

Jephthah's Daughter:

A Story of Patriarchal Times.

By JULIA MAGRUDER...

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CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.)

Now, as the host of Jephthah marched down the streets of Mizpeh, while all along the people cheered and shouted as they passed, behold at Jephthah's side, in front of them, there rode the young man Adina, and not behind, as was his wont. And by this token all the people knew that he had won glory for himself in battle, and that Jephthah strove thus to show the favor which he had toward him, and with the noise of their shoutings, "Long live Jephthah, the Gileadite!" were mingled cries of "Long live Adina!"

And as these sounds came even to the ears of Namarah, behold the flush upon her cheeks grew deeper and her eyes yet more glorious. And ever the soldiery pressed onward, followed by the shouts of triumph from the crowd. And Jephthah, the mighty captain, rode a night-black charger, while that of Adina was white as milk. Both men were clad in gleaming armor, on which the rays of the setting sun made blazes of vivid fire, gilding the silver of the old man's beard, and burnishing the gold of Adina's thick curls, which seemed a part of his shining helmet. And ever, as they rode, the eyes of both were turned toward the house of Jephthah, for Jephthah had vowed a vow unto the Lord, and had said: "If Thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into my hands, then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." And he looked to see what it should be.

But the young man Adina, who knew not of Jephthah's vow, and had said naught of the tidings sent to Namarah by the carrier bird—that being a secret between the maiden and himself—knew that Namarah would be prepared for their coming, and rightly thought that she would come to meet them.

And now, as they began to come nigh to the house, behold, the great doors were thrown open, and forth there came the maiden Namarah, clad all in white and gold, and after her her maidens, with timbrels and dances. But Namarah came first, with her head erect and all her face made glorious with joy. The childish timidity she was wont to show had vanished now, and she faced the band of soldiery a royal princess in her bearing. She felt herself a queen, indeed, for happy love had crowned her.

And as she came, behold the two men who were at the head of the great host drew rein and suddenly checked their horses, and all the soldiery halted. All eyes were on the beautiful face of the majestic maiden, hers only seeing the faces of the two men who led the host.

Her gaze sought first the face of Adina, with a treacherous fealty which she could not control, and as their looks met, behold the joyousness of his heart gleamed forth into his eyes, which met hers, with a look that thrilled her soul with rapture. For a moment she was blinded with ecstasy, and saw naught before her but light, supreme, bewildering; and then, with the reflection of that light upon her face, she turned her rapt gaze upon her father, and suddenly the great light became a great darkness, which likewise cast its reflection upon her; for the face of Jephthah her father was as the face of a man in mortal throes, and behold the hand that held the bridle shook and fell, and his body swerved in the saddle, so that he would have fallen but that the young man Adina, seeing the maiden's sudden change of countenance had looked toward its source, and was just in time to put out his hand and stay Jephthah in his place.

Then Adina dismounted and ran to Jephthah's side, and while the maiden Namarah herself laid hold on the bridle of his horse, the young man assisted him to the ground, and with Namarah's help led him into the house. The eyes which had but lately looked so joy into each other, exchanged now looks of pain and horror, for it was quickly passed from mouth to mouth that the great captain had been seized with mortal illness, and that the joy of his victorious return and meeting with his daughter was like to cost him his life.

But Jephthah, when he heard these words, denied and said:

"It is not as ye say, O men of Israel; nevertheless the hand of the Lord is heavy upon me this day. Cause to go out from me all save the maiden Namarah and the young man Adina."

And when they had so done, behold Jephthah rent his clothes, and said:

and clear, but her face went deadly pale, even as the face of the young man Adina put on a ghastly pallor; and as he stood before her in his shining armor a great trembling seized him, so that his armor shook and sounded. And as she looked on him and saw his grief, behold her heart bled for him, and for all the visions of her happy love; and she turned to him and threw her arms about his neck. And Adina clasped her to him, careful not to hurt her tender body against his mail-clad breast, and it seemed unto them both that the barrier that had come so suddenly between their two souls was even as this barrier between their bodies—hard and cruel and impassable. But there was no barrier between their lips, and as they softly touched and trembled on each other, they knew not whether that moment's ecstasy was of pain or joy.

