

Maid, Wife or Widow?

WOD FROM THE ENEMY.

By MRS. ALEXANDER.

CHAPTER V.
Continued.
"Let me pass and I will try and forget all this."
Her words recalled Steinhausen to a scene of his own conduct.

"I saw the good breeding, but the cheek made him all the more earnest."
"Yes," he said, in a low tone, "I suppose I must seem insane to a calm, womanly woman like yourself; yet the feelings you have roused are not unworthy of your acceptance."
"Surely you can imagine a nature different from your own—more eager, more impassioned, yet not less true. My better self craves for you. How can I convince you?"

"It is useless to pursue this argument," again interrupted Lies, her heart beating visibly under her muslin dress, and pressing her hands together in an attitude of entreaty; "it is only painful and distressing."
"Even if I were inclined to listen to you, it would be added to my difficulties. I—breaking off and resuming quickly—I cannot believe a sudden change in truth in your voice."
"I am sorry, very, very sorry, to cause you a moment's pain, but—smiling, while the large tears hung on her eyelashes—"I have no doubt some good and fair Prussian will be all to you that I must not be."

"She held out her hand to him, and then snatching it back, as if she had yielded too much, pressed her handkerchief to her eyes, now brimming over."
"Let me go," she said, entreatingly.
"I must; it is all over," returned Steinhausen, gloomily, as she stepped aside.
"Yet, no; I will not renounce the hope of seeing you again; of ascertaining what barrier stands between me and happiness."
But Lies made no reply and hurried away, more moved than she would have liked to own.

"The evening was dull enough."
Frau Ghering apologized for her daughter's absence.
"She had a bad headache," she said, "and was unable to leave her room—the result, probably, of walking too much in the fierce sunshine."
Again conversation was mainly kept up by the Judge and Burchardt, while Steinhausen, in the background of minds, inwardly cursed his own folly, first in permitting himself to be overpowered by so sudden a passion, and then for his mad, useless avowal, while he could only hope that some fresh fancy might soon drive the present keen disappointment out of his head or heart, or both.

Next morning did not fulfill the promise of the fine sunset; lowering clouds and drizzling rain had changed the face of nature into accordance with Von Steinhausen's mood.
His brother officers openly avowed their regret at having to leave such pleasant quarters, and proved their enjoyment of a good breakfast by prolonging that meal till the trumpet summoned them to "mount and ride."
The young Fahrlich did not fail to "annex" Claren's photograph; but with more than ordinary Prussian honesty, left his own in its place.

The eldest daughter was not well enough to appear at breakfast; but just as the Hussars were ready to set forth, she came out on the steps before her own apartment to bid them a courteous adieu.
Burchardt and Von Planitz bowed from the saddle; Steinhausen pressed his spur till his horse was close enough to the steps where Lies stood.
"Your hand once more," she hesitated an instant, and then placed hers in his.
"An adieu," said Steinhausen; "it is not adieu, remember."
And then, with a friendly salute to the rest of the party, he rode quietly after the others, who had already passed the gate.
As they descended the hill, Burchardt and Planitz chatted merrily, pleased at the idea of being quartered at Dresden, "though," added the latter, "we will not soon find better quarters than the Villa Bellevue."
"Did that Claren's sister is a little thingy. Do you know, Rittmeister, I think she will be prettier than her sister," continued the youthful Hussar, with an air of mature experience.
Steinhausen muttered some unintelligible reply, the tone of which was anything but amiable.
"Have you discovered if the fair Lies is married or single?" asked Burchardt, mischievously.
"You were a long time inspecting that view from the balcony last evening."
"I know nothing more than you do," replied Steinhausen, curtly.
"It would be a bad return for such kind hospitality to intrude an idle curiosity on our hosts."
"Yes," he said, "I am not a little curious. These—" he continued, quickly, "as good luck will have it, there is the Herrs-Block with whom we spoke yesterday. He will know all about the family."
"Good day, Herr Scheid!" if you see the Herr Aufmann, give him a warm greeting from us, and tell us how you have known the family long I suppose?"
"Ja wohl, mein Herr," from the bottom of his chest.

child! She was married to her cousin, the Hauptmann—Herr Hauptmann Ghering."
"Come on!" cried Steinhausen, fiercely.
"Why stand in the rain to hear the manderings of that stupefied block-head?"
"Married! I cannot understand it," said Burchardt, pressing his horse to come up with his comrades.
"I do not believe the old fellow knows what he is talking about."
"Understand! No," laughed the Fahrlich.
"I fancy the Fates are against our ever solving the question whether our charming host is maid, wife or widow!"
"Fate or no fate, I will find out the truth yet," said Steinhausen to himself.

