A STRATAGEM-

BY EMILY BEAD,

"My friend, I have a favor to ask." "I suppose it would be only polite request you may make. But is fended. politeness always the truth or a

"I am in a difficulty. It may be a out of it; and you can help me i you only will.

I was not enthusiastic : for I had which, if a true one, I did not see must say it is an immense one." that I could be of use to him. So 1 sald: "I make no promise: but if I play. It may amuse you to look on." can belo you, I will,"

"At any rate I am not surprised. You remember, when you married. I remonstrated. A French girl's ide is of matrimony are so different from ours."

"Yes, I know," interrupted Hugh. bands after they are married."

"If they are fortunate, they do." "It is not altogether a bad idea." Hugh went on to say. "And really it is charming to court your own of," I began, wife. Far better than to yawn in Then one has so much in one's else can help me." favor: oppotanity, propinquity, and- But I did not come to bore you with a discourse on French my own venture."

culty," I said drily.

refusal. To refuse to do a kindness is a pain to you."

nees of beart.'

"I may at least state my case." "Certainly," for I was really curis with the dinner than to eat it.

ous to hear it.

You know that the child is not a fine society dame. I would have twenty, and I am more than double turned to scarte myself under the behaved admirably, placed her little movement of her thumb sent mameher age."

be idle makes me pervous, and sotherefore mattentive."

before he said:

for I acknowledge that there is a were well studied beforehand, they cloud between us, as yet no bigger seemed delightfully unpremediated, than a man's band; but one that The most apt at repartee was a certhreatens to overwhelm us."

ting, "I am not treating you well : next neighbor remarked to me; and for I am fercing you to say what also that he was equally brilliant must be unpleasant to you. I know in conversation and at ecarte. perfectly well that in the goodness of your heart you married a girl with whom you had not spoken a dozen words, but whose father was by gambling. What I censure you for is that you did not take better the table where M. de Latour was when Madam de Lisle binted to me last night that Germaine is-"

There was a look of such keen pair on my friend's face that I did trembled; her eyes gleamed with not end my sentance; but took up excitement. I did not see M. de my knitting again.

taught Germaine to avoid is eards, to the card he was about to play. knowing as you did that all the men in her family were gamblers," I said presently.

"But I never thought of a girl's inheriting such a taint; and one can go nowhere in Paris, in these days, where they do not play."

"The women play more recklessly best plan would have been to take

your bride home to live."

witchel by the fearful demon, wait until day dawned. She must for my fully you might live where escape.

"And it is!"

"A secret as yet."

Germaine to Madame Tesse's."

"Yet you will go. You need not

being amused." "Yet you will go?"

"I bave not the least influence over Germaine," I said, disliking to refuse; but not more so than to promise to do as he wished.

"But I do not wish you to influ-"They fall in love with their hus- ence, All I ask is that you will go with Germaine to Madam Tesse's

"You forget that by doing so I countenance a thing I disapprove

"I torget nothing but that you each other's face, and to spy out have always been kind; that I am the flaws in each other's disposition, in great trouble; and that no one

After that, how could I help saying I would do as he wished?

The evening we were to go to marriages. I by no means regret Madame Tesse's I dired at Hngh's. "Yet you come for help in a diffi- thought I detected an air of weari- ought to be lenient. But I did not looked after. Old Dinah held her ness and ennui. The dinner was feel inclined to forgive myself for house-keeping in contempt, and Who was M. de Leton? "Precisely; and knowing your made perfect in its way and Hugh the part I had placed; so I was thought her ometats and pot-ongoodness of heart I do not fear a was in excelled spirits-showing a more sympathetic than I might ten a poor substitute for fried dozen little quiet attentions to his wife that would have done credit to "One I can very well bead; so do a lover. But she seemed more like not count too much upon my good- a guest than mistress of her own house; and it was plainly to be seen that she had nothing more to do

No wonder the child was bored-Germaine; but much has been small means; and, like Cinderella of circumstances.

