RIGHTING A WRONG

By LIZZIE SAWYER.

(Copyright.)

Rupert King lay dying. He loved life, and he was a very rich man; but that could not save him.

His wife, a tall, black-eyed, haughty-looking woman, knelt beside him, his hand in hers, her face drenched in tears; for, cold as she seemed to most, she loved her husband dearly. On the opposite side of the bed leaned Paul Dering, the dying man's stepson.

Eighteen years before, Mr. King had married Paul's mother, a widow with this one child, then five years old. He loved the boy as his own son. He had brought him up as his heir, and had long ago made a will leaving him all he possessed, with the exception of a handsome allowance to his wife.

"There is something I ought to have told you, Hester," the dying man said to his wife. "Don't think hardly of me when you know it, after I am dead. I don't know but I ought to have altered my will, but this sickness came so suddenly, there has not been time."

"His mind wanders," muttered Mrs. King.

"No, no!" the dying man gasped, in great distress. "Look in the little drawer in my private desk when I am dead."

That was all he said.

The widow found the following letter in the desk. She read it the day after the funeral.

It ran thus:

"My Dearest Wife: I have never told you that before I ever knew you I was married to another woman. She deceived and betrayed me, or I was led to believe so, and left her. She died not long after, leaving a child—a little girl—whom I never looked after, because of the bitterness I still felt toward the mother, and because I did not believe she was my child. But recently I have heard something which makes me think that possibly that unhappy woman was innocent, after all. It is the merest doubt, but I cannot rest easy till I have solved it. I have not felt well for a few days, or I should have satisfied myself; and I did not want to tell you till I had done that. But tonight there is a weight upon me. I cannot sleep until I have written this for your eyes in case I should, as I fear, be going to be ill.

"If my first wife was an innocent woman, then I have bitterly and cruelly wronged my own child, and I leave to you the task of finding and righting her. I desire you, my dear wife, in the name of our mutual love, to endeavor, by means of the memoranda which accompany this, to ascertain the truth. If she was an innocent woman, this child I have so long disowned ought to have my property instead of your son.

If you find that I wronged my first wife, I want you to seek out my child, and Paul must either marry her or give her the money I have left in my will to him. I should like them to marry. I shall not alter my will; it would be making everything too public. I trust all to Paul's honor.

The letter fell from Hester King's hand. An angry light gleamed in her black eyes.

"Paul's honor shall not be tried," she said, bitterly. "He shall never know. It shall be my secret."

She secretly set on foot inquiries, which resulted in satisfying her, reluctant as she was, that her husband had cruelly wronged an innocent woman.

Almost at the same time that this conviction was forced upon her, her son, to her horror and dismay, announced that he was thinking of marrying.

Paul had poured the whole wealth of his affection upon a girl who was only a poor music teacher. He had met her at the house of a friend, to whose little girls she was giving lessons.

Mrs. King knew human nature too well openly to oppose her son. She, therefore, made no objection, but asked him to weigh the matter well, and not be in too great haste.

Then having obtained the girl's address, she went, without her son's knowledge, to see her.

In spite of her prejudice, she was impressed by Edith Bond's refined and cultured appearance, as well as by her beauty, sweetness and dignity.

She adopted a very different line of conduct on seeing her from that which she had at first proposed. She appealed to her generosity.

She told her frankly that her son loved her; and it was evident, by the hot blush, the drooping of the sweet eyes, that he did not love in vain. Then she told her that if Paul married her, it would be at the sacrifice of his whole fortune, though he did not know it.

Finally, she asked her to go away where he could not find her.

Edith Bond was violently agitated.

"Mrs. King," she said, "do you think it is fair not to give him a chance to choose between his fortune and me?"

"He would choose you," Mrs. King answered, despairingly.

"Then," spoke Edith, "if your son loves me so much as that, are you not afraid you will destroy his happiness?"

"He will suffer in being separated from you, of course," Mrs. King answered, coldly; "but he will get over it. He will live to thank me for interfering to prevent his throwing away a fortune, and making himself a pauper."

The sweet face flushed proudly; the blue eyes drooped again.

There was a few moments' silence, and then Edith Bond said, gently, "I think you require too much of him, Mrs. King; but you are his mother I will promise you this: I will go away where your son cannot see me, for a year, if you promise me that if, at the end of that time, he still loves me, you will tell him everything, and leave him free to seek me, if he chooses to do so."

Mrs. King consented to this very reluctantly, but she went home much relieved. She thought, "In a year he is sure to forget her."

Never was a mother more mistaken.

Edith Bond kept her word. She went away before Paul Dering could see her again, and left no clue to where she had vanished.

