

AN OLD-WORLD COUNTRY.

I know an Old-World country
Where travelers never stray,
Whose wood is the wind sequestered
For miles and miles away,
Whose fields of flowering grasses
To shadowed dingles slant,
Where elves are wont to whisper
And nightingales to chant!

There, still, the Old-World homesteads
In calm contentment thrive,
Gray haunts of flail and sickle,
Of dove-cote and of hives.
Invention ne'er invades them
With desecrating hand;
No steam plow ever plunges
Amid that placid land!

There Old-World greens still flourish
With ale-bench and with stocks,
The village dams drop courtesies,
The village winds wear smocks;
Sleek Dobby shakes his crook,
Dick Shepard plies his crook,
And daisy-sprinkled barrows
The belfries overlook.

There, in that Old-World country,
Beneath its noiseless spell,
Amid its sweet composure,
Who would not chose to dwell?
Where troubles never trespass,
Where Time unruled flows,
And every morn brings gladness,
And every eve repose!

—London World.



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CHAPTER XII.—CONTINUED.

"The only difference, I believe, was in the amount of Jenner's legacy. In that first will Mrs. Dunkirk bequeathed five thousand dollars to Jenner, in consideration of her long and faithful services; whereas, you know, in this other will"—she spoke these words shrinkingly and with averted glance—"this legacy was doubled, was it not?"

"Yes—yes—you are right," was North's absent-minded response, while his eyes, as he kept them resolutely upon his note-book, sparkled in triumph. "I merely wish to get every little thread straightened out, just for my own benefit. Of course we maintain in public that you knew nothing about Mrs. Dunkirk's will, never dreamed of the possibility of its existence—no, no, that's a little too radical, in view of this letter; well, then, that you had no definite knowledge of its existence until this contest came up in court."

He paused here and idly sketched squares and angles and perfectly meaningless characters in his note-book while his thoughts ran on rapidly:

"At last I have found the missing link and my chain of evidence is being fast welded together. Jenner—surely there can be no mistake about it; these three are the conspirators—Jenner, Mrs. Maynard and Noll! Why, it just occurs to me Jenner is that missing witness whose mysterious disappearance occa-



SKETCHED MEANINGLESS CHARACTERS.

sioned so much delay and speculation, as well as recrimination, each side accusing the other of having spirited her off in order to prevent her testimony from being taken. In view of her confidential relations to her mistress for so many years it was believed that she could give important testimony in reference to Mrs. Dunkirk's will; but when the papers were issued summoning her as a witness it was ascertained that she had suddenly disappeared from New York, and no trace of her could be discovered. Now, to what conclusion does this flight of hers point? Clearly and indisputably to her complicity in this forgery! She is beyond all doubt as deeply concerned in it as Mrs. Maynard and Noll; indeed, without her aid they could not have carried out their scheme at all. I presume it was a part of their plan for her to disappear in case the will was contested. Yes, yes, there can be no doubt now about this conspiracy. I comprehend it from beginning to end. The evidence is accumulating, and each suspicious circumstance fits perfectly into its appropriate place. The motive that actuated Jenner is apparent enough; the generous legacy from her old mistress was the stake for which she played. In order to secure for herself these glittering thousands, after that genuine document had been destroyed, it was necessary that a will in favor of some available and not improbable heir should be produced and probated. Annie Dupont, the sole heir-at-law, was among the missing; or rather, she was in that still more hopeless category of persons whose existence has never been satisfactorily established. Clearly, then, Annie Dupont was not to be considered in this connection. No more available person than Mrs. Maynard could be found; therefore she was the one selected. Now, his line of argument would lead to the conclusion that the conspiracy originated with Jenner; but on the other hand, with the same facts a little differently configured, it could be as clearly shown that Mrs. Maynard and Noll originated the scheme, selected Jenner as an indispensable accomplice, and by allowing her legacy to be doubled drew her, a willing instrument, into the conspiracy. This is undoubtedly the true state of the case. It was Jenner, beyond all question, who placed the will in Mrs. Dunkirk's desk and subsequently led up to the dis-

covery of it by the lawyers. It was Jenner alone who could have gained access to Mrs. Dunkirk's private seal. It was Jenner who recollected that Mr. Kerman drew that first will; Jenner who furnished the specimens of handwriting by the aid of which the forgery was effected; but they made their first fatal mistake in dating this forged will after Norristown's death and Kerman's departure for Europe. Well, well, I am slowly solving all the mysteries of this case; and yet thus far, notwithstanding my reckless attempts to do so, I have been unable to put my hand on a single direct and indisputable proof of Mrs. Maynard's share in the conspiracy. Can I hope yet to obtain this evidence?"