And Jephthah sat and gazed on them, and as he looked he was no longer the mighty man of valor, but a creature sore stricken, so that his hands shook for very weakness, and feeble and impotent tears fell down upon his beard and trickled to his armor, while his face was changed and piteous to behold, and he looked, all at once, an aged man.

Turning her eyes toward him, and seeing him in such unhappy case, Namarah slipped from her lover's arms, and went and knelt beside her father, circling his neck with her tender arms, and calling him all manner of caressing names, while she kissed him with deep lovingness on his forehead, his cheeks and his lips. Then did she loosen his heavy armor, and remove each piece in turn, beseeching him to take comfort, and avowing toward him an affection more fervent and dutiful than ever she had shown him in the past. But Adina spake no word either with or against her, but stood where she had left him, with his right hand holding the elbow of his left arm, which was raised toward his face, his chin sunk in his palm. He was still in complete armor, only he had removed his helmet, so that his sunny curls were uncovered. Right goodly to look upon he was, in the majesty of his stalwart youth, but his ruddy skin was ashen white, and in the great blue eyes, which had so lately glowed with so luminous a love-light, there was now the shadow of great despair. And ever his eyes were fixed upon the maiden, following each movement that she made, and the hunger of his soul was in them.

CHAPTER VII.

When Jephthah, at her bidding stood up, that Namarah might lift from him the weight of his heavy armor, he turned and looked upon Adina, and a great cry broke from him, and he sank backward into his seat and covered his face with his hands. But Namarah bent above him and drew away his hands, kneeling on her knees before him, and holding them in both her own.

"Nay, grieve thee not, my father," she said, tenderly. "Let it be done to me according as thou has vowed."

"Thy life is mine, and vowed to me!" burst forth Adina, hotly, taking a step toward her, as if he would wrest her from her father. But the compelling eyes of the maiden Namarah arrested him, and he turned, and began to pace the apartment with the angry strides of a caged beast.

"Ah, woe, my daughter," Jephthah spake, "that thy father, who hath so loved thee, should bring thee now such hurt. It had pleased me well that thou shouldst wed Adina. It was but the morning of this day on which I dreamed these dreams, and to what are they come? Alas, my daughter, why comest thou forth to meet me, so contrary to thy wont and usage? Thou wast ever affrighted before the soldiery and held backward when they came about the door."

"I was even bold and fearless, my father, against my usual wont, because happy case, Namarah slipped from her that love had made me so, and in the presence of my lord, Adina, I had but one fear only, lest I might fail of my honor to him—who knew not my ways as thou knewest them—and appear unloving and ungracious in his eyes. At these words Adina's motions grew more gentle and he checked him in his walk, and came and stood near by, his chin sunk in his palm, as before, and his eyes, with a most mighty tenderness in them, bent upon Namarah.

"But, how knewest thou, my daughter, that the victory was won and thy father's host returning, seeing I sent no messenger before me, but made haste myself to bring thee tidings?"

Then Namarah turned her fair face upward, and said:

for it was even I that sent unto the maiden tidings, by which she gained the knowledge of our approach."

"But how sendest thou these tidings," said Jephthah, "seeing that I gave thee no leave to take a messenger?"

"Therein the fault was mine," Namarah said, "if fault there be—for, were it not the will of God, naught that was done or is to be were possible—seeing that I gave unto Adina one of my carrier birds, to send me word of thy triumph and return, and the bird, in truth, brought me the tidings this morning. Seest thou not then therefore, oh, my father, that this thing that is befallen us was to be?"

Then Jephthah bowed his head upon his hands and uttered a mighty groan. "How sayest thou, my daughter, that that shall be delivered? Knowest thou not that according to my vow thou must be offered a burnt sacrifice?"

As he spake these awful words, the maiden's face grew whiter still, though the courage of her eyes faltered not, and through all the body of the young man Adina there ran a great shiver that again made to shake his armor that it rattled and sounded, seeing which, Namarah rose and ran to him, fearing lest he might even fall to the ground, so greatly he tottered and trembled. Taking him by the hand, she led him to a place beside her father, and gently pressed him to a seat, while she herself sank back upon her knees before them, holding a hand of each, and as she lifted up her head and looked at them, it seemed unto the father and the lover both that her face was as the face of an angel.

