

# In Sheep's Clothing.



CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

Thrasher took in the situation, and, finishing his currant wine, he drew his leather sleeve across his forehead, and, with a sigh, he said: "I am going to the inn."

"That is all right, my man," said Mr. Hedges, handing him a coin; "I'll see you again."

"Will you send back an answer, sir?"

"Yes; to-morrow all the Captain's friends will give you letters to hand to him."

"But, sir, I must leave to-night."

"To-night?" in chorus from the people about Thrasher.

"Yes; I must go to Gardner's Island, where a boat will take me to New York," replied the fellow, with a self-possession that proved him no novice in this business.

"How long will you remain?" asked Valentine Dayton.

"About two hours."

"Very well; we shall try to have the letters by that time," said Mr. Hedges, bowing humbly and left. He had but just gone out of hearing when the Squire, bursting with impatience, called out:

"Well, George, what is the trouble?"

"Trouble!" repeated Mr. Hedges. "Why, the trouble is that I am to be back in a few days, and I am to report to him for orders!"

"Report to Fox for orders?"

"Fox to have command of the Sea Hawk!"

"What does Ralph mean?"

These were a few of the exclamations that broke from the lips of the people on the veranda when Mr. Hedges uttered the sentence given above.

Mr. Hedges ran the fingers of his left hand nervously through his frosted hair, his right hand clutching the letter.

He was debating the propriety of reading it, and on such an important question, for he had the right to regard for official etiquette. He could not afford to come to a hasty conclusion.

"Sit down, sit down," he said at length; "I can't see any harm in letting you all know what every one ashore and ashore must know in a few hours."

Squire Condit and his wife sat down on the lieutenant's right hand, and Valentine Dayton and Ellen sat in front of him.

He was noticeably deliberate in his speaking, and pausing only in his reading, he hesitated over some of the words, and his soundless lips spelt them to himself before pronouncing them.

This was the letter:

"NEW AMSTERDAM INN, BOWLING GREEN, 'CITY OF THE FUTURE' AND 'PROVINCE OF SAMIA.'"

"To Sir Officer,"

"George Hedges,"

"Com'd ye ye Provincial Cruiser,"

"Sea Hawk,"

"Her Majesty's Service,"

"Of the Sea Hawk,"

"County of Suffolk,"

"Long Island."

"SIR:—The Governor of ye Province of New York, to whom I have made due report of ye condition and state of ye provincial cruiser, Sea Hawk, hath ordered me to command ye said vessel, and to see ye said vessel in ye best manner, until such time as ye great council meet, to whom I shall make such explanation of ye condition of ye said vessel as shall please him to fitting ye occasion."

"If there be command, instruct and order, that ye, George Hedges, 1st officer, com'd ye said vessel, shall, on ye arrival of Captain William Fox of H. M. Ship Wanderer, report to him for such instructions as he shall think fit to give, and to be under his obedient in all things pertaining to the conduct of ye ship and crew."

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature, and the seal of ye aforesaid cruiser, Sea Hawk."

"I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant."

"Your humble,"

"Ob't servantant,"

"Captain of ye Provincial Cruiser, Sea Hawk."

"There," said Lieutenant Hedges, "that's the letter, Val. What do you think of it?"

"I am very sorry," replied Valentine Dayton, "but, of course, you can do nothing but obey orders."

"Of course," echoed the lieutenant.

"I wish that fellow Fox never showed his red head in this town," said the squire, angrily.

"Oh, he is not to blame; he must obey orders like ourselves," said the bluff old lieutenant.

"My dear," said Mrs. Condit, in a low, turning her mild eyes to the others to induce them to note what she was about to say, "I do not think that Ralph wrote that letter."

"I'm sorry to say," said the lawyer, "to whom a bit of wit with a hint of law was the badge of law and authority, 'that there can't be any doubt about it.'"

"Still," she persisted, "I feel that he did not write it."

"Have you any other reason than your own feeling, dear wife?" asked the squire.

"Yes; I cannot think that Ralph Denham, who, man and boy has known George Hedges for a long and twenty years, would write a cold, stiff, heartless letter like that."

"Nor can I believe that Ralph wrote it," added Ellen.

"Ralph didn't write the letter," said Valentine Dayton. "It was written by the Captain of the Sea Hawk in his official capacity. If he had written to Uncle George, or to me, or to any of us, as Ralph Denham, our true old friend, he'd put as much heart into his words as any man that ever handled a pen."

"Yes," explained Mr. Hedges, "who saw and appreciated the mistake of the ladies, 'official communications, even between father and son, as I've seen time and time again in the service, has all got to be written that way. Why, they wouldn't be official if they wasn't stiff, and cold, and lofty, and all that.'"

Neither Ellen nor her mother attempted comment, for, with the exception of the Squire, there was not to them a greater authority than Lieut. George Hedges in all the country round about.

"There is but little satisfaction in a man trying to do his duty," said Valentine, with some bitterness. "Why couldn't the Governor have left Uncle George in charge of the ship?"