He raised his eyes to her as this question entered his mind. She was apparently lost in reverie as profound as his had been; she seemed even to have lost all consciousness of his presence, and when he spoke abruptly after a long interval of silence she started as if the whole current of her thoughts had been changed.

"Jenner was quite an old family servant, was she not, Mrs. Maynard?"

The question was so strangely irrelevant to her own reflections that Mrs. Maynard smiled a little as she answered it.

"Yes, she came from England with Dr. and Mrs. Dunkirk when they were married, forty years ago. She was their housekeeper, and in this capacity she lived with Mrs. Dunkirk all these years."

"A clever person, is she not?"

"She is a woman of more than ordinary intelligence, and Mrs. Dunkirk always treated her as a friend, rather than a servant. Jenner's family in England were very respectable middle-class people, and she received a fair education, which, added to her native shrewdness, made her appear quite the average of her class. A very sensible, clever woman."

"Was she friendly to you?"

"From the very first I was secure in her good graces. It always seemed a little odd to me, for she was not at all disposed to show any friendliness to strangers."

North nodded slightly. He was making his own shrewd mental comments on all these statements.

"And now, Mrs. Maynard," he said, "to pass abruptly to another point, as nearly as you can recollect, when was this will of Mrs. Dunkirk's—the genuine one, you understand—when was it drawn?"

"As nearly as I can recollect, and I am convinced that my memory is not at fault, it was made two years before my marriage; just six years ago."

"Then you have been married four years," was North's instantaneous comment, which, however, he kept to himself, merely saying aloud:

"And it was destroyed some ten months previous to her death—no, not ten months previous to the present time, these dates are very confusing—four months previous to her death. Then all this time from the day on which it was drawn to the day on which it was destroyed—we can only approximate these dates, I presume?" abruptly.

"I think so. I certainly have no definite knowledge of them."

"Well, then, during all this time—a period extending over about six years, not more and only a trifle less—that will was in Mrs. Dunkirk's possession, and, so far as we can divine our sentiments in regard to it, she was entirely satisfied with the document, and was willing that it should stand as her last will and testament. Now, the next point that I propose to take up this morning, if I can do so without consuming too much time, is in reference to Hamilton Dupont. I consider it important for me to have his history, so far as it is known to you, clearly in my mind. His estrangement from Mrs. Dunkirk, and the uncertainty in which, to this day, that unhappy affair has involved the fate of his daughter, are matters of vital importance to us. Will you, therefore, please tell me briefly what you know of the history of Hamilton Dupont?"

And with pencil poised over his note book, North waited for the recital. Mrs. Maynard began at once.

CHAPTER XIII.

King—Let us from point to point this story know.

—All's Well That Ends Well

"Hamilton Dupont was the youngest of a large family, of which, by the time he reached the age of twenty-one, he and Mrs. Dunkirk were the only survivors. The eldest of the children, Mrs. Dunkirk, was more than twenty years older than Hamilton; a disparity in age that prevented them from having any common interests or pleasures. All the other children died in infancy, and Mrs. Dupont died when Hamilton was in his tenth year. He was wild and ungovernable in his boyhood, and as he grew older he became so incorrigible that his father, who was a very hard, stern man, disdained him."

"And—pardon the interruption, but one question, please—how soon after this did Mr. Dupont's death occur?"

"I really do not know, positively, but it could not have been many months after. Hamilton was only twenty-one when his father died."

"And after this sad event Mrs. Dunkirk and Hamilton were the only surviving members of the family. Do you mean by this their immediate family, their father's family, or, in a broader sense, that there were no collateral branches, no cousins of any degree?"

"I used the expression as Mrs. Dunkirk herself did, in its broader sense. She frequently spoke of the fact that her family was so nearly extinct. She had not a relative in the world, she said, of whose existence she had any knowledge."

"She was a widow, was she not, for many years?"

