

THE GIRL WITH A MILLION

By D. C. Murray

CHAPTER V.—(Continued.)

He carried the little creature up stairs and there, locked in his own room, he wrote a letter which was destined for St. Petersburg, but traveled in the first instance to the care of one Dr. Brun, of Hollington place, London. In the solitude of his own chamber Mr. Zeno permitted himself an accurate and intimate acquaintance with the French language, little of it as he allowed himself for his present purposes to know outside.

Meanwhile things were going more pleasantly in the garden. Angela, with a little twinge of conscience, had informed Austin that Major Butler would be delighted to meet him and had expressed his great regret that he had been unable to make the call he had contemplated that day. The fact that the major had charged her with this message did not help her much, for she knew its hollowness. The major rather dreaded the advent of a man who wrote books and regarded Austin as a fellow who would be likely to know a lot of things and expect other people to know them also.

"O'Id meek wun of the porty meself," said Fraser, with his own invaluable sang froid, "but o'f meed up me mind to go back to-morrow."

"To-morrow?" said O'Rourke. "That's a little sudden, isn't it?"

"I wish you'd come, O'Rourke," said Maskelyne. "But Major Butler is a dreadful Tory, and I am not sure that you'd care to meet each other."

"Major Butler might convert me, perhaps," said O'Rourke. "No, no. Clearly I am impossible." He spoke with so perfect a gaiety and good humor that he hurt nobody. But a little later he contrived to get Maskelyne apart, and to question him about a matter which had puzzled him a good deal. "How does your dreadful Tory's niece contrive to be familiar with Dobroski, when a mere Home Ruler like myself is quite too terrible for the old gentleman? I call him the old gentleman with no disrespect," he added, with his delightful smile. "And, of course, he may be a young gentleman, and still be the lady's uncle, though, again, he is her guardian, and probably elderly."

"Dobroski and Miss Butler's father were dear friends," said Maskelyne, repeating what he had heard from Angela. "When Dobroski escaped from Siberia he landed in England without funds or friends. Miss Butler's father found him out, maintained him, so far as I can learn, for years, and was a staunch friend to him. She has known him from childhood, and has a great affection and veneration for him. It is a difficult position, for he and her uncle are at daggers now. But Dobroski seems to worship her."

"Yes, I can see that," O'Rourke answered. "A charming girl," he added, softly, and in so natural a way that Maskelyne supposed him to be ignorant of his own interest in her. "There's romance in the situation, too," he continued, in a lighter tone. Maskelyne, with a mere nod in answer, made a move in Angela's direction. "No," said O'Rourke, putting an arm through one of his. "You don't escape me in that way. I have something to say to you, and I know that you will be shifty and evasive and underhanded in your ways until I have said it. Let me speak, old fellow. We shall both be easier. I can't tell you what I think and feel about that splendid loan of yours. I was really desperate. I don't know what I should have done without it."

"Very well," said Maskelyne, pressing his companion's arm with a gesture of affection, but speaking very dryly; "it is over now?"

"No, my friend of outward marble and inward tenderness, it is not over. And it never will be."

"Once for all, O'Rourke, bury that confounded thing, and have done with it."

"Well, there, the thing is buried. I'll say no more till I can pay you back again. But I suppose you don't forbid me to think of it in the meantime? It was the only kindness in that way I ever had or ever wanted. I shan't forget it; that's all. And now it's buried."

On the following day O'Rourke took a quiet walk by unknown ways across the fields. He was a born townsman, and had but little love for rural tranquillities by nature, but he was already weary of the work of the session, and was glad to escape to fresh air and silence for awhile. One gentle little hill after another drew him on. He would see what lay beyond this gentle eminence, and then he would see what lay beyond the next, and in this fashion he wandered on until he came in sight of a most exaggeratedly castellated house of gray stone standing in the midst of a dark pine woods. The building was of a moderate size, but its peaks and turrets dwarfed it, and from a little distance made it look at least as much like a child's toy as a dwelling house for real people. This was the chateau of Rouffy, and the present residence of Major Butler.