Paul Dering's amazement and grief at her inexplicable disappearance were so deep and violent that his mother was almost frightened at what she had done.

Meanwhile she was causing secret but diligent search to be made for Lucy King, the cruelly wronged child of her dead husband. But she could learn nothing of her. She had been taken in charge by an aunt at her mother's death, and the two had gone away together, no one knew whither.

Mrs. King one day showed her son his step-father's letter. She pointed out to him that he should marry Lucy if she could be found, and thus keep the wealth from going to a stranger.

But Paul declared he would marry none but Edith.

That very evening Edith, so closely veiled and cloaked that no one would have known her, entered the room where Mrs. King sat alone.

Throwing up her veil, she fell at Mrs. King's knees, and burst into tears.

"Mrs. King," she cried, "I have but just heard of your angelic goodness. That unhappy woman who was your husband's first wife, and whose innocence from a horrible accusation you have been at such pains to prove, was my mother. I am here to thank you for the noblest, most generous deed one woman ever did for another. I am here to tell you how all my life I shall worship you for righting her. I am here to tell you that I release you from the promise I was so presumptuous as to require of you, and to bind myself never to see your son again."

Mrs. King was pale with surprise and bewilderment.

"I don't know what you mean," she said. "Is not your name 'Edith Bond?'"

"My name is Lucy Edith King. I [illegible] my poor, unhappy mother's death."

"You?" exclaimed Mrs. King. "You are Lucy King?"

"Yes."

To the girl's amazement, Mrs. King suddenly caught her in her arms and kissed her.

Then she rang for a servant and gave some message in a low voice.

Three minutes after Paul Dering came hurrying into the room.

"Jane said you wanted me instantly, mother. What is the matter?" he asked, staring at her excited face, and not noticing at the moment that anyone else was in the room.

"This," said his mother, leading Lucy toward him. "Edith Bond and Lucy King are one. I leave you to mutual explanations," she added, gayly, as she was quitting the room. "But be quick about it, or the dinner will be spoiled."

Half an hour after, they all sat down to dinner together; and as, judging from appearances, three happier people could not be found, it is fair to suppose that the mutual explanations proved mutually satisfactory.

TONIC EFFECT OF SYMPATHY

Physicians Can Tell of Remarkable Cases That Have Come Under Their Observation.

The tonic effect of sympathy is a subject treated in the journal of the American Medical association. A few years ago there appeared in newspapers an open letter in which a suffering and helpless woman asked aid in securing a law to permit incurable invalids the privilege of being painlessly put to death. The writer of this letter lived and measurably recovered, and recently told of letters with messages of sympathy that she had received from other sufferers around the world who had written of their care and of their gladness that old-fashioned legislation had put a barrier between them and their impatience. The journal adds: "Probably nothing is more stimulating and genuinely tonic to sufferers, especially those with chronic ailments, than the feeling that in spite of their own helplessness, they themselves can still be helpful to others. The Shut-in society in this country has made life more bearable for many persons who are confined to their rooms or their houses. Nothing disturbs a certain class of patients so much as to be constantly in contact with those who are in good health and strength and whom they can scarcely help but envy. To be brought into touch with those for whom they themselves can feel is a precious source of consolation and uplift. Pity is a luxury to be enjoyed, but no human being likes to be pitied or to feel that he is an object of pity. To be conscious of some advantage in one's situation over that of others is of itself an alleviation of many sicknesses."

On the Watch.

Bill—That waiter over there hasn't had anybody at his table the whole evening.

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(Signed) *G. R. BISBY,*
Plant Pathologist,
Sept. 19, 1914. *Presque Isle, Maine.*

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—BETWEEN—

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Read carefully as important changes have been made.

Leave Baltimore, pier 3, Light street wharf, (weather permitting) at 5 p. m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for the following river landings Alexandria and Washington:

Baltimore, 5 p.m. Miller's, Broomes' Porto Bello, Grason's, Coan, 5 a. m., Bandick's, Lakes, Walnut Point, Cowarts, Lewisetta, Kinsale, Lodge, Mundy's Point, Cintra, Piney Point, 10 a. m., Leonardtown, 12 noon; Abell's, Cobrums, Stones, Bushwood, Lancaster's, 4 p. m., Riverside, Liverpool Point, Glymont, Alexandria and Washington.

: : Stops only on Signal.

