

## A BLUESTOCKING; OR ROMANCE & REALITY.

BY MISS ANNIE EDWARDS.

CHAPTER XIV.  
Continued.

"I may have said many things ten years ago that would be misplaced now," she murmurs.

"Misplaced—yes. And untrue also?"

"Naturally."

He carries her across the water, sets her down in safety upon the firmer banks, and they proceed along their way in silence. Miss Hardcastle breaks it first.

"Mrs. Chester is undoubtedly a most amiable and meritorious person. She reminds me always of one of Thackeray's good women, poor thing, and there can be no manner of doubt that she has a pretty face. That kind of red-and-white complexion is so pleasing before time renders it coarse, and though not one of the features would bear criticizing, the white teeth and general animation give you the impression of beauty. Never were good looks more of the beautiful diable order; still—"

"Ah, that 'still' brings us to text. The rest is marginal."

"To think of Felix Broughton, the most difficult of spoiled human creatures, passing the remainder of his days with her—Felix Broughton, in reality unamiable, yet who constantly expects that every woman he approaches shall be a nineteenth-century Mme. de Maintenon and amuse him! Tell me, Felix, for you have had a good many hours' experience, does Daphne ever originate an intelligible remark on any subject whatever?"

"I have not the slightest recollection," answers Felix promptly. "That Mrs. Chester has under all circumstances looked charming, I am positive."

"And you think the art of looking charming, even in a woman who had no friend of the soul, and who could remember the dinner hour, would render a life-long tete-a-tete endurable."

"I think nothing would render a life-long tete-a-tete endurable," is Mr. Broughton's reply. "A tete-a-tete of any kind is the very last thing I look forward to in marriage."

"Not when you live upon mutton chops in the farm house, give up ice and Monte Carlo, and grow your own roses?"

"Ah, that farm house—in Spain! Abandoning metaphor, let us talk, Clem, of the one thing that really concerns ourselves, and ourselves alone—of your marriage."

"She winces under the word as under a blow. Felix Broughton goes on calmly, and with deliberation.

"Your intended husband is undeniably a young man of ability. As time goes on, it strikes me that he has a very fair prospect of taking a name in politics."

"Politics!" echoes Clementina, dreamily.

"Yes, Sir John and I have had one or two serious talks of late, and I am convinced (or he is convinced) that he has a future before him. You know Clem, the nothing-new, nothing-true creed of idle fellows like me, Severne holds the picturesque belief, not only that life should be the verb 'to do,' but that he, Severne, will infallibly leave human affairs in general straighter than he found them. He also believes in getting into Parliament and working out reforms there for a grateful country! Depend upon it, when he leaves the army he will go in for school boards or the British workman; in fine, perhaps, write pamphlets. There you could help him."

"I hate pamphlets," exclaims the poor little bluestocking. "I have been stifled with books and writers, and cleverness of all kinds, ever since I could run alone. It is not generous of you to tease me like this."

"You spoke with frankness concerning the object of my choice, Clementina."

"Your choice! Do you mean to tell me that Mrs. Chester—"

"I mean," says Felix Broughton, with summary change of tone, and once more nanking himself master of her hand. "I mean to talk no more either of Mrs. Chester or Sir John Severne, but of you and of me, Clem, my darling, how many years is it, I wonder, since first we fell in love with each other?"

"In love!" she stammers, shrinking timidly away from him, and with a pettishness in her voice to which Felix Broughton is not insensible. "We—We have been affectionate cousins all our lives, I hope."

"We have been nothing of the kind," says Cousin Felix, decisively. "Do you remember a children's ball you went to once in Eaton Place—oh, half a century ago, and when I still wore a sword in Her Majesty's service?"

"A fancy dress ball, half juvenile, half grown up. My invitation came through you. Any pleasure that ever entered my life, when I was a child, came through you! Yes, I remember it all as though it were yesterday."

"You were dressed as Minerva, poor, small over-learned Minerva that you were, and I—appeared in my natural character—a young simpleton of the nineteenth century in his scarlet jacket and gold trimmings."

"You wrote your name down for every one of my dances, giving me leave to throw you over—no throw

you over!—if I got a chance of better partners."

