

# A PRETTY COMPANION

By Louise Bedford.

CHAPTER VII.

To Clarice she vowed a redoubled devotion. Ah! if any care of hers might help her towards recovery, so that when her lover returned from his Indian campaign she might be well enough to marry! Only in helping to bring that marriage to a successful issue could she hope to efface the last miserable half-hour. She would try, too, and talk to Doctor Drake some day by herself, and ask if any possible change of treatment might hasten Clarice's recovery. The very thought brought comfort and hope with it.

Having decided her course of action, she proceeded to put it into practice; smoothed her hair, and tried to wash the traces of tears from her face. Then she sat down and wrote a few lines to her brother, declining to lend him the money, and giving him her reasons for the refusal. After that she went to Clarice's room, who, happily, she found alone.

"I thought you were never coming!" said Clarice fretfully. "Come and sit close by me where I can see you. I need your soothing presence so badly to-day. Why, what is the matter with you, dear? You look as if you needed soothing yourself. You have been crying, and I thought you were a woman who could not cry."

Janetta gave rather a watery smile. "You were wrong, you see. I have been in trouble about several things, and I could not see my way clear; but I see it now. I shan't cry any more, I promise you." And Janetta threw back her head with something of her usual frank reliance.

Clarice glanced at her wistfully. "You are reserved and proud, Janetta; but if it were a case where money would help—"

"With quick alertness Janetta bent down and kissed one of Clarice's tiny, helpless hands.

"Ah! how good and dear you are; but it is not a case of money. I am almost glad not to have it, because I might do harm instead of good with it."

"Not my hands, my face," said Clarice simply. And Janetta bent and kissed her on the forehead, oppressed with a sense of her own unworthiness.

The day passed like a dream. She saw Captain Merivale only at meals, for he and Clarice spent the evening alone together.

The next day, when he came down after bidding her good-by, he found Mrs. Mortimer standing alone in the hall, giving her last directions for the packing of his luggage into the carriage. He looked searchingly about for Janetta.

"Miss Howard desired me to bid you good-by for her," said Mrs. Mortimer, answering his glance. "She went into the town for something."

"Oh, thank you. Tell her I was sorry not to see her. You and she will look after Clarice for me, whilst I'm away, won't you?"

The next instant he was gone. Janetta, meanwhile, sought shelter in a little cove by the seashore, and sat with her back against the cliff, and her tearless eyes gazing out seawards.

Her teeth were clenched in the effort to keep back the sobs that rose in her throat. She would gladly have uprooted this strange love that had grown up in her heart, but she could not.

"He's gone now," she said, pulling out her watch and looking at it. "It can't be wrong to go on loving him when I shall never see him again. It can neither hurt him nor me, for he does not know it; and God knows I have but one great wish in life left to me—that he and Clarice should marry."

It chanced that on her way home she came across Doctor Drake walking quickly down the street. He would have passed her by with a bow, but she came to a stop.

"There is something I wanted to talk to you about. Could you spare me a minute?"

"Certainly," he said, with a slight surprise.

"I never get the chance of a word alone with you. Will you forgive me if I ask if there is nothing that could be done to hasten Miss Seymour's recovery?"

Doctor Drake's fair face flushed. "It is a question that is often before me. Do you think her worse?" he asked anxiously.

"She is out of spirits, and losing hope."

"Of what?" inquired the Doctor impatiently. "Of recovery or what?"

"Of everything that makes her life worth living. Until she is better she will not marry."

"Or Captain Merivale will not marry her!" broke out the Doctor. "Which is it, do you think? You are speaking frankly to me, Miss Howard, and I can but answer you in the same spirit. No specialist can do anything for Miss Seymour. I will tell you briefly my opinion, which is backed by other men in my profession. When Miss Seymour was thrown from her horse she severely strained the nerves of the spine.

"As far as we can discover, the injury is entirely overcome; but her whole nervous system is shattered. When that recovers its tone she will be well. It lies much with herself and those about her. That is why I advised cheerful companionship of a girl about her own age. I've known similar cases. Sometimes a sudden necessity for exertion will cure a patient, or a great happiness. If I had been Captain Merivale I should have tried

against the mantel shelf, while she paced up and down the room in extreme agitation.

"Got such a good berth yourself, I thought—" The thought was too far back in the recesses of Neville's muddled brain for him to bring it to light.

"That I could ask Miss Seymour to take you in as well as myself," said Janetta bitterly. "You must go, Neville. I can't stop and talk to you tonight. You are not fit to talk to."

"Go where?" asked Neville, with dazed eyes. "I thought you'd never be the one to turn me out!"

"Oh, what can I do?" cried Janetta. And then came the remembrance of Doctor Drake's strong, kind face. He would help her if he knew in what sore trouble she was. "Look here, Neville," she said, trying not to let him see how she shrank from him. "I have one friend in this place, who I believe, if I sent him a note by you, will take you in for the night. To-morrow I will see you and think what can be done."

She was scribbling swiftly as she spoke:

"Dear Doctor Drake: I am in sore trouble. The bearer of this note is my brother—my only living relation—and he is as you see him. I cannot send him to any lodging or hotel to-night. I send him to you, because you are a bachelor, and will understand what it is to me, his sister, for him to call upon me like this. Will you of your great goodness take him in for this one night and hide his shame, and to-morrow I will see him and settle what he must do. Yours gratefully,

"Janetta Howard."

