

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.

PERSONS OF THE STORY

VICTOR STOWELL—A brilliant young lawyer, appointed despite his youth Deemster, or chief Judge, of the Isle of Man, in which position he has to sit in judgment on the night of his birth. He is high principled and likable, though in a moment of mutual passion he has, to great later regret, over the secret sin, had illicit relations with

BESSIE COLLISTER—A handsome but illiterate peasant girl. She has a child which is accidentally smothered around for murdering her babe. Bessie really loves

ALICK GELL—Agreeable but somewhat weak, who persuades Bessie to betray the secret to him despite the opposition of his father.

SPEAKER GELL—The rich and tyrannical head of the Manx Parliament.

FENELLA STANLEY—A great-hearted and beautiful girl with advanced ideas on women's rights who is in love with Victor and he with her. She is the daughter of

GENERAL STANLEY—Governor of the Isle of Man.

ALBA BALDROMMA—A brutal farmer, stepfather of Bessie, and who tries to use her, for which he is held responsible, as a lever to advance his own fortune.

STOWELL was breathless.



Stowell was in torture. In spite of the Governor's warning an almost overpowering impulse came to him to confess

It had taken Joshua three days to see Deemster Taubman, and when at length he was admitted to the big man's presence he had found him in bed, with his shaggy head and unshaven face on the pillow and his lower extremities through the legs of a cane-bottomed chair which supported him bedclothes.

"What? What? that?" he had roared. "Sit at the General's feet? Go back to your master and tell him I'm lying here in the tortures of hell, damned, not able to put a foot to the ground."

Stowell drew a long breath. Fate had spoken its last word. It was now certain that he must sit on the case of Bessie Collister.

His spirits rose and he began to see things more clearly. Had he not exaggerated his own importance in this affair? He had been thinking of his part in the forthcoming trial as if the issue of Bessie's fate depended upon him. But not so, it depended upon the jury. Guilty or not guilty—he had nothing to do with that. Therefore, in the deeper sense, Bessie would not be tried by him at all. Why had he been frightening himself?

Had a Judge, then, no power, no voice, no influence? Thank God, yes! It was for the Judge to direct the jury on questions of law, to see that they had a right understanding of it and that their verdict corresponded with the evidence. What an important function—especially in a case like this! What a mercy old Taubman was unable to sit on it!

He thought again of Bessie's position. Pitiful, most pitiful! But the law was no Jurman's intended to crush the life out of a poor, unfortunate girl. Mercifully administered it was rather her sanctuary to which she might fly for refuge. And it should be mercifully administered.

Why not? Good heavens, why not? What wrong would it be to temper justice with mercy—even to strain the law a little in the prisoner's favor? No one but himself would know. And if it were suspected that he was showing favor to the prisoner, people would consider him deserving of praise rather than censure for trying to snatch a young and helpless creature from the clutches of a cruel old statesman.

Bessie, was it not one of the higher traditions of the bench that the Judge had first counsel for the accused? Judges had not always acted on that principle. Some of them, in times past, had hunted their wretched prisoners gallowards with gibes. Taubman was still like that. He thought sympathy with such women as Bessie Collister was sentimental weakness, that to deal mercifully with them was to encourage them, and thereby do a wrong to public morality.

"God bless me, yes! I know Taubman," he told himself. "I know Taubman. Then he thought of Gell. Whatever Bessie might be, Gell was innocent, and after the girl herself the greatest sufferer. Should he suffer further from an unfounded suspicion? God forbid! It would be his duty as Judge to see that no blustering person in court belovied accusations which, once out, might stick to an innocent man for the rest of his natural life."

After that he thought of himself. The only risk he ran was from Bessie's despair. If Gell were falsely accused she might break silence and tell the truth to save him. What a vista! Bessie, Gell, himself, Fenella! But no, that should not be! The law was no thumbr-screw; a law-court was no torture-chamber. It would be his duty as Judge to protect the girl against any form of legal provocation.

Last of all, with a thrill of the heart, he thought of Bessie. She had drawn him on, constrained and compelled him to promise to sit on Bessie's case.

But she had only wished, out of the greatness of her pity, to see that the poor girl should have a just trial. She should too! It would be his duty as Judge to see to that.

"Good Lord, yes! And what a mercy the case is not coming before Taubman."

Thus in the scorching fire of his temptation he tried to stand erect in the belief that he had sunk himself in his high office—that he was about to become the champion and first servant of justice. But well he knew in

number of advocates were coming in laughing by a door which communicated with their room of the ramparts.

The last of the advocates to enter was Allick Gell. He took a seat immediately in front of the empty dock, looking pale and worn and scarcely able to hold the papers which he carried in his nervous hands. A little later the Attorney General, who was to prosecute for the Crown, came in with a grave face, followed by old Hudgeon, his junior, with a sour one.

