



LULU JAMISON

CHAPTER XXV.
RACHEL'S CONFESSION.

Brian at first was content to lie still and watch Margaret, but as he grew stronger he would ask her to sing or talk to him, and then would she tell him again and again of the bitter regret and remorse which had filled those three long miserable weeks.

"How cruel I was," he whispered. "I did not know what I was saying. I could never reproach you. You have done more for me than I can ever speak of. Always my true, loyal wife. Always making sacrifices for me. It was such a dear, tender heart that I longed for just a tender spot in it."

"A very proud heart," she corrected gently.

"Only sometimes. And had it been a thousand times more proud I should have felt it all in the joy of possessing it at last."

"You have possessed it all the time," she confessed, burying her face from his glance. "It has been yours since we were together at St. Conset, Brian. I did not realize it myself, but now I know, and am glad of the suffering that taught me."

"Ah, darling, that I have been so blind. When you married me I thought—"

"Yes, Brian, so did I think. My sense of justice felt outraged by uncle Stephen's will, and I persuaded myself that I was marrying you to make amends for that, and all the while my love for you was pleading so much more eloquently than my love of justice. I have kept it back so long I wish you to know all the truth now."

His eyes filled with an inexpressible joy, as he lovingly stroked her bowed head.

"Rachel has made her confession at last," he said, softly, "and Jacob would willingly live over his sufferings again for the pleasure of hearing such sweet words. He is very happy now, for he feels that this is his true wedding day, and his life lies before him."

August was nearly gone, and he was only able to sit in his chair and allow her to wait upon him.

They were together so one morning when a messenger arrived from Cedars with a note for Margaret. She read it hastily, and, with a radiant face and the words "I am so glad," handed it to Brian.

"Good news," he said, taking it from her hand and reading the words aloud.

"Another Bertie came somewhat unexpectedly with the sun this morning. Alice hopes you will pay your immediate respects to his lordship."

"Bertie is evidently in the fifth heaven of delight," commented Brian. "Carry my congratulations, Margaret. I suppose you are going."

Margaret, of course, fell in love with the tiny bit of humanity, and fully agreed with Alice that Cedars Barton junior was a very fine-looking young man. She even fancied she discovered a likeness to Bertie, though not a particularly striking one, as she told Brian afterward.

September came in very cool and the invigorating air seemed to infuse new life into Brian.

"You will not be able to impose upon me much longer," he said to Margaret, one morning. "I'll be strong enough to rebel against your tyranny soon."

As soon as you like, Brian," she answered, looking up from the book she had placed on the table beside him. "I think I've played nurse long enough. If you do not get well very soon you will grow so fat and lazy that I'll never be able to get you out of that chair."

He looked up into the face which had never seemed more sweet and lovable, and catching her hand held it a prisoner within his own.

"Never mind," he said, "wait until I am out of this for good. Then I mean to take my dear little nurse to the land and make her fat and lazy, too. I want to see some roses in her white cheeks."

"I don't think you will ever be able to coax them there, Brian. It is not their element, but the nurse feels that she desires some petting and cooing; she has given you so much. What can she do for you now? Ready?"

"No, my dear; talk. I am a great trial, am I not?"

"Oh, yes, a dreadful trial," she returned with a hot smile. "But, Carry added softly, "I could never do without my trial."

He caught her hand as she uttered the last words and drew her unresistingly to his knee.

"Then came a sharp and unexpected interruption, in Bertie's voice:

"Hello, there! I don't want to disturb such interesting proceedings, but I would like to know how soon the public may be admitted. Such civilities!"

"You are extremely impudent," cried Margaret, starting to her feet with a brilliant blush. "If you do not learn better manners I shall drop your acquaintance."

"Please don't, ma'am. I need your protection sadly. My respected father has just sent me from his presence with a parting injunction to visit a certain gentleman who is credited with warm quarters. I preferred coming here. And, by the way, Brian, I've been commissioned to inform you that you have been indulging your laziness long enough, and, therefore, you are expected to pay your respects at the Cedars to-night."

"Tell Margaret to come and bring her husband along," were the words of my venerable father. So, Margaret, please do as you are bid."

"I wish you could be more dignified, Bertie. For a husband and a father you are sadly wanting in that quality."

"For answer, Bertie laughed. "How are you, old fellow?" he asked, taking Brian's hand. "Able to assert your authority?"

"Not quite. I've just been warning Margaret that the time is not far distant when I shall assume the reins of government."

"She looks quite miserable over the prospect," returned Bertie, with his eyes on Margaret's laughing face. "I saw Wilson when I was in the city a day or two ago. He inquired very particularly about you, and Margaret also. I told him you were doing finely, and that Margaret was as unmanageable as ever."

