true!" broke in Ellen, her voice low and even. She at least had herself in hand and would tolerate no vulgar scene.

"I could not blame either of you for denying it."

"It was Gordon Orme that told her." I said to Ellen.

She would not speak or commit herself, except to shake her head and to and slow of wit. I, John Cowles, withbeat her hands softly together as L out thinking so far as the swift consehad seen her do before when in distress.

"A gentleman must lie like a gentleman," went on Grace Sheraton mercilessly, "I am here to congratulate you both."

I saw a drop of blood spring from. Ellen's bitten lip.

"What she says is true," I went on to Ellen. "It is just as Gordon Orme, told your father and as I admitted to you. I was engaged to be married to Miss Sheraton, and I am still so engaged." to write the second

I could not declare against the woman who had thus sworn against me. With horror I saw what grotesque injustice was done to me. I broke out told."

into a horrible laughter. I had said that I had come for my punishment, and here it was for me to take. I had told Orme that one day I

would pay him for my life. Here, now, was Orme's price to be paid! If this girl had not sinned with me she had thereabout, bachelor, benefactor, man done so by reason of me. It was my of charity, despite his lancet, his quifault, and a gentleman pays for his fault in one way or another. There seemed to me, I say, but one way in which I could pay, I being ever simple quences, must now act as the shield of the girl who stood there trembling, the girl who had confessed to her rival her own bitter sin, but who had lied as to

her accomplice in her sin. "It is true," I said, turning to Ellen.

"I am guilty. I told you I deserved no mercy, and I ask none. I have not ing. Nothing in the least serious, of asked Miss Sheraton to release me from my engagement. I shall feel honored if she will now accept my hand. I shall be glad if she will set the date early as may be."

Night was now coming swiftly from the hills.

ater loved by north and south alike there, Unionists or secessionists, for peace or for war, dreaded to hear of his election

Colonel Sheraton met me at the door, his face flushed, his brow frowning. He was all politics. "Have you any news?" he demanded. "Have you heard from Leesburg, Washington?" "Not as yet," I answered, "but there should be messages from Leesburg within the next few hours." We had no telegraph in our valley at that time. "I have arranged with the postmaster to let us all know up here the instant he gets word," said Sheraton. "If that black abolitionist, Lincoln, wins, they're going to fire one anvit up this valley this far. If the south wins, then two anvils, as fast as they

can load. So, Mr. Cowles, if we hear a single shot it is war-war, I tell

"But come in," he added hastily, "I keep you waiting. I am glad to see daughter I learn that you have returned from a somewhat successful journey-that matters seem to mend for you. We are all pleased to learn it. I offer you my hand, sir. My daughter has advised me of her decision and your own. Your conduct throughout, Mr. Cowles, has been most manly, quite above reproach. I could want no better son to join my family."

"Colonel Sheraton," I said to him, 'my conduct has not been in the least above reproach, and your daughter has not told you all that she ought to have

A door opened at the side of the room, where a narrow stairway ran down from the second floor, and there appeared the short, stocky figure, the iron gray mane of our friend, Dr. Samuel Bond, physician for two countles uine and his calomel.

"Ah, doctor," began Colonel Sheraton, "here is our young friend back from his travels again. I'm going to tell you now, as I think I may without much risk, that there is every hope the Cowles family will win in this legal tangle which has threatened them lately-win handsomely too. You see, Mr. Cowles," he added to me, "Dr. Bond has stopped in as he passed by for a look at my daughter. Miss urace seems just a trifle indisposed this morncourse."

We all turned again as the front door opened. Harry Sheraton entered.

"Come, son," exclaimed his father, 'draw up, draw up with us. Pour us our two families, You, doctor, are Fricke & Co.

wrong?" I faced him fairly now. "I am so

"Yes," said the physician.

"She needs aid," said the old wire

"Can you not give it, then? Isn't

"What's wrong?"

that your business?"

immense red kerchief.

accused by her," I answered slowly. "What! What!" He stood as though frozen.

"I shall not lie about it. It is not necessary for me to accuse a girl of falsehood. I only say, let us have this wodding, and have it soon. I so agreed with Miss Grace last night."

The old man sprang at me, his eyes glaring about the room for a weapon. He saw it-a long knife with ivory handle and inlaid blade on the ledge where I myself had placed it when I last was there. Dr. Bond caught Colonel Sheraton and held him fast.

"Wait," I said. "Wait! Let us have it all understood plainly. Then let us take it up in any way you Sheratons prefer."

