

A FATAL WEDDING.



By Lottie Braham.

CHAPTER X.

"Good morning, Mrs. Evans. How is my patient this morning? What kind of a night has he had?"

"A quiet night, sir, for aught I can tell to the contrary," answered the pretty dark-eyed Welshwoman who had come to the door of her little semi-detached villa to answer Dr. Foote's knock. "But he is the patientest creature I ever saw," she went on, as the young surgeon entered: "he never complains."

"And yet he must be in great pain," the doctor said thoughtfully. "He is alone, I suppose, and in bed?"

"In bed! Bless you, no, sir!" she replied, vehemently. "He got up as usual this morning, and Evans helped him to dress. He wanted to go to the theater, if you'll believe me, sir; and I doubt we should not have prevented him, but that he was that faint that he could not really walk across the room."

"They must do without him at the theater," the doctor said, decisively. "He will not be fit to act for some days. I shall have to frighten him into obedience, I foresee," and he went quietly up the staircase and knocked at a door on the first floor.

As he did so, the sound of voices within ceased suddenly, some one said, "Come in!" and when the surgeon entered, he found two men in the little sitting room, one standing by the table in the center of the room, the other leaning back wearily in a great armchair, carrying his right arm in a sling. He rose on the doctor's entrance, and greeted him with a smile and his outstretched left hand, for which he apologized with a significant glance at his right.

"Is this the way you obey me?" the young surgeon began, his keen perception telling him plainly that the two men had been discussing some existing and disagreeable topic before his entrance. "I ordered you to remain in bed and keep perfectly quiet."

"If I had remained in bed, I could not have kept quiet," Mark Robson replied, smiling. "I am much more comfortable here, standing by the table in the center of the room, the other leaning back wearily in a great armchair, carrying his right arm in a sling. He rose on the doctor's entrance, and greeted him with a smile and his outstretched left hand, for which he apologized with a significant glance at his right."

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CHAPTER XI.

"Do you not know me?"

The words, spoken half impulsively in Barbara's sweet, tremulous voice, broke suddenly upon the silence, and Mark Robson started to his feet, recalled by their sound to the reality of the moment. But even then he made no movement toward her, but stood with his injured hand upon the table, looking at her with a strange expression of mingled gladness and pain.

"Do you not know me?" the girl repeated. "Oh, Mark, have you forgotten Barbara?"

"Forgotten?"

There was something in his voice as he uttered the one word which brought the color to her face, and her eyes sunk beneath his gaze.

"How could I tell," he asked, quietly, "how I was to greet you? The last time we met it was you who did not know me. I waited now to know whether, as was natural, you had not forgotten me."

"How could I forget you?" she asked indignantly. "But I have been forbidden; and you bade me be obedient."

"And you have remembered my bidding," he said. "That is well; but how is it that, remembering it, you are here?"

"Because I could not rest without knowing," she returned hurriedly. "I heard of your heroism, and I—"

"My heroism!" he echoed, with a low, gentle, mirthless laugh. "Have the papers been exaggerating, as usual? There was no heroism—no need for your gratitude, although," his voice softened, "I am grateful to you for it."

Barbara drew back a little, keenly hurt. It had been so difficult for her to come, she risked her uncle's anger, Lord Keith's displeasure; she had stooped to deception to explain her visit to Stourton; she had seen something like suspicion in Blanche Herriek's glance at her when she had laughingly declined her company for a drive; she had suffered so much anxiety during a long sleepless night that she felt a sense of injury and was almost angry with him for his cold reception of her.

"But you were hurt," she said, hurriedly. "You are suffering much. You look ill—you are so changed!"

"Am I? The passage of years changes every one. Time has changed even you," he returned.

"Am I changed?" she queried, a faint blush tingling her cheeks.

"So changed that, if I had passed you unrecognized, it would have been but natural."

"But you suffer," she murmured, tremulously. "You were hurt. The papers said nothing about that, and—"

"My hurt is slight; it is not worth mentioning. Does Lord Elsdale know that you are here?"

A gleam of terror flashed into her eyes. "No—oh, no! He would not have allowed me to come, and I knew it was useless to ask his permission."

"Then you have come secretly?"

"Yes—I was obliged to do so; and—"

"Did not think you would stoop to deception?"

