CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

boxes of candy, was looked upon as a far better match than a first lieutenant, even a most exemplary first lieutenant, as Taunton certainly was. When Taunton's attentions had become too marked, he had been forbidden the house and Lucia had been commanded to repulse him. The mere fact that she promised faithfully to do so, in presence of her father's wrath, had no influence on her when once she was thrown with her lover. It was a choice of evils; whether she should oppose her parents or Taunton, and she chose the former as less unpleasant.

Just at first they kept their meetings secret, but once they were discovered, they threw aside concealment and saw each other openly under the very eyes of the powerless father and mother. They took long rides among the foothills, long walks around the outskirts of the garrison, Taunton striding along with his fine head very erect, his gray eyes seeing nothing but the girl at his side, who picked her way daintily among the litter of tin cans and broken bottles and old horseshoes that marked the approach to the post. There were no leafy bowers under which to stroll and no velvet sward to press their feet upon; but they could well afford to ignore the surroundings; it is only later in life that we learn the value of the background of the picture. At the hops, too, they danced together a great deal of the time and made no secret of their infatuation. Captain Rossini looked savage and Mrs. Rossini was manifestly uneasy, but an open scene was not to be thought of, public opinion being against the parents. There were bad half-hours and tearful nights for Lucia after each defiance, but there was more sweet in Taunton's love than bitter in her father's fury.

And so it happened that the long notes of the 'Santiago' were bearing the two onward with the other dancers, snatches of singing, of laughter, and of conversation sounding with the music, until they broke in suddenly, drowning it all, a clang, a roar, a bellow of thunder. The music hesitated for an instant; for an instant there was a cessation of movement and exclamation of fear; then the bright figures swayed on and the chatter was resumed and the damp, cool wind of a summer shower blew over them while the rain beat down on the roof and ground.

But Taunton's eyes had lost, somehow, the look of perfect content; the girl's head was farther away from his shoulder, and the swing had gone from their step. They stopped by an open window to let the fresh wind blow over them. There came a sudden gust which wafted in a great dark butterfly that, in the rays of artificial light, seemed dead black, the omen of impending harm. It fluttered for an instant, dazzled and windbeaten; fluttered and circled around, then, spreading its shadow wings, it floated steadily, relentlessly upon Taunton and the girl beside him. She watched it with parted lips and frightened eyes as it came toward her out of the lightning-streaked night, and neither moved until it sank on her light hair. Then she threw up both arms and brushed it off with a heavy blow. The creature of the night flew out into the storm again with a drooping wing.

An orderly crossed the hop-room to the adjutant, who was speaking to the band-master, but none of the listening ears could hear the soldier's message.

'Well, play it if you can find the music,' the adjutant said coolly, then wheeled about and followed the orderly.

He was back again in ten minutes, speaking hurriedly to Taunton. Taunton answered, bowed his head, and, turning away, crossed the room to where Captain Rossini stood with his daughter.

'Good-evening, captain,' he said, and waiting for no reply, put his hand on Lucia's arm and drew her aside with an air of proprietorship that left the father aghast.

'Lucia, listen, dear. I've hardly time for even this good-by. Don't look so frightened; it amounts to nothing. Some trouble over at the agency that makes it necessary for me to go up there instantly with a detatchment. You know there has been expectation of trouble for some time. My dear child, you must not look like that; how silly of a soldier's daughter! I tell you I'll be back in a few days. If you are going to faint, come out in the air; the rain has stopped.'

She took his arm and let him drag her out upon the steps. The music came to them from within and smothered the sound of their voices.

'Marion, you aren't going to go away? How can you, how can you?' she said, in a whisper.

'How can I? Why, because I'm ordered. But I've an order for you in turn.'

'Well?' She bent her fan and worked her fingers nervously, still leaning hard on his arm.

'You must go with me instantly and tell your father.'

'I won't,' she answered, with set teeth.

'Why, but Lucia, you will if I say so.'

'I won't.'

'Then I'll do it alone.'

'I can't stop you, but if you do I shall hate you—as much as I have loved you.'

'But why? He must be told some time. I'm in a fearful hurry. As a matter of fact, I've no right to be here now; if the C. O. catches me, I'll get the dickens. Come along and tell him.'

'I said I wouldn't and I wont.'

'What makes you so obstinate? It's not like you.'

It's like me sometimes. It's like me when I'm afraid.'

'Afraid of what?'

'Of papa. I wouldn't mind so dreadfully if you were here, but I think it's mean and cowardly of you to leave me to bear the brunt of it all alone for days and days. It might kill me. I'm about worried to death now.'

A tear dropped on Taunton's hand and melted his firmness in a moment. He began to plead. 'But, Lucia, he must know in a few weeks at most. I've let you persuade me too long already. We ought to have been brave and open in the first place, or else have gone up and made our confession immediately. What the deuce ever made me give up to your silly fears, I can't understand.'

