

Mildred Trevanion

BY THE DUCHESS.

CHAPTER XII.

This terrible announcement she uttered as though it could not fail to strike despair and remorse into the hearts of her hearers; and, indeed, in Lady Caroline's breast it awoke mingled feelings of joy and terror, though in those of Mildred and Mabel the joy reigned supreme.

Lady Caroline attempted a faint remonstrance, but was sternly silenced; and on Wednesday, two days earlier than that on which she had originally decided, the old lady, bag and baggage, swept out of King's Abbott, very much to the relief of those she left behind.

And now came the most trying time in all poor Mildred's life. During all of the past weeks that she had been suffering violence at the hands of her relatives, Lord Lyndon had become a constant, untiring visitor at King's Abbott, taking no rebuffs, nor open slights, nor petulant actions to heart, but, as might a faithful animal, attending all the more assiduously to her wants who was his acknowledged mistress.

Patience, assisted by perseverance, has ever been known to work wonders, so it followed that in process of time he became—though so imperceptibly that it was without her knowledge—necessary to Mildred; so much so indeed that fewer and fewer grew the slights and unkindnesses on her part, while in their place a certain winning friendliness came and increased, raising false hopes in Lyndon's breast that should never have been there.

The end of all this was that close upon Christmas-time, somewhere about the middle of December, while all their minds were fully occupied with Lady Eagleton's sayings and doings, Lord Lyndon proposed for Miss Trevanion, and was rejected. This blow might perhaps have effectually daunted another man; but Lyndon, still following up his trusty instincts, determined to bide his time and never surrender hope until a more favored suitor took his place.

Mildred, having lively recollections of the treatment she had received on a similar occasion, thought well to keep her own counsel in this matter; and so it was agreed upon between them to hold the entire circumstance a secret from the rest of the family—to insure which, things of course went on in the usual way, he calling every other day and she accepting his attentions—which were never of the obtrusive description—in the same manner as formerly. So well did they sustain their several parts that even Lady Harriet's keen old eyes failed to detect that anything was amiss.

Sir George's affairs at this time were going from bad to worse. He had been hard at work for the past two months trying to find the ways and means to ward off the inevitable day of reckoning, and had suggested plans and pursued theories, all of which his man of business had frowned at and pooh-poohed as utterly impracticable. Nothing but the possession of a large sum of money—and that to be written in five figures—stood between him and complete ruin; and how to secure the money was the difficulty—a difficulty beyond all surmounting unless somebody could be found who for pure friendship's sake would lend it for an indefinite period, trusting to time and chance for repayment. Such a friend was hard to find.

One evening Mildred, on her way to her mother's room, was stopped by a servant with the intelligence that Lord Lyndon had just called, and was in the drawing-room.

"Would Miss Trevanion go down and receive him, while she informed her ladyship of his arrival?"

To which Mildred made answer that she would tell Lady Caroline herself, and went on to her mother's apartment.

When she came to the bedroom she found the door closed, but opening it passed on toward an inner room beyond, where Lady Caroline usually sat, and whence voices, suppressed yet distinct, reached her. As she approached still nearer, they rose still higher, and words became intelligible to her ears.

"If I do not get this money without delay we are simply ruined," said Sir George, irritably.

"Then I suppose there is nothing left you but to ask Mr. Younge for it," returned Lady Caroline, in a reluctant tone.

"I suppose not," said Sir George. Ask Mr. Younge! Ask the father of the man whom she had not considered good enough to marry for money! What could it all mean?

Mildred stopped short and pressed her hands tightly together. Surely she had not heard aright. They could not mean— She drew her breath hard and swept like a whirlwind into the room.

"Papa," she said, "what are you thinking of? What have you been saying? I heard you as I came along. By what right do you intend to ask money of Mr. Younge—of him of all men? What claim have you on him?"

"Mildred, you do not understand," began her father. "I speak of a loan." "Yes, I do understand," broke in the girl passionately—"only too well. You speak of a loan; when, then, do you intend to return it—in months, in

years? Why, you yourself told me only the other day you could not hope to see the time the estate would retrieve itself. I ask you, therefore, is it honorable to borrow?"