The wanderer, who had fairly good taste in most things, stood for a moment to smile at this preposterous edifice, and then walked on again. It was a day of cloudy soft light, and the air was wonderfully sweet. The woods were in the freshness of their greenery, and the dark hues of the contrasting pines set off the lighter foliage. A few hundred yards before him lay the first link of a river which went winding in a rounded zigzag until it lost itself to view behind the shoulder of a wood-clad hill.

He strolled down to the river side, and there cast himself upon the grass, and stared up at the soft motionless clouds. The stream ran through narrower banks than common near where he lay, and kept up a pleasant drowsy gurgle. Listening to this, he lay there enjoying all the delights of leisure after labor in every fiber of his body, until he fell into a light doze. From this he was awakened by a rustle and the sound of an excretion gently breathed. Sitting up he was aware of a gentleman of British aspect, florid, sturdy and well set, who stood on the other side of the river, rod in hand, per-

suasively pulling at a fly which had lodged in one of the branches of a bush. Lying down he had been hidden from the angler, who, seeing him rise, gave something of a start.

"Pardon me, sir," said the stranger, in labored and very English sounding French, "can you detach that fly for me?"

"Major Butler," said O'Rourke to himself. "Is this Major Butler, I wonder?"

He answered, also speaking in French, that he would do his best, and walked to the bush. O'Rourke secured the branch to which the fly was attached, and cut it away, after which he disentangled the hook and the angler and he raised their hats to each other.

Major Butler, for O'Rourke's not unnatural guess had hit the mark, expressed his obligations with some little difficulty, and O'Rourke, who was Paris bred, responded that he was infinitely delighted to be of service. If this were Major Butler, thought Mr. O'Rourke, it would be good fun to conquer his prejudices, and apart from the amusement, it would be agreeable to have a country house to call at during his stay. Then he thought of that charming girl.

He began by asking after sport, and the quality of the stream and the fish, and the major, who was an accessible and friendly soul when once the ice was broken with him, displayed his take, and floundered on with his French in a very courageous and adventurous manner.

Presently he hooked a half-pounder, who behaved in a very lively manner, and was finally graced workman-like. O'Rourke looked on with interest.

"They give plenty of sport," he said.

"Capital sport," replied Butler, heartily. "They're not feeding well to-day, though. Two or three days ago a young friend of mine, an American, who's staying at my place, fetched out seven pounds in half an hour. Used a fly quite strange to the water, too, a gaudy American thing, but very killing."

"There can't be any Americans over here," said O'Rourke.

"Only one that I know of," said the major. "Maskelyne." He had time enough to think that this was the novelist, ten to one, and a very different sort of fellow from the man he had expected. "Pleased to meet you," he said. "I shall be glad if you'll look me up."

"Thank you," said O'Rourke, sweetly. "Thank you very much indeed. Maskelyne and I are very old friends."

"Not the novelist," said the major, silently. "Of course not. Spoke much too intimately from the first mention of him only to have met him yesterday."

"You are Major Butler?" asked O'Rourke. There are ways and ways of putting this sort of interrogatory. Butler bowed assent. "Maskelyne told me with whom he was staying. My name is O'Rourke."

"Oh!" said the major, blankly; "you're not the—"

"I'm afraid I am," answered O'Rourke, with so admirable a good humor that Butler could not refrain from a smile. "We needn't talk politics if we differ, as I dare say we do."

Honestly, if Major Butler could have withdrawn his invitation he would have done so, and he was a little annoyed with himself for having given it. But he betroughed him, the man was a friend of Maskelyne's, and Maskelyne spoke of him in the very highest terms. But then again, there was something about—people talked—they said the Irish members were here to make terms with that infamous old scoundrel Dobroski, a rascal who thirsted for royal blood and wanted chaos to come again.

"Do you stay long?" asked Butler, with a diplomatic purpose.

"Yes, a week or two, perhaps more. A friend of mine—I dare say you know him—he's really a very distinguished man—Farley, the novelist—is staying in the same hotel with me at Janenna, and so long as he stays I shall stay."

Angela and Maskelyne were each a good deal surprised half an hour later to see Major Butler coming down the avenue toward the chateau side by side with O'Rourke. Perhaps at bottom the major himself was a little surprised, but he was certainly vanquished. He confessed that he had never met a pleasanter man in his life than this Home Ruler, whom in advance he had been prepared to detest.

CHAPTER VI.