Quickening their pace, the officers galloped on to overtake the squadron, and Villa Bellevue, with its mystery and its charms was among the things of the past.

PART II. CHAPTER I.

It was Sylvester-abend of that terrible winter when the great German army lay before Paris, and the ice king sent his blinding snow and cringing frost to besiegers and besieged alike.
Away in North Germany the irresistible monarch had spread his white mantle over field and forest and mountain, and the snow lay deep in the narrow, roughly paved streets of a small country town on the frontier of Saxony, kindly softening the noise of vehicles and the tramp of horses to the suffering patients of the Lazaret, which had, since the war, been established in a large open space beyond where the walls once stood, pure and unutilized, from the Riesengebirge.

Bernstadt had once been an important border fortress, but its walls had long since leveled, and its present status, though not insignificant, was now only due to its position as the centre of a rich agricultural district and a linen manufacturing population.
The first consignment of wounded, after the earlier conflicts of Weissenburg and Wuerth, had nearly all recovered and dispersed—those fit for active service to rejoin their respective regiments.

Even of the second batch after Sedan not many were left; and, of these, all sufficiently convalescent to be permitted such dissipation were assembled at the house of Herr Gerhardt Werner, the wealthy Burgomeister of Bernstadt, who on this New Year's Eve held high festival in his fine old mansion in the market place, which, with its wide staircase, all paneled and carved with wreaths of flowers, its large, well-proportioned rooms and wide landings, was especially suited for entertainments.

From almost every house lights streamed out over the snow and sparkled on the frosted trees.
Music and song and laughter thrilled through the keen air, while countless blue stars looked down over all from a deep steel-blue sky, intensified by bright moonlight.
The country had begun to breathe after the tremendous strain and triumph of the last six months, and though many a sad heart wept for the loved and lost, the general tone was joyous and exulting.

Two officers, wrapped in their large cloaks, walked briskly from the gates of the Lazaret past the Lyceum and the line of trees, where the ramparts once stood, toward the winding, narrow street which led to the market place.
"What a glorious night!" exclaimed the taller of the two.
"The air, too, is life-giving. I feel myself again to-night for the first time since that Turco's cursed sabre laid me low."
"I may repeat myself fit for service again in a week or two."
"Well, I feel rather shaky still," replied the other, who was considerably shorter and stouter.
"A fever such as mine takes more out of a fellow than the bullet that caused it."
"But I am wonderfully stronger since I came up here, and all the better for meeting my old comrade."
"When you left us after our Bohemian campaign, and retired to the personal cares, I thought I had lost sight of you altogether."
"But such a call to arms as ours would have roused a German bear, if there was one left, even from his winter sleep."

"Yes," said his companion, "I had become almost broken in to the half dead and alive life and the loneliness of a remote Schloss like mine, when the call came and set my blood aflame."
"My only regret was that I could not join my old regiment."
"It has been a fight of giants this time," resumed the second speaker, after a short pause, as they turned into the shadow of a small street, crumpling the crisp snow beneath their even tread.
"Why, our Bohemian experience was child's play to this, and yet—"

"How well those Saxons fight!" interrupted the other, speaking more to himself than to his companion.
"Then and now. And their prince—he is a fine fellow."
"He is, Ah, how it all comes back. Steinhausen."
"Our hot, dusty march through the Bohemian hills, and then our rest at that delightful Saxony villa."
"I always remember it as the most perfect house in the world. What was the name of the people?"
"The name of the people?"