"Hearken to me, O thou to whom my soul best loveth," said Namarah, "for there is a voice within me that seemeth to me to speak, and that most dread and sacred voice saith to me what it shall comfort thee to hear. 'I will deliver thee,' the voice crieth continually, and shall we not believe this Heavenly voice? Let us, therefore, be comforted, and take courage and pray continually for deliverance from the terror wherewith we are affrighted. For what is it that thy soul feareth O Adina, and O Jephthah my father? Is it not even the thought of parting?"

As Namarah spake these words, the spirits of the men who listened to her grew suddenly more calm, and the faith and courage with which her own heart was animated seemed to be in some sense imparted to them, so that Jephthah turned unto Adina, and spake unto him in these words:

"Let not thy soul within thee hate me, O Adina, for my heart is sad even unto death. Forgive me the harm that I have done unto thee through ignorance, and let it be with us both even according unto the words that this maiden hath spoken, and let us take comfort and have hope. Let us together pray continually for the deliverance that she feeleth to be in store for us."

And Adina answered, and said:

"It shall be as thou sayest, O Jephthah, and the God of power hear our prayers." Then Jephthah caused him that he knelt in front of him, at the side of the maiden Namarah, and as they rested so, Jephthah lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And as their heads were bowed together, the short golden curls of the man beside the long dark tresses of the maiden, Jephthah rose, and softly left them; and when they lifted up their heads, behold they were alone.

(To be continued.)

Misunderstood Patriotism.

Prof. Alfred B. Adams of New York was a soldier in the civil war, and took part in the Red river campaign under Maj. Gen. Banks. "At one place," he said recently to one of his classes, "we surprised a southern garrison and took many southern prisoners. They were guarding a mountain of cotton bales which were intended for shipment to Europe on account of the southern government. Gen. Banks promptly confiscated the cotton and transferred it to his flotilla. Each bale was stenciled 'C. S. A.' and over this the northern soldiers with marking brushes wrote in huge characters, 'U. S. A.' I was on guard at the time, and one of my prisoners, a handsome, bright-eyed young southern officer, said, 'Yank, what's that writing there?' I looked proudly at him as I replied: 'The United States of America over the Confederate States of America. Can't you read—U. S. A. over C. S. A.?' He looked at me quizzically. 'Thank you,' he said. 'Do you know, I thought it was United States of America Cotton Stealing association.' The next question he put to me I didn't answer."—Philadelphia Post.

Church's Most Pressing Need.

Mrs. De Silke—"I wish to give a memorial of some kind to the church, in memory of a relative. What would you suggest?" Struggling Pastor—"A—er—an appropriately decorated—er—new church furnace, madam, and a few tons of coal."

Dentistry Among the Ancients.

The manufacture and use of false teeth is undoubtedly a practice of great antiquity. The ancient Egyptians were no mean dentists. Jawbones of mummies have been found with false teeth in them, and also with teeth filled with gold.

Off the Old Block.

"James, you ought to control little Jim better." "Mother, we can't; he's too much like you."—Indianapolis Journal.

World's Longest River.

The Nile is the longest river in the world, 4,500 miles. The Niger is 2,500 miles and the Zambezi 1,600 miles.

Where Blaine Will Rest.

Mrs. Blaine has purchased a lot of seven acres adjoining the city cemetery at Augusta, Me., overlooking the Kennebec, which was a favorite place with Mr. Blaine. It is said that she contemplates having her husband's remains removed there from Oak Hill, Washington.

Taking No Chances.

The following notice is posted on the wall of a hotel in Glasgow, Scotland: "Discussions on the war and the twentieth century will not be allowed until the close of both."

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

Begun with Small Farm—Now Does Extensive Mixed Farming.