Dobroski and O'Rourke sat together in a chamber of the Cheval Blanc.

"You thought my scheme a madman's vision when you heard it first," said the old man, in his tired and tranquil way. "But now? Speak without fear, and with perfect candor."

"I see a practical possibility in it," returned the other. "A bare possibility, but still a possibility."

"Possibility enough to make it worth while to strike when the time comes?"

"Possibility enough to make it worth while to strike when the time comes. Yes." There was something in O'Rourke's manner of repeating the phrase which made the repetition seem weighty, reflective, and full of respect for Dobroski's years and qualities. "But—" He paused with a look of thought, and drummed upon the table with his fingers.

"But—" said Dobroski.

"We must not lose the cause. We must not lose for want of a little candor. You have laid your scheme before me—given me facts, names, numbers. You tell me that I have your perfect confidence, and that I know now all you have to tell."

"There are details," answered Dobroski—"countless details. But the main facts are yours."

"I am not disputing, sir," said O'Rourke, with a smile which seemed to say how impossible that would be. "I am only recapitulating. But you see, Mr. Dobroski, I get these things from the fountain-head, and I am assured of their verity. But when you ask me to be your emissary at home you forget that I have neither your years, your first-hand knowledge, your history, nor your authority. In short, I am Hector O'Rourke, and you are John Dobroski. If I carry this prodigious scheme to the men in England

SCIENTIFIC STAIR SWEEPING.

Method by Which Obstruction to Travel is Reduced.

"There is, it seems," said the town traveler to a New York Sun man, "a scientific method of sweeping stairs; a method whereby the people passing up and down, as on a stairway in constant public use, may be, while sweeping is going on, in the smallest degree possible, unaccommodated by it."

"This method is scarcely applicable to narrow stairs, but it may be applied with great advantage to the sweeping of wide stairs where the traffic is great. It was seen demonstrated on the broad stairs leading down to the subway from the entrance at the Brooklyn bridge."

"It is a familiar fact that the ordinary way of sweeping stairs is to sweep the steps one after another in succession, sweeping each one clear across from side to side. If the sweeping is done in this manner half the people going up or down may have to dodge the sweeper. In dodging the sweeper they lodge into other people, and so the travel on the stairs may be congested and the whole movement impeded."

"But by the scientific method of sweeping all this uncertainty about where the sweeper may be found is avoided and half the stairway is left constantly and entirely clear to travel, which can move up and down in that open way quite freely and so with the least possible delay."

"By this method the sweeper simply begins at the end of the step on one side the stairway and sweeps that step to the center. There he stops and goes down a step to the next one, to sweep that step in like manner, from its end to the center, and so he keeps on down step after step, sweeping the stairway for one-half its width, keeping himself always on that side and leaving the other half of the stairway entirely free. When he has thus swept down half the stairway he throws that side open and starts at the top again, now on the other side, and sweeps down in the same way, step by step, to the center."

LEGAL INFORMATION.

"If a minor gives a note that does not mature till after he becomes of age can the note be collected?"

Ans.—If note was given for necessities, yes; if not, no.

"Does an officer of a corporation who has tendered his resignation, but his resignation has not been accepted, still remain an officer of the corporation?"

Ans.—No. The resignation of an officer of a corporation terminates his office without further act on the part of his associates or other officers.

The mere acceptance of a purchased article after the agreed time of delivery is held, in Johnson vs. North Baltimore Bottle Glass Company (Kan.), 7 L. R. A. (N. S.), 1114, not to constitute a waiver of damages for failure to deliver in time, unless such acceptance is accompanied by other circumstances, which manifest an intention on the part of the buyer to waive such damages.

An antenuptial marriage settlement by which the groom's father undertakes to make no discrimination among his children in his will is held, in Phelan vs. United States Trust Co. (N. Y.), 7 L. R. A. (N. S.), 734, to be enforceable in equity, so as to prevent the enforcement of a provision in the will giving the groom only a life estate, while the portions of the testator's other children are made absolute.

"1. What remedy has a wife against her husband whom she has left for sufficient cause? She does not wish a divorce. 2. How can a man be made to support his wife or children?"