"Ghering," returned Steinhausen.
"Ay, Ghering. I wonder, now, was that pretty daughter married or not? Did you ever hear of them again?"
"Never!" was the somewhat emphatic answer. "Though I tried to get some tidings."
After the regiment left Saxony I was called away by business to Pommern, and then to Vienna.

"About six months after we had bid good-bye to Villa Bellevue I wrote to the excellent Herr Amtmann, but he never took any notice of my communication."
"Then various matters occupied me, and the sharp outlines of my first impression faded."
"About a year and a half later I was in Dresden, and made a pilgrimage to the villa, but they were all gone; the garden was a neglected wilderness, and a gang of workmen were pulling the house to pieces to enlarge it."
"No one could tell me what had become of the family."
"They had left a year before, and were much regretted, especially the 'Gnadige,' who was married, according to an old crone, and single, according to another."

"I had not heart to ask much or stay long. That is all I have ever heard."
"Little enough," said the other (our former acquaintance, Burchardt).
"I think I have heard of a young Lieutenant Ghering, who distinguished himself at St. Privat—a Saxon officer."
"Some relation, probably," said Steinhausen.

"They walked on in silence for some minutes, till turning into the market-place, they found themselves before the open door of the Burgomeister's house, from which a long stream of light fell upon the snow, and even on the quaint carvings of the opposite houses."
"The worthy Burgomeister is holding 'high revels,'" said Burchardt, laughing, as he looked up at a row of windows over the entrance against the blinds of which the strong light within threw the varied shadows of the guests as they moved to and fro.

"We convalescents must be prudent, for they say his table is of the best and his hospitality most pressing."
So saying, both officers stepped into the hall, and were immediately assisted by acquaintance, Burchardt, to remove their cloaks, and ushered into a handsome dining room, where Burgomeister and his wife received their guests, and which opened into a spacious salon beyond, where dancing had already begun with much spirit.

The new arrivals were greeted with great cordiality and respect.
Numerous introductions, which always in Germany are the opening ceremony of any social event, followed.
On the invitation of the host, the officers laid aside their swords and helmets; but reluctantly declined, in obedience to the doctor's injunctions to join the dancers.

"Then," said the host, a jovial, portly man, with curly fair hair and red mustache, "perhaps the Herr Major and you, Herr Rittmeister, would like to go upstairs to the card room?"
"You will find some of your friends there. Allow me."
And as Steinhausen and Burchardt bowed their assent, he passed on and led them upstairs to a suite of rooms, some of which were evidently bed chambers, decorated for the occasion.

More introductions and bowings, friendly recognitions and congratulations.
At last the attentive host arranged a whist table for his honored guests.
"You have a large assemblage to-night," said Steinhausen, as they waited for the fourth of their party, who had been arrested on his way to the card table by a lady of large proportions and pretensions, with whom he exchanged many deferential salutations.

"I see, no doubt, all the rank and beauty of Bernstadt."
"Ja gewiss!" replied the Burgomeister, rubbing his hands with much satisfaction, "and many families from the neighborhood also."
"We have Saxons, Bohemians, and a few Russians present this evening."
"You see, Herr Major, Bernstadt is in a corner, and has three different nationalities close by."
"I must present some of the most distinguished to you, mein Herr, before we light up the Christmas after supper; but you no longer from your game?" and, on hospitable thoughts intent, he turned away.

To be continued.

A "sotnia" of Cossacks consists of 150 men.

Foul Play Suspected.
Asheville, N. C., Special.—A telephone message from Waynesville says that Isaac West, an aged man, was found unconscious in the road near Kirby school house, seven miles from Waynesville, and that foul play is suspected. The victim was covered with bruises, the most serious of which are on the head. He was found by Robert Ledbetter and was removed to Waynesville, where Dr. Springfield was summoned to attend the man's wounds. Mr. West is between 80 and 90 years of age and lives near where he was found Thursday. It is believed that he will die.

Floral Offerings For McKinley Tomb.
Canton, O., Special.—Among the floral offerings placed at the McKinley tomb by Mrs. McKinley was a large wreath from President Roosevelt. It was made of white carnations and hydrangeas. By order of Vice President Fairbanks, William L. Day, son of Justice Day, took to the McKinley tomb a handsome floral tribute. Another floral piece in the form of a star came from Lieutenant Storer of West, Tex.