Again I assend; and finding that Hugh was not going with us. He his best to reassure her. So, between ing over each other in the howlon was this M. de Latour? asked Gerthere is a long story, I take up my had a business engagement, he said. us both, with a good measure of her lap. Hugh joined us, having maine. Germaine offered to stay at home; "It helps me to listen," I said; "to but he would not hear of her doing

tain M. de Latour. He had been "Hugh," I said dropping my knit- absent from Paris a long time, my

It was eleven o'clock when, as if by some magnetic attraction, the guests moved to the card-table. To my surprise Germaine refused to liness, since he had ruined himself play; and, it was equally to my surprise, no one urged her. Presently she left her seat by me, and went to society; and I was not surprised playing. In a few minutes she was evidently interested in the game. A bright pink spot glowed at both ber cheeks: the hand that rested on the back of M. de Latour's chair Latour speak to her; though more "The one thing you should have than once he attacked her attention

So the evening wore on. The chimed out one. I grew tired, and mote, for it is in the mountains of "Ab," she said, "is it not horrible?" Benj. Morris, Atlanta, Ga., writes: 1 "Jist as I told 'em but they meetic,' but she was ready with was crossing the room to find Germaine and propose going home, when I saw her take a seat just vacated. and began playing with M. de Latour. I forgot my weariness, and ury nor Paris." than the men." I said, drily. "Your watched ber with interest. The mine, her eyes fairly blazed, and happier than when I had to gather were clasped on Hugh's broad ulcer and sore and cured me completely reached out his big, rough hand. "Lock the stable after the horse she played with haste, and I, im- the fruit, feed the poultry, and make shoulder. is stolen. I could have managed agined recklessly. Certainly a the omlet for dinner. No, I will not 'And you never regret Paris, my far better, I admit. But unluckily demon possessed her. There was repine, unless it be when I think child? he asked, I thought, with I Now is the time to take your Next forence I went over to the

chance; and I see but one way of have lost frightfully; but it was the you pleased."

"I beg your pardon, I die not and I frankly told Hugh that I con- ginia plantation. T suppose it would be only poste to be going parton, I and the suppose it would be only poste to say that I feel honored by any mean to be inquisitive," I sid, of sidered it wicked to do so. But he beat a state of what might "Please put down your knitting was about; that he was wiser than have always considered him a little detained me as much by a look as district school had been opened and listen. I have an idea that I I; that I at last relented, though near, as the Scotch say, though he by the grasp on my dress. "Spare me a lecture in ethics," can lay this ugly devil; but I must with by no means an easy con- spent his money as a gentleman Hugh said with an impatient shrug. do it in my own way, through what science. I was glad that the third should, and now he was parting tich once more; that is, if I had the of the old people were distrustful reader. The teacher was frhigt. I know to be Germain's strongest evening ended the visits. Every with more than half his tortune money I paid M. de Latour, would of results, and one old woman came life long trouble. I see but one way feeling: her gratitude. The favor I evening Germaine had played with without even making a way face. wish you to do me is to go with M. de Latour, and lost heavily. The We are of very small importance "Where the women play until left Madame Tesses; and I had make were scarcely intend in heard a whisper of this trouble, day-light? If that is the favor, I scarcely fallen asteep when my Paris, when like the Arabs the spairing note begging me to come part I had played in the little "Certainly, I should not play; and to her at once. Hugh was away, and drama; and I teld Hugh so when I "Perhaps you guess that my wife I am, as you infer, too old to be she must see me before he returned. bade him good-bye. "Come and see has something to do with my diffi- gossiped about. Yet I don't my Jeanne made me a cup of coffee us next summer, and see for yours regained it?" carriage waiting for me.

It was very much what I ex- But it was many summers before pected. M. de Latour had a sudden I returned home call upon ham for money, and he But the amount was anything but postscript reminding me of my Before you went abroad; per to keep postoffice and store. If the chairman as he rose up. It than charming; for in three nights Ger- promise. maine had lost no less than three hundred thousand francs. She had not brought Hugh a dot, as do most French girls; and though he was a well off man, he was by no means a too was as busy as a country house well off man, he was by no means a too was as busy as a country house miliionaire.

Germaine looked pretty; but I he was rather heavily punished, he chickens or swarm of bees to be have been under other circums stances.

I was as much startled as Gers omy. was explained at last.

It was my first visit to Madame very coolly, when one considered was equally indifferent, though she not have come here, might never sy?" But I had broken the thread of Tesse's salon, and I confess my im- the amount. But he might have res had a letter from Paris, which she have truly known each other h's story, and it was a moment pressions were far from disagreeable. flected that his own methods had declared she had no time to road. might-" There was no crowd: every one was brought much of the trouble on In fact, after she had persuaded. But I found there was no longar looks, and want broadcloth and four of them knew that the world stead of encouraging it.

