

# In Sheep's Clothing.



## CHAPTER XII.

Colonel Graham could not have been much over 50 years of age, but he certainly looked to be 60, and now that he was suffering from a very unusual loss of blood, added to great mental anxiety, he might have passed for 70 at least.

His sickness called out a great interest, and the people of the town and the officers of the Sea Hawk would have paid him every attention had he permitted it.

Dinah's visit was soon noted as "road," and created no little comment; but many of the humbler people, and some of the well-to-do also, had great faith in her curative skill, it was generally believed that Colonel Graham had summoned her to examine his case.

Unlike the majority of his race, Othello was reticent, and though he was pretty well subjected to the pumping process, he kept his own and his master's secrets; the latter had suddenly become very heavy, but, being naturally shrewd, he bore the burden with a dim notion that it would turn out sooner or later to his advantage.

His relationship to Dinah was not known outside themselves. The old woman, called every man, white, black or red, "son," and she was usually called "granny."

Col. Graham could not afford to remain pent up in his room, it was essential that he should be off, yet evident to the doctor and even himself that he would not be able to make the journey overland to New York, for at least two weeks.

"I am very anxious," he said to Dr. Hedges, the day after Dinah's visit, "to utilize my forced stay here by learning something of the aborigines. I have seen, here in your streets, Uncas, the Montauk chief, and his rarely beautiful sister, Untilla; if they be fair specimens of the natives, they are a people to be envied."

"They are hardly fair specimens," said the doctor, who was an authority on Indian matters. "They belong to the royal race, and are descended from the great Wyandottah, with whom our first settlers—my father was one of them—made a treaty for the lands now held by the whites. A trip into the land of the Montauks would do you good; and if you desire to make it, I will see that they give you due care and a proper escort."

"They are hospitable, then?"

"Yes, sir; as all brave people are, no matter where you find them."

"I thank you for your offer, and will start at once," said the colonel, on whom the light suddenly broke, and he regretted that he did not know of this before. Had he done so, he would have saved Fox—whom he trusted with reluctance—the trouble of making away with his little misadventure.

The chief and his sister, Untilla, were mounted on another, led in an animal laden with their luggage.

The young chief, Uncas, being in town that day, was asked by Doctor Hedges to take charge of the colonel and his servant, and he did so with a readiness and grace that would have done credit to an accomplished courier.

Uncas on foot, and with his long rifle thrown over his shoulder, strode ahead, and he would have kept on, without a halt, had not Colonel Graham stopped in front of Squire Condit's house.

The colonel was not anxious to meet the Squire again, but on this occasion he could not avoid it, for that gentleman was standing in the road in front of his own house, and looked as if he wanted to be addressed.

Approaching the colonel, and laying his hand on the horse's mane, the Squire said:

"When you spoke to me last, you said there was something you wanted to get Ralph Denham to do for you; would you answer a question I asked?"

"I am aware of that," said the colonel, haughtily.

"Well, I am ready."

"But is Capt. Denham here?"

"You know he is not."

"Then it is impossible for you to fulfill your part of the condition, so with your permission we shall wait till he returns from New York."

"But you may be here then."

"How do you know?"

"I know but little about your past or present, unfortunately, and that little, I guess, is not in your favor. You do not wish to speak now. Go on, we shall meet again before you leave, depend on that."

Squire Condit, with a flushed face, turned toward his house, and the colonel, followed by Othello, and preceded by the Montauk chief, rode on.

"Why, Goodwill," said Mrs. Condit, who, with her daughter Ellen, Lea Hedges, Valentine Dayton and the old Lieutenant, was looking over the flower garden, now in a most charming bloom, "you look like excited. Has anything wrong been done to you?"

Mrs. Condit had never seen Colonel Graham until his recent visit, and her husband, not caring to trouble her, or it may be with the belief that one can keep a secret better than that he never told her his suspicions and dislike of this man, nor hinted that he had ever received money from him for Ralph's cure.