Address to Negro Students.
Hampton, Va., Special.—A notable address was delivered to the students of Hampton Institute by President Roosevelt. He dwelt particularly on the necessity for the development of character, not only in the negro, but in the white man as well, maintaining that education would fit neither for citizenship unless accompanying it was the right type of family life at home.

TEXT BOOK CHANGES

Will Be Offered For the Five Year Adoption—The Regulations Made By the Board.

The agents of text-book houses are in the State pressing the claims of their respective publications. The "book fight," as it is known, requires the services of scholarly writers and indefatigable workers. The general public has no idea how interesting this campaign really is. It is said that one member of the State board of Georgia received over \$75 worth of sample copies of text books. To examine each and every one would be an endless task and the State board perhaps makes selections as much on the reputation of the writers and publishing houses as for any other reasons. It is said to be the policy of the department of education to make as few changes as possible, but to get rid of any trashy publications which might have been adopted in former years.

The adoption of books is to cover a period of five years, as is the case in other states. May 22nd was the day fixed for filing bids, and bids will be received from this time until the 22 of June when the board will meet to make adoptions.

Readers, histories, arithmetics and geographies are the branches of study on which the hardest fights are made. It is said that there will be a hard effort made to get the board to adopt the history of the United States written by Mr. Waddy Thompson, of Atlanta, brother of Col. Henry T. Thompson of Columbia. This is published by D. C. Heath & Co., of New York. Another strong effort is being made in behalf of the history of the United States written by the Rev. Henry Alexander White, D. D., of the Columbia Seminary, and published by Silver, Burdett & Co. The board will give careful consideration to these two propositions, but may decide that the books now in use are just as good. The board may not have time to examine the merits or errors of all text books offered, but in the matter of selecting histories great care will probably be observed.

In selecting text books, the first thing to be considered is subject matter, then price and finally relative merit in mechanical excellence with the promise of durability. To those whose school days knew nothing more poetic than Webster's "blue back speller," the beautiful primers of today would be a revelation. The ingenuity of writers and of printers has been taxed to work out color schemes which would be in good state and yet would teach children the colors and shades in a way which would make the entire reading lesson entertaining as well as instructive.

It is stated on good authority that only one or two of the big publishing houses do their own printing and that some printing houses get out books for two or more competing publishing houses. This is a statement which sounds anomalous, but is made on the authority of an author and publisher who has his printing done elsewhere.

The following regulations have been adopted by the State board of education:

First: That the session of the State board of education of South Carolina, beginning 9 p. m., June 22nd, 1906, shall be continuous until adoption is complete, except necessary recesses.

Second: That no representative of a publishing house shall appear before the State board of education or any member thereof during said session, unless requested by the full board to do so.

Third: That no announcement shall be made of the adoption or any part thereof until the entire adoption is complete and signed by the chairman and secretary.

Fourth: That the State board of education, at its meeting June 22nd, adopt 100 additional library books. The condition of the above proclamation shall not apply to this adoption, but the resolutions do apply.

The instructions sent out by the State board state:

"No bid shall be considered unless it be accompanied by an affidavit of the bidder to the effect that the person, company or corporation bidding is in no way, directly or indirectly, a party to any company, syndicate or scheme whereby the benefits of competitive bidding have been or will be denied to the people of the State of South Carolina, or by which he, they or it, either individually or as a combination with another person, firm, association or corporation the profits to be made from the contract to be awarded; and, provided further, that the truth of such statement is hereby made a part of the contract so entered into with him or them, it being understood that the falsity of such statement shall ipso facto operate the avoidance of such contract; and, provided further, that the State board of education shall have, and it hereby reserves, the right to reject any or all bids, or any part of a bid, and to accept any part of the same, without being under obligation by such partial acceptance to accept the whole.

"Bids must be secret and late, specifically and distinctly, the quality of the books, price at which book, will be furnished, and the exchange price paid for books displaced, and must be accompanied by at least nine specimen copies of each book proposed to be furnished. One set of said specimen copies to be delivered to each of the several members of the State board of education at the date and address, before noon of June 22, 1906."