Leave Washington, Seventh street wharf, (weather permitting), 4 p. m., every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday for the following river Landings and Baltimore:

Washington, Alexandria, 4:45 p. m. Glymont, Liverpool Point, Riverside, Bushwood, Lancaster. Cobrums, Stones, Leonardtown, 5 a. m., Abells, Piney Point, Cintra, Lodge, 10 a. m., Mundy Point, Kinsale, 12 noon; Coan, Bundick's, Lakes, Walnut Point, Cowart's, Lewisetta, Miller's, 4 p. m., Grason's, 5 p. m., Broome's, Porto Bello, 6 p. m., Baltimore.

: : Stops only on Signal.

Arriving in Baltimore early Wednesday, Friday and Monday mornings.

Special Notice—The extra steamer leaving Baltimore on Saturday and arriving on Tuesday, is withdrawn.

Freight received daily in Baltimore on sailing days until 4 p. m.

This time-table shows the time which steamers may be expected to arrive at and depart from the several wharves, but their arrivals or departure at the times stated is not guaranteed, nor does the company hold itself responsible for any delay or any consequences arising therefrom.

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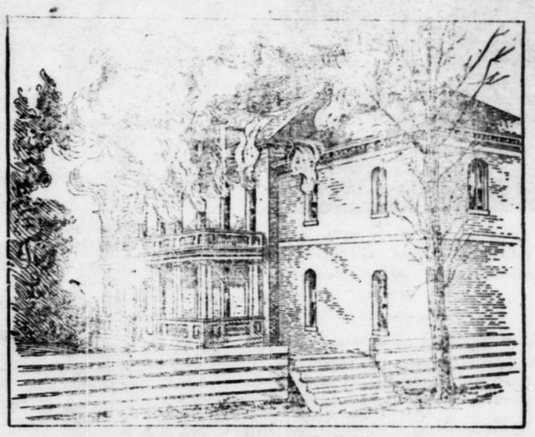

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SCHEDULE.
In effect September 3, 1913.

Steamer will leave Baltimore, Pier 3 Light Street wharf, (weather permitting,) Tuesdays, 2 p. m., for Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dares, Governor's Run, Cove Point, Millstone, Solomon's Island, Spencer's, St. Cuthbert's, Sotterley, Parkers, Forrest's, Duke's and Benedict.

Returning steamer will leave Benedict, (weather permitting,) Wednesday, 5 a. m. stopping at all the above points. Solomon's, 9:30 a. m., Millstone, 10 a. m., Governor's Run, 12 noon, Plum Point, 1 p. m., Fair Haven, 2 p. m., arriving in Baltimore about 8 p. m.

Steamer will leave Baltimore, Pier 4 Light street, (weather permitting,) Thursday, at 2 p. m., for the following points: Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dare's, Governors Run, Cove Point, Millstone, Solomon's, Spencer's, St. Cuthbert's, St. Leonard's, Soller's, Sotterley, Parker's, Forrest's, Williams, Duke's, Trent Hall, Holland Point, Benedict.

Returning, steamer will leave Benedict, (weather permitting,) Friday, 12 noon, stopping at all the above points Solomon's, 5:30 p. m., Millstone, 6 p. m., Cove Point, Governor's Run, 8 p. m., Dare's 8:20 p. m., Plum Point, 9 p. m., Fair Haven, 10 p. m., Baltimore, next morning.

Leave Baltimore, Pier 4, Light St., (weather permitting,) Saturday, 2 p. m., for the following points:

Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dare's, Governor's Run, Cove Point, Millstone, Solomon's, Spencer's, St. Cuthbert's, St. Leonard's, Sollers, Sotterley Parker's, Forrest's Williams, Duke's, Trent Hall, Holland Point, Benedict, Leeth's, Truman's Point, Deep Landing, Holland's Cliff's, Magruder's Ferry, Lower Marlboro, White's Landing, Ferry Landing, Nottingham's.

Steamer will go to Lyon's Creek, Monday morning.

Returning, steamer will leave Lyon's Creek, (weather permitting,) Monday, 7:30 a. m., stopping at all the above landings. Nottingham, 8:30 a. m., Lower Marlboro, 10 a. m., Benedict, 12 noon, Solomon's, 5:30 p. m., Millstone, 6 p. m., Cove Point, Governor's Run, 8:30 p. m., Dare's, 8:20 p. m., Plum Point, Fair Haven, 10 p. m., arriving Baltimore next morning.

Freight received in Baltimore, Pier 3 Light street, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, until 1:30 p. m.

This time table shows the time at which steamers may be expected to arrive at and depart from the several wharves, but their arrivals or departure at the times stated is not guaranteed, nor does the company hold itself responsible for any delay or any consequence arising therefrom.

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—100 Cords Good Pine Wood delivered on shore in St. Mary's County between May and August 1914. Give good price and will pay bonus on same 4 ft. 4 in. long.

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