

ELECTIVE AFFINITIES.

A Novel.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF GOETHE.

PART I.

CHAPTER XIV. (Continued.)

Under some other pretext, Edward had the ground underneath the plane-trees cleared of bushes and grass and moss. And now first could be seen the beauty of their forms, together with their full height and spread, right up from the earth. He was delighted with them. It was just this very time of the year that he had planted them. How long ago could it have been? he said to himself. As soon as he got home, he turned over the old diary books, which his father, especially when in the country, was very careful in keeping. He might not find an entry of this particular planting, but so other important domestic matter, which Edward well remembered, and which had occurred on the same day, would surely be mentioned. He turned over a few volumes: The circumstance he was looking for was there. How amazed, how overjoyed he was, when he discovered the strangest coincidence! The day and the year on which he had planted those trees, was the very day, the very year, when Otilie was born.

CHAPTER XV.

The long-wished-for morning dawned at last on Edward; and very soon a number of guests arrived. They had sent out a large number of invitations, and many who had missed the laying of the foundation-stone, which was reported to have been so charming, were the more careful not to be absent on the second festivity.

Before dinner the carpenter's people appeared, with music, in the court of the castle. They bore an immense garland of flowers, composed of a number of single wreaths, winding in and out, one above the other; saluting the company, they made request, according to custom, for silk handkerchiefs and ribbons, at the hands of the fair sex, with which to dress themselves out. When the castle party went into the dining-hall, they marched off singing and shouting, and after amusing themselves awhile in the village, and coaxing many a ribbon out of the women there, old and young, they came at last, with crowds behind them and crowds expecting them, out upon the height where the park-house was now standing. After dinner, Charlotte rather held back her guests. She did not wish that there should be any solemn or formal procession, and they found their way in little parties, broken up, as they pleased, without rule or order, to the scene of action. Charlotte staid behind with Otilie, and did not improve matters by doing so. For Otilie being really the last that appeared, it seemed as if the trumpets and the clarionets had only been waiting for her, and as if the gaudies had been ordered to commence directly on her arrival.

To take off the rough appearance of the house, it had been hung with green boughs and flowers. They had dressed it out in an architectural fashion, according to a design of the Captain's; only that, without his knowledge, Edward had desired the Architect to work in the date upon the cornice in flowers, and this was necessarily permitted to remain. The Captain had only arrived in time to prevent Otilie's name from figuring in splendor on the gable. The beginning, which had been made for this, he contrived to turn skillfully to some other use, and to get rid of such of the letters as had been already finished.

The garland was set up, and was to be seen far and wide about the country. The flags and the ribbons fluttered gaily in the air; and a short oration was, the greater part of it, dispersed by the wind. The solemnity was at an end. There was now to be a dance on the smooth lawn in front of the building, which had been enclosed with boughs and branches. A gayly-dressed working mason took Edward up to a smart-looking girl of the village, and called himself upon Otilie, who stood out with him. These two couples speedily found others to follow them, and Edward contrived pretty soon to change partners, catching Otilie, and making the round with her. The younger part of the company joined merrily in the dance with the people, while the elder among them stood and looked on.

Then, before they broke up and walked about, an order was given that they should all collect at sunset under the plane-trees. Edward was the first upon the spot, ordering everything, and making his arrangements with his valet, who was to be on the other side, in company with the firework-maker, managing his exhibition of the spectacle.

The Captain was far from satisfied at some of the preparations which he saw made; and he endeavored to get a word with Edward about the crush of spectators which was to be expected. But the latter, somewhat hastily, begged that he might be allowed to manage this part of the day's amusement himself.

The upper end of the embankment having been recently raised, was still far from compact. It had been staked, but there was no grass upon it, and the earth was uneven and insecure. The crowd pressed on, however, in great numbers. The sun went down, and the castle party was served with refreshments under the plane-trees, to pass the time till it should become sufficiently dark. The piece was approved of beyond measure, and they

looked forward to frequently enjoying the view over so lovely a sheet of water, on future occasions.

A calm evening, a perfect absence of wind, promised everything in favor of the spectacle, when suddenly loud and violent shrieks were heard. Large masses of the earth had given away on the edge of the embankment, and a number of people were precipitated in the water. The pressure from the throng had gone on increasing till at last it had become more than the newly-laid soil would bear, and the bank had fallen in. Everybody wanted to obtain the best place, and now there was no getting either backwards or forwards.

People ran this and that way, more to see what was going on than to render assistance. What could be done when no one could reach the place?