"Something must be done," Sir George urged feebly, "else we must starve."

"Then let us starve," cried Mildred, vehemently; "far better do that, or work for our daily bread as others have done before us, than live comfortably on other people's money. Let us be honest, whatever we are; and surely to borrow without hope of being able to repay is the very acme of all dishonesty."

Lady Caroline rose, pale and trembling.

"Mildred," she said, "how dare you speak so to your father? You have altogether forgotten yourself, I think. How can you presume to dictate to him what is right or wrong? Is he not your father? Are you not his child? Ah, it is because he has been so good to you that you now fall in love and obedience to him!"

It was the first time she had ever rebuked Mildred within her memory, and her voice shook with the unwonted agitation.

"Do not speak to her like that," interrupted Sir George, gently. "She is right; she has but spoken the truth. I can now see for myself that my intention was dishonorable and dishonest."

But Lady Caroline was still stung to the quick.

"And you, you ungrateful girl," she went on, taking no notice of her husband's speech, "how can you claim to have any voice in the matter at all—you who could have saved us all by putting out your hands and would not?"

"Hush, Carry!" interposed Sir George, authoritatively. "We have had enough of that subject. I will hear no more of it. Thinking it over of late, I can see no just reason why Mildred should sacrifice herself to please her family. If I am to be beggared in my old age," he said, with a wretched attempt at a smile, "the sooner it comes to pass the better."

An awful pain arose in Mildred's heart; her mother's words had sunk deep into it. Was she indeed the cause of all this cruel suffering? Was it through her fault that sorrow had fallen upon the closing years of her father and mother?

CHAPTER XIII.

Mildred descended the stairs and hurried across the hall, giving herself no time to think of or meditate on what lay before her, and, going into the drawing-room, found Lord Lyndon standing with his back to the fire. She went up to him, and held out her hand.

"I want you to do something for me," she said, in a low, choked voice—"will you do it?"

"Of course, I will," he responded in his pleasant, cheery way. "Why do you ask me that? Have you yet to learn that there is nothing in the world I would not do for you if I could?"

"Hush!" she said. "I would rather you did not promise just yet. Wait until you have heard my request, for it is no ordinary one. I do not think you can grant it. I shall not think it in the least strange if you tell me you cannot."

At least let me hear what it is," he requested, gently.

"I want you to lend me, for an indefinite period, fifteen thousand pounds." Lord Lyndon was so taken aback that at first he scarcely recognized the importance of an immediate reply. He was rich, certainly—richer far than many men who were accounted well possessed of this world's goods; but fifteen thousand pounds was a sum that few could put their hands on at a moment's notice. He hesitated, therefore, for a little, and then recovering himself said quietly:

"What day shall I bring it to you? Or would you prefer paying it in any—where?"

"You will give it to me, then? You really mean it? Are you sure—certain? Think what a large sum it is, and how small is your hope of repayment, and do not speak in too great a hurry."

"I am sure," he said. "I promise you."

"And about securities?" questioned Mildred, trying anxiously to recollect all that she had ever heard about money matters, and not succeeding at all.

"We will not speak about securities," answered Lyndon, gently. "Let it be an arrangement between you and me alone; I shall trust to you to repay me the moment you are able."

The utter kindness and nobility of his nature touched her to the heart.

"What shall I say to you?" she said, in a low tone, while a strange trembling pervaded her voice. "How shall I thank you?"

"Say nothing—do not thank me at all," he answered, in a hurried, pained manner, moving back a few steps from her.

Meanwhile time was flying. One, two, three minutes passed, marked by nothing except the small ormolu ornament on the chimney piece, as it ticked away its little monotonous existence. He, gazing absently in the fire, be-

thought him of what all this might portend; she thought of nothing—remembered nothing—beyond the fact that, for her, life's sweetness, liberty and tender sympathy were not.