And shortly before 11 (the hour appointed for the beginning of the trial), a lady was brought by an inspector from the door to the Judge's room and seated beside Gell in front of the dock. It was Fenella.

Then the outer doors to the courtroom were thrown open and the public admitted. They rushed and tore their way into the courtroom, men and women together, talking and laughing loudly. The big clock in the castle tower was heard to strike, and the inspector, standing near the dais, cried in a loud voice:

"Silence in court!"

The babel of voices subsided and everybody rose who had been seated. Then the Court came in and took their seats on the bench, which was in the Governor in his soldier's uniform, and Stowell and the clerk of the rolls in their Judges' wigs and gowns.

It was remarked that the new

Deemster looked ill and almost old. A wave of sympathy went out to him from the first. It was whispered among the spectators that he had come straight from a sick bed, and that the Governor insisted on his presence, saying he must have him "dead or alive."

"Coroner, fence the court," said the Governor, and then old Stephen, who had already taken his place in the Coroner's box, raising the pitch of his voice, recited the ancient formula:

"I do hereby fence this court in the name of our Sovereign Lord the King. I charge that no person shall quarrel, brawl or molest the audience, that all persons shall answer to their names when called. I charge this audience to witness that this court is fenced; I charge this whole audience to witness that this court is fenced."

Everybody knew that it was for the Deemster to speak next, but for a sensible moment he did not do so. Then he said, almost beneath his breath:

"Let the prisoners be brought in."

To be continued tomorrow
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CHAPTER XXVIII
The Trial

For a good hour before the arrival of the Deemster, Castle Rushen had been full of activity. In the courtroom itself, warm with sunshine from the lantern light, Robbie Stephen, the chief coroner of the island, who looked like a shaggy old sheep dog, had been selecting candidates for the jury box. Seventy-two of them had been summoned, six from each of twelve parishes, and now he was reducing the number to thirty-two, twelve for the jury and twenty more to meet the contingency of arbitrary challenging.

Everybody claimed exemption, but the coroner listened to none. Standing back to the empty bench, swelling with importance and with his seventy-two men huddled together like sheep at one side of the chamber, he called them out at his discretion and with a wave of the hand passed them over to the other side to wait for the trial.

"Now, then, Willie Kinloch, jou're a good man; over with thee." "No, no, Mr. Stephen, you must excuse me today, sir." "Tut, tut! You Maughold men haven't served on a jury these seven years." "But I have fifty head of sheep going to Ramsey this morning, and what's to pay my half year's rent if I'm not there to sell them?" "Chut, man! Lave that to yourself. She's thy better half, isn't she?"

Meantime, in the chill corridors underground the jailer and his turnkey were rattling their keys, opening the doors of the cells and shouting to the prisoners to make ready for the court.

"Patrick Kelly! Charles Quiggin! Nancy Keegan! John Corlett! Caesar Crow! Robert Quine! Elizabeth Curteen!"

Hearing her name called, Bessie, having no fear, got up from her plank bed, and when Mrs. Myra, the woman warder, with her short, loud, difficult breathing, brought back her cloak and fur hat, she put them on leisurely.

"Quick, girl," said the warder. "You don't want to keep the Deemster waiting, do you?"

Bessie laughed, but made no answer. At the next moment she was in the darkness of the corridor, walking at the end of a short procession of other prisoners, and at the next she was drawn up, with her prison companions, into the blinding sunlight of a little paved quadrangle which was surrounded by high walls and had the sound of the sea coming down into it from the free world outside.

By this time the courthouse upstairs was in a state of yet greater activity. The thirty-two possible jurymen, having reconciled themselves to being "trapped," were standing under the jury box, talking of the weather which was bringing the crops on rapidly and would increase the price of early potatoes. Inspectors of police were bustling about, and a green portfolio was lying on a green portfolio with paper, pens and ink, on the bench in front of the Deemster's scarlet armchair, and a

Statistics Say Four to One Against You

Unless you take proper precautions, the odds are four to one that you will contract Pyorrhea before or after you pass the age of forty.

Something to think about, isn't it?

There are two things you can do: play the long shot and pay the probable penalty, or set about in a sensible manner to insure your teeth.

Pyorrhea has cost many an individual his teeth and health. It starts with tender, bleeding gums. That is the danger signal you should be quick to heed.

Ignore it and Pyorrhea does its deadly work in a hurry. The gums recede, the teeth loosen and drop out or must be pulled. Pus pockets form at the roots of the teeth and disease germs swarm throughout the system.

You must not let Pyorrhea gain headway in your mouth. At the first warning, see your dentist and start using Forhan's For the Gums at once.

Forhan's For the Gums is the formula of R. J. Forhan, D. D. S. If used consistently and used in time it will prevent Pyorrhea or check its course.

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Brush your teeth with Forhan's regularly. It is an excellent dentifrice and will keep your teeth and mouth in perfect health.

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