

MY POOR WIFE.

BY J. P. SMITH.

CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.)

"I've found out the things she cared for worst please her no more, that her eye is always turned away—"

The old woman was right; I had asked her to call me by my Christian name the day before. I turned away strangely moved and startled, remorse, pity, tenderness mingling with a stealthy glow of triumph and satisfaction.

"What do you wish me to do, if this be true, which I very much doubt?" I asked, after a painful pause.

"There's only one thing you can do, and that your sense ought to tell you quick enough. Go away at once and never come nigh the place again."

"Yes," I assented eagerly, "I will go away in a day or two without fail."

"In a day or two. No—if ye go at all, ye must go now—this very night!"

"What, without one word of farewell?"

"Without a word."

"I'll do nothing of the kind; you've svershot the mark, old woman," I said sternly, moving away. "If I do go tonight, I'll see her first and assure myself of the falseness of your silly tale, you dotting old termagant!" I added under my breath.

I went quickly back, she following me slowly, and, on the edge of the cliff where we had first stood together, I found Helen motionless looking out to sea.

Without giving any explanation or looking her in the face, I told her, with a forced heavy briskness, I had come back to say good-by, as business of importance called me to England on the morrow.

"You are going tomorrow?" she repeated, but said not another word. I stole a glance at her face; it was deadly pale and still, but otherwise bore no trace of stormy feeling.

"It's very unfortunate, but I must start in the morning. I'll send you the books I promised and the illustrated 'Atlas' as soon as I get to town. You will find the latter very useful for the information you want."

I said uneasily—"there's an alphabetical key at the end, you know, and I'll leave you my address in case—in case you should want anything. You know how happy I would be to help you, and—hear of your welfare now and then, Helen."

Still not a word; she did not seem to hear me, so I relapsed into silence too.

"Helen," I resumed desperately, "have you—have you nothing to say to me; I—I am going away tomorrow."

"I have to say good-by, have I not?" she answered at last, turning round full upon me. "Then let us say it at once." She put her hands for a moment into mine, stooped, picked up Jim and held his little wet nose to my face. "A friend has come to say good-by to you and me, Jim—a very kind friend. Tell him how sorry you are to lose him, and ask him not to—forget us too soon."

An instinct of self-protection urged me to hold my tongue. I bent my head over her arm and touched Jim's little ragged poll gingerly. Our faces—his mistress' and mine—were but a few inches apart; I could not resist the upward glance—lo, before she had time to turn away, a great swelling tear fell from her veiled eyes, and what little self-possession I had left deserted me altogether. The next second Helen was in my arms and I was kissing the tears from her crimson cheeks, telling her not to fret, for I would never leave her now, that she and Jim and I would go away together and never part again.

Prove yer words, prove yer words, if ye mane fair an' honest. Come up to the house wid me this minute an' jist ax th' ould wan for her straight. She'll give her to ye fast enough, sorra a fear."

Molly's flat eager voice broke in upon my sweetheart's smothered sobs; her dusty hand pulled us apart and finally dragged me up the meadow and into the presence of Mrs. Casey. The venerable lady we found in a flannel wrapper and befrilled night cap, warming her toes before a bright turf fire, a round of buttered toast and a steaming tumbler of port negus by her side.

CHAPTER VII.

At first she was icy indignant at my intrusion; but, when she learned the nature of my errand, her manner thawed, and with flattering affability she gave me to understand that I could take her beloved grandchild to wife as soon as ever I liked—even suggested, though somewhat doubtfully, that I should wait to be supplied

with a companion tumbler of negus, in celebration of the solemn betrothal, which hospitality I curtly declined; and, after a few whispered words with Helen, who seemed quite dazed or stupefied, I began my long walk home in a turmoil of tenderness, triumph and irritation that was little in harmony with the glorious stillness of the moonlit ocean and cliffs.

I awoke the next morning after a restless night with the comforting consciousness that I had made an unmitigated fool of myself, tied myself for life to a girl of no position, education, fortune, even beauty, for whom in cold blood I really did not care a straw, while my heart was irretrievably bound to another.