'You were glad enough to get me 'most anyway.'

'I suppose that's it. But let me tell your father now. It would be so much better in case—anything were to happen to me.'

'Oh, Marion, there's no danger, is there?'

'Probably not. But you can't always be sure. You see, it would be better to have it over with if I should get—hurt.'

'You won't. I'm sure you won't. Don't tell him yet, Marion, please don't, and oh, don't get killed! Do you think the black butterfly meant anything—do you?'

'Of course not. Lucia, I'm doing wrong to give in to you. I know it, and—but here comes Murray, he must not catch me here. Good-by, little girl, good-by. I wish you were braver. Adios.'

Taunton ran down the steps and, keeping in the shadow of the buildings strode off to the troop quarters. And the girl stood there in the darkness looking with wide eyes up at the sky, where gray, thick clouds drifted together and apart, showing patches of starry black heavens and covering them over as quickly. The cottonwoods rustled in the wind, and her hair blew about her face, all damp and clinging. She bent her fan until one of the sticks snapped, and started at the sound. She turned about and looked at the barracks where F Troop was making ready to depart—a portion of the troop, that is. Men ran by alone, or leading horses; orderlies galloped beneath the shadow of the trees. Shaking with cold she stood there, her heart seemed numb and still. From the open door of the soldiers' quarters fell bars of light, and uniformed figures passed in and out, forward and backward. She saw Taunton run along and hurry to his house. In five mintes he was back again in scouting clothes. All this the light from the barracks showed her. When he had started for his quarters, she had wavered for a second, almost determined to go to him and tell him she would do as he wished. But, as usual, it ended in indecision. It would be all right when he came back; it would be time enough then. She threw up her arm and brushed away a flying black thing, whose big soft wings had touched her cheek.

The music had stopped and begun again, and again stopped while she stood there. People had passed by her, going out, but they had not seen her in the shadow of the corner.

There came a sudden silence. The leaves of the trees stopped their whisperings, the wind died away in the night, the voices about ceased their murmuring, the rain-drops clung to the branches; and out from the silence came the word of command which all the garrison and the rigid woman were waiting to hear: 'Prepare to mount. Mount.'

A clash of accoutrements, a tramping of hoofs, the wind blew fresh once more, the leaves rustled and shook down the drops and the world went on.

The woman brushed her hair from her eyes, gathered up her skirts, and walked home alone.

It was a beautiful morning after the storm. Everyone was on the porches watching guard-mounting with as much interest as if it had never been gone through before, deeply engrossed in the choosing of the commanding officer's orderly.

A second lieutenant sat upon the steps of Captain Rossini's quarters, beside the captain's fair daughter, who was smiling and talking in her old lively way. The second lieutenant reflected that she could not have been much in love with Taunton after all; she seemed in no wise depressed by his absence on an expedition which was not quite safe at best. The second lieutenant gathered hopes, for there was a lingering fondness for the pretty creature in his own heart.

So they talked and laughed and watched guard-mounting in the sunshine of the cool summer morning. When it was over, and the adjutant and officer of the day and ex-officer of the day were going their ways, there came a sound of the hoofs of a galloping horse and a courier from the agency drew up at the commandant's quarters, while the people on the porches craned their necks and strained their ears in a vain attempt to hear the mud-splashed man's message.

The Rossini's house was next to the commanding officer's. Lucia jumped up and ran down near the courier.

'Lucia! come back here! What do you mean?' thundered the captain, indulging in some assorted oaths.

She wheeled around and faced him. 'I am going to see what has happened to my husband,' she said, deliberately, and did not wait to notice the look on his dark face. The second lieutenant leaned against the railing for support.

The courier's words were low; but Lucia heard the tidings of death as plainly as if he had shouted them aloud. She flushed—and then turned very pale. There came a queer thud in her heart, and a whir in her head, and all she saw was thousands upon thousands of black butterflies that flew around her. She laughed and put up her hands to seize them, bit at them, struck at them, shooked her clenched fists at them, fighting off the dull wings that only herself could see.—Reprinted from the Argonaut.

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That colored things are done while white things are boiling.

That dirty kitchen aprons and cloths come last of all.

That soaking is done in tepid water.

That rinsing is done in tepid water.

That extremes of heat and cold cause shrinking.

That soap jelly is necessary for woolen things.

That soap must be thoroughly rinsed out before bluing.

That blue must be well mixed through the water.

That wringing well after bluing is most important.

Things to remember in drying:

To have the lines, pegs and clothes-horse scrupulously clean.

To hang things up wrong side out.

To hang colored things in a shady place.

Not to hang woolen things in too great heat.

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"Yes," said the bride of a week. "Jack tells me everything he knows, and I tell him everything I know."