At length, rousing herself with an effort, she went up to Leydon and placed her hand on his. Her heart was beating wildly, her face was ashen.

"Do you remember a question you asked me about two weeks ago?" she said. "Do you still care to remember it? Because, if so, I have a different answer to make you now."

"Two weeks ago I asked you to marry me," he replied, in a forced, unnatural manner.

"And then I said 'No,'" she murmured faintly; "now—now—I would say 'Yes.'" She covered her face with her hands; a thick, dry, tearless sob escaped her.

"But I have not asked you to say it," observed his lordship, coldly, still keeping down with firm hand the rising hope that was consuming him. "What, Mildred, do you imagine that, because I have been able to help you in this little matter, I have a claim on you? You are doing both yourself and me a great injustice."

"You are too good for me," said Miss Trevanion; "and yet I know you love me. If you still care to marry me, I will gladly be your wife."

"Mildred, Mildred, what are you saying?" he cried, all the icy brave reserve breaking down in an instant. "Think what your thoughtless words must mean to me—life, hope, happiness greater than I have ever dared to dream of—and beware lest I take advantage of them. If you are saying all this—as I feel you are—from a mistaken sense of gratitude or pity, I implore you to desist and leave me as I was before."

"Listen to me," entreated Mildred, determined honestly to advocate her own doom, and holding out to him her hands, which he gently took and held. "If I tell you that I do not love you with that passionate love with which some women love the men they marry, but that I respect you above all living men, will it content you—will you take me as I am?"

"If I were quite sure you would be happy," he began, reluctantly.

"I am quite sure I should be happy," she interposed, and burst into bitter tears as she spoke.

After a little she recovered herself. "I feel nervous," she declared, trying bravely to appear her usual self, and smiling a wan, faint smile, though heavy drops were on her lashes; "you should have come to my rescue—it is not every day the proposal is made by the woman."

"My darling," he said, tenderly caressing the small hands, of which he had again possessed himself, "I hope—I think—you will never regret it. Mildred, if I were quite certain that this was for your good, and that you would never wish unsaid the words you have uttered, I believe I might feel satisfied."

"Be satisfied, then," she returned, but there was a terrible, dull aching pain at her heart, as she gave the expected assurance.

When he was gone she went upstairs again to the room where she had left her father and mother, and found them still there—Sir George standing at the window gazing out upon the snow-covered ground, Lady Caroline before the fire, as though in the act of warming herself. The traces of tears were still upon her mother's cheeks, and even as Mildred gazed a heavy drop fell upon her lap.

"Mamma, be comforted," cried Mildred, coming suddenly forward from where she had been standing unnoticed, in the shadow of the door; "I have done what you wished me to do—I have got the money for you."

Lady Caroline started and turned toward her; so did Sir George.

(To be continued.)

WILL NOT LEND THE BOOKS.

Collectors of Rare Volumes Have a Horror of the Borrowers.

A noted book collector of New York, one whose library is filled with some of the rarest treasures of the bibliophile's heart, recently complained of the total lack of the collector's spirit among literary men. "I was recently asked by a literary man to send him a copy of an extremely rare book that I have on my shelves to aid him in some work that he is doing. Now, I want to help him all I can, and if he will come to my house he can have the use of the book as long as he wants it, under the most favorable circumstances. But send him the book—no, under no circumstances! It is not the fact that it is worth hundreds of dollars anywhere in the market, but the fact that if damaged or lost it would be utterly irreplaceable that makes the collector shudder. If it were lost or spoiled Mr. Literary Man would send an apologetic letter expressing his deep contrition at an untoward accident, perhaps with a check inclosed, but of the real horror of the situation I think he and his tribe could have no inkling."

Improvements Upon National Capitol.

About \$300,000 will be expended upon the Capitol at Washington during the congressional recess. Many desirable improvements will be made, and the architect of the Capitol has been authorized to prepare and submit plans for the reconstruction and fireproofing of the central portion of the building and the renovation and redecoration of the rotunda. Plans are also to be prepared for a new fireproof building adjacent to the Capitol grounds to be used for additional committee rooms, storage and power plant.

