And the property of the second second second

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Massey St. Quintin, a wealthy young Englishman, sees a beautiful young woman named Miss Densley at Cowes, and, by a Englishman, sees a beautiful young woman named Miss Densiey at Cowes, and, by a carefully designed accident, manages to meet her. He finds that she lives with her uncle and aunt, M. and Mme. Leblanc, who are just then in France, and gets an invitation to their house, near London.

In splite of the objections of his friend, James Ince, a lawyer, in whom he confides, and who declares the girl is an adventuress, St Quintin visits her and finds her relatives are charming people. But just as he leaves the house he hears a muffled cry of "Murder!" and returns.

M. Leblanc convinces him that there is no one in the room whence the sound seemed to proceed, but later he learns that a London solicitor has mysteriously disappeared, heing last seen in the neighborhood of the Frenchman's home.

St. Quintin, however, decides to follow up the mystery, but the pursuit is pleasantly interrupted by an unexpected opportunity to more last the promptily seizes. He learns hat the first giff regards him more nighly than any of her suitors, but she jisn't ready to blind herseld stull permit it. The young man, how-

to purchase a fitting gift for the woman of his heart.

Then St. Quintin takes Ince to the Leblance', and, in spite of the opposition of his host, obtains a promise of marriage from Miss Densley, Ince can find no tault with the people, but on leaving learns that one of their footmen is an ex-convict. The fellow is forced to admit that the Leblance are "crooked." but St. Quintin remains loyal to Miss Densley. Several days afterward they go to the Leblanc home, and Irce makes a discovery that completely unnerves him while scouting around the house. The two men are afterward received by M. Leblanc, but see nothing suspicious. On leaving, however, Ince tells his friend in the countries of the secretal he saw a dead man's hand in On leaving, however, Ince tells his frier he is certain he saw a dead man's hand a laboratory which M. Leblanc had flitt up, ostensibly for scientific experimenta-

(CONTINUED FROM LAST

CHAPTER XV



after James Ince had told his ghaststory, both he St. Quintin main tained a dead silence. Then the man younger

"You're not sure of this?" "Well, imagina tion does play tricks with one, but I could have sworn it-almost." "Then you think-"

"I only wonder. Remember what you heard yourself. It's not more than a week ago. The man has disappeared-Burdock, I mean. And you heard cries of 'Help' and 'Murder.' Putting two and two together, and recollecting that borrible, polluted atmosphere that was distinct and all-pervading, even with the windows wide open, one asks one's self whether this Leblanc is not merely what we know him to be-an schemer, bent on getting all that he can out of everybody-but one of the vilest criminals of the century." St. Quintin shuddered.

"One wouldn't like to think that!" "Of course not. I myself shrink from the thought, try to tell myself that I only imagined and did not see. And it's true that the very chest which I saw this moment empty was the one in which I saw, or thought I saw, human fingers—pale fingers, deathly fingers."
St. Quintin stared at him,

"The question is: did Leblanc see you looking in at the window?" "He may have done. That's one says that he must have done. But I was not conscious of it." They walked on a little way in si-

lence Then James Ince stopped short. "Look here," he said, "we have something to do. We must wait for this Darnall and compare notes with him."
"Wait for him!" echoed St. Quintin, in a threatening tone. "I don't want to speak to the fellow! A bounder like

"Come, you mustn't take that tone until you know something about the cir-cumstances. Probably he's been fleeced, like you and the rest."
"How have I been fleeced?"

"Well, not extensively as yet, but, de-pend upon it, old Leblanc is only waiting for an opportunity of putting the

"I don't think you ought to take so much for granted," protested St. Quin-tin uneasily. "You see, we may be doing him an injustice all the time. As for what I fancled I heard and you fancied you saw, we both have to own we couldn't swear to it. And as for this Darnall paying her attention, and the rest of them-well. Leblanc has never made any secret of the fact that there are lots of men after her, has he? And he's almost as open about his intention of handing her over to the man who shows himself the most likely to be a generous husband."