"As no one attempted to answer this question, the Squire asked Mr. Hedges if he had any objections to letting him see the letter."

"Not at all," replied Mr. Hedges; "read it for yourself."

Lea Hedges came up the path and joined the party.

"That is all right, my man," said Mr. Hedges, handing him a coin; "I'll see you again."

"Will you send back an answer, sir?"

"Yes; to-morrow all the Captain's friends will give you letters to hand to him."

"But, sir, I must leave to-night."

"To-night?" in chorus from the people about Thrasher.

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"How long will you remain?" asked Valentine Dayton.

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"Very well; we shall try to have the letters by that time," said Mr. Hedges, bowing humbly and left. He had but just gone out of hearing when the Squire, bursting with impatience, called out:

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heart, if he had only repeated what I so well know 'Lea, I love you.'"

She saw Valentine, and her uncle in earnest conversation, as they waited for the boat that hastened to them from the Sea Hawk, and she envied them, for she supposed they were discussing naval matters, and that love could only engross men when they had nothing else to do, while with her own sex, love absorbed all their thoughts, if it did not control all the acts of their lives.

She regretted that Captain Fox was coming back, and she made up her mind to hold him at arm's length if he continued his coarse attentions. She could not even think kindly of her father while this man plagued her thoughts.

She was not aware that another person was near her till she heard her name called in accents low, musical and thrilling, and looking up with a start, she saw Captain Fox.

The Indian maiden had attended the same school with Lea, Ellen and the young ladies of the better families in the place, and in many respects she was the intellectual equal of the brightest.

She was particularly distinguished for the frankness of her manners, a frankness that was as far removed from rudeness as the clear waters of a willow-shaded spring differ from the tinged stream to which it gives rise.

Until she had met this man, she had not known the dignity of character that distinguished the rulers of her race, but there blended with a gentleness and a freshness of disposition, which some call natural, and all know to be loving.

In the days when she was laughing school girls, Lea made no secret to her friends of the feeling that being warmed into a life she should owe to her own, and the Indian maiden, with the dignified reticence of her people, kept her own counsel; but as she could not act a lie, her manner to Ralph Denham told her feeling for him as plainly as if she had announced it in a meeting of the tribe.

Until, since the return of the Sea Hawk from the last cruise, say where the young Captain's affections lay, and while her heart rebelled for a moment against the inevitable, she made up her mind to submit, and for his sake continue loving what she loved.

"Why, Untilla!" exclaimed Lea, as she took the Indian girl's hands, and drew her to a seat on the fallen tree. "I supposed you were miles and miles away."

"I would be back at my home, I should be there, for my brother has the white man, Colonel Graham, for a guest, were it not for you," replied Untilla, still holding one of Lea's hands.

"Then, my dear Untilla, if you come to see me, you must do so at my father's house," said Lea, preparing to rise.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

"Big Prairie in Manitoba."

"If the prairie could stand it," said S. A. Rowbotham, a well-known resident of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to a Washington Star reporter, "a man could leave Winnipeg and ride 1,000 miles west and northwest over a level prairie before he would be obstructed by mountains. This gives an idea of the great territory lying west of Winnipeg, which, to the Eastern man, seems way out of the world. The soil of this prairie produces the finest spring wheat grown anywhere and its enormous plains are just mentioned in a few years to be the granary of the world. Eastern people have a misty idea of our expansive territory. We are just commencing to grow wheat compared to a decade hence, though our crop two years ago was 30,000,000 bushels. We have but little snow, and the many years I resided in Manitoba I never saw the tops of the bright prairie grass covered. Cattle fairly roll in fat and we are becoming a great cattle country. While most of our settlers are from across the water, yet the number from the Western States is yearly increasing. We have no wild west from across the water. There are no settlers killed over disputed claims, as has been an everyday story in the West for years. Our homestead laws require a three years' residence of six months each. Land may be preempted, too. Gold has been discovered in wonderful rich quartz deposits a few miles east of Winnipeg, and paying mills have just been erected by Minneapolis capitalists. I predict a 'rush' to the Lake of the Woods district next year. Winnipeg has 35,000 inhabitants and is a thriving city. Our winters are cold, but we do not mind them. The atmosphere is dry and the days are clear, fresh and sunny, murky weather being almost unknown."

Finger Rings.

There is reason to believe that finger rings have always been used. We find such ornaments in the ruins of the abodes of prehistoric races. Rings are first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis, 41st chapter and 42d verse: "And Pharaoh took his ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and made him ruler over all Egypt."

