

LOVE IS BEST

By Florence Hodgkinson

CHAPTER VII.—(Continued.)

"I have to thank you for a great kindness, Mr. Dynevor," she said simply. "You put no name to your note, so I never knew till now to whom I was indebted."

"It was a very trifling service. When I read the advertisement it flashed upon my mind you answered the description of the missing girl."

"Yes, I was the girl mentioned. It is nearly three months ago, and I have heard nothing. Sometimes I feel almost safe; then something depresses me, and I go through all my terrors again."

"You mustn't," he said gently; "you will make yourself ill if you fret over contingencies. Believe me, Easthill-on-Sea is as safe a hiding place as you can find. It is hardly known beyond its own immediate neighborhood."

The tea room was deserted—Harold established Beryl in a remote corner, and fetched refreshments for her from the buffet. The grey eyes sought his face half pleadingly:

"I ought not to trouble you," she said wistfully; "but I should like to tell you just this: I have not done anything dreadful—I mean, I am not flying from justice."

Harold laughed outright; he really could not help it.

"Forgive me," he said penitently; "but no one could possibly think you were. You do not look like an escaped criminal, Miss Lendon."

"My father has married again," she said frankly; "and I could not stay to see his wife in my mother's place, so I ran away. I don't think it was wrong."

"But he must miss you very much," "Oh, no," she said naively, "he never cared for me. He always said I was a nuisance to him, and he would want me less than ever now he has his new wife."

"I hope you are fairly comfortable?" he said anxiously. "I have never met Mrs. Tanner; but I own to a great dislike of her friend, Mrs. Wilmot."

"Mrs. Wilmot is terrible; but Mrs. Tanner is not in the least like her. She is very sad and gentle."

"And you mean to stay with her?" "Yes; if only the school gets on enough for her to afford to keep me."

"Miss Lendon," said Harold, when she rose to return to her post, "I need not tell you your secret is safe with me; but you are very young to be so much alone in the world. Will you make me just this one promise? That if troubles arise so that you need a friend, you will let me do my best to help you."

She was his enemy's daughter, Beryl felt if he knew she was the child of the pair who had wronged him he would have no more to do with her; but she only said simply she should never forget Mr. Dynevor's kindness.

It was a brilliant function, and an unqualified success. When at last the stalls were empty, and the flock of pleasure-seekers had gone home, Mrs. Craven carried off the busy money-makers to an informal supper at the Manor. Mrs. Dynevor and her son joined the party, and Beryl found herself seated between Kitty and her brother.

"Will you come and see me, Miss Lendon?" asked the daughter of the Dynevors kindly. "Mother will be very pleased to welcome you. I suppose, in strict etiquette I ought to call at Woodlands; but I might come in school hours, or make some other dreadful mistake, so it will be much nicer if you come to Uplands."

Beryl thanked her; but said something about her duties and Mrs. Tanner.

"Oh, she must spare you sometimes. I seem to know you quite well after all these hours spent together, and we can't go back to being strangers."

Mrs. Grey, her husband, and Beryl drove home in the shabby pony carriage; Mrs. Dynevor and her children walked the half-mile between the Manor and Uplands in the silvery moonlight.

"It was a huge success," said Kitty. "I really quite enjoyed myself, and we made a lot of money."

"And you worked like Trojans," said her brother; "everything went off famously."

"Mother dear," said Kitty anxiously, "are you tired?"

"Not very. You mustn't think me dull, Kitty; but somehow I never can enjoy myself at the Manor. I seem to see the good old days, when you and aunt were alive and we visited there. Kind and hospitable as the Cravens are, it is not the same thing."

"Of course not, mother," said Harold; "but they are far pleasanter neighbors than the real owner of the soil."

"I hope he will not come here," breathed Mrs. Dynevor anxiously. "Harold, you must have been eight or nine when your Aunt Nina left the Manor; do you remember her at all?"

"Only that she was very pretty and gentle, and seemed more like a play-fellow than an aunt; but why do you ask, mother?"

"Then you won't see the resemblance," said Mrs. Dynevor, in a disappointed tone; "but when I first looked at that girl who came with Mrs. Grey I thought the years had turned back, and I saw Nina as she was when your uncle brought her home a bride. Miss Lendon's face is graver and sadder, but the likeness is wonderful."