"Or nephew," suggested Ince. But St. Quintin was determined to look on the bright side of things, and to shut his eyes, if he could, to the possi bility that he might be called upon to look upon Miss Densley's relations as rogues and swindlers.

We shall only get snubbed by this fellow if we attempt to waylay him,"

"You leave it to me, and I think we can avoid that. But mind, you mustn't be impatient until you have found out on what terms he stands, or supposes himself to stand, with the people. To my mind, the most probable thing is that he has been encouraged and led on, just as you have been—"

"Not by Miss Densley," said St. Quintin, fiercely. with half an eye that he was boring her able old uncle keeps a dozen men on the hooks, dangling about her and hoping that the prize will fall into their mouth

Ince hesitated. No doubt she likes a good-looking fellow like you better than others like Marbeau and this Darnall, for instance. But if I were you I shouldn't

take anything on trust" were so quiet and impressive that he decided to hear all that there was to be "I'll take her on trust But as for you may find out what you like make to me is to increase my anxiety They had stopped and turned back.

"What is the name of your friend?" Of course, he knew very well, having been introduced to St. Quintin by the

a mart motor car dreve up to the

gates, and the chauffeur, who was the

sole occupant, turned into the drive

and drew up to the side door of the

The two young men took this for

conclusive evidence that it was Can-

tain Darnall's car, and that it was

waiting for its owner. Their task

of stopping him became more difficult,

but James Ince was determined and

would not despair. Taking their

stand "like a couple of detectives."

as St. Quintin said uneasily, within

a few yards of the gate, but out of

"Oh, certainly, what do you want?"

"We want to know whether you are

Captain Darnall leaped out of his car

and confronted Ince with a stare of amazement, perplexity and indignation. Ince stood his ground and gave him

ook for look.
"Eh! What the devil are you talking"

about?" he said, after a moment's silent contemplation of his interlocutor.

"My friend has been provisionally accepted by the Leblancs and by Miss

Densley as her future husband, and it occurred to us to wonder whether you

had not been accepted on the same terms," said Ince, quietly. St. Quintin, who had heard the last

Captain Darnall changed color a little

James Ince, who dreaded any sort of

encounter between these two, interposed his person between his friend and the

indignant Captain Darnall, just as St. Quintin was about to make an injudi-

"You can see," he said, "that we have

well as ourselves, in telling you at once

what his position is, so that you can compare notes with us. These people

the sultors for their niece and we thought it fairer to you to let you know

our experience, hoping that you will in return tell us yours."

not look very intelligent, and was in

clined to put on lofty airs of superiority,

the tone and manner of James Ince

said. He, therefore, after a short pause

Now, although Captain Darnall did

em to have eccentric ways of treating

the best thing we could for you as

few words, now came forward.

one of the men whom Monsieur Leblanc

is marrying to his nrece."

house.

for long.

addressed.

at the wheel.

and were strolling in a leisurely way Leblanca. However, James Ince, keep- No, I can trust my own wits within sight of the garden gates of ing a steadying hand upon his friend's Briar Lodge. They waited and arm, gave him again the information he of my security and made sure of the watched a long time, and began to professed to have forgotten, and St. lady without any assistance. If you've Darnell might have Ou been invited to stay to dinner, when stiffly in return for the ackn bend of the captain's head. "Well, Mr. St. Quintin," drawled

at last, when he had taken a careful survey of the man who was now presented to him in the character of a rival, "and what have you to say?" The young man found it difficult to control his anger at the quiet insolence

of this question. However, under Ince's warning eye, he answered: "I have only to say that I am engaged to marry Miss Densley; that she ac-

cepted me on Monday." "The devil she did!" "And that, although Monsieur Leblanc, who calls himself her uncle, professed to have to wait for confirmation

sight of the house, they waited, not In about ten minutes the car came of our engagement until I could be seen and approved by his co-guardian, slowly out, with the captain himself Mr. Williams, Leblanc said that I was James Ince stepped forward the mothe man he should choose for his niece. "The devil he did!" ment the car had turned into the Captain Darnall's face had lost its straight, and, raising his hat, said:

look of amazed insolence, and now wore "Captain Darnall, may we speak to a look of perplexity which was not unyou a moment?" The captain stared at him through the mixed with incredulity. He and James Ince regarded each othgoggles he was wearing, and evidently er steadily, and the captain spoke with recognizing him without enthusiasm, said in an off-hand tone: more civility than before.