Within three miles of the town, going eastward, is the farm of Mr. W. Creamer, one of the municipality's largest and most prosperous mixed farmers. Mr. Creamer came to this country in 1880 and settled on a portion of the land which comprises his present enormous farm of 1,280 acres. In common with many others of a similar period, he experienced all the hardships and difficulties common to the absence of railway and market facilities. In no wise daunted, by energy, industry and indomitable will he was able to surmount all obstacles and has achieved an unparalleled success, and is known throughout the district as one of its pre-eminent farmers. His operations extend over 1,250 acres, two sections (the thought alone of so much land makes the eastern farmer dizzy); 800 acres of this is broken and the remainder is excellent pasture land and wood. This harvest he took off a crop of 500 acres of wheat and 200 of other grains. Four hundred acres are plowed and ready for wheat next spring. Mr. Creamer is, as has been stated, a mixed farmer of no mean proportions, having at the present time forty horses, sixty head of cattle and fifty pigs. The most modern farm buildings are found on his premises, the main building being a barn fifty-five feet square on a stone foundation, containing stabling for sixteen horses and a large number of cattle. The loft is stored with twenty-nine loads of sheaf oats for feed, and tons of hay; there is also a cutting-box. Another building of large dimensions is the granary, in which, after teaming large quantities to market, he still has stored 3,000 bushels of wheat. A crushing machine is in the building. There are a number of lesser buildings containing chicken house, pig pens and cattle sheds. The farm residence is a handsome frame structure of ample proportions; in connection with it is a woodshed. The water supply is unexcelled; besides house supply there is a well in the stables and a never-failing spring situate in a bluff, which never freezes. Surrounded by a thick bluff of poplars, extending in a semi-circle to the west, north and east, the winter storms are broken and accumulation of snow unknown. Added to his farming operations, Mr. Creamer conducts a threshing outfit for the season. His success is only one instance of what can be accomplished in western Canada.—Baldur (Man.) Gazette, Nov. 16, 1899.

There will be thousands remove to western Canada this year to engage in the pursuit of farming.

Pis's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.—Mrs. C. E. E. 439 8th Ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, '95.

Try Magnetic Starch—it will last longer than any other.

The American Monthly Review of Reviews for March discusses the war in South Africa in its various phases, the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, the Puerto Rican tariff, our situation in the Philippines, the steamship subsidy bill, the Kentucky disorders, Governor Roosevelt's administration in New York, the approaching presidential campaign, and many other timely topics.

A Sedalia (Mo.) literary society has decided in the affirmative the proposition, "Resolved, That a man should be worth at least \$500 before being given a license to marry a Missouri girl."

Mark Twain's Bicycle Ride.

Mark Twain related in a recent address that he once set out to ride from Hartford to Boston on a bicycle, got tired of it after five miles and took an express train. "What time did you leave Hartford?" asked a friend in Boston. "About 7." "What! And you don't mean you've ridden all the way on your bicycle?" "Enough of it," said Twain, "to prove it could be done."

Not Easily Entered.

Chancellor MacCracken of New York University announces that the original proposal of the Hall of Fame includes a condition imposed by the giver that no name should ever go upon it that had not been approved by the board of 200 judges, consisting of professors and writers of history throughout the United States.

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Church's Queer Nicknames.

There is a church in Boston which is popularly known as the "Church of the Holy Beanblowers," in allusion to the fact that on its tower are angels with trumpets at their mouths. Another goes by the name of the "Church of the Holy Thermometer," because there is a big thermometer on its front; and still another is called the "Church of the Kindergarten Steeples," because it has one tall spire surrounded by several small ones.

Lucky stones are only found in plucky paths.

Backaches of Women

are wearing beyond description and they indicate real trouble somewhere.

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A Great Company's Business.

The latest annual report of the Pennsylvania railroad deals with enormous figures, as usual. The increase in gross earnings is larger than the total receipts of some respectable railroad systems, and the expenditures are greater than the income of some governments, Italy and Austria-Hungary, for instance. The net earnings are equivalent to 5 per cent on \$90,000,000.

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ALABASTINE

Far Be It From Harper.

President Harper authorizes an emphatic denial of the allegation that the University of Chicago, over which he presides, is in any sense a begging institution. "I take this opportunity to say," he remarks, "that I have never asked any living man for a cent of money for this university. All the magnificent gifts received by us, including the millions given by Mr. Rockefeller, were offered without even a hint from me that they would be acceptable."

Mite sometimes becomes might.

Lawton Gave Him a Ring.

William F. Horner of Seattle, who has been serving as a private in the Fourteenth infantry in the Philippines for the past five months, is the proud possessor of a gold ring given him by Major General Lawton for his brave defense of the first reserve hospital at Bacor, one the evening of November 27, 1899.

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