The Captain, with a few determined persons, hurried down and drove the crowd off the embankment back upon the shore, and in order that those who were really of service might have free room to move. One way or another they contrived to seize hold of such as were sinking; and with or without assistance all who had been in the water were got out safe upon the bank, with the exception of one boy, whose struggles in his fright, instead of bringing him nearer the embankment, had only carried him further away from it. His strength seemed to be failing—now on ly a hand was seen above the surface, and now a foot. By an unlucky chance the boat was on the opposite shore filled with fireworks—it was a long business to unload it, and help was slow in coming. The Captain's resolution was taken; he flung off his coat; all eyes were directed towards him, and his sturdy vigorous figure gave every one hope and confidence; but a cry of surprise rose out of the crowd as they saw him fling himself into the water—every eye watched him as the strong swimmer swiftly reached the boy, and bore him, although to appearance dead, to the embankment.

Now came up the boat. The Captain stepped in and examined whether there were any still missing, or whether they were all safe. The surgeon was speedily on the spot, and took charge of the inanimate boy. Charlotte joined them, and entreated the Captain to go now and take care of himself, to hurry back to the castle and change his clothes. He would not go, however, till persons on whose sense he could rely, who had been close to the spot at the time of the accident, and who had assisted in saving those who had fallen in, assured him that all were safe.

Charlotte saw him on his way to the house, and she remembered that the wine and the tea, and everything else which he could want, had been locked up, for fear any of the servants should take advantage of the disorder of the holiday, as on such occasions they are apt to do. She hurried through the scattered groups of her company, which were loitering about the plane trees. Edward was there, talking to every one—beseeching every one to say. He would give the signal directly, and the fireworks should begin. Charlotte went up to him and entreated him to put off an amusement which was no longer in place, and which at the present moment no one could enjoy. She reminded him of what ought to be done for the boy who had been saved, and for his preserver.

"The surgeon will do whatever is right, no doubt," replied Edward. "He is provided with everything which he can want, and we should only be in the way if we crowded about him with our anxieties."

Charlotte persisted in her opinion, and made a sign to Otilie, who at once prepared to retire with her. Edward seized her hand, and cried,

"We will not end this day in a lazaretto. She is too good for a sister of mercy. Without us, I think, the half-dead may wake, and the living dry themselves."

Charlotte did not answer, but went. Some followed her—others followed these; in the end, no one wished to be last, and all followed. Edward and Otilie found themselves alone under the plane-trees. He insisted that stay he would, earnestly, passionately, as she entreated him to go back with her to the castle.

"No, Otilie!" he cried; "the extraordinary is not brought to pass in the smooth common way—the wonderful accident of this evening brings us more speedily together. You are mine—I have often said it to you, and sworn it to you. We will not say it and swear it any more—we will make it so."

The boat came over from the other side. The valet was in it—he asked, with some embarrassment, what his master wished to have done with the fireworks.

"Let them off!" cried Edward to him; "let them off—it was only for you that they were provided, Otilie, and you shall be the only one to see them. Let me sit beside you, and enjoy them with you."

Tenderly, timidly he sat down at her side, without touching her.

Rockets went hissing up—cannon thundered—Roman candles shot out their blazing balls—squibs fished and darted—wheels spun round, first singly, then in pairs, then all at once, faster and faster, one after the other, and more and more together. Edward, whose bosom was on fire, watched the blazing spectacle with eyes gleaming with delight; but Otilie, with her delicate and nervous feelings, in all this noise and fitful blinding and flashing, found more to distress her than to please. She least shirking against Ed-

ward, and he, as she drew to him and clung to him, felt the delightful sense that she belonged entirely to him.

The night had scarcely resumed its rights, when the moon rose and lighted their path as they walked back. A figure, with his hat in hand, stepped across their way, and begged in alms of them—in the general holiday he said that he had been forgotten. The moon shone upon his face, and Edward recognized the features of the importune beggar: but, happy as he then was, it was impossible for him to be angry with any one. He could not recollect that, especially for that particular day, begging had been forbidden under the heaviest penalties—he thrust his hand into his pocket; took the first coin which he found, and gave the fellow a piece of gold. His own happiness was so unbounded that he would have liked to have shared it with every one.

In the meantime all had gone well at the castle. The skill of the surgeon, everything which was required being ready at hand, Charlotte's assistance—all had worked together, and the boy was brought to life again. The guests dispersed, wishing to catch a glimpse or two of what was to be seen of the fireworks from the distance; and, after a scene of such confusion, were glad to get back to their own quiet homes.