Squire Condit had a religious and also a manly hatred of falsehood, but being something of a lawyer he was inclined to caution and diplomacy, and had the skill to parry a direct question without throwing much light on it.

"I have no sympathy with people whose curiosity takes them in among peaceful enough people if they are let alone. Some day one of these rich Englishmen will see the land of the Montauks—as did the spies who were in the old time—and they will conclude that it would make a fine estate and game preserve, and then they will send agents over here, and under some trumped-up treaty they will get the lands away from our red neighbors," said the Squire.

"Wasn't that the way grandfather did?" asked Ellen, laughingly.

"No, it wasn't. The treaty with the great Wyandottah was fair, and has not been violated by Montauk or white man. I read it so often when I was a boy that I knew it by heart, with all the old spelling. Let me see; it begins:

"I declare, Squire, your memory is remarkable. Strange how those old Indian names get twisted round from the original."

"Aye, and a pity it is. Now, I could give you some remarkable instances of the mutilation of native words; for instance, there's Corchaque."

Miss Condit mercifully saved the young people from hearing the Squire airing his Indian vocabulary by leading him into the house, on the plea of wanting him to taste her new raspberry vinegar. And so, after all, the Squire was not pumped.

In the meantime Colonel Graham followed his guide, and when they had gone out of sight of the settlements the latter dropped back and said:

"Here we are in the land of the Montauks, to which I bid you welcome."

"I thank you," replied Graham. "You have beautiful scenery. How far does it extend to the eastward from here?"

"As far as the island extends."

"And you cultivate the soil?"

"The women do that," said the chief, proudly.

"Of course, but you have flocks and herds?"

"Some, but the deer on the hills are our flocks, and the sword-fish in the sea are our herds."

"You must lead a happy, independent life. How far is your settlement from here?"

"We can reach it before the sun is there," replied the chief, pointing his rifle half way down the western sky.

They went on with more speed, and early in the afternoon they came to a wooded elevation, from which they had a view to the eastward of a nearly treeless valley, in which were many houses of logs and bark, and beyond which there stretched a great pond that looked as large as an old world lake.

To the south, a glimpse of the great ocean could be had, while to the north there stretched away the placid blue waters of the Sound.

"Does the black woman, Dinah, live here?" asked Graham, as they descended to the valley.

"Ah—perhaps—yes, I mean the black priestess."

"There is her house," said the chief, pointing to a cabin from the clay chimney of which smoke was rising.

"Do you call her priest?"

"Some do, I do not, though once I did like her," said the chief.

"And why did you change?"

"Because she was the friend of Ralph Denham."

"Why do you not like Denham?"

"I hate him, and should he return and meet me alone, blood will be spilled."

"Why do you hate him?"

Before replying, Uncas looked Graham full in the face, and was satisfied that he, too, had no liking for the sailor.

"My sister likes him as she does her life."

"Oh, indeed. And you do not wish him to marry your sister?"

"No, I wish he would marry Untilla; and leave Lea Hedges to the man who loves her as he never can."

"Ah, I see," said the colonel, on whom the light suddenly broke, and he regretted that he did not know of this before. Had he done so, he would have saved Fox—whom he trusted with reluctance—the trouble of making away with his little misadventure.

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"I know but little about your past or present, unfortunately, and that little, I guess, is not in your favor. You do not wish to speak now. Go on, we shall meet again before you leave, depend on that."

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"Wasn't that the way grandfather did?" asked Ellen, laughingly.

"No, it wasn't. The treaty with the great Wyandottah was fair, and has not been violated by Montauk or white man. I read it so often when I was a boy that I knew it by heart, with all the old spelling. Let me see; it begins:

## CHAPTER XIII.

A happier man than Ralph Denham was the morning he sailed away from Sag Harbor, on the Wanderer, never pausing a quarter of an hour.