"She was. Dr. Dunkirk was lost at sea on his way to Europe, a few years after their marriage. Of course, though, Mr. North, you know all this," she added, checking herself with a weary little smile.

North also smiled.

"Well," he said, "my one question has grown to several. I beg your par-

don for this long interruption. Will you please proceed, Mrs. Maynard?"

"Where was I? Indeed, I have forgotten."

"You spoke last," observed North, referring by a glance to his notes, "of Hamilton Dupont's reckless course, which resulted in his being disinherited; and my first question elicited the fact that within a comparatively short time after this event his father died."

"Oh, to be sure! Now don't expect a detailed history, Mr. North, for my information is extremely fragmentary; but it is certain that there had always existed between Mrs. Dunkirk and her young brother a barrier of cold reserve, which time and his wayward conduct only increased. Mr. Dunkirk was not a woman possessed of warm affections. Her regard for people was purely a matter of intellectual esteem. If her stern judgment approved them, that was sufficient; if not, there was no tender voice in her heart to plead their cause. There was little in Hamilton's wayward life of which she could approve; hence their total estrangement from him."

"After the death of their father, however, she seemed to feel the loneliness of her position, and for the first time she turned to her brother Hamilton for sympathy and companionship. He was in trouble of every sort, drifting about in the world without aim or purpose, friends or prospects. She offered him everything—a home, wealth, social advantages, asking only that he renounce his youthful follies and strive for the future to devote his talents and energies to some useful and honorable pursuit. She finally induced him to accept this offer; and, having established him beneath her roof, she made every effort, faithfully, if not always wisely, to reclaim him from the error of his ways. His education was fair, although he had never completed any regular course of study, having been three times expelled from college. Mrs. Dunkirk urged him to enter one of the learned professions, and, though he had no inclination for such a career, he finally yielded to her importunities, choosing the study of medicine; and while he was pursuing the course at the university, she settled upon him a handsome allowance for his own personal expenses."

"Well, Mrs. Maynard," said North, with an air of firm conviction, "one of two things is certain. Either there is not and never has been any such person as Annie Dupont in existence, which to my notion far the more plausible theory, or there are persons who are interested in keeping from the world all knowledge of her whereabouts. In either case, we need not apprehend the final defeat of our plans, through her."

"Do you think so?" The question was uttered listlessly without any appearance of interest or elation. She did not even glance at him as she spoke.

"I am convinced of it," he reiterated, looking at her in mild surprise. "It is my firm belief that if Annie Dupont is living to-day, she is a profoundly ignorant of her own true identity and of her right to this fortune as we ourselves are of her present whereabouts. Now it appears, Mrs. Maynard," he went on with another abrupt change of subject and manner, "that you had no claim upon Mrs. Dunkirk except, indeed, that of friendship, which she acknowledges here?"

"To BE CONTINUED.

POWER OF EXAMPLE.

A GARRULOUS PARROT IS COMPLETELY CURED BY A DIGNIFIED OWL.

One day a man who had considerable experience with parrots, says the *Idler*, happened to come in, and when I complained of the bird's loquacity he said:

"Why don't you get an owl? You get an owl and hang him up to that parrot's cage and in about two days you'll find that your bird's dead sick of unprofitable conversation."

"We shall be obliged to imagine all the details of this little romance, since only the merest outlines of it are on record.

"His wooing prospered, and within a few months the lady became his bride. He contrived to conceal the fact of his marriage from his sister for several weeks, continuing to reside under her roof and devoting himself to the university with a zeal that he had never before exhibited; and Mrs. Dunkirk, delighted at what she considered the first real evidence of reformation, was drawn to the day on which it was destroyed—we can only approximate these dates, I presume?" abruptly.

"I think so. I certainly have no definite knowledge of them."

"Well, then, during all this time—a period extending over about six years, not more and only a trifle less—that will was in Mrs. Dunkirk's possession, and, so far as we can divine our sentiments in regard to it, she was entirely satisfied with the document, and was willing that it should stand as her last will and testament. Now, the next point that I propose to take up this morning, if I can do so without consuming too much time, is in reference to Hamilton Dupont. I consider it important for me to have his history, so far as it is known to you, clearly in my mind. His estrangement from Mrs. Dunkirk, and the uncertainty in which, to this day, that unhappy affair has involved the fate of his daughter, are matters of vital importance to us. Will you, therefore, please tell me briefly what you know of the history of Hamilton Dupont?"