ECONOMIC ASPECT.

RECIPROCIITY CONSIDERED FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW.

The Forcing Out Process of Extending Foreign Trade Has Invariably Been Attended with Serious Depression of Domestic Industries.

Such is the suggestive title of a lecture delivered before the students of the College of Commerce in the University of California, on the evening of April 4, by Mr. John P. Young, of the San Francisco "Chronicle." Mr. Young is the author of "Protection and Progress," a work of great strength and importance, which made its appearance last year and attracted very wide attention. Ranking, as he does, among the ablest economic writers of the day, Mr. Young's views regarding "The Economic Aspects of Reciprocity" are sure to command respectful consideration. Inquiring into the causes of the rise and fall of nations, Mr. Young makes the terse comment that "the cause of decay in most instances was due to the failure of the defunct to mind their own business." There is pertinent sense in the remark that in almost every case "nations which engaged in the work of empire building pursued the economic course of neglecting the development of their home resources." Economic backing is essential to permanency of government, and solidarity is best promoted by developing domestic industry. Advocates of reciprocity ignore or fail to comprehend the wastefulness of trade artificially promoted. They see a chance to sell larger quantities of machinery to Russia by taking Russia's sugar on terms more advantageous than those granted to other countries; but they do not see that sound economics require that Russia shall make her own machinery; that we shall produce all the sugar we need, and that hauling machinery and sugar back and forth is, therefore, an unnecessary waste. They fall into the Cobdenite error of thinking that present cheapness is the only thing to be considered and that the people of today owe nothing to the generations to come.

The wane of Egypt's power and prestige is traced by Mr. Young directly to the mistaken policy of Ramses III. In opening up reciprocal trade relations with Phoenicia and Syria, Egypt fell a prey to her more vigorous rivals, and became a heterogeneous population without a national aspiration, "a condition which inevitably ensues when the solidarity of interests which a prosperous domestic industry promotes is impaired by exchanging commercial independence for a state of dependence upon foreigners." The manufacturers of Egypt and of Rome, says Mr. Young, were constantly trying to push their surplus wares on other peoples, and, like some moderns who are clamoring for an "open door," they overlooked the fact that when a door is opened it permits egress as well as ingress. In short, they suffered the experience through which Great Britain is now passing, the destruction of domestic industry through the flood of rival products that followed the forcing open of the trade doors of foreigners. The interests of individuals will always prompt them to adopt methods which consider their own advancement at the expense of the community. It should be the aim of statesmen to restrain and not promote this tendency. It is a powerful enough factor when unaided, and influences the destinies of men sufficiently without the direct help of lawmakers.

In conclusion Mr. Young says it may be urged that a national policy such as here outlined is narrow and selfish, but reflection will convince any unbiased person that in the long run its operation will prove universally beneficial. Certainly it is no great economic achievement for a nation to flourish in brilliancy for a short period and then decay. But that is the fate which has overtaken many commercial nations, and it seems to be the destiny of Great Britain to share it. When a writer like Mallock coolly tells his countrymen that they must consider the propriety of emigrating as soon as their coal mines are worked out, he indicts the system he extols, for he virtually advises a reversion to nomadic conditions. That is what the forcing-out process tends to. Throughout the ages it has resulted in the shifting about of commercial centers, and is responsible for the attendant evils. It has made industrial people campers by the side of raw materials. Today they are exerting themselves to get rid of the bounties of nature as speedily as possible; at some future day they will be compelled to abandon the field of their operations because it is worked out, and resort to other countries, perhaps the very ones upon which they lavished the surplus they should have conserved. This is not intelligent, nor is it economic. There ought to be a more rational scheme, but it will not develop until economists begin to teach that synchronous universal development promises better results than those attained by pursuing a course which operates to prevent the advancement of backward peoples. If the world were created for the enjoyment of the existing generation, the forcing-out process might have some justification. But it has not been. Other generations are to come after us, and we owe an obligation to them. Economists must keep this in mind. They cannot, they dare not, take for their motto, "After me the deluge."

