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GILLETT'S LYE
EATS DIRT.

A Great Intrigue,
OR, THE
Mistress of Darracourt.

CHAPTER XIX.
"And you shan't if you don't wish to," murmured Marie, caressingly. "There is the breakfast bell! I must run and finish my hair or Mrs. Dalton will read me a homily upon feminine neatness!" and with a laugh she ran out of the room.

Lucille stood for a minute or two looking out upon the lawn. A few hours, perhaps two, and Harry would come up, and all would be known. Ah, what a happy, happy time lay before her! What had she ever done that the gods should be so good to her? They had given her a handsome fortune, and now they had crowned it by bestowing upon her the noblest, handsomest man in the world. The spray of clematis lay under her pillow, and she took it from thence and kissed it gently, but passionately, before she laid it carefully in the drawer of her bureau.

"I'll keep it till I die," she murmured, "just to remind me of last night, and my dear, dear love!" Then she blushed and smiled. "What would Lady Farnley say, if she could hear me? She who has praised me for being unlike the bread and butter schoolgirl, would find me as foolish as the most foolish of them all."

Then she went into the corridor, but at Susie's door she paused and listened. There was no sound, and she knocked softly, but no answer coming, she thought that Susie was asleep, and meeting one of the housemaids on the stairs, told her not to disturb Susie, as she was sleeping off a headache.

Mrs. Dalton at the head of the table smiled over the coffee cups. "No need to ask you how you are this morning, Miss Darracourt," she said. "You look the picture of health; but I trust that you slept well?" Lucille laughed softly.

"Oh, yes," she said as she took her place at the table.

"Marie, where is the letter bag?"

A footman brought it from a side table, and Lucille opened it. There were several letters for herself, and one for Marie Verner.

"What a strange handwriting, dear!" she said, throwing it over to her.

Marie Verner glanced at it and put it down beside her plate. She knew Mr. Sinclair's writing all too well.

"It is from a horrid dressmaker who seems to think that I shall forget her bill unless she reminds me of it every other morning."

"My father never failed to impress upon me that the best kind of punctuality was that which prompted us to pay our just debts immediately; they were due!" said Mrs. Dalton.

"He didn't add whether you had the means or you hadn't, I suppose?" said Marie.

The old lady opened her lips to retort when a footman entered.

"The Marquis de Merle, miss!" he said, as impassively as if it were the call of gentlemen to make morning calls at breakfast time.

Lucille looked up with faint surprise. "Lord Merle?" she said, wondering.

"The Marquis in the middle of the night!" exclaimed Marie. "Good gracious, the Hall must be on fire!" Lucille rose with a vague look of annoyance about her lips, then she sank into her chair again.

"Where is the Marquis?" she asked.

"In the drawing room, miss," said the footman.

"Show him in here, please," said Lucille.

"I wonder, what on earth he wants!" exclaimed Marie Verner, stirring her coffee and clinking the spoon against the cup in a light-hearted, careless fashion. "I do hope he has come to propose some rational idea of spending the day!"

Mrs. Dalton folded her table napkin.

"Shall we leave the room, Miss Darracourt?" she asked.

"No, no," replied Lucille; "do not, please. I dare say it is as Marie suggests, and we shall want your advice."

The Marquis entered as she spoke. He was carefully dressed, as usual, but there was an expression of annoyance and gravity upon his face which Lucille noticed instantly.

He appeared as if he were making an effort to dispel the cloud from his brow, as he bent over her and murmured an apology for the unusually early hour for his visit.

"Is the Hall on fire, Lord Merle?" asked Marie, when he had shaken hands with her and Mrs. Dalton.

He smiled in a patient kind of way, as one does at the playful persistency of a child.

"No, Miss Verner."

"Well, if you are quite certain that it is not, you had better sit down and have some coffee. I don't believe you have breakfasted."

A footman brought a chair to the table, and the Marquis sat down and breakfasted.

A footman brought a chair to the table, and the Marquis sat down and accepted a cup of coffee from Mrs. Dalton.

"I must plead guilty to not having breakfasted," he said.

"Last night's dissipation," remarked Marie. "If one has one's pleasure, one must be prepared to pay for it. The only one of you three who seem to have gone through last night's dance unscathed is Lucille. Perhaps, like the young lady who was asked why she went to so many balls, dancing agrees with her."

