

HEZEKIAH

CHAPTER III. At Hopefield Manor.

SS HOLLISTER'S summons lay on my desk the next morning and was of the briefest, I was requested to wall at Hopefield Manor at 4 o'clock the following afternoon, being Thursday. A trap would meet me at Katowah, and it was suggested that I come prepared to spend the night, so that the condition of the flues might be discussed and any necessary changes planned during the evening. The note, signed Octavia Hollister, was written in a flowing hand on a wholly impeccable note sheet stamped Hopefield Manor, Katonah.

Before taking the train I sought Wigains by telephone at his office and at the Hare and Tortoise, where he lodged, but without learning anything as to his whereabouts. His office did not answer, but Wiggins' office had never been responsive to the telephone, so this was not significant. The more I considered his conduct during the recital of my visit to the Asolando the more I wondered, and in spite of my wish to ignore utterly Jewett's revelations as to Wiggins' summer abroad, I was forced to the conclusion that Jewett had not lied. I had known Wigins long, and this was the first time that I had ever been conscious of any withholding of confidence on his part, and on my own I had not merely confiled all my hopes and aims to him, But I had leaned upon him often in my perplexities. There was, indeed, a She Advanced at Once and Spoke My kind of boyish compact between us that we should support each other through all difficulties. His reserve Md. I knew, a diffident and sensitive nature, and it was wholly possible that If his affair with Cecilia Hollister had not prospered he had fled to his rauch there to wrestle in seclusion with his disappointment. My mind was busy with such speculations as I sped toward Katonah, where I found the trap from Hopefield Manor awaiting me.

"It's rather poor going over the hills; about five miles, sir," said the

driver as we set off.

This was the first week in October. There was just zest enough in the air to make a top coat comfortable. The team of blacks spoke well for Miss Hollister's stable, and the liveried driver kept them moving stendily, but eased the pace as we rose on the frequent slopes to the shoulders of the pleasant Westchester hills. Early frosts had already wrought their miracle in the foliage and the battle banpers of winter's vanguard flashed along the horizons. I rejoiced that my business, vexatious enough in many ways, yet afforded me so charming an onting as this.

Presently we climbed a hill that shouldered its way well above its fellows and came out upon a broad ridge. where we entered at once a noble gateway set in an old stone wall and struck off smartly along a fine bit of macadam. The house, the driver infermed me, was a quarter of a mile from the gate. The way led through a wild woodland, in which elms and viol chords maples predominated, and before this had grown monotonous we came abruptly upon an Italian garden, beyond city. My aunt chose the place with which rose the bouse. I knew it at once for one of Pepperton's sound perbest man in domestic Tudor, and the whole setting of Hopefield Manor the sanken garden, the superb view, the billowing fields and woodlands beyond -all testified to a taste which no igoo rant owner had thwarted. The house was Tudor, but in no servile sense. It was also Pepperton. I lifted my eyes treated as though I were the agent of with immediate professional interest to the chimneypots on the roof. It ocenred to me on the Instant that I had never before been called to retouch lished me upon a plane that was wholly any of Pepperton's work. Pep knew as much as I about flue construction. I had an immense respect for Pep, and me to be there, having tea, with no as my specializing in chimneys had business ahead of me but to be agreebeen a subject of frequent chaffing be- able. The fact that I had come to cortween us, I anticipated with a chuckle rect the distemper of their flues was the pleasure I should have later in atterly negligible. I remembered with had required my services.

did not diminish as I stepped within will not deny that I felt at ease. Miss the broad hall. Houses have their Hollister talked briskly as she made lazily in the great fireplace; there was have liquids of quite another sort."

The Siege of the Seven Suitors

MEREDITH NICHOLSON

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wood, but the smoke rose in the flue on thrusting in my hand I felt a good draft of air. I instinctively lady. knelt on the hearth and peered up, but saw nothing unworkmanlike-Pepperton was not a fellow to leave obvious mistakes behind him. But possibly that was not one of the recalcitrant fireplaces I had been called to inspect, and I rose and was continuing my en-



joyment of the beautiful room when I became conscious, by rather curious and mixed processes not wholly of the eye, that a young woman had drawn back the light portleres-they were dark brown, with borders of burnt orange-and stood gravely gazing at me. She held the curtains apart-the made, indeed, a kind of frame for her but as our eyes met she advanced at once and spoke my name.