"Clementina, can you deny that you were in love with me that evening?"

"How could I help myself? You were a full grown officer, sir, and I a partnerless, neglected girl of eleven."

"Well, and afterward, when I came to grief, and had to give up my scarlet jacket, trimmings, and all (and England, too, for the matter of that), who of all my friends wrote me the kindest letters? My dear," says Mr. Broughton, tenderly, "I have those little letters of yours now, a vast deal too well spelt and written for a child of eleven; that was not your fault, but brimful of love and pity, and offering—yes, Clem, it is a fact—offering to save your pocket money, if I thought sixpence a week would be of any substantial advantage to me."

"All that is past and over," she says, under her breath. "I loved you, I know, with a childish love. It would be ridiculous to deny it."

"Then there came a long lapse. Through good-natured relations, anxious to settle me as far away from themselves as possible, I got my 'diplomatic post,' with nothing to do, and proportionate pay, in Vienna, and during five years, I believe, only came to London twice. And then—one fine morning I received a letter from Mrs. Hardcastle telling me of your engagement to Severne."

"I was a schoolgirl, not eighteen years old," says Miss Hardcastle, apologetically. "I thought being engaged would take me away from the 'isms' and 'ologies' of Fraulein Schnapper. I—I was a fool! Why hesitate to use the fitting word? As for you, Felix, I believed you had forgotten me long before. More than once, remember, we had heard that you were going to be married, and—"

"I bore the news as stoically as I could. As far as birth and money prospects went, I felt you could not have made a wiser choice than young Severne, and I thought it was best so. Then, when I saw your face again, and every day that I have seen it since, I have known, Clem, that we love each other. Don't be afraid; I shall not transgress against moralities," adds Mr. Broughton, quickly. "When you are once Lady Severne I shall be silent enough, depend upon it. I have the right, like the poor wretch who will be hanged to-morrow, to speak now."

"Oh, Cousin Felix!" And she lifts her face, quivering with emotion, to his. "If you had only spoken sooner, I have always, always craved—"

And then Miss Hardcastle's utterance is choked by tears.

Hardly learned philosophers, enlighteners of the pure reason and of Teutonic governances, you have come to this: the flutter of a girl's heart—the thrill of a gauntlet—has proved stronger than you all!

CHAPTER XV.  
A Bluestocking.

The time of roses is gone by, the green and flowery year turned russet. Crimson heaps of apples in every orchard beyond that elder making its hand. The cornfields are bare; the latest harvest of vials is dried and stacked. As you pass along the cottage gardens no longer greet you with home-like sweets of lavender or of gillyflower; their borders are gay with autumn's scentless blooms, with hollyhocks, dahlias and chrysanthemums. Summer has got its death warrant, yet (like some human hearts) carries a brave front to the last; so brave that but for the shortening days, the so-called hedgerows, you might half believe 'at the pulses of spring were a-beat, the vanished delights of May and midsummer still to come.

It is a mellow October afternoon, and Fief-de-la-Reine once more lies bathed in sunshine; the lichen walls of the old farm and outbuildings, the yellowing gardens, the pearly sky, all blending in a single note of color, exquisite as transient. Among the flower-pots, truly kept as in June, the bees hum, ignorant of their doom. Golden pumpkins, in rows, are laid to ripen on the dairy roof. Herbs and lentils for winter use lie outspread on linen sheets before the entrance of the house place. Little Paul's laughter rings merrily on the still air from the orchard, where he and Aunt Hosié are busy over the last gathering of medlars and October pears. Through the open kitchen windows may be heard, as of old, the warblings of Margot—Margot, who is to be married at Christmas—the tale of spoons and house linen completed, and whose fancy with legitimate lightness turns to thoughts and songs of love.

Belle diguade,  
Belle diguadaine,  
Belle diguade,  
Belle diguade,  
Dondon, Dondon.