When the Israelites conquered the Midianites they "took all their rings and bracelets and offered them to the Lord." Ahasuerus gave the ring from his hands to the Hebrews' worst enemy, thus giving him unlimited control to do with them and their property whatever he pleased. The father received his prodigal son joyfully, and sealed his forgiveness by putting a ring on his hand, says Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher in Godey's Magazine. The Egyptians regarded their rings both as business vouchers and as ornaments, the signet rings being always used for sealing documents, and, however used, their rings were always buried with them, and in later years are often found in their tombs. The signet ring was usually of bronze or silver; but among the rich gold rings were used for ornaments. Ivory or blue porcelain were worn by the poor. Plain gold rings, engraved with some motto or the head of their deities, were much prized, and three or four were often worn on the fingers and also on the thumbs. Among the Jews no one was in full dress without the signet ring, and ladies had their rings set profusely with costly gems—rubies, emeralds and chrysolites being the most valuable. Rings to-day are universally worn. It is quite a general custom for ladies to wear an engagement ring upon the first finger of the left hand, while the wedding ring is worn upon the third finger of the left hand.—Pullman (Ill.) Journal.

In 1580 black masks were worn in public by ladies of all ranks. The mask was held in place by ribbons passed behind the ears, or by a glass button held behind the teeth.

## OPENED TO THE PEOPLE

FAIR DEDICATION WILL BE IN THE OPEN AIR.

President Palmer, Director General Davis and Secretary Dickinson, by a few strokes of the pen, have upset the plans of the Exposition Ceremonies Committee. Opening-day exercises will be held in the open air, and not in a small hall with closed doors for the dedication of a few select guests. While the local board was by no means unanimous on the question, a few of the leading spirits got together in a back room and formulated a programme that would have insured the officials and their friends the pleasure of listening to the

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All Can See the Show.

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The Women's Department.

The women's department at the fair in

which women have full sway is their own building—the house planned by a woman architect, hurried to completion by a woman, and then decorated by woman artists. This is the building that was almost done before many oth-

speeches and music in music hall, while several hundred thousand people would be kept waiting on the outside for the programme to conclude and for President Cleveland to set in motion the machinery of the Exposition.

The plan of building a platform on the plaza in front of the Government building, where 50,000 people could see the exercises even if they could not hear the speeches, was opposed by Director of Works Burnham, who said the lawn would be spoiled, and the crowd should be kept outside until after the machinery was started, anyway. His recommendations were finally adopted by the executive committee of the local board, much to the disgust of the members of the board of control. That body referred the matter to a special committee of President Palmer, the Director General, and Secretary Dickinson, and this reference was given an equivalent to a change of programme.

When this special committee assembled the other afternoon the members got to business without much discussion. Before Col. Davis or Secretary Dickinson made any reference to the subject which they had met to discuss, President Palmer stopped whistling long enough to remark: "Well, gentlemen, I guess we are pretty unanimous about this question, are we not? This show is for the people, and the people must have some return for their money."

Col. Davis and Mr. Dickinson displayed, and President Palmer, after glancing for his stenographer, glanced down his nose and through his glasses

at a copy of a paper, and whistled some more. Ten minutes later a report was drawn up and signed by the committee, in which they regretted the necessity of going counter to the decision of the directory, and recommending that the exercises be held out of doors, at the east front of the Administration Building, and a platform to be erected for the accommodation of President Cleveland and his escort. The people who pay at the gates will see the show.

Special Feature Days will be a prominent and interesting feature of the World's Fair. The different States, foreign countries and many civic organizations will each have a day upon which to conduct special exercises or celebrations, and programmes for them are now being arranged. Following are

the days already assigned for such celebrations:

Washington.....May 17

Wisconsin.....May 22

Maine.....May 24

Benjamin Franklin.....May 25

Germany.....June 15

Nebraska.....June 18

Massachusetts.....June 18

New Hampshire.....June 21

Utah.....July 14

Liberty.....July 26

Commercial travelers.....Aug. 12

Independent Order of Foresters.....Aug. 12

Hayti.....Aug. 16

Colored people.....Aug. 28

North Carolina.....Aug. 28

Austria.....Aug. 28

The Netherlands.....Aug. 28

Nicaragua.....Sept. 1

Spain.....Sept. 4

Brazil.....Sept. 4

California.....Sept. 9

Patrols.....Sept. 9

Michigan.....Aug. 13 and 14

Russia.....Aug. 15

Canada.....Aug. 15

Montana.....Sept. 20

Patrols Order Sons of America.....Sept. 20

Iowa.....Sept. 21

Rhode Island.....Oct. 5

Italian societies.....Oct. 12

Minnesota.....Oct. 13

Ever since its completion the Electricity Building has been one of the quietest spots of the fair. Its doors have not been thrown open with the wide hospitality of its neighbor, the Mining Building; cars have not stood outside discharging their contents, and passers-by have rarely attempted to force their way into the building. The vaulted roof, the church-like nave and transepts, and the noiseless progress of the work within have combined to invest the Electricity Building with an air of profound secrecy and mystery. This mystery has been sustained by the attitude of the exhibitors, who are one and all possessed of the idea that if the barest hint of their intentions goes abroad, jealous rivals will steal their cherished plans and out-do them on their own ground. A time has come, nevertheless, when further concealment is impossible. A chance visitor may now, for the first time, enter the Electricity Building and witness the cover-abundant signs of that which is to be.

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