She flushed deeply, then grew very pale. Deceit was not unknown to her in her new life; but, remembering the high sense of truth and honor which had always guided him, she felt ashamed that she should know of her untruthfulness.

"I must not detain you," he went on quietly. "Your visit here, without the earl's knowledge and sanction, is an imprudence of which I had not supposed you could be guilty. I am not unkind of

the kind thought which prompted it, but I cannot encourage you to deceive your uncle."

With a passionate gesture of offense, she moved from him; then almost immediately her old reverence for him came back to her. She turned to him again, her eyes bright with tears.

"Oh, Mark—oh, Mark, forgive me!" she cried passionately.

"There can be no such word between us, Barbara," he said, with quivering lips, calm as his voice sounded. "You passed out of my life entirely when you left me, and I was content to have it so, since it was best for you. I would not willingly have crossed your path again, and but for this accident I should not have seen you now. I am sorry, though I think I am glad that you remembered me kindly and retained sufficient interest in your old friend to come to me—just once."

As he held her hand in his, his eyes rested on her with the look of love and tenderness which had never left them. Here sank before it she felt herself so false to him, so unworthy of his esteem and regard.

"Tell me of yourself," she went on softly. "Have you been well? Are you suffering much now, Mark? Were you much hurt? It was so terrible to think of your danger?"

"Was it? No, I am not much hurt; and there is nothing to tell you, Barbara. I have been well, and—"

"And Mrs. Clavering—is she living still? And she is well? Dear God!"

"Very well."

"I am glad of that. Where does she live now?"

"At Rose Cottage," he replied, musingly, as he looked down on the tear-stained face which was eagerly turned toward him in her fast-awakening interest in her old life.

"At Rose Cottage still?"

"Yes, still. She is keeping a home for me to work, if at any time I should be unable to do so."

Barbara's eyes met his for a moment; she knew well enough what his words meant, how he concealed his own generosity under a fancied obligation to another.

"Tell me of yourself, Barbara," he continued. "You are happy in your new life?"

"Yes, I think so—very happy."

"Lord Elsdale is kind to you?"

"Very kind, Mark. He loves me very much. I am sure he tells me often that I am his sunshine."

"That is well," Mark observed. "But I have heard it whispered, Barbara, that he will soon lose his sunshine."

The girl's agitated face flushed like the heart of a rose. Mark's lips trembled a little with a slight spasm of pain.

"Is it so, dear?" he asked, watching her with keen, earnest, tender scrutiny. "Barbara's head drooped until it rested on the arm of his chair.

"Yes," she replied softly; and there was a long silence between them.

"You love him, Barbara?" the young man asked, presently, in a low voice, which he vainly endeavored to steady.

"Yes," the girl whispered again; and Mark Robson's left hand closed tightly over the arm of his chair.

Again there was silence. Mark made an effort to speak, but his voice failed him—the words he would have uttered died away on his lips. Barbara waited; then she raised her head.

"He is so good to me," she said, tremulously, her face beautiful in its tenderness. "He knows all, and he still loves me."

Mark Robson started, looking at her with eager, questioning eyes.

"Ask! What do you mean, Barbara?" he asked. "What is there to know?"

"About my mother, I mean only an actress, you know," she answered. "I thought at first she would mind, because he is so proud and his name is so stainless; but Uncle Norman told him everything, and it has made no difference to him. He says that nothing could come between us."

"Nothing?" Mark repeated, smiling faintly. "That is as it should be, Barbara. I am glad he loves you so well."

"If I had dared, I would have asked him to come with me to-day," she continued, eagerly. "But I was afraid he would have tried to prevent my coming, and—"

She broke off suddenly as the clock in the neighboring church tower struck twelve, and hastily drew her furs about her.

"I must go," she exclaimed, nervously. "It is so late, yet—"

He looked so worn, so haggard, as his tired eyes rested upon her, that the girl felt that it was impossible to leave him thus.

"Can I indeed do nothing for you?" she inquired, going to his side. "You are suffering greatly, I can see. Mark, I cannot leave you like this."

He rose himself with an effort, smiling at her with pale, quivering lips.

"There is nothing you can do for me, Barbara," he replied, as cheerfully as he could, though he was faint and exhausted with pain. "And you must not come again, dear!"