"You are Mr. Ames. My aunt ex pected you. I regret to say that she is not in the house just now, but she will doubtless return for tea. I am her niece. Won't you sit down?"

As she found a seat for herself, I made bold to survey her with some particularity. She carried her fine height with beautiful dignity. She was a creature of grace, and it was a grace of strength, the suppleness and ease that mark our later outdoor Amer ican woman. She could do her mile over those hills-I was sure of that Her fine olive face, crowned with dark hair, verified the impression I had gathered from Jewett, that she was a woman of cultivation. She had read the poets; Dante and Petrarch spoke from her eyes. Cecilia was no bad name for her; she suggested heavenly harmo nies! And as for Jewett's story of Wig gins' infatuation, I was content.

She was talking meanwhile of the day and its buoyant air and of the tapestries hung in the woodlands in a voice deep with rare intimations of

"It's very quiet here. It doesn't seem possible that we are so near the care, and she made no mistake about it. Yes, the house was built by Mr. formances. Pepperton is easily our Pepperton, but not for us. My auni bought it of the estate of the gentle man who built it. This will be he first winter here."

Miss Hollister berself appeared. She greeted me without surprise and much as she might have spoken to any guest in her house. I had sometimes been a decorator's shop, or a delinquent plumber, by the people whom I served but Miss Hollister and her niece estab social, I was made to feel that it was the most natural thing in the world for telling him that at last one of his flues satisfaction that I had journeyed from town in a new business suit that made My good opinion of Miss Mollister the best of my attenuated figure, and own manner of speech, and Hopefield tea "It is not necessary for you te Manor spoke to all the senses in ac take ten if you don't care for it. Mr cents of taste and refinement. A serv- Ames," she said, as I rose and banded ant took my bag and ushered me into the first cup to Cecilia. "If you will

in the room the faintest scent of burnt "You are most generous, Miss Hot My bag had been opened and my Eikenbary.

lister. Ten will suffice for the moment. It is fitting that I should take things put out, so that, there being it here, it having been a weakness for more than an hour to pass before i tea as well as curiosity and chance that need dress for dinner, I went below threw me in your way at the Aso and explored the garden and wandered

"That absurd-that preparerous hole

She put down her cup and faced me continuing: "Mr. Ames, I will not deny that if it had not been for General

Glendenning's cordial indorsement of met your late father, I should not have invited you to my house on the occaslon to which you refer. My contempt for the Asolando and the things it stands for is beyond such language as a lady may use before the young. I fall back upon the privilege of my age to beg that you will hereafter give the Asolando a wide berth."

I laughed at her earnestness, but on turning toward Miss Cecilia I saw that she was placidly stirring her cup. It might be that one was not expected to manifest amusement in Miss Hollister's utterances, and I was anxious to adjust myself to the proper key in my in a perfectly mannerly fashion, and intercourse, no matter how brief it might be, with this remarkable old

In my embarrassment I rose and offered the bread and butter to Cecilla, who declined it. The austerity of her rejection rather unnerved me.

"I assure you, Miss Hollister, that I have no wish to become a habitue of the place," I said. "And yet you will pardon me if I repeat that, but for it, I should not now be enjoying the hospitality of Hopefield Manor."

She lifted her head from her cup and bowed, but I was immediately interested in the fact that her piece was speaking.

"I think Aunt Octavia is hard on the Asolando," she was saying. "Aunt Octavia is interested in the revival of romance, and romance without poetry seems to me wholly impossible

better way of restoring the race to its ancient vim and energy than by sending men back to the camp and field or to sail the high seas in new armadas. The men of this age have become a lot of sordid shopkeepers, and to my moral sense the looting of cities is far more ports were received from the honorable than the creation of trusts Various Guilds and organizations and the manipulation of prices, though and the parish treasurer, all I cannot deny that but for my late father's zeal in destroying his competitors in the baby buggy business we White was elected senior warden might not now be enjoying the deltcate fragrance of caravau tea."

"I assure you, Mr. Ames," said Cecilla, "that the Asolando is a very harmless place, and that as a matter of fact its aims are wholly consonant with those of Aunt Octavia. I myself served there for a time, and those were among the most delightful days of my life. There are times when I miss the Asolando."

presently in her crisp, direct fashion, property, located in the south which had the effect of leading me in portion of the city, through the fire from the castle?"

"I have every reason to think I am. Miss Hollister," I replied modestly.

tower, would you ride on indifferently people know about it. or pause and thunder at the gate?"

