

GUARDIAN AND WARD.

"Then you will not be my wife, Elise?" And William Vane's voice trembled slightly as he gazed down upon the lovely, half-averted face of his companion.

"Be your wife, my dear guardian?" And the large gray eyes, in whose depths there lurked a world of merriment and fun, were raised with a surprised look to his. "Sarely you are not in earnest. Why, you are nearly old enough to be my grandfather. The idea is ridiculous."

And with a merry, ringing laugh, Elise Wild caught her hat from the table and tripped lightly from the room, stopping a moment to say:

"I am going down into the glen after some primroses; and if you will promise not to get any more such absurd notions into that dear old head of yours, I will let you come with me and carry the basket."

"Indeed! Really, you are generous," said Will, with an amused smile. "You will not go, then? Very well! Unless I am greatly mistaken, yonder person coming up the lane is Captain Paul Crosswell. I am sure he will be only too glad to accompany me."

And playfully throwing him a kiss from the tips of her little fingers, she flitted through the open door, leaving the discomfited lover standing with folded arms and thoughtful brow, gazing at the door through which she had vanished.

He was thirty-four, remarkably handsome, well-informed, and very wealthy. Many a speculating mamma had endeavored to entrap him for her marriageable daughters. But he was reserved, did not mingle much in society, and they had all given up in disgust, until it became to be an acknowledged fact in the neighborhood that the owner of stately old Elmwood Hall would never marry.

On his death bed his old friend and college chum, Ralph Wilde, had consigned to his care his little daughter, Elise, then only ten years of age. He had taken her to the Hall, intending to send her to a boarding school; but by her winsome ways and loving manners she entwined herself around his heart until he could not bear to let her be away from him for any length of time. A resident governess had been engaged and the time flitted rapidly away. Little Elise was, as the housekeeper asserted, the very life and light of the old Hall. Will was satisfied and contented, never once looking forward to the time when she could leave him.

When Elise reached her seventeenth birthday, and the school-books had been cast aside, Will awoke to the consciousness that his little Elise was little no longer. The thought of separation now for the first time presented itself; for Elise already had scores of admirers, and many of the numerous visitors of the Hall were attracted thither by the lovely Elise Wilde. He awoke also to the consciousness that he loved her with all the strength of his mature years, and it pained him, oh! so deeply, to find her treat his love so lightly.

Standing for a moment in the open window, he caught a glimpse of Elise and her escort, Captain Crosswell, as they sauntered leisurely along the lane that led down to the glen. It was with a heavy sigh he turned to his writing-desk, and, lighting a cigar, was soon busily engaged in cutting the leaves of a new book—so busily, in fact, that more than once the keen knife ran through the middle instead of the edge of the leaf. But then he had taken the knife from the lunch table in the adjoining room, and it happened to be somewhat pointed and unusually sharp.

He had been seated but a short time when he heard hurried steps ascending the terrace, and in a moment Paul Crosswell dashed into the room. His face was ghastly pale, and he trembled so violently that he could not stand, but sank into the nearest chair.

"Elise!" "Gracious heavens! has anything happened to her?"

Great beads of perspiration gathered upon Will Vane's pale forehead.

"Where is Elise? Speak, man, speak!" And he shook the frightened Crosswell violently.

But so completely had fear taken possession of the man that he could but gasp: "Elise! The glen!"

Casting Crosswell from him, Will dashed from the house, and was soon tearing along the lane which led to the glen. He had gone but a short distance into the gloomy pine covert when a spectacle met his gaze that was well calculated to try the strongest nerves. A few yards distant, half kneeling upon the ground, with her hands clasped upon her breast, was

Elise Wilde, and crouching a few feet from her, with gleaming eyes and working tail, was a huge tiger.

Will took in the situation of affairs in an instant. The tiger was one that had escaped from some traveling menagerie a few days previous. He still held in his hand the knife which he had been using a short time before; and thinking only that his darling Elise was in danger, he sprang towards the tiger. Seeing him approach, the huge monster turned from Elise, and uttering a sullen roar, he darted like a flash of light through the air.

Reed's Gilt Edge Tonic Regulates the Bowels.

It was a brief but fierce and deadly struggle that followed; but at last the knife reached a vital part, and the royal brute fell dead upon the ground; poor Will, torn and horribly lacerated by the sharp teeth and long lance-like claws of the fearful animal, falling beside him.

All this time Elise had been gazing in a kind of fascinated horror at the terrible struggle before her. When she saw Will fall, seemingly lifeless, upon the ground, it aroused her from the lethargy into which she had fallen; and with a ringing cry for help, which brought the servants trooping from the house, she sprang forward, and sinking beside Will, she raised his blood-stained face in her lap.

"O, Will! Guardian," she wailed, raining a shower of passionate kisses upon the pale, blood-stained face. "Look up. It is your Elise that is calling you!"

The light touch of her hand, and her endearing words, seemed to have a magical effect; for his eyes opened, and he drew the sweet, anxious face down close to his, and with a voice vibrating with passion, he murmured: "Then do you care for your old Will, Elise?"

Her face was scarlet with blushes now; and looking into the tender eyes, he read there something that made him very, very happy.

Upon examination it was found that his wounds were not dangerous, but very painful, and would confine him to his room for several weeks. Elise proved to be an excellent nurse, however; and under her kind and loving care he rapidly recovered, and in a few weeks he was able to proceed to the village church, where they were quietly married.

THE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD.

New Orleans Democrat. This morning, at his residence in London, died Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield. A Jew by birth, but a Christian by profession, this eminent man who has occupied high places in the history of his century in letters and in politics, first saw the light in London, December 21st, 1805, and was consequently in his seventy-sixth year when he died.

Inheriting from his father genius for literature, he early applied himself to writing fiction, and before he was thirty years old had produced quite a list of brilliant novels.

In 1841 he was elected to Parliament, and in 1849 he became the recognized leader of the Conservatives in the house of Commons. In 1852 he entered the cabinet under the Derby ministry as chancellor of the exchequer and after some vicissitudes became prime minister in 1868. After a change of administration he again became premier of England in 1874. Under his last administration he secured the passage of an act making the queen Empress of India.

He took the lead in the solution of the Turkish troubles, and brought them to a successful termination with great honor and material profit to England. His administration saw the successful prosecution of the conquest of Ashantee, Afghanistan and Zululand, and when he went out of office, in 1880, England was at the pinnacle of political power in Europe.

For his eminent services in the Berlin Congress, which settled the Turkish treaty he was made Earl of Beaconsfield.

He died full of years and full of honors, one of the great statesmen of the age, whose policy has helped to mould events and shape the character of the century in which he lived.

At the Brintley sale, in New York, recently, the Guttenberg Bible, the first book ever printed with movable type, was sold for eight thousand dollars.

The contract for building the new court house for Grant parish has been awarded to Mr. H. McKnight for \$2500.

The ladies of Washington say that Vice President Arthur reminds them of strawberries and cream. "he's so nice!"

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