

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.

THIS BEGINS THE STORY

Victor Stowell, son of the Deemster or Chief Judge of the Isle of Man, is handsome and of fine figure. He is in love with Fenella Stanley, daughter of the Governor, a beautiful girl and with advanced views on the rights of women.



Bessie's terror increased tenfold. Dread of what Gell might do sat on her like a nightmare

Bessie in bare feet going out to feed the pigs.

"It's nothing," she said. "I'm used to it, you know. I was eight years old before I wore shoes or stockings."

It was the temptation that no woman can resist—the desire to have a home of her own, and to be mistress of it.

"Ob, yes, I know! All the old stick-in-the-muds! But keep your end up in London and you'll be all right here."

"Not at all," he said. "And I'm not thinking of you as what you are your father's son, and expecting you to live up to your traditions."

It was a clear, cold winter's night, with crisp snow on the footpaths and overhead a world of piercing stars.

The gallery was occupied by farm lads and fisher-lads chiefly, and they were craning their necks to catch glimpses of the girls in the pews below.

slowly up the aisle from the western end of the church to the altar steps. Their carol was an account of the Nativity, scarcely less crude than the carols that had gone before it.

A little before midnight the clergyman rose and asked for silence. And then, while all heads were bowed and there was a solemn hush within, the great clock of the Castle struck 12 in the darkness outside.

The bells were ringing joyfully as the congregation trooped out of the church, but for some while longer they moved about on the crinkling snow in front of it, saluting and shaking hands, everybody with everybody.

Back at Derby Haven, Bessie, who had been on the point of crying during the latter part of the service, ran up to her room, flung herself face down on her bed and burst into a flood of tears.

But going home had its terrors also. There was her father's alms-house. What could she do? Was there no way out for her?

The witch-doctor was a woman, several years of age, and comely, called Nan. Hitherto she had lived by curing ringworms on children and blood-letting in strong men by means of charms that were half Latin and half Manx.

Bessie said nothing, but next day, after breakfast, she called on her need of a walk, she hurried to the train to Port Erin, and climbed, with many pauses, the zigzag path up the Mull Hills to where a Druid's circle still kept the vestige of its ancient gipsy encampment of mud huts thatched with straw.

He was a rugged old man from the mountains of Tusken, half landsman and half seaman, and his carol (which he sang in the Manx, while the tallow guttered down on his discolored fingers) was a catalogue of all the bad women mentioned in the Bible, from Eve, the mother of mankind, who brought evil into the world, to "that graceless wench," Salome.

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The Dessert That Saved Betty's Party. "Betty wants me to give a party for her on her sixth birthday next week," sighed Mrs. Ford.

"I know just how you feel," sympathized her neighbor. "It is so hard, she continued, to know what to do for refreshments that won't hurt them. Custards are no treat for them, my cornstarch puddings are always thin and lumpy and ice cream is so expensive."

MALL GAINS

"Ah," as you know, as you know, has been complaining of overwork ever since your father died.

"Yes, there was precedent enough for young judges in colonies and dependencies. And this was the case of a worthy son succeeding a worthy father."

"Well, the end of it is that you are to go up to see the Home Secretary after the House has risen at Easter."

"Ob, yes, I know! All the old stick-in-the-muds! But keep your end up in London and you'll be all right here."

"Not at all," he said. "And I'm not thinking of you as what you are your father's son, and expecting you to live up to your traditions."

CHAPTER XIX The Free of Mary. Bessie Collier had passed through a very different winter.