"Chance resemblances are puzzling

things," said Kitty. "I have asked Miss Lendon to come and see us, mother—you don't mind, do you?"

"I shall be glad for her to come, Kitty, she seems a charming girl. And, my dear, if Harold were not the best of brothers, you might be earning your bread."

"I shouldn't be half as brave and contented over it as she is," said Kitty frankly.

Arrived at the Uplands, mother and daughter went to bed, for it was past their usual hour. Harold turned into his own den to smoke one pipe before retiring. As he lighted the gas his eye fell on a letter with the Marton postmark, addressed in the well-known hand of Mr. Proctor.

"What can he want to write about? I saw him yesterday."

But the lawyer had gone out of his way to do Harold a kindness. He would not even trust one of his clerks to write the letter of warning which he sent to his old friend's son. The letter was marked "private"—a needless precaution, for Harold Dynevor would be sure to keep its contents from his mother and Kitty until the last possible moment.

Dear Dynevor: I have had news for you. It has reached me from a true source that Eustace Lendon intends to give you three months notice of foreclosure at Micalmas. My informant believes that he is keeping his intention dark, so that it may take you by surprise, in the hope that the three months will be all too short for you to get the needed capital. I need not assure you of my most earnest sympathy. Still, the amount, though large, is not preposterous, and it ought to be possible to arrange things. Anyhow, by this letter you have five months to raise the money instead of three.

Yours sincerely,
W. Proctor.

Harold Dynevor put his head on his hands and fairly groaned. He had been old enough when Dynevor Manor passed to a stranger to feel the loss of the old place very keenly; but that was as nothing compared to the bitterness he felt at the bare thought of Uplands, his mother's home, going from them to the man who was their direct foe.

"Please God, it shall not be," he said reverently, as he folded the letter and put it in his pocket. "Mother shall never lose the house she was born in if I can help it. I'll work as man never did before, I'll toil early and late, but that money shall be found. And Eustace Lendon must content himself with Dynevor Manor; Uplands shall not be his!"

But, brave as was the resolve, Harold did not make light of the difficulties in his path. To raise such a sum would have been a hard task even in prosperous times; and now, when a succession of bad harvests had spelled something like ruin to many a landowner, the difficulties of the attempt were quadrupled.

CHAPTER VIII.

Helen Craven's engagement followed very quickly on the fete, and she departed on a long visit to her fiancé's family. Perhaps it was her friends' absence which made Kitty Dynevor remember the pretty girl at Mrs. Tanner's and her desire to see more of her. She missed Helen very much. There was a cloud on the Uplands. Kitty, who was still treated as "the little one," from whom all sorrow and anxiety must be kept as long as possible, was not allowed to know that Eustace Lendon now held the mortgage on their home; but she could not help seeing that her mother was graver than usual, and Harold seemed extra troubled. She knew them both too well to ask questions, and, deciding a little company would be good for them all, she strolled over to Easthill-on-Sea about a fortnight after the fete, called at Woodlands, and asked to see Mrs. Tanner.

Kitty was impulsive in all things. She detested the Wilmots, but she was ready to believe Beryl that Mrs. Tanner was not like her sister, and she felt she could hardly hope to see much of Miss Lendon if she persisted in ignoring her employer.

She took a great fancy to the slender, sad-eyed widow, and made her request as frankly as possible.

"I lost my heart to your assistant at the fete, Mrs. Tanner. I asked her to come and see us; but perhaps she is standing a little on ceremony, for I have not seen her, so I came over today to ask if you would let her walk back and have tea with us."

"I shall be very pleased," was the prompt reply. "Miss Lendon is a dear little thing, and this is a dull home for her."

"Do you know," said Kitty, "when she came into the tent in her white frock, I thought Mrs. Grey had discovered some wandering princess, and pressed her into the service."

"She is very pretty," said Agnes Tanner, with a smile, "and, what is more, she is very patient and sweet-tempered. All my pupils like her, and my own little girls almost worship her. I hope I shall be able to keep her if only the school gets on."

Kitty said a few kind words, hoping Woodlands would prosper, and then Mrs. Tanner sent for Beryl.