"Stop, I say!" cried the stern faced doctor, as honest a man, I think, as ever drew the breath of life. He hurled his sinewy form against Colonel Sheraton again as I released him. "That boy is lying to us both, I tell you. I say he's not to blame, and I know it. I know it, I say. I'm her physician, Listen, you, Sheraton, You

shall not harm a man who has lied like this, like a gentleman, to save you and your girl!" "Curse you both," sobbed the struggling man. "Let me go! Let me alone! Bidn't I hear him-didn't you hear

him admit it?" He broke free and stood panting in the center of the room, we between him and the weapon. "Harry!" he called out sharply The door burst open.

"A gun-my pistol-get me something, boy! Arm yourself. We'll kill these"-

"Harry," I called out to him in turn. "Do nothing of the sort! You'll have me to handle in this. Some things I'll endure, but not all things always. I swear I'll stand this no longer from all of you or any of you. Listen to me. Listen, I say. It is as Dr. Bond says." So now they did listen dully.

(To Be Continued.)

THE "PROGRESSIVE" PARTY.

Is the individual, man or wom-

an, who uses Foley Kidney Pills for backache, rheumatism, weak Baldwin St., Rochester, N. Y., says twice a day and massage the parts back, and other kidney and blad- Foley Kidney Pills gave him im- thoroughly at each application, der irregularities. Foley Kidney mediate relief and strengthened and you will get quick relief. For Pills are healing, strengthening, him wonderfully. "I have been sale by F. G. Fricke & Co. tonic, and quick to produce bothered with weak kidneys and beneficial results. Contain no bladder trouble and suffered much harmful drugs. Never sold in pain. Foley Kidney Pills gave me bulk. Put up in two sizes in seal- immediate relief and strengthen- Keith county, Nebraska, 7 miles ed bottles. The genuine in a yel- ed me wonderfully. I am pleased southeast of Ogalalla, the county a drink around, son, for the success of low package. For sale by F. G. to recommend their use."

house and Dr. Winship departed Honey and Tar Compound relieved for Omaha this afternoon. These me of a severe attack of asthma two eminent educators will meet and less than a bottle caused a again week after next at Clay Cen- complete cure." Refuse subter for institute work. Dr. Win- stitutes. For sale by F. G. Fricke ship goes from here to Lebanon, & Co.

bury Jacks, P. Thackston, William fields, north of La Platte, this

county should not be raised.

ed president of the Inter-County association, which was a wise selection, as he is a genuine lover of clean sport.

George, son of Frank Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gustin of living west of town, rode off the end of the west bridge about 10 o'clock Wednesday night and plunged down, horse and all, for spent the day. Their daughter, He had attempted to go around a about twenty feet to the creek bed. Miss Merle, who has been attend- buggy just as they went on the ing the County Teachers' Institute bridge and although the horse in this city for the past week, will rolled over with him a couple of accompany them home this even- times, neither was hurt .- Nehawka News.

to this paper.

One of the most common ail-Dr. C. H. Ellsworth, Dentist, 16 Apply Chamberlain's - Liniment

Land for Sale!

160 acres good farm land in For seat. Will sell outright or ex-Frank Vallery. change.

ments that hard working people are afflicted with is lame back.

A Close Call.

Ohio, next week. Julius Pitz, W. T. Adams, As-

M. L. Friedrich, county commis- months in making. Mr. Pfleffer

ney trouble. His back pained and

terday morning. The weather My life and strength seemed to was too uncertain to permit their come back and I sleep well. I am remaining longer away from their now all over my trouble and glad business. Dr. Shannon was elect. to recommend Foley Kidney Pills." Try them. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

Elmwood and little Miss Marie McKenney of Peru, Neb., who is visiting at the Gustin home, motored to this city today and ing. Mr. and Mrs. Gustin were

pleasant callers at this office, Mr.

sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

**Guest at Gering Home.** Mrs. Henry Pfleffer of Phila-Brantner, Mural Parmele and Joe delphia arrived from San Fran-Peters struck out for the harvest cisco this morning and will be a guest of the Gering home on morning, expecting to get about North Sixth street for a time, Mrs. ten days work. They got their pfleffer is returning from a trip tickets for Omaha, intending to around the world, which she and walk down past the circus ground. her husband have been some

sioner, and H. M. Soennichsen, was called home a week ago on county assessor, were summoned urgent business, but will join his to the circus ground in Omaha wife here within a few days. today. After the show they ex-

pected to go to Lincoln to appear or, living at 669 Keeling Court, before the state board of equalization, to show cause why the Canton, Ill., is now well rid of a valuation of real estate in Cass severe and annoying case of kid-

Carl Day and Dr. Shannon, win- he was bothered with headaches ners of tennis matches in the and dizzy spells. "I took Foley

singles, defaulted on the finals Kidney Pills just as directed and and returned to their homes yes- in a few days I felt much better.

Gustin renewing his subscription