"You think the old fellow is playing a double game then? What can be his James Ince came nearer and spoke lower, so that his words only reached object, though?" the ear of the man to whom they were

"Well, he's already succeeded in getting a man named Marbeau to give a handsome diamond bracelet, not to the lady herself, but to him to give-or not to her. And my friend St. Quintin has given her a present handson

St. Quintin moved restlessly. He hated be hear the girl herself dragged into "It was not her fault. She didn't talk about presents. It was Leblane who suggested it," said he.
"Have you, may I ask, given her presents, too?"
"The sentation besitated. But he was

The captain hesitated. But he was evidently so far convinced of the credi-bility of the two men that he presently said, with a show of irritability:
"I've lent the old chap £5000 to pay off a mortgage on the property of Pens-ley Wold." James Ince and St. Quincin both started. He hurried on with an

air of great cunning. "But I can tell you I took folly good care to see first the property in question,"
"You saw it!" echoed both the young men, who had begun by this time to doubt the existence of the estate in Lin-

Captain Darnall nodded shrewdly. "Rather! I went down there and had good look round, and then I insisted on seeing this Williams, the trustee. Oh, I don't let myself be had on toast, I can tell you, as you fellows seem

"He was. But I had him sent for before I'd advance a cent," replied Captain.
Darnall, with a proud chuckle. "I saw
him, I questioned him, turned him inside
out, in fact, after I'd seen the property,
and before I'd hand over the money."
"This was a collector of the property asked

"Not such a fool," replied the cap-tain. "He might have worked in with the other side. Those fellows often do.

"I think Marie Densley is worth any sacrifice." than any one else's, and I made sure ntin, who looked very angry, bowed allowed old Leblanc to let you in, why I'm sorry for you, you know, but you have only yourself to thank for it. You should have done as I did, and not let yourself be caught without something definite as a quid pro quo.'

"I never proposed to bargain for a wife when I wanted one!" said St. Quintin, coldiy. "Instead of trying to find out whether Miss Densley's property was real or not, I've been thinking how best to act so as to free her from the degrading necessity of being hawked about by these people and offered, without her consent or even knowledge, to the highest bidder."

This speech, which he delivered with all the fire and passion which had been smouldering within him from the first moment of their meet-ing Captain Darnail, struck both his hearers into astonishment and a sort of consternation. The captain could not help seeing that he had a real live rival in the quiet-mannered young man with the almost boyish face and figure. While James Ince, though he admired his friend's spirit, regretted the friction which must result from his flery speech between two men whom he would have liked to see acting together for their common good and the exposure of the Frenchman, whom he believed to be no better than an arch-swindler, if not a dangerous and treacherous

criminal of a worse sort. There was a short, embarra pause, and then Captain Darrell said, with some show of impatience:
"If you have reason to think you've been had, why don't you withdraw and have done with them? I don't say Leblanc is anything but an artful country of the said your." customer; so, if you don't feel your-self to be artful enough to deal with him, I should advise you not to turn up at Brier Lodge again."

With that he turned sharply, went back to his car, got in and drove off at a furious pace, leaving the two young men to go to the station with a very uneasy feeling in their minds. It was not till they had reached St. Quintia's rooms that the all-absorbing topic of Briar Lodge and its mysteries was broached again. Then James Ince, when they had both been smoking silently for some time, said in a persuasive tone:
"I say, old chap, do you think it's
worth it?"

when."
"Well, I know you accepted me. But
your uncle quibbled and wabbled so
much, and Captain Darnall was so certain that he was the man whom your
people had chosen for you, that I began
to think-well, all sort of things that I
hone aren't true." Worth what?" asked St. Quintin, fiercely, though he understood the other very well.
"Well, do you think, 'I I must say it boldly, that any girl in the world is worth the awful risks you're run-

to think—well all sort of things that I hope aren't true."