"Miss Dynevor wants you to go back with her to tea at Uplands," she said kindly. "I can spare you perfectly, and the change will do you good."

Left alone, the two girls looked at each other; and then Kitty Dynevor broke the silence impetuously.

"Why wouldn't you come with me to fetch you?"

Beryl hesitated. "I don't think I ought to come," she said slowly. "You are one of the county, Miss Dynevor, and I am only a little school teacher."

"I am not a snob!" said Kitty, quite angrily. "I know a lady when I see one, and I don't value my friends for their position or their purse. Now will you come?"

Five minutes later they were walking back to Uplands together, and Beryl was telling Kitty how long and dreary she thought the way the first night of her arrival.

"I don't wonder," returned Miss Dynevor. "A drearier place to arrive at after a long journey I can't imagine. I can't think why people tried to turn that hamlet into a watering place. Easthill itself is delightful."

"You have lived there a long time, haven't you?"

"I was born at Uplands. Harold, my brother, was born at the Manor. There had been something wrong with the Uplands drains, and mother went to the Manor for two months. The old gossips used to declare it meant he would inherit the property, that the master of Dynevor was always born at the Manor. They were quite wrong, however. But I forgot—perhaps you don't know our story?"

"Mrs. Grey told it to me," said Beryl frankly. "I think it is one of the saddest I ever heard. I wonder you don't hate Mr. Lendon."

"Mother and Harold are too good to really hate any one. I am afraid when things go wrong at home, and they look more bothered than usual, my feelings towards Mr. Lendon are rather bitter."

"I suppose you don't remember his wife?"

"Oh, no; I was not born when she left England. Of course it was really her fault the place passed away from us; but I have always felt sorry for her."

"I wonder why?" remarked Beryl, trying to keep the eagerness out of her voice.

"A very little thing. There was a woman in the village here Aunt Nina took with her as maid. When they got abroad I think she was promoted to be a kind of humble companion. She came back about twelve months before Aunt Nina died, and she lived with us for a few years. She was not given to talking; but now and again she'd let out things. She was my nurse, and I was just the age of Beryl Lendon, Aunt Nina's second child. Somehow she'd say things now and then which made me feel Mr. Lendon ill-treated his wife. She never said anything outright—never enough for me to repeat it to mother; but though I was only a little thing—she left before I was ten years old—she said enough to make me sure my aunt was unhappy."

They were at Uplands now. Beryl had no time to ask the nurse's name, or if she were still living at Easthill. Mrs. Dynevor stood on the veranda waiting to welcome the stranger, and the conversation was changed.

(To be continued.)

TO LEARN TRADES.

Training School to Make Crippled Pupils Self-Supporting.

With the new year the pupils of the public school for crippled children, conducted by Mrs. Emma F. Haskell in Illinois hall, will begin a novel undertaking, says the Chicago News. A training school will be established with the hope that some of the pupils may be made self-supporting. They appear almost helpless so far as useful work is concerned, but Mrs. Haskell says they are not. Many of them can work with their hands, and are anxious to learn. The boy who has lost both legs has an ambition to become a carpenter. This appears rather impossible, and his ambitions will be turned in the direction of wood carving. The girls will be taught needlework and similar occupations. They are almost all too helpless to be taught domestic science. Supt. Cooley will make a recommendation to the board of education at its next meeting that materials and equipment for the school is provided. Mrs. Haskell will have charge of the classes, leaving the general work of instruction to her assistants. Truant officers of the board of education are to make a canvass of the city for the purpose of ascertaining the number of crippled and maimed children who would be able to attend school if they were furnished with transportation. Secretary Larson was refused his pay yesterday by the board of education. President Harris, who blamed City Controller Kerfoot for not honoring Mr. Larson's signature a week ago, refused yesterday to issue a voucher for his salary in the new position. Mr. Larson asked for a voucher for his salary at the rate of \$4,000 a year for the part of December he served in the office. President Harris said he had been paid his former salary of \$150 a month, and could not be paid the salary of secretary until the board voted it. A statement was furnished President Harris by Auditor Custer yesterday that shows that the revenue of the board of education for educational purposes will be \$235,853 less than the appropriations called for.