Beet Sugar Production.

The statistics of the beet sugar industry, as summed up in a census bulletin, show that, after many years of manufacture on a small scale, it has assumed large proportions, and in the

census year more than one-third of the domestic sugar product was obtained from the beet. This quantity of sugar, 70 per cent of which was suitable for immediate consumption, was produced in a year of extremely unfavorable agricultural conditions in the beet districts. The yield of beets per acre was less than half that of an average season. The factories could readily manufacture more than two and one-half times the quantity of sugar produced, if supplied with sufficient raw material.—Pittsburg Times.

A CELEBRATED CASE.

Federal Court Decision Which Strikes a Blow at Undervaluation.

A legal question of extraordinary interest and importance in its varied bearings and its remarkable possibilities has just been decided by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. In the year 1898 the treasury department learned through reliable sources that a system of large undervaluations existed in connection with the importation of embroideries from Switzerland and other countries. By the instructions of the department different customs officers took up the subject for customs investigation, and during the following year this class of merchandise coming especially from Switzerland was advanced from 30 to 40 per cent by the appraiser at New York, and this action by the appraiser was appealed by the importers to the United States Board of General Appraisers, where the cases were heard by General Appraiser Sharretts, who promptly reduced the advances referred to above to 4½ per cent.

One appeal was left to the government, namely, from one general appraiser to the full board of general appraisers, and it was expected and believed that the collector at New York would promptly appeal the case. He not only did not appeal, but refused to take this action, and was finally overruled by the treasury department and ordered to appeal the cases to the full board of general appraisers for final adjudication. The full board of general appraisers sustained the original advances referred to of 30 and 40 per cent. The case was taken before the classification branch of the General Board of Appraisers on the purely technical question of jurisdiction, and this branch of the board decided in favor of the importer, thus invalidating the action of the full board of appraisers. The treasury department then took the case to the United States Circuit Court, and Judge Townsend, following his usual inclination, turned down the government, thus sustaining the action of the collector of the port and of General Appraiser Sharretts.

The treasury department again appealed the case to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second District of New York. The decision has just been handed down from this court, which reverses Judge Townsend, Collector Bidwell, General Appraiser Sharretts and the Classification Board and sustains the position taken by the government.

In legal points and stripped of confusing technicalities, the case is this: Enormous undervaluations existed. This was proved and confirmed by the highest court, but the collector of the port claimed and actually exercised the absolute right of final judgment as to whether the government should or should not appeal from an unsatisfactory appraisement by a single member of the Board of General Appraisers. Had the decision of Collector Bidwell been sustained the government would have been compelled to rebate \$154,000 to the very undervaluers who now are paying duties based upon the final appraisement made in this case. It would have had the effect of practically placing the appraising department of the government in the hands of the collectors of customs throughout the country, and of stripping the treasury department of the power to compel the collection of revenues to which the government was entitled under the law. It would have made a subordinate officer of the treasury department superior to the secretary of the treasury himself, superior to the courts, superior to the law. It would have made the local collector "the whole thing," as regards valuation, appraisement and the collection of hundreds of millions of revenue. Fortunately the United States Circuit Court of Appeals saw the danger and the illegality of such a state of things and smashed it.

ST. PAUL, May 8.—At a regular meeting of the board of managers of the board of prisons today at Stillwater unanimous action was taken in favor of paroling the Younger boys, who are serving life sentences. Before the parole can be effective all three members of the state pardon board must approve it, and the action will be submitted to that body as soon as possible. This is in accordance with the new parole law, which allows the parole of life prisoners after about twenty-four years' imprisonment, being thirty-five years, less time gained by good behavior. Paroles usually are granted by the prison managers alone, but in the case of life prisoners unanimous approval of the board of pardons is also necessary and such paroled life prisoners cannot leave the state.