I wandered about the mountains alone all day, and in the afternoon turned towards the farm, but when it came within view a feeling of impatient repulsion made me turn back at once. That night I wrote a short note to Helen, telling her I had to go to England on business, and on the following day I crossed the channel.

General Stopford and his niece, I heard, were occupying their town house for a few weeks. I did not call on them, but the day after my arrival I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Stopford in the row, looking the picture of blooming health and beauty, my rival in devoted attendance.

She called me at once to her side and in an imploring whisper begged me to come and see her that afternoon, that she would be at home to no one but me, and had so much to say to me. I refused point-blank, and took my leave almost at once, determined never voluntarily to come within range of her appealing eyes again. Yet, somehow, the very next day found me on the general's doorstep, asking if his niece were at home.

I was ushered into a dim boudoir, and, when my eyes became accustomed to the light, I saw the young lady sitting beside Lord Sandmound's son, and toying with a bunch of roses that he had evidently just presented.

"I beg your pardon," I said, with a low bow, as the pair started to their feet. "I think I have made a mistake; it was yesterday afternoon you were to have been 'at home' and alone to me, Miss Stopford, was it not?"

I went away, wrote immediately to Mrs. Casey urging her to hasten the preparations for our marriage. Three weeks later I returned to Donegal, and one lovely August morning, without settlements, trousseau, presents or the orthodox breakfast, I was married in the whitewashed parlor where I had first seen my bride less than three months before with her apron full of early potatoes.

The ceremony was uneventful until the conveyance that was to take us to the train came lumbering and jolting up the grassy drive, and Helen rose to say good-by to her grandmother.

"You—you will write to me, and let me see you sometimes, granny?" she said timidly, with a slight break in her voice.

"Certainly, if you earnestly wish it, dear child," answered Mrs. Casey, brushing the girl's cheek with her brightly chin; "but at the same time, Helen, I have been thinking seriously over this matter, and have come to the conclusion that it would be better if you did not return to the humble scene of your childhood, for reasons you will understand later. You are entering into a world of pleasure, wealth, excitement; I am passing away here, in solemn undisturbed communion with my Creator. My days are short on earth, as you know, and I would rather not have them broken into by intercourse with a world I have forsaken forever. You must not, dear child, think this decision harsh or unnatural, or that it is dictated by lack of affection for you. No, no, far from it; I will bear you daily in my thoughts, and pray with all the union of my soul that you may be happy and prosperous in your new state of life and worthy in every way of the estimable gentleman in whose keeping I place you with unbounded confidence today."

I bowed low to hide a grim smile, for, indeed, I might have been the sorriest scamp that ever took a wife, for aught the old lady knew to the contrary; and my wife, with a composed, almost callous countenance, responded, moving to the door—"So be it, granny; let this be good-by forever, then."

On the doorstep Molly was waiting to fling her arms around her nurse-child in a noisy embrace; and as we lumbered down the hill her shrill blessings, mingled with the rattle of hobnailed heels and handfuls of rice striking the back of the carriage, made a deafening noise.

When it was over I withdrew my hands from my ears and said to my wife, who was looking out of the window—"Well, Helen, how do you feel? It was not such a terrible business after all, was it?"

CHAPTER VIII.

She turned round. I saw that her

eyes were gleaming, her cheeks burning.

"You heard her, you saw her?" she cried bitterly. "She was so glad to get rid of me, she could not bear the idea of looking upon me again—she, my mother's mother, with whom I have lived all my life. What is there in me, I wonder, that makes me such an unbearable burden to every one? When I had the fever years ago, she—she prayed that I might die. I wish I had—I wish I had. Now, they are all relieved, overjoyed, that you—you have been tricked into marrying me—every one of them, Biddy, Mike, even Molly, who—who I thought cared a little for me. Oh, I—"

"She does care for you," I broke in soothingly. "And so do I, Helen—you know that well. Why else should I have married you?"

"I don't know—I don't know," she answered wildly. "You had some good reason, I feel; and, though you fancy you care a little for me now, it will wear away, and you will long to get rid of me like the rest. I wish I had never met you. I wish I had never been born—there's no one cares for me in the world but little Jim and he has no sense—my little Jim, whom I—I am never to see again, though you promised, Mr. Dennis, that he and I were never to be parted—you—did you know you did?"