"Quite an Arcadian scene," remarks a voice, curiously attuned and softened since we heard it last, as a carriage pulls up before the wicket gate of Fief-de-la-Reine, the wicket gate at which Severne and Mrs. Chester so often used to linger ere they parted. "If ever we do give up this wicked world, Sir John, I shall, assuredly come to Quernece to seek our hermitage. Now for Daphne's surprise—if she has never emigrated

## CAROLINA AFFAIRS

### Many Newey Items Gathered From all Sections.

#### Experiment in Trucking.

Beaufort, Special.—Mr. R. C. de Bruyne is a guest at the Sea Island hotel. His business here is to plant, experimentally, a considerable number of acres of vegetables on the large farm of Mr. C. U. V. Denton, on Broad river, about seven miles from this place. Ten acres will be used for lettuce alone. A certain acreage will be allotted to each vegetable of a variety. He will cultivate in accordance with an improved method of which he is master. Heavy fertilizing is said to be a part of the system. Recent experiments by him in Asheville, N. C., were very successful. He is a native of Holland and a graduate of Stuttgart university. He has been in this country about two years, and is a young gentleman of fine appearance and cordial manner.

#### South Carolina Items.

The directors of the State dispensary held their monthly meeting last week and merely answered correspondence which has been accumulating. No matters of importance were brought up, and may not be. The directors will soon prepare their annual report to the general assembly, but this will require a great deal of time as there are about 125 dispensaries to be heard from in regard to the annual business for the fiscal year closing December 1st. Mr. H. H. Evans, chairman of the board, stated that the best dispensary will this year make the best financial showing in its history, and he is very proud of that fact, as the administration was changed this year, and Mr. L. J. Williams, who had been chairman of the board, and Mr. H. H. Crum, who had been commissioner, retired and were succeeded respectively, by Mr. Evans and Mr. Tatum. Two new members were elected on the board, Mr. John Bell Towill and Mr. L. W. Boykin.

It is not often that a trial judge voluntarily asks for a pardon for one convicted and sentenced in his court, but such a case was put on record yesterday. Judge R. O. Purdy asks for a pardon for a negro stealing a sheep. The only thing to operate against the petition being granted is that the convicted man appealed to the State Supreme Court, and thus put the State to a lot of trouble in his case.

In his letter to Governor Heyward, Judge Purdy says: "I have for some time thought that I gave too harsh a judgment, and following this up so wrote to Solicitor Davis some months ago, saying that I was thinking of bringing the matter to your attention and asking for a pardon. Mr. Davis answered, concurring with me."

The one hundred and twenty-eighth annual session of the grand lodge A. F. M., convened in Charleston last week with a large attendance of officers and delegates. The only important officer being absent being Col. Charles Inglesby, the grand secretary, who is ill in Columbia. Mr. John Harleston gave way to Mr. Fred S. Dible, acting grand secretary, upon the assembly of the grand lodge. The roll showed 185 chartered lodges and five under dispensation. The only important communication. A number of reports of officers and committees were received and acted upon. The report of Grand Master John R. Bellinger of Bamberg was read and referred.

Gov. Heyward has received numerous letters from the secretary of agriculture relative to the meeting in Washington of the American Forest Congress, January 2nd to 6th. Secretary Wilson wants the governor to attend and to send five other delegates from this State. This meeting will be one of vast importance to South Carolina, for the Appalachian forest reservation will come up for discussion.

Tode Jones and Sam Sullivan, young negroes of the county, shot each other Sunday evening a few miles south of Laurens, while engaged in a drunken row. Jones, who was shot in the thigh, is in jail. Sullivan's condition is more serious and it will be a few days before he can be removed. He was shot in the lower right side.

Jones it appears, was the aggressor. After plugging his man he started to retreat when Sullivan brought him down with an ugly wound in the thigh.

The total amount of the dispensary profits for the month of November, which have been turned over to the treasurer of Richland county by the county board of control, is \$3,894.99. This amount will, of course, be divided equally between the city and county.

Mr. Jesse T. Gantt, secretary of state, has appointed Col. Geo. T. Gaston of this city night watchman at the State capital to succeed Johnson Black of Barnwell, resigned.

Mr. J. E. Butler, magistrate at Sellers, in Marion county, has moved into Georgetown county and Gov. Heyward's office is in receipt of a numerous signed petition asking for Mr. Ben B. Sellers to be appointed to succeed him.