—Columbia State.

BOX OF WATERS FREE—NO DRUGS—CURES BY ABSORPTION.

Cures Belching of Gas—Bad Breath and Bad Stomach—Short Breath—Bloating—Nervous Excitations—Irregular Heart, Etc.

Take a Lull's Water any time of the day or night, and note the immediate effect on your stomach. It absorbs the gas, disinflects the stomach, kills the poison germs and cures the disease. Catarrh of the head and throat, unwholesome food and overeating make bad stomachs. Scarcely any stomach is entirely free from taint of some kind. Lull's Anti-Belch Waters will make your stomach healthy by absorbing food gases which arise from the undigested food and by re-enforcing the lining of the stomach, enabling it to thoroughly mix the food with the gastric juices. This cures stomach trouble, promotes digestion, sweetens the breath, stops belching and fermentation. Heart action becomes strong and regular through this process.

Discard drugs, as you know from experience they do not cure stomach trouble. Try a common-sense remedy. Lull's Water does cure. A soothing, healing sensation results instantly.

Write for Lull's Anti-Belch Waters free of charge. Write to Lull's Water Co., 328 3d Ave., Rock Island, Ill.

Give Full Address and Write Plainly.

698 GOOD FOR 25c. 142

Send this coupon with your name and address and your biggest name and 10c. in stamps or silver, and we will supply you a sample free if you have never used Lull's Anti-Belch Waters, and will also send you a certificate good for 25c. toward the purchase of more Lull's Waters. You will find them invaluable for stomach trouble; cures by absorption. Address: LULL'S WATER CO., 328 3d Ave., Rock Island, Ill.

All druggists, 50c. per box, or by mail upon receipt of price. Stamps accepted.

A homely girl always selects a girl homelier than herself for her bridesmaid.

Great Distress Throughout the South could be eliminated by the use of Dr. J. C. Cheney's Kidney and Bladder Pills. Cures Dysuria, Diarrhoea, Children's Teething, etc. Druggists 25c and 50c. per bottle.

The new Viroch Hospital in Berlin will have 800 beds. The total cost of construction will reach \$5,000,000. The attending physicians will have salaries from \$1400 to \$800 a year.

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for anyone who can furnish a name of a man who is a native of the State of Ohio, but who is not a citizen of Ohio, and who is not a resident of Ohio, and who is not a native of any other State, and who is not a resident of any other State, and who is not a native of any other State, and who is not a resident of any other State.

W. J. CROWEY & CO., Toledo, O. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and is a financially successful man, and has no obligations to the State of Ohio, and is not a resident of Ohio, and is not a native of any other State, and is not a resident of any other State.

Ten years ago, with a population of 32,000,000, Prussia maintained nearly 3000 technical schools, representing all the principal industries, with an attendance of over 200,000.

Budding genius does it always bear fruit.

Itch cured in 30 minutes by Woodford's Sanitary Lotion; never fails. Sold by Druggists and orders promptly filled. Price, 50c. Detchon, Crawfordville, Ind. Ill.

The thing that makes a man like a woman is he can never tell why.

FITS, St. Vitus' Dance, Nervous Diseases, permanently cured by Dr. Kline's Great Nervine Restorer. 24 trial bottles and treatise free. Dr. H. B. Kline, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Some whaling ship say they blunder upon the North Pole by accident.

Mr. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Folly and failure roar on the same perch.—Chicago News.

A generation ago Mr. Parton predicted that the coming man would neither smoke nor drink. Yet, lo! the Philadelphia Record, the internal revenue collections of the United States Government increase apace, and instead of giving up his vices, man is reputed to have been joined by woman.

AILING WOMEN.
Keep the Kidneys Well and the Kidneys Will Keep You Well.
Sick, suffering, languid women are learning the true cause of bad backs and bad heads, and how to cure them.

First: That the State board of education, at its meeting June 22nd, adopt 100 additional library books. The condition of the above proclamation shall not apply to this adoption, but the resolutions do apply.

Second: That no representative of a publishing house shall appear before the State board of education or any member thereof during said session, unless requested by the full board to do so.