"White hands have never waved to description of the lands have never waved to me, save occasionally when I have gone a-riding in the Sixth avenue elevated, but it is my honest belief that scabbard if the hand ever waved from the fyled tower."

would have heard this avowal with weeks, some surprise, for no man's life had ever been tamer than mine. I am by nature timid, and fall but a little short for deliverance from battle, murder and sudden death cannot be too strongly expressed for me. My answer had, however, pleased Miss Octavia, and she clapped her hands with pleasure.

introducing myself to Mr. Ames at the back for summer school, seventh table from the door, in the seventh shop from Fifth avenue, I was led to a meeting with a gentleman I had been predestined to know."

peared and tald fresh logs across the gram was given during each sesstill smoldering fire. This I thought sion, would suggest to Miss Hollister the professional character of my visit, but the fire kindled readily, the smoke rose freely in the flue, and Miss Hollister partment at Rising City for next paid no attention to it. The merits of year. chain armor, I think it was, that held tening with respect to what, in my ig- meeting last Saturday evening at

knowledge on this recondite subject. "We dine at 7, Mr. Ames, and you may amuse yourself as you like until that hour. Cecilia, you may order dianer in the gun room tonight."

"Certainly, Aunt Octavia," Once more I glanced at the girl, hoping that some glimmer in her eyes would set me right and establish a common understanding and sympathy between us, but she was moving out of the room at her aunt's side. The man quiet title to some lots in the vilwho had tended the fire met me in the lage of Avoca was filed in the hall and, conducting me to my room, suggested various offices that he was ready to perform for my comfort. The house faced south, and my windows, midway of the east wing, afforded a Douglass of this city appears as fine view of the bills. The room was attorney for the plaintiff, large enough for a chamber of state, and its furniture was massive. A four poster invited to inxurious repose; half a dozen etchings by famous artistsa charming library. A fire smoldered touch the bell at your elbow son may Parrish and Van Elten among them- ing 6 in May, and a horse coming

hung upon the walls.

off along a winding path that stole with charming furtiveness toward a venerable orchard of gnarled apple trees From the height thus gained I looked down apon the house, and eaught a glimpse beyond it of one of the chain of takes, on which the westou, and the further fact that I had ern sun glinted goldenly. Thus seeing the house from a new angle I was impressed as I had not been at first by its size. It was a huge establishment. and I thought with envy of Pepperton, to whom such ample commissions were not rare. Pepperton, I recalled a little bitterly, had arrived, whereas I, who had enjoyed exactly his own training for the architect's profession, had falled at it and been obliged to turn my hand to the doctoring of chimneys. But as I reflected upon the odd circumstances of my being there my spirits rose. Miss Hollister was beyond question a singular person, but her whims were amusing. I felt that she was less cryptic than her neice, and the thought of Cecilia drove me back upon Jewett's story of Wiggins' interest in that quarter. I resolved to write to Wiggins when I got back to town the next day and abuse him roundly for running off without so much as goodby. That, most emphatically, was not like dear old Wiggins.

To Be Continued.)

AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

From Tuesday's Daity.

The annual parish meeting of "The age is decadent, and I know no St. Luke's parish was held at the hurch last evening after a shortmed form of even song. The rector, Rev. Allan G. Wilson, presided at the meeting and George II. Faller acted as secretary. Reshowing the parish is in excellent financial condition. Walter J. and George Dodge junior warden; Carl G. Fricke, treasurer, and C W. Baylor, secretary. Col. J. H. Thrasher was elected as vestryman for the ensuing church year

Thinks Advertising Pays.

From Tuesday's Dally. Mrs. W. J. Carstens, who has "Mr. Ames," began Miss Octavia been advertising her residence my anxiety to appear ready with an | columns of the Evening Journal swers to take a flattering view of my has just disposed of the place to own courage and resourcefulness, "Mr Anjon Vetisnek, who will remove Ames, are you equal to the feat of there with his family and make swimming a most under a shattering their future home. Mrs. Carstens is greatly pleased with the prompt Peters, one of the old residents results of the advertising and is "And if a white hand waved to you a firm convert to the theory that from the grilled window of the lonely to sell anything you must let the

CASS COUNTY ITEMS.

went to Verdon to fill the assist-My friends at the Hare and Tortoise and principal's place for two She leaves surviving her a hus-

was in Peru several days last A. J. Peters of Springfield, Joseph of being afraid of the dark. Prayers week visiting her daughter, Lucile. Noel Tyson has accepted a splendid position at Stanton for next year.