"I shall be revenged for that, sir. Was Dr. Wilson well?"

"I can't say he looked very well," answered Bertie, with some hesitation. "He works too hard, I think. He is certainly very pale and thin."

"Why not write and invite him here for awhile?" said Brian, turning to Margaret. "This air would infuse new life in his veins."

"He has not seemed quite natural for some time. I'm afraid he is losing his old happy spirits."

"We will ask him to come," said Margaret, quickly, "though I fear he cannot give up any of his valuable time. When I think of what he has done for me, Brian, I do feel so grateful to him, and I should like nothing so well as to find him such a true, good wife as he deserves."

"Margaret turned match-maker," mused Bertie. "She becomes more interesting and original every day. I will tell Wilson to get himself in readiness, and meantime, my dear, I hope you will search diligently for the particular woman destined to become his blessing and torment at the same time. Now I must be off. I suddenly remember that Alice sent me for some mixture for that young hopeful of ours, and if I don't hurry he may bawl his head off."

"You catagorically unfeeling man! I had known you were on any such errand, you shouldn't have staid here a second. That poor little innocent may be actually suffering for his medicine."

"No more than you, my dear," laughed Bertie. "It is simply the Barton temper asserting itself. Even father recognizes it, and while he accepts retributive justice in a meek and lowly spirit, it sometimes gives way to a mild elevation, such as thunder with Bertie grows particularly demonstrative. However, I'll get the decoction and say good-by to you until to-night."

A day or so later, Margaret sent to Dr. Wilson a warm and pressing invitation to spend a few days at Elmwood. Wilson found the letter awaiting him when he reached his rooms after a long day's work, and, though his face brightened at the sight of it, he did not accept the tempting pleasure offered, and his regrets, not himself, found their way to Elmwood.

The letter found a place in a corner of his desk, and it was still there when time had whitened his hair and his eyes were dim from something more than sweet old memories.

CHAPTER XXV.
AFTER TWO YEARS.

Two years had passed, and brought their inevitable changes. The seasons have come and gone. The flowers have bloomed and died and bloomed again, and once more Elmwood is crowned in the full beauty of the month of roses.

It is late in the afternoon, and for some time Margaret has been waiting for Brian's coming. Her eyes are fixed alternately upon the long drive and upon the little face sleeping peacefully in her arms.

Eternity, that perfect completion of grace and dignity, and left upon her life the impress of a happiness that even the shadow of old sorrows cannot lessen.

Indeed, the sorrows are never remembered, except in a philosophical sort of way, and in the realization of all that she hoped and expected she feels that they have brought an ample reward.

Brian has fully redeemed his pledge, and, with a life full of higher and nobler pleasures, is walking faithfully in his father's footsteps, and winning the same honor and respect.

He comes home with a light heart this evening, and seeing Margaret, leaps from his carriage to take her in his arms and kiss the two faces with warm and tender love.

"Are you very tired?" she asks, looking into his eyes.

"So, so. It has been warm in the village, but here it is quite delightful. I fear Mrs. Lisle is down again for good. I fear, this time, with her long attack of influenza. He is more frightened than hurt, I think, and more troublesome than either. He fancies I am not giving him sufficient medicine, and insists on taking a double dose. His wife has quite a time with him. I am sure."

"What have you been doing with yourself, Margaret? Not trying any of yesterday's experiments, I hope. Give me Marguerite; she is growing quite heavy. You must not try to carry her any more, dear. We will take her to Milly and we will walk to that hill to see the sunset. It is really superb."

When the baby had been given into the care of his nurse, Margaret linked her arm in Brian's, and they walked toward the place he pointed out.

"I have a piece of news which will please you, I know. Wilson has at last made up his mind to come to us for a week. We may expect him about the 21st, he says."

"Ah, how glad," Margaret answered, with genuine feeling. "We must make it such a delightful week that he will want to repeat it. It is really quite curious, I think. But, do you know, I never saw such a strong desire to see any one man as I have to see him? I know it would make such a happy difference in his life."

"I suppose you think that the only happy state for man?"

"His laughing glance," she replied, meeting his laughing glance.

"It should be, and, as a rule, I think it is; the exceptions are individual cases. To my mind a poor, lonely old bachelor trying to persuade himself that he is fortunate, is a more pitiable and pitiful creature than a man who has found matrimony is a most doleful and pitiable spectacle. Ah, how glorious!"

The last words were uttered as they reached the summit of the hill and the full splendor of the sunset burst upon them.

They stood for a few seconds in silence, watching the globe of fire sinking in a sea of gold. Then Margaret stole more closely to his side with the words:

"It seems to hold the peace of benediction, Brian."