> "What will you do?" I asked. "There is nothing to do but to

pay the money."

"I am not sure that I would. It looks very much like a swindle. It is a large sum to loose in three nights. It sounds to my ear much more like a story from the Arabian Nights than an event in this century. Besides, Germaine must have been ignorant of the sams she was losing, and M. de Latour must have taken advantage of her simplicity."

"There is no proof that he won of bad luck and large losses. unfairly. But of course I will make due inquiries. For the rest," he wife's debts are my own."

one, and I fear you will find it re- burning up into her cheeks. maine was concerned)-"There we me !"

my poor Germaine is alread bee no tearing her away; and I had to that I am your jailor, and that but foolish anxiety.

game, not gain, that possessed her. I left them quite reconsided to I absolutely refused to go with their altered fortune; and I greatly Germaine to Madame Tesse's again; a proved of the journey to the Vir- swered with a smile.

third time the sun was up when we in the big world. Hugh and Ger maid woke me with a message from folded their tents and silently stole Germaine Rather, it was a de- away. I never felt easy as to the one wish for ?" whilst I dressed; and I found the self whether you have done us an injury," he said, cheerfully

had presented his little account in friend to claim a visit from me, Gers the shape of a most charming note. maine adding a charming little con remember anything.

I do not intend to describe keeper, five miles from a store, and The position was a trying one; with servants who scourted her but I could see nothing to be done methods, was bound to be. Her but for Germaine to confess every- thrifty French ways left her no time thing to Hugh. I telt he had been to feel bored; and I noticed the much to blame in allowing her to pink color and bright eyes whengo to Madame Tesse's; and though ever there was a new brood of chicken on bachelors; for Dinah

maine when we heard Hugh running It was a lovely morning, and one's bosom does not know one. "It is, as you suggested, about Brought up in the country on very before Hugh knew what she was shade tree, because I fancied the so much equitimity. comfortably on the sofa, and did the small, green peas merrily roll- But I do not comprehend: who don't even up! his own wit, the position of things ridden five miles for the mail; one Dearest, you will forgive the deattention quite thrown away upon ception for I did all for your sake. If dren aux, majam L thought Hugh took the loss me, since I had no letters. Germaine I had not won the money we would

baps the old life in Paris was too re- fortune at ecarte. mote. But a few lines written across SEVERE CASES OF BLOOD POISON. the face of it at last arrested our attention. Madame Tesse had the would be cared if they gave B. B. C. (Bodead at the ecarie table; her death, wonderful cures, that convince the most word, and then quietly asked; the effect, it was believed, of a run skeptical. It is sent free,

I confess the account brought Germaine's sobs became more venient buffet. Germaine with her me a well and hearty person. vehement, and Hugh was alarmed. brilliant eyes and the two red spots. Z. T. Hallerton, Macon Ga., writes: "I "Calm yourself, my child," he said on her cheeks, and M. de Latour contracted blood poison. I first tried phy- ever made." with kindness. "We are not alto- playing so successfully, yet so calm. scians, and then went to Hot Springs. 1 gether ruined; there is enough left ly. I wondered if Germaine also Nathing seemed to do me any good. My to maintain us. Listen, Germaine. I remembered, and, glancing at her, mother persuaded me to try B. B. B. To

'Regret 7 Ah, no : I was never so trair bappy as ma? 'In spite of poverty ?'

"We are not suffering," she an-

The pan was growing warm, and

you wish to go back to Paris?

'Not if I could afford to?' 'Not f you could buy all France. But why?

'Never,' she said.

'I am happy here; what more can

But I have the money." 'Yes?' indifferently.

'Do you not wish to know how I

said, with decision. But I do, I said.

When I did, Hugh was the first did you first know M. de Latour ? grizzly old mountaineer replied:

haps when you were still in petti- postmaster d du't hev eddicashun is any critter yere as kin dodge coats. I thought as much; or at how'd he know when a letter cum them ere remarks let him step Hugh's home, lovely as it was. I least I have had my doubts, par- for you? How'd the storekeeper found the boose small, but com- ticularly when I recalled bow ex- figger up." fortable, and Hugh an authority as cellent you used to be at a masquer- "Oh, a sprinklin' might be eddi- the o'd woman who had been so

is an immense fraud, I bear.