She folded and directed the letter, putting it into Neville's nerveless hand. "This man will give you a bed for to-night. It is not far to go—down the hill. When you get outside turn to the right, and about a hundred yards down the street there is a gate with a brass plate on it. That is Doctor Drake's house."

Almost before he knew what his sister was doing, Janetta had led Neville to the door, reiterating her directions in soft, low tones.

She went back to the drawing room, determined to tell Clarice the story; but her intention was checked by the presence of Mrs. Mortimer, who stood by Clarice's sofa, pouring out an eager torrent of accusation. Clarice had raised herself to a sitting posture, and listened with flushed cheeks and shining eyes, and with rather a scornful smile.

"I'm glad you've come back, Janetta. Mrs. Mortimer has been amusing me with really wonderful stories, which she seems to have gathered from her own and Mason's personal observation."

"If the amusing stories you refer to are about myself, I shall be glad to hear them," said Janetta, standing before Clarice, with a burning red spot on either cheek. She would not even look at her accusor.

"First item: A drunken lover is supposed to have just come to see you."

"He is not my lover. Later on, I shall be glad to tell you who he is; but not in the presence of a third person."

"Does that mean, Miss Howard, that you wish to explain your rather extraordinary conduct to Miss Seymour alone?" inquired Mrs. Mortimer acidly.

"It does," replied Janetta, with one fearless glance. "That explanation is necessary to her, but unnecessary to you."

"I think perhaps you had better leave us," said Clarice. As the door closed behind her, Clarice stretched out her hands to Janetta with quick entreaty. "Oh, Janetta, what a brute you must think me to question anything you do! But she has hinted at such awful things! I only wait for your word to declare everything untrue, and I shall believe you."

(To be continued.)

**Detective Spy-Glass on Stills.**

Chief Wilkie of the secret service has discovered a new use for a well known instrument of civil engineering, the transit, which is a sort of spyglass on stilts. While a government employe was at work on the new federal building in San Francisco he noticed that a man was bringing something small to a window frequently in a building about 200 yards away. Bringing a transit into play the observer convinced himself that the man was at work on bogus money. A secret service detective was summoned and he peered through the transit. Then he went over and arrested the man for counterfeiting, making what Chief Wilkie regards as a most important capture.

**Leith Building Great Docks.**

Leith, Scotland, will become a port of some capacity and trade two years hence. A suite of docks is in construction there, which is to cost between 300,000 pounds and 400,000 pounds more than was estimated when the Leith dock commissioners launched their program. In 1895 seventy-five acres of the foreshore were reclaimed; and the dock now near completion is 1,900 feet long, with a width of 550 feet for 1,100 feet of its length and 280 feet for the remainder. The dock walls are forty-four feet high, and there are to be two pairs of steel gates, each weighing close upon 300 tons. To this equipment it has been resolved to add a graving dock 500 feet long.

**Flies Convey Typhoid.**

Together with the theory that malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, the theory that flies convey typhoid germs is of particular interest, and this is the subject of an article which Dr. I. O. Howard of the United States department of agriculture contributes to the Popular Science Monthly.

## HERALDED AS THE KING

Proclamation of Edward's Ascension Made With Stately Show in London.

### CEREMONIES BEFITTING OCCASION

Thousands of Soldiers, Life Guards and Horse Guards Add to Spectacle—The New Monarch Absent Himself from the Pageantry Done in His Honor.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—London today was given a glimpse of mediæval times. The quaint ceremonies with which King Edward VII was proclaimed at various points of the metropolis exactly followed ancient precedents. The officials purposely arranged the function an hour ahead of the published announcement, and the inhabitants, when they awoke, were surprised to find the entire way between St. James palace and the city filled with troops. About 10,000 soldiers, Life Guards, Horse Guards, Foot Guards and Cavalry and infantry regiments had been brought from Aldershot and London barracks after midnight. All the officers had crepe on their arms and the drums and brass instruments were shrouded with crepe. The troops themselves made an imposing spectacle, but they were entirely eclipsed by the strange spectacle presented by the officials of the College of Arms.

The ceremony began at St. James palace, where, at 9 o'clock, Edward VII was proclaimed king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and emperor of India. The proclamation, which was read by William Henry Weldon, king-at-arms since 1894, and formerly Windsor herald, was as follows:

"Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late sovereign, Queen Victoria, of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the imperial crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty Prince Albert Edward, we, therefore, the lords, spiritual and temporal, of this realm, being here assisted with those of her late majesty's privy council, with numbers of other principal gentlemen of quality, the lord mayor, aldermen and citizens of London, do now hereby, with one voice, consent of tongue and heart to publish and proclaim that the high and mighty Prince Albert Edward is now, by the death of our late sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, Edward VII, by the grace of God, king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, defender of the faith, emperor of India, to whom we acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom all kings and queens do reign, to bless the royal Prince Edward VII with long and happy years to reign over us."

The king was not present. There was a large assemblage of officials and heralds. Among those in attendance were General Roberts and members of his headquarters' staff and formerly Windsor Herald. There was a great concourse of people from the commencement to the close. The proclamation was greeted by a fall of heavy and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom all kings and queens do reign, to bless the royal Prince Edward VII with long and happy years to reign over us."

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