

Things went on in the house as usual; there was no upsetting, and no one seemed to thrust before Mrs. Devon and Margaret any disagreeable financial matters. They did not think it all remarkable; the proper course for a bankrupt's wife and daughter was quite unknown to them, and they had yet to learn the etiquette of insolvency. It was not until long afterwards they understood that the important factor in smoothing out the rough road for them was the ever-present and ever-thoughtful Dr. Edward Daniels.

The meaning of Philip's remaining away began to dawn upon her when Mr. Devon's assured recovery gave Margaret a chance to think about it; then it was pride and not grief that made the truth sting, for those words came back to her, 'I wonder if he will be all devotion now!' Any feeling she ever had for him was indeed obliterated. Perhaps it had been nothing deeper than fascination, she admitted to herself, and her attitude toward Ned Daniels she refused to define. Finally, Barnes loomed upon the Devon horizon—by letter.

'Dear Miss Devon,' he wrote formally, 'I extend you my sympathy in your trouble, and am glad to hear that your father is recovering, due, no doubt, to the devoted attention of his medical adviser, Dr. Daniels. I have remained away, knowing how occupied you must be. You will, I think, agree with me that, owing to the present complex circumstances, our proposed marriage would better be indefinitely postponed.'

'Thank God,' was Margaret's comment, 'for delivering me from a coward.' And she sent an immediate answer to Philip Barnes, apprising him of her great relief at being so delivered, and giving it as her opinion that the fortunate awakening was probably the result of the never-ceasing prayers of her 'fanatic' friend, Sister Rose Mary.

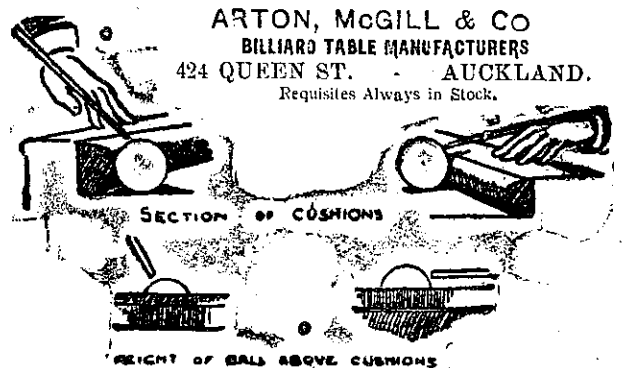
That dismal and seemingly interminable winter had at last passed, and spring saw the Devons fairly well settled in more modest apartments, Mr. Devon having been able to resume a little of his business.

'There really is no excuse for my calling any longer—professionally,' remarked Dr. Daniels to Margaret one sunny April morning.

She gazed out of the window at the newly budded trees to avoid his searching glance. 'But I'd like to drop in once in a while still, if you don't mind. You sent for me, you know, and, of course, I have not forgotten what you agreed that should mean. But I do not wish to take advantage of your doing such a thing simply because of the bewilderment of the moment.'

'It took just such a moment,' she replied slowly, turning full upon him her thoughtful face, which suffering had made much older, 'to flash a much-needed light upon my dull understanding. I do not know why I did it; I was engaged to Philip Barnes at the time. But when my moment of great need came I forgot his existence; it was you I felt the need of, and you I sent for.'

'And you can never know, Margaret, the joy your message brought me or how glad I was to come. For years I waited and prayed for it; I knew the call must come some day. Let's take a tramp through the hills this afternoon, it is so bright and warm. I want to tell you again some things you have forgotten; I want to remind you of the ambitions you inspired and show you how some of them have been attained. I want to plan again with you our beautiful life-dream, the golden dream that only you can make come true.—*Messenger of the Sacred Heart.*



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