

A PRETTY COMPANION

By Louise Bedford.

CHAPTER V.—(Continued.)

"Were you looking for anything, Mason?"

"There! then you heard me shut the drawer!" said Mason, with smiling sincerity.

"There were no rings there," said Janetta coldly.

When Mason left the room Janetta opened the drawer and peered in.

"It's very queer and uncomfortable," thought Janetta. "I can't conceive what object the girl has in wishing to read my letters."

"Supposing that by any unforeseen circumstance she was thrown out of her present situation, she must have some small reserve fund, so that she could support herself until she could obtain something else."

"Clarice would have been the first to notice her heavy eyes the following morning, but that her heart was full of her own troubles."

"He's going tomorrow, Janetta," she said, when the girl entered her room.

"Of life—or, rather, of the love which is my life. He's going right away from me, and he may be going to his death!"

"You can trust him to God's hands," said Janetta gently.

"Oh he may forget me." "You trust him too well to think of that."

"I shall feel that he has passed beyond my reach; there is something which seems to warn me that I am losing him forever."

When Clarice was dressed and carried to her boudoir, Harry Merivale came and sat down by her, and Janetta watched the restless look die out of Clarice's face.

She did not begin it at once, her heart was full of her friend, and her misery at her lover's departure; and yet, was she so greatly to be pitied?

To love and be loved, after all, were the two chief factors of human happiness, and that Clarice had. One difficulty Captain Merivale's departure would remove from her path—she would not need to make excuses to avoid going out with him.

Then she opened and re-read her brother's letter, and the oftener she read it the more perplexed she became, as to what the answer should be.

"I could swear to her voice," said Janetta, a little hotly. "Has she a young man, do you know?"

"Oh, yes. Is there a law of the Medes and Persians that parlor maids should be exempt from love-affairs?" asked Mrs. Mortimer.

"Certainly I will in future," replied Janetta, swallowing her vexation; "but it is the second time that I have had suspicions about Mason's straightforwardness."

"A letter for you, miss," said a voice behind her, and Mason, with a perfectly immovable face, handed her a letter on a silver waiter.

"I have one brother, and I'm in trouble about him," she said simply.

"Yes," said Harry, seating himself in a chair with grave attention.

"And you wish to know if it is right to throw good money after bad, to rob yourself of your last farthing, so that your brother may be saved for a week or two longer from the consequences of his own willfulness?" he said, when Janetta paused for a moment.

"It does not seem to me a difficult question to decide. If you want to complete that young fellow's ruin, you will go on letting him depend upon you as he has done hitherto. You tell me that he cannot live on his salary, and that you have taken this situation

In order to supplement it. Mind, I think it is a wholly wrong principle for a brother to take help from a sister; but, still, you have promised to help him. Very well, stick to the exact letter of your promise, and don't go a farthing beyond it."

"I'm passing through town tomorrow, and will go and see him if you like. It might not hurt him to hear the opinion of a man about his behavior."

"Oh, no!" cried Janetta quickly. "I could not bear to think that I had ever discussed him with anybody. It is the first time in my life that I have done it, and I'm only driven to it now because I am at my wits' end."

"Well, then, write him a short, wholesome refusal. You can't think what good it does. It brings a young fellow to his bearings," said the Captain, with a smile, remembering such a refusal himself.

Janetta rose. "I can't thank you enough. I must have been fanciful the other day, but I was silly enough to think that you were vexed with me when I said I hoped always to keep you and Miss Seymour as friends."

Harry looked down at the beautiful, wistful face with an odd twitching of his own.

"You drive me hard," he said. "Shall I tell you something, that you, and you alone, are the cause of my sudden departure to-morrow, that there are moments in the life of a man when all he can do is to run away?"

"Miss Howard, I did not know upon what rock I was drifting until that appeal of yours to my friendship; and then, like a flash of lightning, the true state of things was revealed to me. Friendship with you? Impossible! Friendship could not satisfy me! Had I been free—"

Janetta heard him thus far with eyes that grew larger every moment with terror and despair.

"No, no!" she cried; "please stop! You must not say it, and I must not listen. Forget that you have ever said or thought it. Ah! she cried, wringing her hands, "what have I done but betray my best, my kindest friend?"