"A benediction," he repeated, slipping his arm about her waist and holding her to his heart. "Ah, may we always feel the peace of such a benediction, darling. May we always stand together as we are standing now, through better and through worse; ever firm in each other's trust; ever strong in each other's love. And when our suns shall set, may our skies be as calm and as tranquil as this glorious one before us."

"Oh, tranquil sunset of the soul. When all the sun of earth is past; When storms no longer round us roll. We know, though faint and faint we may, Calm sunset ends the longest day."

[THE END.]

Stentor.

In the Grecian army it was usual to have three men in each battalion to communicate the commands of the officers to the men. Of these, one carried a standard and another a trumpet. But in the confusion and din of battle, when neither signal could be seen nor trumpet heard, the third man (who for this purpose was the strongest in the army) communicated the commands by word of mouth. Homer relates of one of these men, Stentor by name, that he shouted as loud as fifty other men. Hence a man with a powerful voice is said to possess the voice of Stentor, or a stentorian voice.

THE SNAKE SCOTCHED.

IT WILL NEVER REAR ITS UGLY CREST AGAIN.

For the Truths of Tariff Reform Will Be Preached Until Accepted by All the People—What the New Era Denotes—McKinley on Factory Building.

What the Landslide Means.

It means that neither McKinleyism nor protectionism will ever again be the leading issue in this country.

It means that farmers and laborers, who always pay an undue proportion of tariff taxes, have discovered that "protection" is a false god set up by manufacturers.

It means that the so-called "statesmen" who have aided and abetted the manufacturers in their robbery of the people, will be retired forever to private life.

It means that we will never again be compelled to listen to a diatribe about the foreigner paying our taxes; about cheap costs making cheap men; about raising wages by giving work to employers; about taxing ourselves into prosperity; and about a dozen other economic fallacies connected with "protection."

It means that the question of the best kind of taxation for national purposes will hereafter be discussed by earnest students of economics instead of by demagogues.

It means that our manufacturers will soon have free raw materials—wool, iron, copper, lumber, lead, coal, salt, tin, etc., etc.

It means that duties which support trusts will be abolished.

It means that Americans will soon not be compelled to pay more for agricultural machines, bicycles, hardware, and hundreds of other articles than do foreigners.

It means that we will soon have better clothing at very much lower prices.

It means that manufacturers will cease to rely upon politicians, tariffs, and trusts to make their business profitable. They will become independent and self-reliant.

It means that, commercially, we will soon become the leading nation of the earth—the position we should now occupy but for the incubus of protection which has rested on us for thirty years.

It means that early in the twentieth century we will be building and sailing more ships than any other country.

It means increased production and more work at higher wages.

It means that farmers will cease to mortgage their farms to support "home markets" which remain abroad.

It means that farmers will realize more on their products and that the value of their lands will increase as their mortgages decrease.

It means that political corruption will decline at least 75 per cent, and that purity in politics will no longer be an "iridescent dream."

It means that with the discarding of the system which has produced one of our millionaires (according to the New York Tribune) of 1,000,000,000, the causes of class distinctions and the accompanying evils will be removed.

It means, in short, greater prosperity, more intelligence, better morals and increased happiness.

McKinley on Factory Building.

Ralph E. Hoyt, of Chicago, in a letter to the editor of the Herald of that city, utters some truths well worth the attention of thinking people. He says: "Mr. McKinley said in one of his recent speeches: 'A revenue tariff never built a factory in the United States.'"

Nobody says it did. Tariff laws of any kind do not build factories, nor is it the business of the government to build them, or to furnish them with special aid after they have been built and put in operation. But probably Mr. McKinley meant, if he meant anything by such a statement, that no factories have been established in this country during the existence of a revenue tariff. If so, he is wrong. There is something wrong which he is probably not at all worried.

From 1850 to 1880 this country had what was understood to be "a tariff for revenue only." It was designed as such, and it has been so ever since. It is a long way from the feature was very slight and purely incidental. It was such a low tariff that any similar measure now would be denounced by protection champions as "free trade." And yet that decade was one of great prosperity. The revenue tariff was not a burden. During that period no less than 17,400 factories were erected in the United States, or more than 1,700 a year on an average. The increase of capital interested in manufacturing interests was 80 per cent, the increase of the value of manufactured goods was 85 per cent; the aggregate increase of wages was 60 per cent; and the increase of wages per capita was 17 per cent. From 1880 to 1892 we have had an era of protective tariffs, with a constant upward tendency, to meet the growing greed of the standard "infants" nursed by Uncle Sam. This whole period of thirty-two years does not show any such rate of increase in manufactures as are shown by census after census for ten years preceding the war. In the light of these facts it will be difficult for McKinley and his associates to make intelligent men believe that even free trade would ruin the country.

