

The Gamekeeper's Valentine.

IN TWO INSTALMENTS.

Lord Oscar resisted no longer; he only said in a voice of deep feeling... 'O ton, this is very noble of you.' 'No such thing; it is only common humanity. Now if you feel well enough to be left here, I will go on to the Hall, and fetch assistance.'

rester? Do you love her well enough to make her your wife? 'I love her well enough, if that were all that were required; but you know very well, Orton that it would never do to make old Grey's granddaughter the mistress of Shirley Hall.'

There was a sheet of folded note paper on the table, apparently unwritten upon. He took it up, when, lo! a crisp bank note—a bank note for fifty pounds—fluttered on to the floor. John Orton started back as though a serpent had stung him; then almost before he realized what he was doing, he had glanced at the letter—for it was a letter—in which the note had been enclosed.

CHAPTER VII. LORD OSCAR AND FARMER GREY. Lord Oscar had passed a restless night. Pain was a new sensation to him, and his sprained ankle and wounded arm had brought him into a state of feverishness which the bent of his thoughts did not tend to suppress.

CHAPTER VIII. ST. VALENTINE'S DAY. St. Valentine's day dawned very brightly; the sky was blue and clear; the birds were singing merrily, almost deceived into the notion that spring had really come, and that it was therefore time for them to think about their own little love affairs.

CHAPTER IX. ERYSIPELAS. This dangerous Blood Disease always cured by Burdock Blood Bitters. Most people are aware how serious a disease Erysipelas is. Can't rout it out of the system with ordinary remedies.

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two without replying. Then he said, with sudden decision—'Show Farmer Grey up; I will see him.' The servant departed, wondering not a little, and Lord Oscar turned uneasily on his couch.

It was a relief to him when the farmer broke the silence, by saying—'A guilty conscience needs no accuser; my lord, so I suppose you can guess my errand here this morning?'

'What on earth is it?' 'Why my lord, my granddaughter is the daughter of a baronet—her father is Sir Alfred Forrester.'

And now I'll tell you something that I'm glad I didn't tell you till I'd seen for myself you weren't the man I thought you. It will surprise you not a little, and not a soul in this place knows it but Maude and myself.

At this moment the doctor was announced, and Farmer Grey took his departure, leaving his landlord to muse on the

'And who is he?' questioned the farmer, curiously. 'A young fellow who recently entered my service as under gamekeeper. His name is Orton.'

A sudden cloud, a shade of disappointment, of confusion even, rose to the farmer's brow but he made no comment. 'Yes, Grey; and I swore to him I would never go a step further in my folly, even should Miss Forrester accept my gift. Nay I had almost made up my mind to send for you, and tell you what a stupid fool I'd been, and to ask your pardon as well as Miss Forrester's. I suppose its hard for you to believe this; but I swear it's true by everything a man can hold good and holy.'

'And forgive me—say that, too, farmer,' urged the young man. 'Ay, and forgive you.'

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