The Marquis smiled at this sally; but it was evident that he had something on his mind, and that his visit was one of business, and Mrs. Dalton rose.

But he glanced at her and said, in his polished manner:


"Pray do not retire on my account, Mrs. Dalton; the business I have come upon can be better discussed in open forum—with Miss Darracourt's permission."

"What is it?" asked Lucille. "Has anything occurred, Lord Merle?"

He set down his cup, and looked at the floor for a second, as if reluctant to commence.

"I am almost sorry that I have intruded," he said at last, slowly and gravely; "but it seemed so natural to come to you under the circumstan-

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ces—the plate-closet in the small dining room has been broken into, and a number of the articles stolen.

Marie uttered an exclamation of amazement, and Mrs. Dalton held up her hands with a shocked expression; but Lucille still said nothing.

"Why—how—when did you discover it?" demanded Marie Verner.

"This morning," he said. "I myself discovered my loss. Being rather restless, I rose earlier than usual, and was passing through the small dining room on my way into the garden when I saw the panel door partly open, and found that several pieces of the plate were gone."

"Oh, dear!" said Marie, under her breath.

"What a terrible loss, my lord!" lamented Mrs. Dalton. "Those rare and beautiful specimens of the goldsmith's art!"

"Yes," he said, smiling, but rather sadly; "and the most unfortunate part of the business is that the thief, whoever he was, seems to have guessed which were the articles upon which I set the most value—I don't mean money value—for he has taken the most curious pieces, and those which are most distinctly heirlooms!"

"Tut! tut! tut! Oh, dear, what will you do?" exclaimed Marie.

He shrugged his shoulders, and played with his watch chain.

"I do not know exactly; indeed, I have ventured to come to you for advice," and he glanced at Lucille, who sat with downcast face.

"Advice!—to us!" exclaimed Marie. "Three women! Why don't you go to the police, Lord Merle?"

"I must plead guilty to not having breakfasted," he said.

"Last night's dissipation," remarked Marie. "If one has one's pleasure, one must be prepared to pay for it. The only one of you three who seem to have gone through last night's dance unscathed is Lucille. Perhaps, like the young lady who was asked why she went to so many balls, dancing agrees with her."

The Marquis smiled at this sally; but it was evident that he had something on his mind, and that his visit was one of business, and Mrs. Dalton rose.

He was silent for a moment, and once again his eyes wandered to Lucille's face.

"Well," he said, quietly, "there are reasons!"

"Reasons! What reasons?" demanded Marie. "Of course you ought to go to the police! It's the proper and usual thing to do, isn't it?"

"Lord Merle said that he had reasons; had we not better hear what these are, before offering his lordship any advice?" said Mrs. Dalton, severely.

Lucille raised her eyes for the first time.

"What reasons?" she asked, quietly.

CHAPTER XX.
Lord Merle bit his lip and appeared embarrassed and hesitating.

"I—I really scarcely like to tell you!" he said. "It is so unlikely, so improbable, and yet—"

"Oh, do go on!" broke in Marie Verner. "Don't you see we are all on the tiptoe of curiosity? We don't get a burglary every day, Lord Merle!"

"Pardon me," he said. "I was hesitating because the matter is painful to me, and I fear it will be as painful to Miss Darracourt."

"To me!" said Lucille.

He inclined his head gravely.

"Yes, I fear so. I had better go on in a direct way. As soon as I had made the discovery I at once thought of ringing for the servants and making the theft public; but it occurred to me that I myself might perhaps find some clue to begin with. The robbery must have been committed late last night, or early this morning—I mean about two or three o'clock, as I passed through the room on my way to bed last night after the ball, and I am certain that the closet was locked, or, to speak with more exactness, closed."

"Yes," said Marie. "Well?"

"Well, I searched to see if I could discover any foot-marks on the gravel and on the floor of the conservatory, for the first thing—"

"And did you?" broke in Marie.

He inclined his head.

"Yes, I saw two kinds of footmarks. One was my own, the other—I cannot say for certain!"

"For certain!" exclaimed Marie, raising her brows.

"Not for certain!" he repeated.

"Then—but go on!"

