

# His Heart's Desire

By SIR WALTER BESANT

Perhaps it was the agony of mind caused by this loss perhaps the blow upon his head, which caused the paralysis of his legs. This affliction fell upon him a month or so after the accident. Then they put him in his chair beside his table, and propped him up with pillows, and he went abroad no more. But his brain was as clear as before, his will as strong, and his purpose as determined.

## CHAPTER VII.

When Mary had given her uncle his tea and cleared away the "things," she left him to his papers and his pipe, took her hat and went into the porch, where she stood for a moment gazing her hat by its straps and shading her eyes with her hand.

Then, with a little flush upon her cheek and a brightening of her eye, she passed through the garden to the back of the house, where she knew George Sidcotte waited to take her to the choir practice, for 'twas Saturday evening.

When Mary came through the garden he took both her hands in his, bent over her and kissed her gravely on the forehead, as if to seal her once more for his own. There was little of the sweet love language between these two; they belonged to each other; they were so well assured of the fact that there was no need to renew their vows.

"George!" said Mary, softly.

"Mary!" George whispered.

They sat down together on a wagon shaft, side by side.

"I saw him this morning," he said, slowly—Mary knew very well who was meant by "him"—"and I told him what I told you the other day, my dear."

"What did he say?"

"He said that he knew it beforehand. He had calculated it all out on paper, and he was certain, he said, that this season would be the last. 'Very well,' he said, 'the law provides a remedy when the interest or the principal cannot be repaid. Of course,' he added, 'I am not going to lose my money.' This is what he said first, Mary."

"Oh! and what did he say next?"

"I told him that if he would give his consent, your fortune would nearly pay off the mortgage."

"What did he say then?"

"Well, Mary, then we had a little row—not much. He said that it was clear I only wanted your money, and he should never give his consent. I said that it was clear he meant to make any excuse to refuse his consent, in order to keep your money in his own hands."

"I am sorry, George," said Mary. "He told me nothing of this."

"It was not likely that he would tell you. He heard what I had to say in his dry way, and then asked me if there was anything more that I wished to say. Well, Mary, I was roused a bit by this, and I reminded him that, if you did not receive your aunt's fortune, David would be entitled to the money. Well, he was not the least put out. He only laughed—his laugh is the sort that makes other people cry—and said that you were a good girl, but silly, like most girls, and if you chose to throw away your fortune he was sorry for you, but he could not prevent it. Well, Mary, I came away. So that is done with, and this is the last year there will be one of the old stock in the old place."

"Courage, George," she said; "we will do something; we will go somewhere—somehow we will live and prosper yet."

"Somewhere!" he echoed, "and somehow!" Well, I have a pair of hands and a pair of broad shoulders—yes. But you, Mary, and my mother?"

"Courage," she said again, "have faith, George. Even if we have to go away, we shall be together. I was reading yesterday a story about settlers in Canada. It had pictures. There was the wooden house and the clearing, with the forest all round; I thought it might be ours. I read how they worked, this pair of settlers, and how they gradually got on, clearing more land and increasing their stock till they became rich in everything except money. I thought of ourselves. George; we shall not want money if we can live on a farm of our own somewhere, and if we can work for ourselves. You are so strong and brave; you do not mind hard work; and—and—let us have faith, George. God is good. If we must go from here, we will go with cheerful hearts, and leave my poor uncle to his lands and wealth."

He threw his arm round her neck and kissed her again—an unusual demonstration from him.

(To be continued.)

Face West for Best Work.

To test the truth of the assertions of many persons that they sleep better with their heads pointing to the north, work better facing the east and so on, Dr. Charles Fere, who is well known in France for his studies in physiological psychology, has constructed a delicate machine which he calls an ergograph, with which he has achieved some interesting results. This machine registers the number, rapidity and equality of the movements of the index finger when writing or performing any accustomed work.

He announces that his experiments with it prove that work done by a person facing the west or east is better by 25 per cent than similar work done by a person facing the north or south, and that when working facing the west it is about 25 per cent better than when facing east.

This matter of orientation seems to have an influence upon the nervous system, due largely, it is believed, to the fact that the earth is a gigantic magnet. Many learned men have noticed that they sleep best with the head to the north and work better facing the west, while at least one famous pianist finds he plays with the greatest ease when the piano faces the east. It may be that the great migrations of the human race, all of which have been from east to west, and the observed tendency of trees to develop in the same way related to these phenomena.