Miss Densley, who looked vears older than she had looked before, as it, indeed, she had been very much worried and distressed since he had seen her last, looked up earnestly into his face.

"I can't help what he thinks," she said, "and you ought not to believe any one's word against mine it you really love me as much as you say you do. But I know who it is that has prejudiced you. I know you would never believe hard things of any one of your own acning in dealing with a man like Le-blanc, whom you must know to be a consummate rogue."
St. Quintin did not fly into a passion as his friend expected. He did some-thing more hopelessly convincing still. Rising to his feet, and leaning over the table toward his friend, he aid in a low, steady voice:
"I think Marie Densley is worth any acristee, any risk; and I'm not going and things of any one of your own ac-cord. It's that Mr. Inca! He hates my uncle and aunt and if he doesn't ex-actly hate me, I am and sure he'd be o stick at anything in my determina-

nes Ince said nothing to this; in-

Quintin, embarrassed, did not know what to answer. Marie laughed a little, ever so gently.

"Ah-ha!" she cried. "you can't deny that, can you? And now listen to me. When you were gone the other day, HE worst of it was that St. Quin and Captain Darnall, too, I speke to tin, with all the goodwill in the my uncle-told him I couldn't treat world, was utterly ignorant how you again as I had done that day, to set about fulfilling his heart's letting you think I cared more for that horrid man than I did for you, Knowing, as he did, that Miss He had made me promise to be civil was entirely under the influence eblancs, who might or might to the captain, and that meant that I had to listen to his silly talk, and enrelations, tit whom she certainly looked upon not only in that dure being looked at in a way I didn't like, while all the time you character, but as her best friends, he felt sure that, if he were to write her were fuming-I could see you weresuch a letter as his heart dictated, she and thinking I was doing what I did would feel bound in duty to submit it to surprised at me for speaking out like that because I'd always been so submissive. You see I'm bound to be obeter his mistrust of her guardians, it dient to them both, because of what seemed more than probable that she would resent the accusation, and per-

CHAPTER XVI

them before replying.

hans refuse to see him again.

While he was torturing himself with

doubts and questionings, however, and

feeling sure that the Leblancs wished

to throw him over altogether in favor

of Captain Darnall, who had shown

So St. Quintin said nothing about it,

of him.

a filrt after all."

"I hate him," said she, sharply.

"Then it's not true you're going to marry him? That's what he says."
"Of course it's not true! How could you think I should marry him when—

they've done for me." "And what did he say?" "He said he quite agreed with me that it was hard, but that he was placed in a difficult position by Mr. Williams' long absence, and that he should try to get him to come back

to England earlier than he intended,

"And-do you think he means-really,

means to let me have you?" said he.

such a much higher degree of "gento settle matters once for all." erosity" than he. St. Quintin was sur-St. Quintin listened eagerly, and wishprised and overloyed to receive a leted he could believe in the rectitude of ter from Madame Leblanc inviting him Monsieur Leblanc's intentions. He to dinner on the Saturday evening: wanted to sound the girl as to the ex-For one moment he debated whether he should consult Ince before accept-ing the invitation. But common sense tent of her faith in her uncle and aunt, but every word she uttered proved told him that his friend would strongso conclusively, to his mind, that she ly urge him to take no notice of the invitation, would talk about putting himself again into the lion's clutches trusted them thoroughly, that he scarcely had the heart to frame such a quesand say other things unpleasant to tion as he would have liked to put.

and went down to Briar Lodge on the day named, after accepting the invita-tion with alacrity. He had provided dropping his voice to a whisper, and putting his arm round her as he spoke. himself with a huge box of chocols from Fuller's and with a bouquet "Oh, what makes you think he flowers that looked just like artificia ones from Gerard's, so that Monsieu He heard at once, by the tone of her voice, that she herself had had no doubts on the subject. And she refused to allow such a suggestion to pass.