"My dear, why did you not bring him with you? You know I would not have objected. Let us turn back and get him at once."

I leaned out to tell the driver to turn, when I saw the poor little dog, with his tongue hanging out, covered with dust, ambling feebly after us. I picked him up and laid him in his mistress' arms, and left them for a time to whisper their grievances to one another. Presently Helen touched me gently, and I saw the storm had gone out of her face. She said wistfully—"I'm sorry I said what I did, Mr. Dennis. Will you forgive me, please, and—and try to be kind to poor little Jim and me?"

When I had made the most suitable answer I could think of she added: "When—when—you are really tired of us you will let us know, and we'll go away quietly and never trouble you again."

We remained abroad for five months, for I was anxious to rub off the surface-coat of my wife's rusticity before bringing her under the critical eyes of my friends.

I must say the undertaking was not a painful or tedious one by any means. Somehow the lace ruffles and bangles fitted her little brown wrists more naturally than I imagined. She learned quickly and aptly, and, much to my surprise, showed an innate capability of discerning worth and beauty in the higher branches of art which culture had failed to awaken in me. In a picture gallery she would instinctively go to the best picture, stand entranced before canvases from which my eye and, indeed, the average eye of our fellow-travelers would turn away in dull weariness.

She was very observant and intelligent, never required to be told a thing twice, and in a very short time of wedded intimacy learned to read the meaning of every light and shade that crossed my common-place countenance, the very thoughts of my heart—in a manner that startled me at first, until I came to accept it as an ordinary accomplishment, not without its advantages to one of my torpid temperament. The thing I had been longing lazily for I would find somehow at my elbow as soon as she entered the room, the words I would wish said would drop naturally from her lips, the people I liked would be her friends at the end of the week.

(To be Continued.)

MOUSE NEST IN HER COLLAR.

Elderly Passenger Causes Excitement in a Street Car.

One mouse is generally enough to stampede an assemblage of women, and the commotion attendant upon the appearance of two or three rodents is, of course, increased in proportion. It does not matter that the mice may be young, as was shown in a street car during one of the recent cool afternoons. One of the passengers was an elderly woman who wore an old-fashioned fur cape with an immense bear-skin collar. Evidently the cape had just been taken from a chest containing moth balls, for the odor of these preventives was powerful. The car was crowded, principally by women, so the elderly passenger was compelled to stand, and as the car jolted or swung around a corner she swayed hanging to the strap, sprinkling the glistening particles of insect destroyer on all who were near. At length the car gave a particularly bad lurch and something fell from the cape into the lap of a lady nearby. This something proved upon close inspection to be a tiny mouse. Following closely came several more, distributed with remarkable fairness on the near-by passengers. It didn't take over a half-minute for every woman in that car to grab her skirts and get on the seats, the overflow taking refuge on the platforms. Their screams attracted the conductor, who came in and threw the little mice out on the street. Meanwhile the innocent cause of all this trouble calmly unfastened her cape and shook out the remains of a nest, which had been snugly built by some motherly mouse in the long fur. The owner of the cape then seated herself as calmly as you please and the other women finally subsided.

All states collect taxes from the liquor traffic, except California, where it all goes to the counties and municipalities.

NOTHING BUT GIVE IN

SPANISH SECRETARY SEES NO WAY OUT.

The \$20,000,000 Offered for the Philippines Reluctantly Insufficient, Considering That \$40,000,000 Have Been Raised on Security of Manila Customs.

New York, Nov. 23.—A dispatch to the World from Paris says: "No one can foresee what the cortes will do." This was the answer of Senor Ojeda, the principal secretary of the Spanish peace commission, when asked if the American ultimatum will be accepted.

Senor Montero Rios, president of the Spanish commission, frowned as he listened to America's final note at the joint session. When the reading was ended he said curtly: "Spain does not need until November 28 to answer. She will present her reply Wednesday."