"Ah, do not say so!" she cried, hastily. "I will tell Uncle Norman, he is not ungenerous, and—"

A flush rose in his pale face.

"Barbara, I can accept nothing from Lord Elsdale," he interrupted, in a tone, the intense quietness of which showed how deeply in earnest he was. "And, if you have retained any of your old regard for me, you will show it by not mentioning my name to him. Our lives are parted completely, utterly; let it be so. I am willing, and you are so also. The only service you can render me is to keep silence."

She strove to speak; but no words came. When they had last parted, she had clung to him with tears, and his quivering lips had touched her brow. The remembrance of that parting was with them both now when her hand lay passive in his.

"Be very happy, my Barbara!" he said softly, gently loosening her hand; and, moving toward the door, he opened it for her.

She lingered a moment, looking up at him with great wistful eyes shining through her tears; then, without a word, she passed out of the room and went hurriedly down stairs. Midway on the narrow staircase a man met her, and stood aside to allow her to pass. Barbara inclined her head slightly in recognition of the courtesy, but did not look at him as she went by, while he, with an eager light in his eyes, looked keenly at her, hesitated for a second, then followed her downstairs, hastening after her to the hall door.

"Will you allow me to call your carriage?" he said in a pleasant, refined tone; and Barbara, with a little start, glanced

DOINGS OF WOMEN

WHY OUR WOMEN WED ABROAD.

MANY persons find it difficult to understand the preference of woman for exalted stations, but they forget altogether the horizon which a title opens to her. There are, in most cases, the great estate to preside over, the house to rule—houses which are often centuries old, and therefore rich in those traditions and old customs which no new country can know. Then there is the political life to which titles entitle a man, and with that life there is the coming in contact with many minds, with the possibility of being herself a power among them. Scarcely are apt to say that beauty or a fat bank account is accountable for all the brilliant marriages which our women make, and the fact is altogether ignored that a certain qualification, if not exactly necessary, is at least a frequent factor in them. Take, for instance, the case of Miss Lettice, now the wife of the Viceroy of India, with a position to hold in the English-speaking world which only Queen Victoria herself can rival. Few of our American girls have studied so hard, or received so careful an education. She has been cultivated in all the graces of mind and body, equipped, in other words, for any role she might be called upon to fill.—Harper's Bazar.

Miss Lindholm's Ambition.

A woman, a young and pretty woman, with a cluster of light curls on each temple, presented an application for membership in the Chicago Board of Trade. While the innovation is startling and, so far as known, without precedent, no technical obstacle



MISS LINDHOLM.

could be found to keep her out of the ranks of the bulls and bears. Miss Lindholm is the eldest daughter of Robert Lindholm, and for three years she has been an active partner in the commission firm of Robert Lindholm & Co. The latter fact makes membership in the board necessary to her.

Too Much Furniture.

There are many girls whose married life is one long study of the science of economy, with its various branches of "ways and means." There is not the study of economy in money matters alone, but there are also the economy of labor, the economy of time and the economy of health to be considered. When we start housekeeping and begin to buy the necessary furniture we women, one and all, have the same intense desire to make our homes as beautiful and pleasant to look upon as it lies in our power to do, says the Philadelphia Press.

Unless one can afford to keep plenty of domestics it is well to avoid furniture that has much carving upon it. Simple decorative designs have a better "bred" air about them, and what is more important, are much easier to make clean and keep so. It does not follow by any means that furniture must be costly to be beautiful, but it is well when purchasing to remember that it is not only the amount of money paid that constitutes "saving." Therefore one must exercise the greatest discretion. Crowding rooms with furniture is not only a sign of bad taste, but it is positively unhealthy.

Why We Throw Shoes After a Bride.

The custom of throwing old shoes and rice came from the Eastern nations, and was originally intended as a sign of relinquishment by the bride. An old Jewish custom provided that a brother of a childless man had the first privilege of marrying the widow, and until her brother-in-law refused her she could not marry again. Another authority maintains that the throwing of the shoe was a sham assault on the groom, who was supposed to be carrying off the bride.—Woman's Home Companion.

The Luck Offering.

Prospective brides and grooms will welcome the announcement that the traditional shower of rice is no longer considered good form by fashionable folk. Rice leaves are used instead. If any color scheme is carried out in the decorations of the wedding, the same color is used in the shower of leaves. Just as the bride and groom leave the house a tiny basket filled with fresh leaves is handed to each member of the immediate bridal party, who throw them over the happy couple.