"I then examined the lock to see if it had been tampered with—I mean forced in any way, but it had not; there were no marks of a chisel, or any instrument whatever. There is not a scratch or an indentation in the gliding or the polished wood. If there had been I should have seen it in a moment; any one could detect it as easily as I myself could."

"Then the thief must have unlocked the panel!" said Mrs. Dalton.

A silence fell, as all eyes were turned on the Marquis.

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A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

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An Act Respecting Stamp Duties.

[Passed September 7th, 1914.]
Be it enacted by the Governor, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, as follows:—

1. From and after the commencement of this Act there shall be paid for the use of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, upon the several instruments mentioned in the Schedule hereto, the several duties in the said Schedule specified.

2. No such instrument executed after the commencement of this Act in this Colony, or relating wherever executed to any property situate or to any matter or thing done or to be done in this Colony shall, except in criminal proceedings, be pleaded or given in evidence or admitted to be good, useful or available in law or equity unless it is duly stamped in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

3. Nothing in this Act shall apply to any Bank note payable to bearer or on demand, issued or circulated by any Bank doing business in the Colony.

4. If any Bank doing business in this Colony or any branch of such bank issues any cheque not duly stamped, the manager of such bank or branch shall be liable for every offence to a penalty of Ten dollars, to be recovered in a summary manner before a Stipendiary Magistrate.

5. Every instrument to which this Act applies shall be stamped with adhesive or impressed stamps, of value equal to the duty payable thereon, and for the purpose of so stamping any of the instruments in the Schedule hereto, either stamps provided or procured for the purpose of the Act 61 Vic., Cap. 14, entitled "An Act respecting the Payment of Certain Fees and Charges by Stamps," or ordinary postage stamps may be used.

6. In this Act "Instrument" means any paper or writing mentioned in the Schedule.

7. An instrument shall not be deemed to be duly stamped unless the stamp affixed thereto is cancelled.

8. All the provisions of the Act 61 Vic., Cap. 14, entitled "An Act respecting the Payment of Certain Fees and Charges by Stamps" shall apply to this Act and the Schedule hereto, and this Act and the Act 61 Vic., Cap. 14, may be cited together as "The Stamp Acts, 1898-1914."

9. The Governor in Council shall make rules and regulations as to the affixing of stamps to all instruments under this Act and the cancelling of the same. All such rules and regulations, when published in the Royal Gazette and one other paper published in the Colony, shall have the force and effect of law.

10. This Act shall come into operation on the 1st day of October, 1914.

SCHEDULE.

Cheques on a Banker	2c.
Promissory Notes	2c.
Bills of Lading and Shipping Receipts	2c.
Bill of Exchange for every \$100 or part thereof	5c.
Charter Parties	\$1.00

sept 18, 21, 23, 26



Published By Authority

Under the provisions of "The Stamp Acts, 1898-1914" His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to approve the following Rules and Regulations respecting Stamp Duties.

JOHN E. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary,
Department of the Colonial Secretary,
Sept. 15th, 1914.

1.—Every instrument shall be stamped on its face.

2.—Cancellation of Stamps shall be made by person cancelling by writing name or initials, with date, across Stamp.

3.—Bills of Exchange, Cheques, Promissory Notes, Bills of Lading, Shipping receipts and Charter Parties, shall be stamped and the Stamps thereon cancelled:—
(1) Bills of Exchange, Cheques, Promissory Notes drawn in the

Colony by the person signing the same. Provided that in the case of a Cheque on a Banker, the Banker to whom it is presented for payment may, if it is unstamped, stamp the same and cancel the stamp.

(2) Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes drawn or made outside the Colony by the person into whose hands same shall come before the same is paid or negotiated.

(3) Bills of Lading and Shipping Receipts by the shipper. Provided that if presented unstamped they may be stamped by person receiving same.

4.—Charter Parties by the Charterer.

5.—The person on whom the obligation to stamp and cancel is imposed by these Rules, shall be deemed to be a person issuing an instrument, and if he issues such an instrument without its proper stamp or without properly cancelling same he shall be liable to the penalties imposed by Section 23 of the Act 61 Victoria, Cap. 14, entitled "An Act respecting the payment of certain fees and charges by stamps."

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