The American commissioners proposed to give Spain until November 28 to accept or reject the demands, but after Montero Rios' impatient remark about not needing so much time, the joint session was adjourned until Wednesday.

It was reported immediately after the session that Spain had determined to break off negotiations, but the information rather points to her giving notice on Wednesday that she accepts the American proposals under protest.

Spanish Secretary Ojeda said last night: "America proposes to pay \$20,000,000 for the Philippines. We regard it as ridiculously insufficient considering that we raised \$40,000,000 on the security of the Manila customs alone."

"She adds a promise that for a number of years, not specified, she will admit Spanish merchandise and ships to ports on the same terms as the United States. We regard this part of the proposal as of very little, if any, value. This condition no doubt has been put in at the suggestion of England—not of Germany, for she is favorable to Spain."

When pressed for his opinion as to ultimate action on the American demands he said:

"It is for the Spanish government to decide what to do. I do not see how we are to avoid yielding to them. We have no friends and apparently are helpless in the matter."

"Is the queen regent in favor of accepting them?"

"Personally, no doubt she is," answered Senor Ojeda. "But she will be guided by the government and the cortes, and nobody can tell what the cortes will do. I am not a politician and have no idea."

"If Spain accepts," the correspondent inquired, how long will the commission sit?"

"In that case," Senor Ojeda responded, there will remain only matters of detail to settle, for which seven or eight sittings would suffice."

"Was there any reference in the American communication to the Cuban debt?" was asked.

"None whatever," replied the secretary, "but our answer on Wednesday or Thursday may refer to it. No article of a treaty has yet been finally drawn."

"Has America asked for one of the Carolines?"

"Yes, she proposes to buy a small coaling station there."

Senor Ojeda's demeanor was that of a man much depressed. The Spaniards were prepared for America's insistence on the demand for the Philippines, but are surprised at the form of the latest proposition, which virtually is an ultimatum.

PARIS, Nov. 23.—The Spanish commissioners telegraphed to Madrid last night the substance of the United States memorandum presented yesterday and later in the evening they were discussing it among themselves. As late as 1 o'clock this morning a Spanish commissioner affirmed that he and his colleagues did not know what to do regarding the American offer.

There is a difference of opinion among unofficial people near the commissions, but the prediction is made that Spain will decline the American offer of money, that she will refuse to cede the Philippines and will say to the United States: "You may take the archipelago because you have the power to do so. As you advance we will retire, protesting against greedy aggression. We will faithfully carry out our part of the pledges and leave Cuba and Porto Rico in your hands. You came here to engage in a discussion under the terms of the protocol, but you evidently meant, when drawing up that document, you proposed to announce at the proper time what you will do whether we agree to it or object. Such an attitude robs the conference of a negotiative character and sets up the United States a dominant power whose first purpose is to listen, but whose ultimate determination is to do its own will."

Ambassador Castillo in a Runaway.

PARIS, Nov. 23.—Senor Leon y Castillo, the Spanish ambassador here, met with a serious carriage accident yesterday afternoon in the Champs Elysees. His vehicle struck a news stand, the horse ran away and Castillo jumped out, being hurt about the head and arms.

Lillookalani Here Again.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 23.—Ex-Queen Lillookalani of Hawaii has arrived here from Honolulu. The object of her visit is to try to influence Congress to allow her to retain possession of the crown lands, valued at \$5,000,000. Lillookalani maintains that, despite the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, the crown lands are her absolute private property, and that this country has no more right to assume ownership of the lands than it has to take the property of any private citizen.

ENDS IN A COMPLETE FIASCO.

Connie McVey, one of Corbett's Seconds, Rushes Into Ring Contrary to Rules.

New York, Nov. 23.—Corbett-Sharkey fight, which was witnessed by the largest and most representative gathering of sporting men that ever congregated to see a ring contest, ended in a fiasco last night at the Lenox athletic club. In the middle of the ninth round Connie McVey, one of Corbett's seconds, jumped into the ring contrary to the rules, and the referee, Honest John Kelly, had no alternative but to award the bout to Sharkey, and also to declare all bets off. Corbett claims he had Sharkey whipped and would have won in another round or two. Sharkey claims the opposite. McVey said he could not stand by and see Corbett fouled, which he claims Sharkey did in the clinches. The outcome of the fight was a disappointment to all concerned.