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THE OUTFLOW OF GOLD.

English Investments in the United States Demand a Steady Stream of Gold Payments.

Mr. L. P. Dewey writes: "By what authority do foreign nations have a right to draw on the United States for gold, or exchange, or commodities? This question we do not fairly understand. Will you be so kind as to answer through the Advocate what demands foreign nations have on this government? This is an important question, as a good many don't understand it."

The demands are various. There are many kinds of American securities held abroad. Among these may be mentioned a part of the outstanding stock of railroad corporations, state and municipal bonds, and the bonds and stocks of American manufacturers. A short time ago we copied from the *Brewer's Journal* a statement of nearly \$100,000,000 of the stock of American breweries held in England. In addition to these, foreign landlords have secured title to millions of acres of American lands, and there is scarcely an opportunity of investment on this side of the water of which foreign capitalists have not availed themselves. This investment of foreign capital has been, and still is, encouraged by the patriots who have controlled our public affairs, until Great Britain has nearly accomplished the conquest of America by means of her money, which she could not accomplish by her arms.

All of these bonds of every description are payable, principal and interest, in gold. The dividends on the stock of corporations held abroad are paid in gold. Rents collected of the tenants of British landlords are paid in gold. The balance of trade for the past year has been against us, and this balance is settled in gold. There is evidently a conspiracy of British and American capitalists and brokers at this time to force collections upon every available security in order to seemingly justify another issue of bonds for the purchase of gold with which to meet these demands. The condition, when fairly understood, exhibits the legitimate results of the brilliant financial policy of statesmen of the John Sherman variety during the past thirty years of our national existence. Common sense would seem to indicate the propriety of using the gold now in the country for the payment of these gold obligations, and the adoption from this on of an American system of finance in place of the British system which has so long prevailed.

Let Americans own America and conduct their own affairs upon plain, common-sense principles in their own interest, and we need never fear a financial crisis, or experience a stringency in the money market.—Topeka (Kan.) Advocate.

From an unexpected source comes a confirmation of the Advocates' theory. The *American Banker*, in a recent issue, offers the same explanation of the late steady outflow of gold from the United States. Says the *Banker*:

The barest hint at the causes which effect the interchange of commodities and specie between nations is sufficient to reveal the great complexity of the hidden, almost unanalyzable, movements in which it is composed. The fact of the absence of exact information concerning the relations between foreign and domestic creditors, invites many foolish assumptions. So long as this data is not available we shall see the prophets arise on every hand to intimidate us in our enterprise. Of late this genus of prophecy has exercised itself very largely upon the direful purposes of "Gresham's law."

This law is brief, that an inferior currency drives the superior medium of exchange from the avenues of trade. If a cheap tool serves just as well as one that is dear, the latter will not be used; and there is nothing occult about it. Our exports of gold are held to be a present example of the operation of this law. For, do not our exports exceed our imports, and yet, do we import and export? Therefore, we may say, gold has become inferior and good money is leaving.

Such reasoning overlooks one important consideration, and is stupidly fallacious besides. It is well known that aside from the debts created by the international movement of trade, we are indebted to European countries, especially to England, upon stocks and bonds, for interest and dividends. The volume of these payments is admittedly large, though its proportions are not known precisely. To ignore these payments in considering the course of international exchange is a great error.

Some idea as to the volume of these payments may be gathered from the following hint dropped by Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in the course of a speech in the house of commons, during the recent debate upon the inevitable silver question. He said: "I am almost afraid to estimate the total amount of the property which the United Kingdom holds beyond the limits of the United Kingdom, but of this I am well convinced that is not to be counted by tens of hundreds of millions. One thousand millions probably would be an extremely low and inadequate estimate. Two thousand millions, or something even more than that, is very likely to be nearer the mark."

Here is an acknowledgment of more than ten billions of dollars of foreign investments. Continuing, he said: "This splendid spirit of philanthropy, which we cannot too highly praise—because I have no doubt all this is foreseen—would result in our making a present of £50,000,000 or £100,000,000 to the world. It would be thankfully accepted, but I think