The drawer in which everyday plate is kept should be lined at the bottom with green baize, cut large enough to fold over the plate when it is laid on the baize. Plate should be put away carefully and neatly, all the large forks together and all the small ones together, and so on.

State Capital Observations.

Expressions Emulative for the Good of Republican Supremacy.

LINCOLN, Jan. 28.

Another week has gone by, and still there is no selection made for senator by the legislature.

Practically all of the political seers have reached the conclusion that a long fight is on, with the chances in favor of ending in a deadlock. Many of the uninterested do not look for Thompson's men to desert him, because he is backed by the strongest organization in Nebraska. More than that, he is a man of iron determination. His candidacy two years ago, which everybody admits was weaker than it is this year, prolonged the fight for weeks, and it is expected he will not give in until he is elected or all hope is gone.

Every day efforts have been made to get signers to a republican caucus, but each day a failure was reported. The candidates evidently believe their chances are best without a caucus. Late in the week Representative Whitmore sought to work up a caucus, the call for which read as follows:

"We, the undersigned republican members of the Nebraska state legislature, hereby obligate ourselves to enter into and abide by a republican senatorial caucus to be held on the call of the speaker of the house on reasonable notice and as soon as may be after this agreement is made effective. This agreement is based on the following terms and conditions precedent, to-wit:

"First—This agreement shall be effective upon its receiving the signatures of sixty-seven republican members of the legislature.

"Second—Fifty votes shall be required to nominate any candidate for the United States senate or to adopt any additional rule for the caucus.

"Third—All nominations shall be made by viva voce vote on roll call.

"Fourth—No nomination for United States senator shall be effective until two candidates shall have been duly nominated on the same roll call.

"Fifth—Only republicans of unquestioned loyalty shall be eligible to nomination for United States senator at said caucus."

Just what luck Mr. Whitmore will have is not known at this time, but sentiment is against a caucus yet, and he will probably also fail.

The senatorial fight is getting hotter as the days go by, and from every appearance it is a healthy thing and may last longer than some expect, while it may be closed up with a snap that will take the breath away. That the fusionists are watching the contest with increasing interest is manifest on all sides from the discussions in the lobbies and corridors. Their concern is chiefly as to its effect on the future politics in the state, as they see in the choice of men by the republicans obnoxious to the rank and file a great chance for political capital to assist them back into power.

One republican senator suggests a general caucus, first on the North Platte or long term candidate, all republicans to unite in the selection. After the North Platte man has been chosen, he would caucus on the South Platte or short term senatorship and when both have been determined upon would have them elected by the joint session under the present rules. The suggestion is meeting with some favor, but no steps have thus far been taken to formulate an agreement or secure a caucus to carry out the idea.

Friends of Rosewater contend that if Thompson is sincerely in favor of a north and south Platte nomination, he might show it by nominating the other fellow first and then taking the chances on his own case.

The county treasurers' association met last week at the Lindell hotel to consider matters of deep interest to them. The sessions of the legislature are viewed by them with great interest. They are now trying to secure some legislation that will relieve the treasurers of the western portion of the state. In many of the counties the treasurers feel they are insufficiently remunerated. Especially is this true in those counties under township organization where township collectors gather in taxes and turn them over to the treasurers, absorbing many of the fees. It is believed that the main opposition of the treasurers this session will be directed against the township organization. It was agreed at the meeting that a bill shall be drafted embodying this change.

As far as Lancaster county goes, the bill will have no effect. The reduction in the county population has, however, effected the number of clerks allowed the treasurer here and to obviate this difficulty H. R. No. 2 has been drawn up. It reduces the population limit to permit the same conditions existing now to continue. County Treasurer McLaughlin says that it will be impossible to get along and keep up the work in the office with less than the number of clerks he has now which is exactly the same as was employed by his predecessor. He and Lancaster men generally are taking a keen interest in the measure.

Both houses of the legislature decided to hold a session Saturday last. It was the first Saturday session of the term. Usually the members desire to go home on Saturday to devote one day to their private affairs. Sometimes one house desires to remain in session and the other does not. While the senatorial contest is on it is not deemed best to do this for fear some question might arise as to whether the legislature had complied with the United States statute requiring at least one ballot each legislative day on United States senator.

The friends of the senatorial candidates do not wish to take any chances.

