

THE MASTER OF MAN :— By Sir Hall Caine

An Outspoken and Moving Study of a Deep Sex Problem by the Noted Author of "The Manxman," "The Deemster," "The Eternal City," "The Woman Thou Gavest Me," Etc.

Is Man's Law Too Hard for the Woman in the Case? Is Conscience Enough Punishment for Him, While She Pays the Legal Penalty?

In This Frank and Gripping Story the Man, as Judge, Sits in Sentence on the Girl Tried for Their Sin.



"What's this she says—that you're run away?" said the Speaker

THIS STARTS THE STORY
VICTOR STOWELL is handsome, of fine nature, the action of a family of distinction on the Isle of Man, where his father is Deemster, or chief judge. Curiously enough, he enters the steps of this powerful romance of a sin and its consequences that makes him the man to sit in sentence on the woman, who is tried for their mutual transgression, as a voluntary scapegoat to save her good name from the results of a girl's escapade. Bessie Collier, a peasant girl, is crude but good-looking in a coarse-grained way. Little does Stowell think when he takes the blame of walking out with her outside school hours and school bounds to save her from her brutal stepfather and to save his own, who has really been guilty, from punishment, that Bessie's errand, which starts so young, is to affect directly his own happiness and his future great love for beautiful and great-hearted Fenella Stanley. The principal of the school asks the boy who had been guilty of this breach of discipline and maybe of morals to rise and confess. Protecting his friend, Alick Gell, Victor is unjustly struck by the principal, who, discovering the truth later, remarkably writes to the Deemster to take his son home or he himself for shame must resign his principalship. The Deemster brings his boy home and gives him character, despite the seeming reputation from school. Bessie's errand is to visit all his important friends, Bessie, sent home too, is threatened by Dan Baldrinna, her stepfather, and divulges that she had been out not with Victor, but with Alick, whose father, the Speaker of the Manx Parliament, is Dan's landlord. Alick comes inquiring home too and confesses the truth to his choleric, hard father.

AND HERE IT CONTINUES
YES, sir, said Alick, and then still with the tremor of a sob in his voice, he told his story. It was the same that he had told twice before, but with a sequel added. Although he had confessed to the principal, they had expelled Stowell. Not publicly perhaps, but it had been expelling him all the same. Four days they had kept him in his study, without saying what they meant to do with him. Then this morning, while the boys were at prayers they had heard carriage wheels come up to the door of the principal's house, and when they came out taking him to visit all his important friends, Bessie, sent home too, is threatened by Dan Baldrinna, her stepfather, and divulges that she had been out not with Victor, but with Alick, whose father, the Speaker of the Manx Parliament, is Dan's landlord. Alick comes inquiring home too and confesses the truth to his choleric, hard father.

ing walk, his eyes wild and dark, his black hair "stroked" flat across his forehead, where a wet brush had left it. "Good evening, Mr. Speaker," you too, Mistress Gell. It's the twelfth tomorrow, but I thought I would bring my Hollandise rent today.

"Sit down," said the Speaker, who had given him meager welcome. Dan drew a chair up to a table, took from the breast pocket of his monkey jacket a bulging parcel in a red print handkerchief (looking like a roadman's dinner), untied the knots of it, and disclosed a quantity of gold and silver coins, and a number of Manx bank notes creased and soiled. These he counted out with much deliberation amid a stinging like that which comes between thunderclaps—the Speaker, standing by the fireplace, coughing to compose himself, his wife blowing her nose to get rid of her tears, and no other sounds being audible except the nasal breathing of Dan Baldrinna, who had hair about his nostrils.

"Count it for yourself; I believe you'll find it right, sir." "Quite right. I suppose you'll want a receipt?" "If you please." The speaker sat at a small desk, and as well as he could (for his hand was trembling), he wrote the receipt and handed it across the table.