Gov. Heyward, has received appeal for a pardon from a woman in North Carolina who wants a pardon for her father, a Confederate veteran who was sentenced to two years on the Horry county chalingang for having taken \$25 from a store to which he had access with a key which was rightfully in his possession.

A. D. Harrison has been appointed magistrate for Highland township, Greenville county, vice J. D. Ballenger, resigned.

## SMALLPOX SITUATION IS CRITICAL

### The Situation in South Carolina Said to be Serious, Especially in Columbia.

Columbia, Special.—The smallpox situation in this State is daily becoming more alarming, and Columbia is one of the points where conditions are most serious. The health board's physician, Dr. D. S. Pope, branded as false the statement given out from the recent meeting of the State board of health that there are over 50 cases in Columbia; he says the local health authorities have been able to discover but six cases, and that since the recent epidemic started six weeks ago not a case has been known to originate from any case the board had charge of here, that all of the cases have come from the outside. He said, however, that the present type was the most virulent he had ever come in contact with. In six weeks out of only 18 cases there have been six deaths, three white and three colored. This is a death percentage of 33.1-3, whereas Secretary Evans, of the State board, considered a record for the State of 3 1/2 per cent. since the 1st of January extremely alarming. Dr. Pope said that all cases were being treated in the pest house, barring one or two isolated cases which were being carefully guarded. The deaths of the three ladies were to be deeply regretted, but these ladies could not be removed to the pest house for treatment. He considered the situation well in hand, if the authorities could shut off the cases coming into the town from other places. The board is now, he said, caring for half a dozen cases several miles from the town. Although the board was not responsible for these out-of-town cases it preferred to treat them in self-defence. Every physician in the town is vaccinating. Dr. Pope estimates that there have been over 2,000 vaccinations within the past six weeks, he himself has performed over a thousand of these operations in that time. Over two-thirds of the town, according to Dr. Pope, had been successfully vaccinated before the epidemic started.

## Stock Firm Suspends

New York, Special.—The suspension of Frederick F. Reichner, a member of the Consolidated Stock exchange, was announced. He had an office at 52 Broadway, where, it was said, he had not been seen during the last three days. He had been a member of the exchange but three years. Officials of the exchange say that Mr. Reichner was involved in a dispute over a stock exchange transaction with another member. He was directed to pay over certain sums in settlement of the dispute. His failure to do so resulted in his suspension.

## News of the Day.

An English educational society which declares that people ought to live in and use their "front rooms" has created a sensation. The London Express remarks: "Such a reckless suggestion is calculated to undermine the very foundations of lower middle-class home life in this country." The front room being sacred to "company" over there. Next thing it will be suggested that the British wear their "best clothes" every day.

Miss Sorabji, the famous Hindu woman lawyer, is one of six remarkable sisters. Though members of a high caste family, they broke entirely away from confining customs and went to England to get an advanced education and all have achieved prominence. One is a musician, another an artist, another has returned to India as a missionary. Miss Connelia Sorabji is, however, the most distinguished. As a result of her years of efforts to help the custom-immured women of her country, she has lately been appointed by the British Government as legal adviser to Parsi women in the administration of their estates.

## Great progress has been made in protecting our coasts by adequate fortifications with sufficient guns. We should, however, pay much more heed than at present to the development of an extensive system of floating mines for use in all our more important harbors. These mines have been proved to be the most formidable safeguard against hostile fleets.

## Abbeville Store Robbery.

Abbeville, S. C., Special.—The Abbeville Hardware Company's store of this place was entered by burglars early Sunday morning. Several shotguns, some cutlery and silver were taken, amounting to about \$150. The thieves obtained a ladder used in the store, and entered one of the windows of the second story. The ladder was taken out of the store Saturday by the thieves and put in the place for the use it was later put to. So far no definite clue has been found, but the sheriff and the police are exerting themselves in the matter, and it is scarcely probable that the guilty ones will escape.

## Shafts and Flats.

It's a poor bargain when the head grows at the expense of the heart. A broom on earth may be better than many an anthem in Heaven.

The man who never prays except when he petitions never prays at all.

No method of raising money can be right which succeeds in debasing mankind.

It is more important to get people doing religious service than it is to get them attending religious services.