The Farmer's Foreign Market.

Mr. E. W. Stout, a farmer whose place is near Trenton, N. J., visited his father in England recently. Before starting, as he tells a New York Times reporter, he talked with some of his Jersey neighbors, and we agreed that if I found on getting on the other side that I could buy my goods at a lower price than I could get them out of Trenton so that I could save 10 per cent. I should do it."

Mr. Stout thus tells the sequel: "Well, I've done it, and in the course of a few days the things will arrive, and I shall have saved considerably more than 10 per cent. On the wheat the saving will be fully 25 per cent. I think, for the prices for American-made plows on the other side are just about half the prices charged for the same thing in this country. I bought hay rakes, cultivators, feed cutters and plows, and everything will come back to this country in the same packing that was on it when it was shipped from the other side."

No wonder Farmer Stout is moved to add to this plain, unvarnished tale this wretched bit of comment: "Protection," the Republicans call it. "Robbery," my name for it. It's nothing but a robbery when taxes make me pay 40 per cent for goods, only 6 per cent when the manufacturer sends abroad for sale at about half that sum, in spite of the extra expenses of packing and freightage. I'd have stayed on the other side another fortnight if I hadn't thought it my duty to come home and vote for tariff reform and get my neighbors to do the same."

Farmers who have wondered why farming didn't pay, and have been told by the administration that they ought to diversify their crops, may be better able to see where the leak is by the light of this revelation from one of their own fraternity.—Philadelphia Record.

Yes, with a Vengeance.

The American Economist of Nov. 4, last issue before election, instead of using, as usual, a dozen "questions to free traders" puts in "Can you, with clear mind and true heart, vote for Grover Cleveland and the Democratic

ticket and be happy thus to win the approval of the Golden Club, the titled nobility, and the great manufacturers of England?"

Republican Theory Tested.

Edward Atkinson, the foremost political economist in the country of the kind that deduces theories from facts and not facts from theories, has issued a pamphlet summarizing the results of the census bulletins and applying them to the question of the tariff. Dividing the working population into seven classes he shows, by the last two censuses, that only one class is at all affected by foreign competition, and that only half of that class, or 5 per cent. of the working population, or 0.16 per cent. of the entire population, is actually affected. The wages of skilled labor have increased from census to census, but this is due to recognized laws created by the skillful application of methods developed by science. The unskilled laborer, however, has been much less, and in farm labor the increase is 1 cent a day. To equalize the increase in wages, to give 95 per cent. of the working population the same increase as 5 per cent., and to move from 5 per cent. to 95 per cent. of the population, which cause destructive reactions, Mr. Atkinson shows that it is necessary to remove the duties at once from all the crude materials which are necessary in the process of domestic industry and to keep duties for revenue on finished products and manufactures. When that is done our manufacturers will be placed upon even terms in their competition with other countries in the cost of fibers, metals, drugs, dye-stuffs, chemicals, and like, in many of which we now enjoy a great advantage over other nations. In agriculture, the mechanical arts, in mining, and in a large part of the manufacturing arts we now possess a great advantage over all foreign nations.

When the Democratic policy of promoting domestic industry by exempting from duties all important materials that are used therein has been adopted, the only remaining question would be how to protect American labor from undue competition in the moderate number of arts of which a small product of like kind can now be imported, until the unwholesome effect of a high tariff has been overcome. In dealing with this factor we may rightly adopt the policy laid down in the Republican platform of "protection to the farmer."

On all imports coming in competition with the products of American labor there should be levied duties equal to the difference between wages at home and abroad. We may adopt the policy without discussing it, as the necessity for revenue will not be met by lower duties. On all imports would be imposed if it is adopted as a compromise—in fact, much higher rates must for a time be continued.

It will be observed that the proportion of labor in converting crude materials into finished products, as disclosed by the statistics of manufacturing, ranges from 18.84 per cent. in Chicago to 32.4 per cent. in Grand Rapids, averaging 25 per cent., substantially the same ratio governing the textile arts.

It is claimed by the advocates of protection that the quality of goods manufactured in this country are double what they are in the manufacturing countries of Europe. This is not the case in respect to rates of wages in Great Britain, our chief competitor; but it is the case in respect to the quality of goods. The quality of goods is not the result of removing any objection to tariff reform. Let it also be granted that if we abated the duties on crude materials we should compete on equal or better terms in competition with the countries in all manufacturing labor. Let it then be granted that the quality of goods is double what they are in the manufacturing countries of Europe. This is not the case in respect to rates of wages in Great Britain, our chief competitor; but it is the case in respect to the quality of goods. The quality of goods is not the result of removing any objection to tariff reform. 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