KEELY LEFT HIS SECRET.

Stockholders in the Motor Company Still Have Faith in the Inventor's Devices.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23.—Stockholders of the Keely Motor company have not abandoned the hope that the secret of the life work of John W. Keely will not be buried with the inventor to-morrow. B. L. Ackerman of New York, the president of the company, came to Philadelphia in response to a telegram from Mrs. Keely. When he reached the Keely house he was told that Mrs. Keely was too much prostrated to see him. Mr. Ackerman subsequently visited the office of the motor company. He said:

"I have been closely associated with Mr. Keely in his work for twenty-five years, and I was among the first to see the value of his plans. As a mechanical engineer I have frequently examined his machines and I have often discussed his experiments with him. Therefore, to-day I have greater faith than I ever had in the practical value of his discoveries. During the last few years I have learned that Mr. Keely prepared a manuscript of more than 2,000 pages which reveals all the secrets discovered by him."

"That manuscript, I understand, was in the possession of Mr. Keely at the time of his death, and therefore, while it is almost too early to discuss the future of the work, it seems to me that with the information in the manuscript and the knowledge in the possession of Lancaster Thomas and Chas. B. Collier, there need be little doubt that the work of Mr. Keely will be carried forward."

MAY END "GREATER REPUBLIC"

The Revolution in Salvador Is Growing in Importance.

New York, Nov. 23.—A dispatch from Panama says: Late advice from Salvador by way of Nicaragua indicate that the revolt is more serious than at first thought. It may involve all the five states in a general conflagration.

According to advices the real object of the movement is the overthrow of the federal republic, which was organized November 1, at Amapala. To accomplish this Regalados called in the aid of Guatemala and Costa Rica, who always viewed the union of Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras as a constant menace to their sovereignty.

The rebels are now in possession of all the departments with the exception of La Union and San Miguel, the latter a stronghold of Horacio Villavicencio, who is a candidate in opposition to Regalados.

The federal government is hurriedly mobilizing its forces to march against Regalados. Honduras sends 4,000, Nicaragua 400 and the federal district of Salvador 2,000. The movement is backed by capitalists, who are well known military men.

GENERAL GARCIA ARRIVES.

In Favor of Temporary Occupation of Cuba by Americans.

New York, Nov. 23.—General Calixto Garcia and the other Cuban commissioners from the Cuban military assembly at Santa Cruz del Sur, who are en route to Washington for the purpose of laying before President McKinley a resolution recently adopted by the assembly as to the future of the island of Cuba, arrived here on the Ward line steamer Segurancra.

"I will go to Washington in a day or two, to see the President, and after my work in the United States is accomplished will return to Cuba."

"The Cubans have no other feeling for the Americans than those of friendship and gratitude. As for myself, I believe in American occupation of Cuba until order has been restored. I believe in the United States having Cuba, and so for ever. I am for free Cuba, and so are all other Cubans. There is no sentiment on the island for annexation. All Cubans have faith in Mr. McKinley."

John Harvey Myers, former secretary of the defunct Home Building and Loan association of Milwaukee, who was arrested on complaint of having embezzled \$10,000 of that institution's funds, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years in the state prison.

Instruction in sewing has been added to the curriculum of the Chicago public schools. Cooking lessons were started some time ago.

Josiah Bowers, near Rochester, Ind., fatally shot his son-in-law, William Carr, then killed himself. They had quarreled.

Ex-Tax Collector James Keogh was arrested at Holyoke, Mass., on three warrants charging embezzlement to the amount of \$115,000. One warrant charges an embezzlement of \$50,000 in 1897, one a similar amount in 1895 and the third is for \$15,000 in 1895.

IF SPAIN HAD WITHDRAWN.

Uncle Sam Was Ready for Immediate Resumption of War.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Though confident that hostilities will not be resumed, Secretary Long has made it a point since the peace protocol was signed to put the men-of-war of the service in the best possible condition. During the latter part of last week instructions were sent to the commanders of the navy yard directing them to expedite the completion of the vessels in order that they might be in a condition for immediate use should developments in the international situation require their employment.