Third: That no announcement shall be made of the adoption or any part thereof until the entire adoption is complete and signed by the chairman and secretary.

Fourth: That the State board of education, at its meeting June 22nd, adopt 100 additional library books. The condition of the above proclamation shall not apply to this adoption, but the resolutions do apply.

Soon after I began taking Don's Kidney Pills I passed several gravel stones. I got well and the trouble has not returned. My back is good and strong and my general health better."
Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-McBurrn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

An okapi, a rare species of animal, has been found in the Congo Free State.

HICKS' CAPUDINE IMMEDIATELY CURES HEADACHES Breaks up COLDS IN 6 TO 12 HOURS Trial Bottle 10c. At Druggists

Don't Get Wet! TOWER'S SLICKERS will keep you dry as nothing else will, because they are the product of the best materials and seventy years' experience in manufacturing. A. J. TOWER CO., BOSTON, U.S.A. TOWER CANADIAN CO. LTD., TORONTO, CAN.

A CRITICAL PERIOD

INTELLIGENT WOMEN PREPARE

Dangers and Pain of This Critical Period Avoided by the Use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.



How many women realize that the most critical period in a woman's existence is the change of life, and that the anxiety felt by women as this time draws near is not without reason? If her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy or congestion of any organ, it is at this time likely to become active and, with a host of nervous irritations, make life a burden.

At this time, also, cancers and tumors are more liable to begin their destructive work. Such warning symptoms as a sense of suffocation, hot flashes, dizziness, headache, dread of impending evil, sounds in the ears, timidity, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period of life when woman's great change may be expected.

We believe Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the world's greatest remedy for women at this trying period.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound invigorates and strengthens the female organism, and builds up the weakened nervous system as no other medicine can.

Mrs. A. E. H. Hyland, of Chester-town, Md., in a letter to Mrs. Pinkham, says:

"I had been suffering with a displacement for years and was passing through the change of life. I had a good deal of nervous prostration, dizziness, hot flashes, and was very nervous. I wrote you for advice and commenced treatment with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and was cured. I am happy to say that all these distressing symptoms left me, and I have passed safely through the change of life with a healthy and always helpful to ailing women."

For special advice regarding this important period women are invited to write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. She is daughter-in-law of Lydia E. Pinkham and for twenty-five years has been advising sick women free of charge. Her advice is free and always helpful to ailing women.

KILL THE LICE! KILL YOUR CHICKENS WITH PRUSSIAN LICE POWDER. Sure Death to Lice and Vermin.

They can't live where it is. Easy to apply. That is why it killed every louse in my flock of 2000 in 24 hours. Write to Wm. A. D. Price 25c and 50c a Pkg. By mail, 40c and 75c. PRUSSIAN REMEDY CO., ST. PAUL, MINN.

Girls' Help

At a certain age, all girls need the help of a pure, reliable, tonic medicine, to establish a regular habit, that may remain with them through life. Much terrible suffering, in after years, is prevented, and sturdy health assured, by taking

WINE OF CARDUI WOMAN'S RELIEF

at this critical time of life. "I gave Cardui to my young daughter," writes Geo. Maston, of Greenwood, Neb., "and now she is a rosy-cheeked girl, happy, light-hearted and gay." Strongly recommended for all female troubles. Try it.

At all Drug Stores

YOU CANNOT CURE

all inflamed, ulcerated and catarrhal conditions of the mucous membrane such as nasal catarrh, uterine catarrh caused by feminine ills, sore throat, sore mouth or inflamed eyes by simply dosing the stomach.

But you surely can cure these stubborn affections by local treatment with

Paxtine Toilet Antiseptic

which destroys the disease germs, checks discharges, stops pain, and heals the inflammation and soreness. Paxtine represents the most successful local treatment for feminine ills ever produced. Thousands of women testify to this fact. 50 cents at druggists.

Send for Free Trial Box THE R. PAXTON CO., BOSTON, MASS.

Don't Give a Drop DROPSY

THE DAISY FLY KILLER. CURED Give a Drop Relief.

WANTED. Address of persons of merit. India handkerchiefs are not to be used. The Federal Army is not to be used. The Federal Army is not to be used. The Federal Army is not to be used.