But we do not always know him: bailed to recognize him.

Your humble servant, a pair of tucky." speciacles a little rotundity, a wig

up stairs, as a boy might do. I can- Germaine brought the basket of Do not be so sure of your friend's hev it or we can't do business. If and know sunth n' I might be worth not do justice to the scene. It was peas she had just gathered, and blindness. At least I had a suspice I'd a had eddicashun when I cut the price of a mewl's hide, which so dramatic, so intensely French, at joined me as I sat on the bench ion. I never could understand how them ar seven cords of wood for you know I baint. Eddicast un

"You believe that I have made cheerful; and the conversation was him, and that he should have in Hugh to read it aloud, she inter- a grasp on my dress; so I went to silks?" Germaine happy; at least until now general. If the witty things said terdicted Madame Tesse's salon in rupted him every few minutes in find Dinam, and deliver to her the her endeavors to frighten away the bowl of peas. Lovers whether mar "Well, I dunno -- I dunno. Seems twenty and the remainder had alventuresome chickens, who were tied or single are odd! Pot! One to me like flyin' in the face of most learned what an island was. curious as to the contents of the would fancy to hear Hugh, that he Providence, but maybe it will com bowl, evidently expecting some, was excusing himself to Germaine out all right. I wash my hands man suggested that I ask the teachthing more to their taste than pear, for saving ber from such an awfin of it, anyhow. It hadness came of er a few questions. I realized the I don't think there was anything fate as Poor Madame Tesse's and it nobody must blame me. You all situation and determined to go light to interest us to the letter; or per, for not permitting her to lose a remember that I was ag n it.

> night before died very suddenly of tanic Blood Balm) a trial. Send to the hamlet he filled his pipe, sat down, appoplexy. In fact, she had dropped Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Gu., for book of smoked for five minutes, without a

J. O Gibson, Meridian, Miss., writes: For a number of years I suffered untold agonies from blood poison. Several promvividly before me the three tights | joint physicians did me little if any good. added, with the air of a hero, "my I had spent at her salon. The lights. I began to use B. B. B. with very little the people, the supper on the con- lofth, but, to my utter surprise it has made

returned home a ruined man physically. have an estate, not a very large I saw the two spots of carmine my utter astonishment every ulcer quickly has a chance in this world unless her to swallow and that

Virginia"-(He might as well have To die at a card table. And 1, mon suffered years from syphilitic blood poison wouldn't listen. Will you come to both heels at the word- Lordy, which refused to be cured by all treatment, the school house tomorres? said Kamtschatka, as far as Ger- ami, from what have you not saved Physicians pronounced it a hopeless case. I had so appetite, I had pains in hips and can have comfort, but neither lux- Dinah would have had cause of joints and my kidneys were diseased. My annoyance if I had not rescued the thront was ulcerated and my breast a mass "Ab, but I detest Paris, and bowl of peas from the expectant of running sores. In this condition I compink in her cheeks flamed into car, adore the country. I was never chickens, for both Germaine's hands menced a use of B. B. It healed every

county \$1.50.paper, the COURIE.

GOIN TO SKULE.

BY M. QUAD.

One evening, as I arrived at one of I'e mountain hamlets, I found the was so sure that he knew what he quiet way he took the loss; for I rose to take them to her. But Hugh he called "proud excitement." A that day, and roll-call had shown 'Germaine!' he asked, 'it we were thirteen children present. A few very near sticking her souff stick tack, but my friend of the night into my eye as she flourished it around and said:

"I never did snuggle to this skule bizness, nohow, I can't read nor write, but if that' is any woman in make fur the woods, fur we is on this county who is a better woman your side. This ere gent is all the than me let her step out! I kin shoot a gun, bandle a hoe or an ax. make the best soft soap, cure a bile, actually been to school hisself! He's cook a chicken or skin a b'ar, and goin' fur to say right out what he 'No I care nothing about it,' she I d like to know what else a human temale ar' expected to do.

This speech floored the meeting Hugh, tell me bonestly, where for a lew minutes, but at length a

I have known him ever since I "But we've got to have eddica, an educated man. shun, Sallie It takes eddicashun

Look at Long Davis. If he haln't (confess) it.