Ans.—1. She may maintain an equitable action against him for her separate support. 2. Every man who, without lawful excuse, wilfully fails to furnish proper food, shelter or clothing to his wife, or to his child under 15 years of age, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100, or imprisonment in jail not to exceed three months.

The law makes no distinction in descent of property between married people who are living together, and those who do not live together. The property rights are fixed by the marriage state, and if a man deserts his wife, or for other cause she is entitled to a divorce, he, upon her death, is entitled to the same share of her property that he would be in case he were living with her. The same is true of the rights of the wife in the property of her deceased husband. This state, the husband or wife gets one-third of the property of the other, except the homestead, and the use of that for life.

High Living.

An eminent man, who is a strict abstainer from both wine and animal food, is obliged in consequence of this peculiarity, to refrain from dining out. He entertains, however, an occasional kindred spirit. One such was recently at his table.

"You ought to have seen them," said the eminent man's son, "rioting over boiled carrots!"

Study Causes Suicide.

Suicides among children and young persons are very common in Germany. Failure in school examinations or over-application to study are the causes assigned for the acts of self-destruction.

It isn't a difficult task for a hoop snake to make both ends meet.



FARMERS' CORNER.

Horses and Mules.

There has been a rapid increase the last few years in the number and value of the horses and mules in the United States.

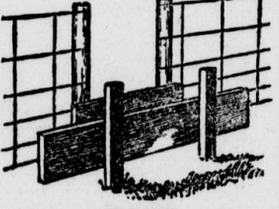
In 1900 there were 15,624,000 horses and mules in the United States. During the next five years there was an increase of 27.7 per cent, so that on January 1, 1905, the number of horses and mules had increased to 19,946,000, but the increase did not stop at that rate. On the first of January, 1907, there were no less than 23,564,000 horses and mules, showing an increase of 18 per cent during the two years subsequent to '905.

Those who are inclined to talk overproduction at the present are confronted with the indisputable fact that during the seven years when the increase in numbers amounted to 50 per cent there was also an increase in price per head amounting to over 50 per cent. Thus on January 1, 1900, our horses and mules were valued at \$715,688,000, while on January 1, 1905, they were valued at \$2,274,642,000.

This is a phenomenal record and yet, notwithstanding this extraordinary increase in number and value, horses are in greater demand to-day than they have ever been before in the history of the United States.

Keeping Hogs in Bounds.

Here is an easy plan of keeping hogs from going from hog pastures to cow pastures, and at the same time allowing the cattle to go from one pasture to the other at will. As shown in the sketch, the opening in the fence may be as wide as desired. Two by twelve inch plank are nailed to the fence posts about four or six inches from the ground, and two extra posts are set out from the fence about a foot. The plank is nailed to the inside of these posts, and this plank should be about four feet longer than the one fastened to the fence so as to go by the opening at each end about two feet. The hogs



cannot jump the two planks, and small jump over, as they are lengthwise of hogs that go between them cannot the opening. The cattle will readily step over. The same plan may be used for sheep, only three planks may be necessary to retain them, although the writer uses only two for them also.—Farmers.

Mulching Helps.

A very intelligent and observing farmer says: The importance of a mulch to counteract a drought was presented to me in a rather forcible manner last spring. We had planted a few rows of early beans and after they had come up we had a cold spell, and in order to save the beans from the frost, they were covered with planks. After the danger from frost had passed, at one end of the rows the planks were laid between the rows and left for about two weeks, which was a dry season. At the other end the planks were moved clear away. The part where the planks were between the rows made double the growth of the others. The growth was evidently due to the moisture saved by the planks.

Loss of Manure.

An authority claims that fully one-third of the manure voided on the farms of the United States is lost. The fermentation of manure is caused by the action of two forms of organisms. One form is that which requires an abundance of oxygen and dies when exposed to it. The former thrives on the outside of the heap and the latter in the interior. The latter's office seems to break up the more complex particles and prepare them for the action of the former. If the action of the former is too rapid a great deal of the nitrogen passes off into the air in the form of ammonia or free nitrogen, and is lost to the soil from whence it came.

The Up-to-Date Cow.

The improved cow, says the American Farmer, is the cow that continually improves in her milking qualities. She is not the only improved cow, for the producer of good beef stock and of the improved steer is an improved cow. It is not only necessary to have the improved dam, but the sire should also be improved, if the improvement is made that is necessary. Keep up the improvement lest there be a retrogression.