A GOOD MAN TO HAVE PLEASSED



American Farmer—Yes, protection is all right. All my crops sold, all my mortgages paid off, and everything I can raise this year sold ahead.

NEBRASKA CROP BULLETIN.

Spring Work Progressing Well and General Conditions Are Favorable.

OMAHA, May 8.—United States department of agriculture, Nebraska section, climate and crop service of the weather bureau: The first part of the last week was warm and dry, with high south wind. The last days of the week were cool, with heavy general rains. The daily mean temperature has averaged 10 degrees to 12 degrees above the normal. The weekly maximum temperatures were generally between 85 degrees and 90 degrees.

The rainfall of the week fell on the last days of the week, and generally exceeded the normal for the first week in May in the eastern part of the state. In the western counties it was about or slightly below normal. In a large part of the eastern portion the rainfall ranged from 1 to 2.5 inches.

The last week has been favorable for the advancement of farm work, and generally for the growth of vegetation. The high south wind dried out the top of the ground and in some instances retarded the growth of oats, wheat and grass, but no damage resulted to any crop because of the timely rain the last of the week. At the close of the week winter wheat was in very fine condition. Oats and spring wheat are coming up evenly and growing well. Grass is somewhat backward, but is now sufficiently advanced in pastures to sustain stock. Corn planting has made good progress in the southern counties, where about one-third of the crop is planted and a little of the earliest planted is up. Corn planting has commenced in nearly all parts of the state. Fruit trees are blossoming very fully in all parts of the state.

CONDITION OF WHEAT CROP.

Kansas and Nebraska Head the List With Highest Percentages.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Carefully compiled reports from the American Agriculturalist's corps of observers make the May 1 condition of winter wheat 91.50, against 91.5 last month, and compared with an average at this date for five years of 84. April was wholly favorable for the development of the wheat crop over the greater part of the belt. The report shows little damage through insect pests outside of Texas, Oklahoma and Michigan. No crop in twenty years has stood better than the present one in the all-important features of roots and stools.

The spring wheat crop has been sown under highly favorable conditions, says the report, and while seeding in the extreme north is not completed, enough is known to make it certain that the acreage is fully equal to that sown last year. There is an abundance of early moisture over the whole belt except in a limited portion of South Dakota. The condition May 1 of wheat by states includes: Ohio, 88; Kentucky, 85; Michigan, 83; New York, Pennsylvania and Indiana, 95; Illinois, 96; Kansas, 100; Nebraska, 99; California, 90.

PAROLE FOR THE YOUNGERS.

Board of Prison Managers Unanimous in Its Recommendation.

ST. PAUL, May 8.—At a regular meeting of the board of managers of the board of prisons today at Stillwater unanimous action was taken in favor of paroling the Younger boys, who are serving life sentences. Before the parole can be effective all three members of the state pardon board must approve it, and the action will be submitted to that body as soon as possible. This is in accordance with the new parole law, which allows the parole of life prisoners after about twenty-four years' imprisonment, being thirty-five years, less time gained by good behavior. Paroles usually are granted by the prison managers alone, but in the case of life prisoners unanimous approval of the board of pardons is also necessary and such paroled life prisoners cannot leave the state.

Munroe of Omaha to Appeal.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—The Industrial commission will resume its sitting for the taking of testimony tomorrow, and will continue for two weeks or more. The questions that will receive especial attention relate to the Industrial commission, the tariff and transportation. The following witnesses are expected to testify some time during May, but their dates have not been definitely fixed: J. C. Stubbles, third vice president of the Southern Pacific Railroad company, San Francisco; J. A. Munroe, Union Pacific railway, Omaha; W. P. Trickett, commissioner, Kansas City freight bureau.

Britain Will Fight It Out.

CAPETOWN, May 8.—Sir Alfred Milner, the British commissioner, addressing a mass meeting today, said there was absolutely no reason for the anxiety felt in some quarters lest any change be introduced in South Africa that would in any way weaken the imperial policy. Such a change was impossible. Great Britain had made up its mind and would carry out the policy laid down, which has heretofore been announced.