CUTTING DOWN RATES

Bills Before the Senate to Reduce the Cost of Public Service.

FOUR MEASURES ARE INTRODUCED

Some of the Provisions of the Maximum Freight Rate Bill of Senator Weber—Miscellaneous Matters in Nebraska Here and There.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 28.—Railroads and telephones are the burdens of four bills introduced in the state senate. Senator Weber is father of three of them. His telephone bill would reduce rates 25 per cent from those fixed, published, charged, demanded or received January 1, 1901, under penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$200 for the first offense, the limit being \$5,000 for the third offense or any one thereafter.

Senator Paschal would fix rates at \$1.50 per month for each telephone used in private residences and \$2 for each in a business house or office.

The maximum freight rate bill of Senator Weber contains the following provisions:

"The maximum rate for the transportation of hard and soft lumber, laths, shingles, doors, sash and blinds, salt, lime, cement and stucco shall be 85 per cent of the rate which the railroad or railway companies carrying the commodities, goods or merchandise published on the first day of December, 1899, as its charge for the transportation of like commodities, goods or merchandise, as shown by its printed sheet of rates or tariff sheets.

"The maximum rate for the transportation of horses, mules and cattle shall be 85 per cent of the rate which the railroad or railway company carrying the commodities, goods or merchandise published on the first day of December, 1899, as its charge for the transportation of like commodities, goods or merchandise, as shown by its printed sheet of rates or tariff sheets.

"The maximum rate for the transportation of hogs and sheep shall be 85 per cent of the rate which the railroad or railway company carrying the commodities, goods or merchandise published on the first day of December, 1899, as its charge for the transportation of like commodities, goods or merchandise, as shown by its printed sheet of rates or tariff sheets.

"Section 2.—No railroad or railway company shall grant or allow to any person, company or association upon the transportation of freight, either directly or indirectly, any secret rate, rebate, drawback, unreasonable allowance for use of cars or undue advantage whatever, or directly or indirectly charge to or receive from any person, or persons, or association, or corporation any greater or less sum, compensation or reward than is charged to or received from any other person or persons, association or corporation for like service in the receiving, transporting, storing, delivering or hauling of freights.

"Section 4.—No railroad or railway company shall give or promise to give any privilege, favor or right to any shipper of freight over its line which it denies, refuses or withholds from any other shipper of freight over its line.

"Section 5.—Any railroad or railway company which shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall pay to the state a sum not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for the first violation; for the second violation not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000; for the third violation not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000; and for every subsequent violation the sum of \$10,000, to be recovered by the state in a civil suit, and a recovery may be had in one action for as many violations of this act as the defendant company was guilty of when the action was commenced.

"Section 6.—It is hereby made the duty of the attorney general to institute in the supreme court and of each county attorney to institute in the county or district court of his county such action as may be proper and necessary to enforce the provision of, and collect the penalties imposed by, this act.

"Section 7.—Whenever an action is brought against any railroad or railway company for having charged, demanded or received, either directly or indirectly, a higher or greater rate for transporting any of the commodities, goods or merchandise named herein than that fixed by this act, the defendant company shall have the right to prove, if it can, upon proper allegations first made in its answer, the unreasonableness of such rate, and such proof shall constitute a complete defense to the action."

Child Accidentally Shot.
OSCEOLA, Neb., Jan. 28.—Word has just been brought to town of an accident that occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Christianson, a few miles from town, the other day. The children were out playing with an air gun, and did not know it was loaded. It exploded and a little six-year-old boy got the charge in the face and it is sure that the left eye will be destroyed, and may be the right one.

Smallpox at Angus.
EDGAR, Neb., Jan. 28.—At Angus, a little town six miles south of here, there are several families ill with the smallpox. With exception of two persons the cases are of the mild type. No cases have developed here since more than a month ago.

Helping the Indians.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Congressman Robinson of Nebraska appeared before the committee on Indian affairs and in behalf of a bill which he introduced for the relief of Joseph M. Campbell and Stephen Blacksmith, members of the Santee Sioux tribe of Indians, residing on the agency in Knox county, Nebraska. The bill gives the Indians the right to purchase the land occupied by their homes on the agency. The committee unanimously agreed to report the bill favorably.