Merinoes in Vermont.

The merino sheep industry in Vermont is again entering an era of prosperity that presages a boom. While by no means approaching the palmy days of thirty years ago, the industry is the reviving and each year for a decade past has shown an increase in shipments of fancy strains of merino breeding sheep to Africa and Australia.

Nail Wounds in Horses' Feet.

It has long been known that nail pricks and other similar injuries in the horse's hoof may lead to an infection followed by the formation of pus under the horn of the hoof, and a serious general disease of the horse, or at least the loss of the hoof.

In a bulletin of the South Dakota Station, Mr. Moore recently reported results obtained in a number of cases from applying a strict antiseptic treatment to injuries of this sort. The method consists in paring away the horn of the hoof from the affected part until the blood oozes out. The foot is then thoroughly washed in a solution of bichloride of mercury, in the proportion of one part to 500 parts of water, after which absorbent cotton, saturated in a solution of the same strength, is applied to the wound, and the whole hoof is packed in cotton, surrounded by a bandage and well coated with tar. This prevents any further filth from coming in contact with the wound.

The operation must usually be done by a qualified veterinarian. Subsequent treatment, however, can be applied by the average farmer, since all that is necessary is to pour a little of the solution of bichloride of mercury upon the cotton which projects from the upper part of the bandage. The cotton will absorb enough of the solution to keep the wound moistened and hasten the healing process. If a remedy of this sort is not adopted in the case of a foot wound in the horse, the owner runs considerable risk of serious infection either of blood poisoning or lockjaw.

Corn Land for the Bean Crop.

Beans may be planted late and mature before a probably frost. For several years beans have borne a good price, and if the wheat crop proves to be as short as threatened at this writing the consumption of them is likely to be larger than usual. The planting, harvesting and thrashing of beans may be done by machinery now, which removes a former serious objection to their culture; and if the crop area on a farm has been made smaller than desired, by reason of the cold spring, a field of beans might be advantageously used in extending the season's crops. Good corn land is excellent for beans, and their cultivation does not differ materially from that of corn, hence it does not require any special instruction or skill to grow them successfully.

No Nurse Crop for Alfalfa.

Some people still think alfalfa should be sown with a nurse crop. Those who have had experience with it know better. A recent publication of the Arizona Experiment Station sums up the facts as follows:

Nurse crops hinder the development of tops and roots of alfalfa, especially when by reason of a thick stand or rank growth shading effects are excessive. After the removal of the nurse crop the weakened and undeveloped alfalfa plants are poorly fitted to withstand drought and the stand may be lost. In the average instance the loss in yield of alfalfa due to a nurse crop probably more than offsets return from the nurse crop itself.

Transportation Charges.

The freight and transportation charges on a full car of strawberries from southern points are often from \$200 to \$300, while on a car of southern peaches the cost of refrigeration and the high priced packages that have to be used run the cost up above \$500 on each car that comes into the State; \$400 of this would be profit or increased income to the local grower.

The local grower can often sell direct to consumer; there are no heavy or refrigeration charges to pay, and these two items alone often eat up over one-half to two-thirds of the gross sales of fruit brought from a distance, while the local grower saves it.—J. H. Hale, Connecticut, in American Cultivator.

Fruit Picking Basket.

This basket is made from an ordinary Delaware fruit basket. A strap goes over the shoulder of the picker and leaves both hands free for gathering the fruit. It is bad practice to shake any kind of fruit from the tree. It should always be picked by hand and carefully placed in the package in which it is sent to market. By this method injury to the extent of 10 to 25 per cent may be avoided.



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Wintering Bees.

D. H. Stovall says a neighbor who makes a good living from his apiary successfully winters his bees through the cold months in a cellar provided for the purpose. He states that bees may be successfully wintered in cellars provided the cellar is given over entirely to the bees and used for no other purpose. There is always an unhealthy odor, that is as disastrous to bees as anything else, emitted from decayed fruits, vegetables and such things as are usually stored in cellars. The bee cellar should not be entered nor disturbed any more than is absolutely necessary; it should be made a quiet, unmolested home for the little honey makers.