He was young, handsome and able, but in his joy he gave no thought to these, for vanity held no place in his brave heart. But he was ordered to meet the authorities of the province, and he felt that a sailor who ever left New York harbor had been more successful than himself. He felt a glow of pride at the sense of a duty well performed, but it is doubtful if this would have elated him so much had the gratification, which was now the controlling impulse of his life, been wanting.

Lea Hedges had pledged him her love. What if her astonished father stammered out objections without clearly defining them; the young man felt that he could not do so, and that the clouds of mystery, that enveloped his origin would be dissipated or forgotten in the glow of a glory that was yet to be his.

All nature was in harmony with his joyous mood. The sea, the sky, the clouds of mystery, that enveloped his origin would be dissipated or forgotten in the glow of a glory that was yet to be his.

He had loved the ocean from a boy; but never before did he feel that rapt sympathy that existed between his strongly throbbing heart and the gayly lashing waters.

He had cruised among the Antilles, that gem with tropic growth the breast of the Caribbean, which fringed with beaded emeralds the hem of the old ocean's mantle; but their remembered beauties were rank and garish, compared with the verdant islands which jeweled the hand Long Island extended in greeting to the mainland.

He was pacing the deck, watching the fishing canoes of the Indians, and recalling a hundred happy days spent with them on the coast of the Sound. Fox, who had been leaving commands in a way that showed he was a very thorough sailor, joined him, and said:

"I intended going up through the Sound, but as I do not know the channel, hardly care to risk it with this wind, and so will go outside. It will not make ten minutes' difference in the time."

"I think I am familiar with every foot of the way up the Sound, and, if you permit me to act as pilot, I shall be happy to serve you in that capacity," said Ralph.

"And that you could do so better than any man that ever traversed that route, I am as sure as that we are here; but I could not permit the Captain of the Sea Hawk, that has covered herself with glory, to play pilot for the Wanderer, that has yet a reputation to make in these waters. No, with the southeast wind and the open sea before us, we can make the Narrows before the sun has set," said Capt. Fox, as he passed his arm through Ralph Denham's, and began walking back and forth, just as if they were the dearest friends in the world. On the part of one, at least, there was a feeling of regard that might have been mistaken for friendship, but on the part of the other there was an incapacity for everything that did not pander to his own avarice or feed his inordinate ambition.

"Oh, indeed. And you do not wish him to marry your sister?"

"No, I wish he would marry Untilla; and leave Lea Hedges to the man who loves her as he never can."

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## LETTER TO CLEVELAND

TARIFF REFORM DISCUSSED BY MR. SHEARMAN.

Specific Duties Are a Device of Manufacturers to Obtain Increasing Protection—They Oppress the Poor and Are Tools of Corruption.

Ad Valorem Duties Sound in Theory. By mutual agreement Mr. Thomas G. Shearman is addressing, through the New York Times, a series of letters to President Cleveland on the subject of tariff reform. Former letters dealt with the necessity for radical reduction of duties in accordance with the Chicago platform; the great benefits to the producers of wheat, grain, and other products of the soil; and what must be imported in exchange for these products; the present extraordinary expenditures due to new pension legislation; the connection between excessive duties and a demand for cheap money; the reasons, political and moral, why sugar, coffee, and tea should not be taxed; and the necessity for the removal of old rather than the imposition of new duties.

Mr. Shearman is one of the oldest students of the subject of taxation, and because of his long experience as a customs attorney, his exceptional ability, and his sympathy with the tax-reduced masses, his opinions have come to have great weight with all earnest thinking men. His fifth letter deals with the kind of duties that should be levied. It contains perhaps the most concise statement in favor of ad valorem duties ever made. His position is absolutely impregnable. The subject is so little understood and of such vital importance that we reproduce below the entire letter:

DEAR SIR—One of the most important questions to be decided in framing a tariff—probably the most important—is whether ad valorem duties should be levied, or whether specific duties should be levied. The question is one of the most important, and one which has been discussed for centuries. The question is one of the most important, and one which has been discussed for centuries. The question is one of the most important, and one which has been discussed for centuries.

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