"He could have taken her hands; but she snatched them from him and flew from the room. Just outside the door she cannoned against Mrs. Mortimer, who glanced at the girl's red eyes and dishevelled hair with cynical contempt.

"Is Captain Merivale in the study?" she asked. "Miss Seymour wants to speak to him before he goes out."

Janetta did not stop to answer, but ran upstairs to her room; and Mrs. Mortimer heard the key-turn in the lock.

A very agony of shame shook Janetta's whole frame, and she threw herself sobbing on her knees. A mist of falsehood and wrongdoing seemed enveloping her like a cloak, and for the first time in her life she found it difficult to discern right from wrong.

Her heart was her witness that she had intended to do no hurt to the friend to whom she was bound by every tie of gratitude and affection, and yet Captain Merivale's unfinished sentence had awakened an answering echo in her heart, had roused her to the awful knowledge that she, on her side, loved him with an intensity as great as Clarice's own.

"I can redeem the past. I am sure it's not too late for that!" she said, springing to her feet in feverish misery. "He has no clue as to my feeling for him—that is my own secret; and when he gets away from me he will return, as in honor bound, to his proper allegiance. He leaves to-morrow and I need never see him again."

(To be continued.)

Turntable for Trolley Cars. A turntable for trolley cars has been patented by an Ohio inventor.

Curzon's Visit to Goa. Lord Curzon recently paid a state visit to Goa, the little Portuguese colony in western India.

Teacher Abandoned Reform. A teacher in Grundy county, Missouri, determined that his pupils should adopt what he termed as reformed pronunciation, among other things, that "mamma" and "pappa" must have the accent on the last syllable.

"Opportunity for a Christian means responsibility." There are abundant opportunities for usefulness, but alas! few Christians realize or accept their responsibilities.

MORE COURTESY. Many Small Attentions of Others, Omitted Nowadays. Among other peculiarities of a busy age, a tendency to discourage the practice of the little courtesies which tend to make life sweeter and finer is noted.

Police Officer Rescued. Officer A. C. Swanson of the Council Bluffs Force Tells an Interesting Story.

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 19, 1901.—(Special.)—Kindhearted Officer Swanson of the local police force is very popular in this city.

A Remedy for the Grippe. Physicians recommend KEMP'S BALSAM for patients afflicted with the grippe, as it is especially adapted for the throat and lungs.

Iowa Politician Dead. W. E. Redman, former representative in the Iowa legislature and speaker of the Iowa house in 1888, died suddenly at his home in Newton Friday.

Music and women are often loved but seldom understood. One way to remove dandruff is to insult an Indian.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY. Take LAXATIVE BROWN QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure.

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How Are Your Bowels? About the first thing the doctor says-- Then, "Let's see your tongue." Because bad tongue and bad bowels go together. Regulate the bowels, clean up the tongue. We all know that this is the way to keep and look well. You can't keep the bowels healthy and regular with purges or bird-shot pills. They move you with awful gripes, then you're worse than ever. Now what you want is Cascarets. Go and get them today--Cascarets--in metal box--cost 10c. Take one! Eat it like candy, and it will work gently--while you sleep. It cures, that means it strengthens the muscular walls of the bowels, gives them new life. Then they act regularly and naturally. That's what you want. It's guaranteed to be found in THE TONIC LAXATIVE Cascarets LIVER TONIC 10c. 25c. 50c. BEST FOR THE BOWELS NEVER SOLD IN BULK. GUARANTEED TO CURE: Five years ago the first box of CASCARETS was sold. Now it is over six million boxes a year, greater than any similar medicine in the world. This is absolute proof of great merit, and our best testimonial. We have faith and will sell CASCARETS absolutely guaranteed to cure or money refunded. Go by today, two 50c boxes, give them a fair honest trial, as per simple directions, and if you are not satisfied, after using one 50c box, return the unused 50c box and the empty box to us by mail, or the druggist from whom you purchased it, and get your money back for both boxes. Take our advice--no matter what ails you--start today. Health will quickly follow and you will bless the day you put your bowels right. Take our advice; start with CASCARETS today, under an absolute guarantee to cure or money refunded.