"Of course, of course he does. Why should he tell you what he did? It would have here so easy to say Ceblane might not reproach him with oming empty-handed to the shrine. To his great delight, he once more had a chance of a tete-a-tete with Marie, whom he found alone in the would have been so easy to say some-thing to put you off." drawing-room. She was very pale, and seemed timid and miserable, and though she let him kiss her, he felt that she did it under protest, and wondered what orders she had received

Plainly the girl had no suspicion whatever of the deep game St. Quintin believed her uncle and aunt to be playing. Her own trust began to infect rom headquarters as to her treatment "I dare say I'm prejudiced because

He soon found out.

"Mr. St. Quintin," she said, "I've been very unhappy on your account since you were here last."

"Well, and I," retorted he, "have they're French, and French people always think so much more of money than they do of love in a marriage. I ask myself whether they're not waiting to see which of us is the richest before been very unhappy on yours. When I saw you monopolized by that fellow Darnall, I couldn't understand it. I binding themselves definitely to choose a husband for you." Her face clouded. ondered whether you were nothing but

"They've always been so kind," she said, "that I think they would listen to what I had to say in the matter. Indeed, my uncle has done so, for he told my aunt to write asking you to come tonight, as soon as I asked him to, and he let me see you all by myself—as I wanted to. For I thought," she said, blushing a rosy red at the ingenuousness of her own words, "that you would like to hear from my own lips just how things were with us."

"I'm undyingly grateful to you for the happy thought," said St. Quintin, "and if you'll only promise to stick to me, and not to hear of any one else having you, and if you'll say the same to this Williams when he comes, why, we can snap our fingers at uncles had aunts, Marbeaus and Darnalls, and live happy ever after." "They've always been so kind," she

happy ever after."

He had got another kiss from her, and he could read in every look, in every word, the assurance that he was the man she loved. And although there was still a little cloud hanging

others which the dared not openly

St. Quintin was rather anxious to note what sort of reception he should have to endure at the hands of her uncle and aunt. But he was reassured when he met nothing but smiling faces, and found himself treated with even more affectionate considerationthan ever before. Indeed, but for what he had learnt from Captain Darnall, and in other quarters, he might have felt secure in the belief that he was indeed the favored suitor, as certainly with the elders as with Miss Densley herself.

After dinner, instead of leaving the dining room all together, as was usually the custom at Briar Lodge they broke up in the English fashion, Monsieur Leblanc pleasantly suggesting to madame th: - they should follow the custom of Mr. St. Quintin's country, in order that they might have a little talk together.

St. Quintin hailed the opportunity with delight.

But it was with still greater satisfaction that he received the first announcement made by his nost when the ladies had left the room. "Mr. St. Quintin," he said. "I have done something yesterday which ought, if all you have told me is true as I

believe it to be-to cause you the greatest joy." "Indeed, monsieur, then I can guess the sort of news you have for me," said

the young man at once. His host smiled a little, but rather ruefully.

"It has been done at a heavy cost," he went on in a grave and even sad tone. "But there was no help for it." I wished to leave the matter of my niece's marriage open until the arrival in London of her other guardian, as you know. But Marie took such a decided stand in your favor that I have been forced to write to Captain Darnall, and to tell him he must retire from the contest-in your favor."

"Indeed, that is good news!" cried St. Quintin, in delighted excitement, "Then there is no longer any obstacle to our marrying?"

Monsieur shook his head dubiously. "Well, there is one difficulty," he said. "The fact is, Captain Darnall ent me £5000 to pay off a mortgage on my niece's property, and he at once wrote back to demand the repayment of the loan."

The French man's manner was so bland and so convincing that St. Quintin, even while he felt that he was doing a foolish thing, at once offered to find this

"Pass the loan on to me, monsieur," asid he, "and the thing is done. I will instruct my solicitor to meet yours, and the matter can be arranged without de-

Monsieur smiled approvingly. "Unhappily," said he, "I cannot do that. I should have to disclose to your solicitor the fact that I had borrowed the money from Captain Darnall, and he would at once warn you not to have anything to do with the matter. He would say: 'You will embroil yourself with Darnall; be wise; leave the matter

Now yould he not?"
"Well, yes, I daresay he would. But I shouldn't listen to him. All I want is to marry your niece as quickly as I can, and I don't care what the conons are."