The Captain also, after having rapidly changed his dress, had taken an active part in what required to be done. It was now all quiet again, and he found himself alone with Charlotte, gently and affectionately he now told her that his time for leaving them approached. She had gone through so much that evening, that this discovery made but a slight impression upon her—she had seen how her friend could sacrifice himself; how he had saved another, and had himself been saved. These strange incidents seemed to foretell an important future to her—but not an unhappy one.

Edward, who now entered with Otilie, was informed at once of the impending departure of the Captain: He suspected that Charlotte had known longer how near it was; but he was far too much occupied with himself and his own plans to take it amiss, or care about it.

On the contrary, he listened attentively, and with signs of pleasure, to the account of the excellent and honorable position in which the Captain was to be placed. The course of the future was hurried impetuously forward by his own secret wishes. Already he saw the Captain married to Charlotte, and himself married to Otilie. It would have been the richest present which any one could have made him, on the occasion of the day's festival!

But how surprised was Otilie, when, on going to her room, she found upon the table the beautiful box; instantly, she opened it; inside, all the things were so nicely packed and arranged, that she did not venture to take them out, she scarcely even ventured to lift them. There were muslin, cambric, silk, shawls and lace, all rivaling each other in delicacy, beauty and costliness—nor were ornaments forgotten. The intention had been, as she saw well, to furnish her with more than one complete suit of clothes: but it was all so costly, so little like what she had been accustomed to, that she scarcely dared, even in thought, to believe it could be really for her.

The next morning the Captain had disappeared, having left a grateful letter addressed to his friends upon the table. He and Charlotte had already taken a half leave of each other the evening before—she felt that the parting was forever, and she resigned herself to it; for in the Count's second letter, which the Captain had at last shown to her, there was a hint of a prospect of an advantageous marriage, and though he paid no attention to it at all, she accepted it for as good as certain, and gave him up fully and firmly.

Now, therefore, she thought that she had a right to require of others the same control over themselves which she had exercised herself; it had not been impossible to her, and it ought not to be impossible to them. With this feeling she began the conversation with her husband; and she entered upon it the more openly and easily, from a sense that the question must now, once for all, be decidedly set at rest.

"Our friend has left us," she said; "we are now once more together as we were—and it depends upon ourselves whether we choose to return together into our old position."

Edward, who heard nothing except what flattered his own passion, believed that Charlotte, in these words, was alluding to her previous wretched state, and, in a roundabout way, was making a suggestion for a separation; so that he answered with a laugh,

"Why not? all we want is to come to an understanding."

But he found himself sorely undeceived, as Charlotte answered:

"And we have now a choice of opportunities for placing Otilie in another situation. Two openings have offered themselves to her, either of which will do very well. Either she can return to the school, as my daughter has left it and is with her great-aunt; or she can be received into a desirable family, where, as the companion of an only child, she will enjoy all the advantages of an early education."

TO BE CONTINUED.

SPOTS ON THE SUN—freckles on a boy's face.

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New Advertisements. BEAVER COUNTY, Pa. In the Orphan's Court of Beaver county, Pa. In the matter of the petition for partition of the real estate of Polly Hight, deceased. And now to wit: June 11th, 1873. Rule on the heirs and legal representatives of said deceased, viz: Joseph Minsinger, residing in Fulton county, Pa.; Aaron Minsinger, George W. Minsinger and Elizabeth Minsinger, residing in Beaver county, Pa.; Samuel Minsinger, residing in Venango county, Pa.; Mary Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; David Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; Elizabeth Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; James Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; James Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; John Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; Thomas Minsinger, residing in Allegheny county, Pa.; and all others interested in the real estate of said deceased, to show cause, if any they have, why a request to make partition of the real estate of said deceased should not be awarded. And for said purpose, to be held in Beaver, in and for said county, on the first Monday of September next, (1873) at a true copy of this. JOHN C. HART, Clerk. CHAMBERLIN WHITE, Sheriff. Sheriff's office, June 30, 1871-73. ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. ESTATE OF CORNELIUS SHANE, Deceased. Letters of administration on the estate of Cornelius Shane, late of Greene township, Beaver county, Pa., deceased, have been granted to James B. Shane, residing in said township, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and all persons having claims or demands will make known the same to the undersigned. JAMES B. SHANE, Administrator. WAGES FOR ALL WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK. Any person, old or young, of either sex, can make from \$10 to \$20 per week, at home day or evening. Wanted by all, suitable to either city or country, and any season of the year. This is a rare opportunity for those who are out of work, and out of money, to make an independent living. No capital required. Our pamphlet, "HOW TO MAKE A LIVING," gives full particulars, and is sent on receipt of 10 cents. Address: A. B. HURST & CO., Morrisania, Westchester Co., N. Y. BEAVER COLLEGE, AND MUSICAL INSTITUTE. 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