The department's attention was first directed to the battle ships and armored cruisers and as a result of the extra work put on them they are well advanced and some are ready for service. The Indiana is the only armored vessel which is undergoing extensive repairs, and, in case of necessity, overtime work would promptly place her in condition to join the squadron to be sent to Spain.

Secretary Long has given instructions to commanders of navy yards to rush the smaller cruisers and gunboats which are wanted for service in Cuban and Porto Rican waters for patrol purposes. The decision not to use the old single turreted monitors for service in Southern waters has caused the officials to look around for more serviceable vessels, and the smaller cruisers and gunboats will be used for this purpose.

Resides these vessels the department would probably attach to a fleet sent abroad the cruiser New Orleans, which will be ready for service in the course of a few weeks, several gunboats and a fleet of colliers. The battleships Iowa and Oregon, which are at Rio, are also available for operations in Spanish waters. They are about the same distance from Spain as are the ships now in New York.

So far as the North Atlantic squadron is concerned, therefore, it would not take long to mobilize a strong fleet. The New York is now at Hampton Roads, fully coaled and ready for sea; the armored cruiser Brooklyn and the battleship Massachusetts, which are at New York, can sail within a very short time, and the second class battleship Texas is having her propeller repaired.

Should hostilities be resumed, it is expected that Secretary Long will again call together the naval war board, consisting of Rear Admiral Sigsbee, Captain Crowninshield and Captain Mahan. Before the adjournment of the board plans had been prepared for the dispatch of Rear Admiral Sampson and a squadron under his command to the Spanish coast. It was not contemplated last August that the Canaries should be seized, but there is reason to believe that if the peace negotiations are interrupted the authorities will seriously consider the advisability of directing the capture of these islands.

The withdrawal of the Spanish commissioners from Paris would be the signal for the dispatch to Rear Admiral Sampson to come North on the gunboat Topeka and resume duty as commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic Squadron.

Rear Admiral Dewey would send his vessels to destroy Spanish fortifications at Iloilo; troops would be transported to that point and the city would be occupied. With the fall of this point the last Spanish stronghold in the Philippines would have disappeared and it would be an easy task to station troops among the various islands to protect American interests. Besides the Philippines, the American men-of-war would also hoist the flag over the Carolines.

It will be impossible for Spain to prevent the United States from carrying out its will, either in the Atlantic or in the far East. In expectation of the arrival of the German emperor, who has since changed his mind, and for the purpose of impressing him, as well as the people of Spain with the size of the remnant of the Spanish navy, Admiral Camara was directed to mobilize his ships at Cadiz. There are now at that point the battleship Felayo, the armored cruiser Carlos V, the protected cruiser Alfonso XIII, the reconstructed battle ships Numancia and Victoria, besides torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo boats. In the Philippines Spain has several small gunboats and one auxiliary cruiser, the Buenos Ayres.

Since the war the Spanish government has done nothing toward completing the armored cruisers of the Asturias class which are under construction. Her neglect is due to lack of funds.

Twenty-Five Rebels Shot.

MADRID, Nov. 23.—General Rios, the Spanish governor of the Vizayas islands, cables from Iloilo that the rebellion of the native forces in the Spanish military service has been subdued. Ninety-seven rebels were court-martialed, of whom twenty-five were shot and sixty-nine sentenced to imprisonment for life at hard labor.

The insurrection at Davas in Mindanno has been suppressed, according to General Rios, and tranquillity prevails in the rest of the islands, except Negros.

Rios asserts that the Spanish garrison at Iloilo made several sorties, inflicting serious losses upon the rebels. He adds also that, at Soho, the rebels continue to besiege the town.

Heir in a \$7,000,000 Estate.

KANKAKEE, Ill., Nov. 23.—J. H. Schooley, a winter employe by a Kankakee, Ill., firm, has received word that he is the heir of a father, Peter Miller, who died in 1887, leaving an estate valued at \$7,000,000. The estate is now being administered by a trustee.