"What d've think, stranger?" asked one of the women of me. "Education won't hart your chil- right smart!"

"I don't think so."

"They shouldn't."

After supper, the man who had been responsible for all the excitement asked me to take a walk with him. When we were half a mile from the

"Hev you ever bin to skule?" "Yes."

"Hart ye any?" "No." "Do ye good?

"Yes. "Will it hurt any of us?"

"No. It is the best move you

"Honest Injun!"

he has education."

"Yes."

opinion?" "No." "Put it thar!" he said as he

time, but they was all agin me."

schoolhouse. It was a little room paper by advertising more liberally.

in the rear of a building which answered for a blacksmith and wagon and cooper shop. Everybody else also went and when we all got in there was no room for anybody to sit down. The teacher was a young woman who had never attended anything higher than a district school, and the outfit consisted of a black board, one spelling book one old geography and a third ened half to death by the sudden atbefore sought to calm her lears by

explaining: "Den't you go for to faint away or jump through the winder and way from Mitchigan and not only souggles to eddicashun, but he is believes.

I was called apon for some remarks during which I asked bow Grover Cleveland could have been elected President had be not been

"That ere settles it!" said the

"I confess I was opposin'," said cated," she graciously admitted- obstinate the evening before, "but My dear Germaine, your husband "them as ain't of no earthly good I hain't gwine to oppose no mo'. I fur other work, but this eddicating never thought of Gov'ners and How can you say such things, every body is dangerous. Sam't and Presidents and sich. If our son when you know he is the very soul I do believe it's agin the Lord's Bill at gwine to be President he's wishes. Eddicashun makes rascals. got to hev eddicashun and I difess

at least there was a time when we been eddicat d would be heve sot. This settled the question that the fire to that sawmil-? Look at Mor- school was a good thing and should Now that is what calls nonsense, gan's gal, Jenny: It she hadn't stay but their was one more speech Hugh, confess, I said severely, been eddicated would she her run to come yet. A venerable old man off with that ar chap from Ken- who leaned beavily on a love made cane, slowly arose and said:

and cosmetice, and lo! not only the ole woman says," added one of and wildcats and I've lived heath had a negro's contemp for econ- ones best friend, but the wife of the men, "but I go in for eddica- en like all my days. If I had sean-mo' or less. We've got to hey growed up to read and wri least on Germaine's part. For Hugh had placed under the great you could lose so much money with Dod Havens at sixty cents a cord beats shot guns and b'ar traps all I wouldn't have been fuled into tak- holler. It beats makin' moonshine about, she had thrown herself on view from that point. I sat idiv. I on the contrary suffered horris in a gallon o' lasses and a half a whiskey. It beats plug terbacker caused by my own carelessness, old, suddenly metamorphosed into her knees, and was sobbing out a watching Germaine as she adroitly bly. It was an awful risk; but I pound of tea and wipin' out my and laziness. I've dun goue and most bewildering confession. Hugh opened the crisp hulls, and with a sair no other way to rescae Gera claims. Consarn his old pictur', made up my mind that we've got to but I'll keep a mewl fur him if he hev skules and gin our boys a chance, and if thar's any critter vere who wants to live on like a cannibal he'd better git outen yere

> It was all settled and as school · Wen't it make 'em lazy or sas- had been going a week, the people wanted the children examined to see if they had "soaked in" any "Won't they try to boss the old knowledge. A trial proved that was round, five could name the two great oceans three could count up to After we were through the chair-

asking: How is the earth divided? Into land and water.

Add twenty and ten.

Thirty, I reckou. Name three or four rivers.

The Mississippi, Obio. Tennesse and Amazon. Name the continents,

France. I left her off on that, and after we had adjourned to the store the chairman reached out his hand and

Europe, Asia, Germany and

Put it thar', mister! You'un is eddicated, and no mistake! Didn't that at' gal jist rattle off them an-"Yes, keep that school going if swers though? I reckoned them you have to live on roots. No man big rivers would be too much for she'd go kerflunk right afore the stranger, but what a strain on man's mind! I'm for eddicashuu "An ye won't go back on yer clear around the cornfield but bow a fe:ler who knows a heap must suffer to carry it around with him!

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