"Indeed!" rejoined her ex-rival, who had been left at the post. "The silence when you are together must be oppressive."

When a man in his pajamas bumps his shin on a rocking chair it is surprising what a weak, washy thing his vocabulary seems to him.

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—BY—

And will you rest at last, storm-beaten spirit,
In this poor heart, who would your haven be,
Will you sink down at last, consent to inherit
The common treasures of tranquility?
Will you forget your high and fierce endeavor
The hinted island and the hid-den seas,
Defeats, escapes, adventures, that forever
Left you more sad, and never more at ease?

When the west wind on summer evenings blowing
Brings to your ears the sound of sails that fill,
And moving ships eclipse your starlight, going
To lands unseen, and fates that beckon still,
When you shall see beneath the moon new risen,
The hissing wake of other vessels' foam,
Will not this land locked harbor seem a prison
Where calms and shadows mock the name of home?

Ah! when your longing for the open ocean
Captures your heart, and bids you set your sail,
Feeb'e will be the bonds of my devotion:
Little will love—your own or mine—avail:
Happy to you will seem some shipwrecked stranger,
Keener than love the zest of being free,
Sweeter than peace, the summoning of danger—
Some day at sunrise you will put to sea.

—Alice Duer Miller, in the April Scribner.

EXTERMINATING LICE.

From the Feather.

From now on comes the struggle for supremecy in the hen house of man and insect vermin. Every crack crevice, nest-box and roosting place in the henhouse, hencoop or any place where poultry is kept will become alive and overrun with insect vermin if not checked. If the caretaker has been on the alert and kept clear of the possibilities of this brood-sucking vermin, happiness and health will reign in his poultry yard. If, however, the principles of care and cleanliness have been negnected, the place will be overrun.

With the advent of warm weather each season every poultry paper and every agricultural paper of the land that pays any attention whatever to poultry matters warns the world against this insect pest. One hour three times a week devoted to the care of the poultry house, if properly directed, will make it absolutely impossible for lice to gain a foothold in a poultry house even when sufficiently large for the accommodation of two or three hundred hens. When we stop to consider that but three hours a week will be all that is necessary to have proper conditions, free from this insect pest, we can not help wondering why it is that so many of the poultry houses, poultry pens and coops are so overrun with the vermin as to make it untenantable for the fowls and to place such fear in the heart of man who goes there once as to prevent his going there again. It is a criminal act that should be punished by law to permit vermin to overrun the henhouse. If we should permit a thousand leeches to suck the life's blood from our families, we would be sent to jail, yet we are permitted to harbor millions of blood-sucking vipers to eat the very life from our flock of poultry, and nothing is said. It should be made a public disgrace in every neighborhood for anyone to have a henhouse infested with lice. To prevent lice is much easier than destroying them afterwards. To illustrate this, we give below the experience of one poultryman, which was recently published in the Indiana *Farmer*. This shows the importance of being absolutely free from the destructive influence of lice. This refers to one way of getting rid of them. We copy it as follows:

"Lice are found on fowls and about the premises in small as well as in large flocks and at all seasons of the year, although they flourish better in warm weather. In a few days in summer the lice will increase at an amazing ratio, unless persistent war is waged against them. In very cold weather they are principally found on the bodies of the fowls. It is from the bodies of the fowls that they get warmth and comfort.

"Watch carefully the sitting hens' nest. How cruel it would be to let a hen sit three long weeks and have those pests sucking her blood away. This is undoubtedly the cause of many hens leaving the nest. First, be certain the nest is perfectly clean and free from vermin when the hen is set, then it will not be much trouble to keep it so. Formaldehyde, a liquid preparation, is one of the best we have ever used for disinfecting purposes. Sprinkle a few drops upon the material in the sitter's nest, once a week. Do not use too much, as it might suffocate the hen, although there would not be much danger of that unless the building was perfectly tight. It is a splendid disinfectant for the poultry house. Use a small hand spray for putting it upon the roosts and nest-boxes; then close the house as tightly as it can possibly be made, and the strong odor will penetrate every part of the building. No insects or germs can live where it is used. It is also used in lamps made especially for the purpose. This is the most economical way to use it, and do doubt with better results.

"The large lice may be found on fowls even when apparently no lice can be seen in the poultry house. They congregate on the head and neck. Anoint the head and neck with melted lard and dust the entire body with Persian insect powder. A dust bath should be provided for the fowls the year round and by the aid of this they are able to help considerably in keeping the pests under subjection."

When the poultry houses have become infested with insect vermin, nothing is so helpful in getting rid of them as to thorough sweep down the rough sidewalls, brush every crack and crevice, sweep off the dropping boards, remove every bit of dirt and litter from the inside of the house, and burn it up at some distance from the building, then thoroughly spray every crack and crevice of the building, nest-boxes, about the roosts and dropping boards with some good

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