## FOR INLAND WATERWAY

### Convention is to be Held in Columbia on the 28th Examining Much Interest.

A special from Columbia says: The convention which is to be held here on the 28th for the purpose of developing the natural water transportation routes along the Atlantic coast is arousing great interest throughout this and neighboring States, as the scheme has in view a profound change in the freight rate situation throughout this section of the South. The strictly inland towns which cannot hope to be reached by any of the inland routes are appointing delegates and otherwise showing a lively interest in the matter, inasmuch as they will be affected greatly. It is confidently believed, although their benefit will of course come in an indirect way through being closer to towns enjoying a water rate. The cotton mills in the up-country are particularly interested in the objects of the convention, though of course such cities as Charleston, Georgetown, Savannah, Wilmington, Augusta, Columbia and the like will not get the greatest benefit, as their advantages will come direct.

This scheme contemplates connecting the Great Lakes at their eastern end with all the harbors on the Atlantic coast by the Erie Canal, and connecting those lakes at their western end with the whole Mississippi valley by the Chicago drainage canal and other available routes.

The proposed inland water route by avoiding Cape Hatteras and all other danger points will provide a safe journey for barges or canal boats from the northern ports to all ports on the South Atlantic coast, as far South as Jacksonville. If this route were open and free, Newbern, N. C., would be about the same distance from New York that Buffalo is by the Erie Canal, and she would move her heavy products of the forest and the farm as cheaply as Buffalo can. Georgetown, S. C., would stand in about the same relation to New York city that Cleveland, Ohio, now does, and ought to get the same rates by water. Barges taking the inside route to Georgetown can carry lumber much cheaper than the more expensive vessels that go outside of Hatteras. Nature has given us a wonderful system of waterways, which if properly developed, development of boat traffic to the heads of navigation, would start in our Southern States an era of prosperity unparalleled in history. Many points in this State by the completion of this safe inland water route would be made accessible to the great markets of the North.

It is a grand scheme, and when rightly understood, will secure the hearty co-operation of the immense and daily interest dependent upon its completion. These interests, though dispersed and widely localized in several States, will unite to form the coalition required as the only means of gaining this great mutual benefit.

## General Cotton Market.

Middling.

Galveston, quiet ..... 7 11-16  
New Orleans, easy ..... 7 1-2  
Mobile, quiet ..... 7 3-8  
Savannah, quiet ..... 7 5-8  
Charleston, quiet ..... 7 5-8  
Wilmington, quiet ..... 7 1-2  
Baltimore, nominal ..... 7 7-8  
New York, quiet ..... 7 9-8  
Boston, quiet ..... 8 00  
Philadelphia, quiet ..... 8 20

Charlotte Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid to wagons:

Good middling ..... 7 1-2  
Strict middling ..... 7 1-2  
Middling ..... 7 3-8  
Tinges ..... 7 to 7 3-8  
Stains ..... 6 1-2 to 7

## Palmetto Items.

J. H. Peckets, the dispenser at Ellerbe, whom the State board of dispensary directors made famous this week by closing his dispensary on a majority petition of the people of the community is preparing to test the right of the State board to make such a removal under the new Brice act, which, it is claimed, limits the closing of dispensaries to counties. He has already brought action, but it is likely that he will test the matter in the courts. It will be an extremely interesting case, affecting all dispensary communities. In the meantime, the State board has wisely given credit for a willingness to yield a peg or so to the prohibition sentiment before the convening of the Legislature next month, which may make such radical changes in the law as will render Weeks' testing the point entirely useless. This South Carolina dispensary situation gives promise of furnishing much live copy for the newspapers in the next few months, as it has been doing for the past ten years.

## Indiana Commissioner Acquitted.

Lawton, Oklahoma, Special.—Judge E. M. Payne, of Chickasha, United States commissioner, has been acquitted in the Federal Court at this place of the charge of drunkenness and permitting the sale of liquor in the Indian Territory. The charges were made public some time ago. The Attorney General of the United States was asked to call for an investigation, and the matter was referred to Judge Townsend, of the Federal Court.