Polite.

"So you have invited Brown to dinner? I am afraid he won't think much of your cooking."

"Oh, well, you mustn't let that trouble you; he is too polite to say anything."—Houston Post.

It's usually the alimony he has to pay that causes a man to figure in a divorce suit.

## Science AND Invention

The city of Hartford, Connecticut, has the distinction of being the first to use an electric street-sprinkler. The water-tank resembles that of an ordinary horse-drawn street-sprinkler, but the vehicle is driven by a storage battery, and is able to cover in a day twice the ground covered by a sprinkler drawn by a team of horses.

A sea-perch nearly 7 1/2 feet long and weighing 460 pounds was caught last winter in the River Hooghly, India. The condition of its scales indicated that the fish was very old. The largest Indian sea-perch previously captured, as far as the records show, was taken in 1786. It was 7 feet in length, and weighed about 300 pounds.

Not many years ago a few pairs of English starlings were imported into Australia as allies to the farmers in the war on destructive insects. Now the birds have increased to millions, and have become themselves a pest. Other useful birds, such as kingfishers, diamond-birds, tree-swallows and troopers, are driven from their nests by swarms of starlings, which devour fruit so voraciously that some of the farmers declare that they will be compelled to abandon fruit-growing unless the starlings can be destroyed. The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and other similar associations are urging in a request to the government to abate the nuisance.

Attention is called by the Scientific American to experiments at Harvard University which seem to demonstrate that engineers usually underestimate the maximum loading caused by dense crowds on bridges, floors and platforms. Forty men, averaging 163 pounds in weight, placed in a box six feet square, caused an average pressure of 181 pounds per square foot on the floor. An engineer has estimated the weight per square foot of floor of the densest crowds on the New York elevated railways at only 45 pounds, but since the Harvard experiments the opinion has been expressed that the maximum loading on the elevated cars and platforms may be nearer 181 than 45 pounds. This applies to other close-packed crowds.

The recent experiments with high-speed electric motor-cars on the specially prepared Berlin-Zossen line may result in the building of a railway between Berlin and Hamburg, on which trains will run regularly at a speed of 100, or even 125, miles an hour. Estimates have been obtained from two important electric construction companies, which seem to indicate at least the possibility of making such a railroad a commercial success. The chief requirements are a straight track, a level grade, and heavy cars with specially constructed running-gear. The Germans, having been the first to demonstrate the practicability of running trains at such speeds, are naturally ambitious to crown the work by constructing the first modern high-speed railway. The estimated cost for a double-track line 155 miles long varies, according to the degree of speed required, from between \$16,000,000 and \$17,000,000 to more than \$35,000,000.

The Cradle of Politeness.

Resolve that home ever shall be the brightest, merriest, happiest spot on earth, and, each keeping the resolution, it will be so. Of all places, the father should be the politest seated in his own home. No mother makes a grander mistake than when she forgets the most delicate etiquette in the presence of the little ones who learn to read her thoughts before utterance. If you see a boy thoughtful and gentle of speech to his sister, set it down that he has heard those very intonations from his father's lips addressing that boy's mother.

Hear that daughter snarling out some pettish response, and you may set it down as the echo of the mother's words. No doubt children inherit bodily disease and mental qualities, but these more often are made a misery or a blessing by the impressions received from superiors, while in childhood. A child cannot always be easily trained to be polite from principle, and yet it is a grand accomplishment. There is a way of saying, "I thank you," "You are very kind," "Allow me to assist you," that makes one feel he is in the presence of refinement. We never witness the rosy, healthy miss arise and ask the old gray-headed man, tottering upon his cane, to take her comfortable seat, without mentally taking off our hat and bowing reverently to the mother at home who trained that girl.

Boys and girls who, from principle, are trained to politeness are walking libraries and educate more and better than is known.

Seeing Things.

Mr. Crimsonbeak—Wife, we'll have to get rid of some of those hats in the hall.

Mrs. Crimsonbeak—What on earth are you talking about? We've only got one hat in the hall!

"Why, when I came in last night, I thought I saw six or seven."—Yonkers Statesman.

In His Case, for Instance.

Tommy—Papa, is a man's wife his better half?

Papa—Sometimes, Tommy. And sometimes she's his four-fifths.—Detroit Tribune.

We are always expecting to see a family where the children are so noisy their father has to talk to his wife at meal time through a megaphone.

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