Women as Collectors.

About thirty years ago there was tried an experiment which proved that women could collect runs without injury to themselves and with benefit to

those with whom they were thrown. To-day women rent collectors are not curiosities, they are acknowledged workers in a legitimate field. If a collector is fair-minded—and she must be to secure success—she should endeavor to secure promptness in payment and an equal promptness in repairs. In cases of friction between landlord and tenants a lack of care in keeping promises is largely to blame. The law of courtesy has been violated and hostility is the result. To keep faith with a kind landlord the average tenant will go to great lengths. The unusual tenant cannot be relied upon for anything.

Walk in the Sunshine.

When the work of the busy woman will permit her to travel her two miles in the sunshine she should surely make the most of such a priceless advantage, for beneficial as the breathing of plenty of oxygen and the regular exercise of muscle are at any time, sunshine is a tonic for mind, heart and body, which no woman, sick or well, can afford to despise.

The busy woman of household cares can plan to take her morning tramp when she is out marketing for the day. She should never delude herself, moreover, with the idea that shopping, dragging about from store to store, carrying parcels and breathing the impure air of the average shop is "getting exercise." It is only the full, free swing out of doors, in the pure air, that will take her home with red cheeks and bright eyes.

School girls should give an hour each day to brisk walking, which will prove far more valuable in after life than the usual assortment of half-learned accomplishments.

Daytime Rest.

All women who can spare an hour in the afternoon to themselves should cast off all cares and enjoy a complete relaxation, resting an entire hour previous to dressing. Working women should make some sacrifice to obtain a regular rest at midday, if only for a few minutes. A ten minutes' nap directly after dinner will be of more value than an hour's sleep at night.

After the habit of the daytime nap is once established, the moment she lies down she will easily fall asleep, and such is the control of the mind over the body that if she looks at a watch or clock and finds it determines to awake at a certain hour, she is quite sure to find herself wide awake at that time.

Cause and Cure of Incontinence.

Unless our sleep be very profound, we still carry on a sort of self-consciousness. We lie down, and we muscularly hold ourselves in any position assumed. We do not abandon our head to the pillow, our limbs to the bed. We hold them there. We must unclasp, as it were, so that head or any member would drop limp if the rest of the body were lifted. Imagine them heavy, and dropping down, down, and you will soon acquire the trick, finding, as a reward, that in the grateful release from muscular tension the mind relaxes as well.—Woman's Home Companion.

Umbrellas.

Umbrellas should always be set to dry, open, with handle on floor. If allowed to dry shut up the moisture stands so long at the top it rots the silk and rusts the wires. Do not keep an umbrella in its case or rolled when in the house, as the silk, thus tightly creased, soon runs into holes. In rolling up an umbrella for its case grasp the ends of the frame rods tightly with one hand near the handle and roll from the opposite end with the other hand; unless the frame is thus held in place, it is twisted and loosened in the rolling process.

Married Men's Watches.

The New York (N. Y.) News says that a local jeweler has invested in a stock of "married men's watches." The peculiarity of these watches lies in the fact that they are furnished with an alarm attachment which a man's wife can set at the exact hour when she wishes him to start for home. The alarm going off at that time will remind him that his wife expects him.

Feminine Personals.

Miss Virginia Evans, daughter of "Fighting Bob" Evans, will make her bow to society during the present Washington official season.

Among saleswomen of New York Mrs. Richard Croker enjoys the reputation of being the kindest and most considerate shopper in the city.

Mrs. McKinley's health has greatly improved since she went to Washington. In the last two years she has gained twenty pounds in weight.

The first woman has just received her degree of doctor from the University of Berlin. She is Miss Elsa Neumann, and gained it "cum laude."

It may safely be said that the youngest law student in the University of New York is Mrs. Franceska Haldeen, who is 17 years old, but has graduated from a college at Berlin, been married a year, and taken a trip around the world.

Miss Nellie Faulkner, daughter of Senator Faulkner, of West Virginia, recently paid a visit to her brother, a lieutenant in the army, now stationed in Wyoming. While there she rode a broncho which only one man at the fort could master.