"Ah! There is the real, high-spirited English lover, in whose disinterestedness we more prudent Frenchmen find it so hard to believe!" said be. "Well, my dear Mr. St. Quintin, if you really care to do such a thing, and choose to advance the money on your own responsibility, without consulting your more prudent friends, you shall do so."

"And you'll agree to let me marry Marie at once, without any more d

"I will take upon myself that re-ponsibility. In the circumstances I ould not refuse." "You must give me a day or two to realize," said St. Quintin. "I haven't so

much money lying at my banker's at "Oh, certainly, certainly. There is no hurry. And see, Mr. St. Quintin, we have to do everything in order. You shall not advance one penny till you

have seen the estate."
"Oh, I don't want"—
"I ingist. On Tuesday I take the ladles, my wife and my nicce and her governess, to Densley Wold for change air. You shall accompany us there And it is there that my solicitor shall come to us, and, after you have seen the property, and learnt the particulars, if you have brought the money with you and choose to carry this through, you shall have your own way. It is a bar-

"Indeed it is," said St. Quintin, trying to look entirely happy, as he rose with his host from the table, for he was not such a fool as to ignore the dangers of the course he had bound himself to pursue. Not only was he going to advance 25000 without taking advice on his side, but he was alive to the fact that it was odd to hear of this apparently rich family being pressed for what he would have thought they looked upon as a small sum.

He saw, too, that to trust himself so far away from his usual haunts, with a aum of £5000 in cash or securities about him, in the society of so dublous a person as Monsieur Leblanc, was a hazardous proceeding.

son as Monsieur Leblane, was a hazard-ous proceeding.

But he was young, spirited; it was an adventure, and if there was a risk to be taken, there was also a great prize to be gained.

CONTINUED NEXT

THIRT

Scott Govern -Peculian stituency

The Election bil seats in the next

lows: 1. Carnduff dist south east corner of eastern boundary the southern bour national boundary southeast corner th far north as town west to the secon ian. There it jogs ship and runs west ship 5 to range 4 w Range 4 is followed ternational line. T in this district are her, Alameda, Ox Carievale and population is placed

is part of the old S 2. The Arcola di tely above Carnduff dary in townships Manitoba line is th east. Westward the to range 7 and no ship 9. Towns take Carlyle, Kishy, Ma The population is 8 trict is part of So

3. Windthorst is t in the new district ner. The district st dary at township to the 2nd meridia north to township westward to range north and westwa township 14 range from there the dist east along township meridian. It goes meridian to townsh east to the bounda is traversed by the branch of the C.P. part of the Grenfell Cannington districts constituted. The timated at 7,137.

4. Moosomin dis same as formerly. dary is the provinci ship 11 it starts the second meridian township 19 and e dary. It includes W et, Moosomin and tion 7.962. 5. Wolseley, Gre wood are included

sion No. 5. Its sou township 14 and it ary the Qu'Appelle east it commences cipal meridian and 6. Esterhazy is near the main line.

dary is the Qu'App east boundary comi ond principal meri 21. A jog of the township 22 and th range 8. Range 8 ward to the banks population 7,091.

7. Abernethy is line district, in It commences on 22 and is bounded the Qu'Appelle. township 24 and co ton, Balcarres and population is 6,693 8. Indian Head is which was former and south Qu'Appe as far north as th and its south line starts on the east runs west to rang Sintaluta and McI

tion is 8,293. 9. The constituer one of the snugges is bounded on the Appelle Valley an township 15. Its 23 and its eastern cluded in this dist ed Police Barrac ment buildings sit is 8,082 and the p Lumsden, Pense,

Balgonie. 10. The Strassb northern end of th constituency. It Appelle Valley to east boundary is west boundary is and the Last Mo population is 7,11

11. Estevan is cy in the south e Its east line is r north along that thence west to ra north to townshi range 10 is follow township 4 where west to range 13 boundary. Este town in this divis tion is placed at 12. Weyburn is

shaped district dently with a vie vote off the d South Qu'Appel trict begins at 13 and runs I From township to range 10 at township 8, from porth and wes