"And now about my lease," said Dan. "What about it?" said the Speaker. "It runs out a year today, sir, and Willie Kerruish, the advocate, was telling me at the Michaelmas mart you were not for renewing it. Do you still hold to that, Mr. Speaker?" "Certainly I do," said the Speaker. "I don't want to enter into discussions, but I think you'll be better for another landlord and I for another tenant."

view, were rating him roundly on associating with a servant. "I wonder you had more respect for your sisters?" said Isabella. "What are people to think of us—Fenella Stanley, for instance?" said Alick. "I declare I shall be ashamed to show my face in Government House again," said Verberna. "Oh, shut up and let a fellow eat," said Alick, and then something about "first-class dunkys."

CHAPTER IV
Enter Fenella Stanley
 The winter passed, the spring came and nothing was done for Victor. His father made no effort to provide for him, whether at another school, at college, or in a profession. "I wonder at the Deemster, I really do," said Auntie Kitty. "Leave him alone," said Janet—it would all come right some day.

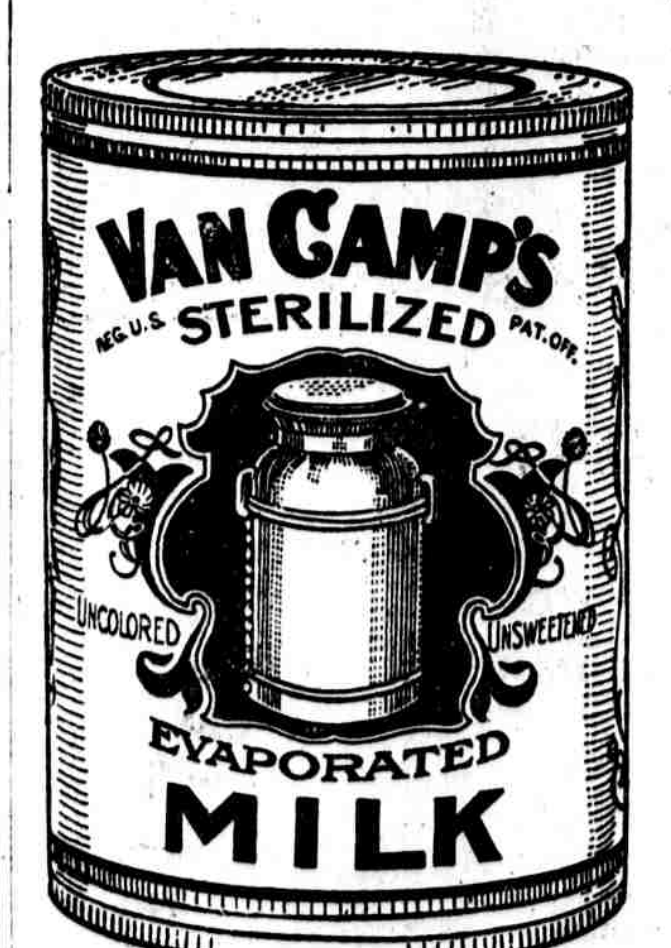
Left to himself, Victor became the great practical joker of the countryside. Every prank for which no other author could be found was attributed to him. If any pretentious person fell into a ridiculous mare's nest people would say: "But where was young Stowell while that was going on?" In this dubious occupation of "putting the fun on folks he soon found the powerful assistance of Alick Gell. That young gentleman, for his training on the land, had been handed over to the charge of old Tom Kermod, the Speaker's steward. But Tom, good man, foresaw the possibility of being supplanted in his position if the Speaker

Then the peacocks in the courtyard screamed again and the jolting of a springless cart was heard going over the grave. The two in the drawing-room listened until the sound of the wheels died away in the lane to the high road, and then the Speaker said: "That's what comes of having children! We thought it had for the Deemster to be in the pocket of a man like Caesar Quatrough, but to be under the barrow of Dan Baldrinna!" "Aw, dear! Aw, dear!" said Mrs. Gell. "He was right about Alick going to sea, though," said the Speaker, and touching the bell for the parlor-maid, he told her to tell his son to come back to him. Alick was in the dining room by this time, washed and brushed and doing his best to drink a pot of tea and eat a plate of bread and butter, amid the remonstrances of his three sisters, who, seeing events from their own point of

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