The senior class regrets very "Cecilia," she cried, "something told much the losing of Miss Lucile me that afternoon at the Asolando that Gass during the last quarter of

The Whittemore art studio of all drug stores, Omaha gave an excellent art exhibit here last Thursday, Friday As we talked further a servant ap and Saturday. An excellent pro-

> Mary Jameson has accepted a position in the intermediate de-

The Athenian and Ciceronian us for half an hour, Cecilia and I lis- Debating societies held a joint norance, seemed a remarkable fund of Philomathaen hall and were entertained with a vocal selection by Rachel Livingston.

> any of the Cass county students are looking forward to their spring vacation, which begins March 26.

Suit to Quiet Title.

Yesterday afternoon a suit to office of the district clerk. The title of the case is Jacob H. Conrad vs. E. G. Gray, et al. J. E.

For Sale.

A pair of horses-a mare com-6 in May. Inquire of Henry

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tion in the windows of Warga & Cecil a fine new 1913 model Exfinest machine of its kind that has construction of these kind of ma- and let me hear from you at once, chines and is equipped with all the conveniences for the drivers. The auto-cycle is a 7 horse power machine, but can develop 10 horse power, which makes a very fast machine. It is belt driven and is HEROLD WILLIAMS ELECTRIequipped with the improved Schebler carburetor, as well as Bosch magneto, and the control is regulated in the handle bars, the right grip controlling throttle and valve left, left grip operates cluich-spark advance lever which past year has been employed at is located on the left side of tank, the Missouri Pacific shops in making the machine one of the Falls City as an electrician, has easiest to regulate on the market, returned to this city and is now The Kumfort Kushion seat on the employed in the Burlington shops machine, with its strongly con- as an electrician, taking the posistructed springs, takes away the tion made vacant by the resignajar so common to most motor- tion of Charles Leighty, who has eycles, and makes riding on it truly a joy and pleasure.

of this part of the state, died at her home near Springfield, Neb., from the effects of a stroke of apoplexy, after only a few hours' illness. Mrs. Peters came to Nebraska in 1859 and has resided near Springfield since that time. She was the mother of Mrs. John Gorder, cesiding west of this city, William Roettger of Elmwood who was at her mother's bedside when the end came yesterday. band and four children-Mrs. Mrs. A. E. Gass of Plattsmouth John Gorder of Plattsmouth, Dr. W. Peters of Florence, and Miss Martha Peters of South Omaha. The funeral was held at the late home today and interment made as it was impossible to reach in the cemetery near there.

my belief in the potential seven was school. However, they are de- for 25 years-Dr, Thomas' Eclec- They report the scene as most not ill placed, and now you see that in lighted to hear that she will be lie Oil. For cuts, sprains, burns, heartrendering with the miles of scalds, bruises. 25c and 50c. At wrecked homes and the lives that

Last Call.

If you are going to plant out any fruit or ornamental trees this spring, now is the time to buy, as Lonly have ten days to take orders for the spring delivery. Fine stock The motorcycle experts, Henry of grape, gooseberry, current, Steinhauer & Son, have on exhibi- | blackberry, raspberry, asparagus, everblooming and climbing roses. Phone me or drop a card and I celsior auto-cycle, which is the will call at once. Remember, I represent one of the best been brought into this city, The nurseries in the world-Stark machine is the very latest work in Brothers. Find out what you want

> P. E. Ruffner. 3-19-10t-d&w

CIAN AT BURLINGTON SHOPS

Harold Williams, who for the removed to Omaha, where he will take charge of a motion picture theater. Mr. Williams is a young man of much ability and should make a good man for the Burlington in the position he has been OF MRS. JOHN GORDER natural talent for electrical work.

Yesterday morning Mrs. W. H. O. H. PARKENING ESCAPED STORM'S FURY IN OMAHA

O. H. Parkening of Omaha, a son of our worthy friend, Chris Parkening, residing west of this city, was most fortunate in the tornado that visited Omaha Sunday, as the storm passed within a block of where he and his family reside, and they were not harmed in the least, although the death-dealing tornado had barely missed them. Chris Parkening and wife returned last evening from Omaha, where they at once hastened on hearing of the storm, their son by telephone, and their fears were such that they at once left for the metropolis to see how A household remedy in America their son and his wife had fared. were lost.

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