## TWELVE DAY FIGHT

### A Vigorous Assault On The Russians By Japanese

#### Gen. Stoessel Describes Attack

Dispatches From the Port Arthur Commander Relate How the Fortress Was Held Against the Supreme Effort of the Japanese From Nov. 20 to Dec. 2.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Gen. Stoessel's dispatches to the Emperor, which were received Friday night, were given out Sunday. The first is dated November 25, and is as follows:

"I am happy to inform your majesty that on November 20, after an increased bombardment, the Japanese attacked one of the forts on the northeastern front and leaped with a portion of their forces on the parapet. They were annihilated by rifle fire and the bayonet and thrown back into the trenches. Their reserves were scattered by shrapnel.

"From November 21 to November 23 the enemy violently bombarded the fort and, in spite of great losses, effected by their perseverance a passage between the two forts on the northeastern front.

"At 5:30 o'clock in the evening of November 23, after heavy firing, the Japanese suddenly hurried themselves against several works on this front and seized a portion of the trenches, but they were thrown back by the reserves after a fierce bayonet struggle. They returned to the assault at midnight and again occupied a part of the trenches, but were annihilated by our bayonets. At 2 o'clock in the morning all was over and your majesty's heroic troops were able to rest and start to repairing the damage. The Japanese lost more than 2,000 men. All of our troops behaved as heroes. The following especially distinguished themselves: Generals Kondraki (commander of the artillery) and Gorbousov and Lieutenant Colonel Naumoko. (A dozen other officers in lower grades are also mentioned in the report.)

"The town and harbor continues daily. A number of buildings have been destroyed and the harbor has sustained some damage. The garrisons are in excellent spirits."

## Snow Two Feet Deep.

Newport, R. I., Special.—As a result of the worst blizzard that has visited this city in many years, all local traffic is practically at a standstill. The storm began at midnight last night and abated at noon today. On a level the snow is more than two feet in depth, while a strong wind has piled up drifts that block the streets.

## Many Marine Disasters.

New York, Special.—The snow storm and gale which struck the coast Saturday afternoon and continued until the early hours Sunday morning was the most violent that has occurred for several years. Reports from the New Jersey and New England coasts and from incoming steamers, tell of furious gales and many disasters. At Vineyard Haven, over 15 schooners anchored in the harbor were blown ashore and several others were damaged in collisions. Off the Bay-head, N. J., life-saving stations, the schooner Lizzie H. Brayton, bound for Providence, R. I., from Baltimore, went ashore, the crew being rescued by the life-savers.

## Girl's Body Found.

Colorado Springs, Col., Special.—The dead body of a white woman, apparently about 18 years old, has been found on Mount Cutler by two surveyors. An attempt to destroy the features, supposedly to prevent identification, had been made. Detectives have been unable to establish the girl's identity, but advance the theory that she was a tourist from the East. The girl had been dead a week or ten days when the body was found.

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"The town and harbor continues daily. A number of buildings have been destroyed and the harbor has sustained some damage. The garrisons are in excellent spirits."

## Snow Two Feet Deep.

Newport, R. I., Special.—As a result of the worst blizzard that has visited this city in many years, all local traffic is practically at a standstill. The storm began at midnight last night and abated at noon today. On a level the snow is more than two feet in depth, while a strong wind has piled up drifts that block the streets.

## Many Marine Disasters.

New York, Special.—The snow storm and gale which struck the coast Saturday afternoon and continued until the early hours Sunday morning was the most violent that has occurred for several years. Reports from the New Jersey and New England coasts and from incoming steamers, tell of furious gales and many disasters. At Vineyard Haven, over 15 schooners anchored in the harbor were blown ashore and several others were damaged in collisions. Off the Bay-head, N. J., life-saving stations, the schooner Lizzie H. Brayton, bound for Providence, R. I., from Baltimore, went ashore, the crew being rescued by the life-savers.

## Girl's Body Found.

Colorado Springs, Col., Special.—The dead body of a white woman, apparently about 18 years old, has been found on Mount Cutler by two surveyors. An attempt to destroy the features, supposedly to prevent identification, had been made. Detectives have been unable to establish the girl's identity, but advance the theory that she was a tourist from the East. The girl had been dead a week or ten days when the body was found.