

---OR, THE---

Mistress of Darracourt.

CHAPTER XIX.

"And you shan't if you don't wish ly. 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 femran 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

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 murmur-Lady Farnley say, if she could hear as the most foolish of them all."

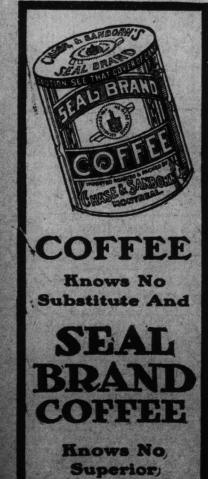
coming she thought that Susie was asleep, and meeting one of the housemaids on the stairs, told her not to disturb Susie, as she was sleeping off

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?"



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MONTREAL

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

ne for Marie Verner. "What a strange handwriting, lear!" she said, throwing it over to

Marie Verner glanced at it and put down beside her plate. She knew 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

it every other morning." "My father never failed to impress ipon 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?" The old lady opened her lips to re

tort when a footman entered. "The Marquis of Merle, miss!" he said, as impassively as if it were the habit of gentlemen to make morning

calls at Breakfast time. Lucille looked up with faint sur-

"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 inine neatness!" and with a laugh she annoyance about her lips, then she sank into her chair again.

"Where is the marquis?" she ask-

"In the drawing room, miss," said the footman. "Show him in here, please," said

"I wonder what on earth he wants!" exclaimed Marie Verner, stirring her coffee and clinking the spoon against the cup in a light-

by bestowing upon her the noblest. hearted, careless fashion. "I do hope he has come to propose some rational idea of spending the day!" Mrs. Dalton folded her table nap-

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

"No. no." replied Lucille: "do not please. I dare say it is as Mariessuggests, and we shall want your ad-

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

asked Marie, when he had shaker hands with her and Mrs. Dalton.

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

"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.

"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 thrugh last night's dance inscathed is Lucille. Perhaps, like he young lady who was asked why she went to so many balls, dancing grees with her."

The marquis smiled at this sally; out it was evident that he had something on his mind, and that his visi was one of business, and Mrs. Dalton

But he glanced at her and said, in

"Pray do not retire on my account, Irs. Dalton; the business I have me upon can be better discussed in pen forum-with Miss Darracourt's

"What is it?" asked Lucille. "Has nything occurred, Lord Merle?" He set down his cup, and looked at the floor for a second, as if reluctan

"I am almost sorry that I have inruded," he said at last, slowly and gravely; "but it seemed so natural

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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 o

amazement, and Mrs. Dalton held un her hands with a shocked expression; but Lucille still said nothing. "Why-how-when did you discover

t?" demanded Marie Verner "This morning." he said. "I myself

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

"Oh, dear!" said Marie, under he-

"What a terrible loss, my lord!" lamented Mrs. Dalton. "Those rare and beautiful specimens of the gold-

"Yes," he said, smiling, but rather sadly: "and the most unfortunate part of the business is that the thief. which I set the most value-I don't mean money value-for he has taker 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 ion sat with downcast face.

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

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

"Well," he said, quietly, "there are "Reasons! What reasons?" de-

anded Marie. "Of course you ought go to the police! It's the prope nd usual thing to do isn't it?" "Lord Merle said that he had rea ns: had we not better hear what

Lucille raised her eyes for the first

"What reasons?" she asked, quietly.

CHAPTER XX. Lord Merle bit his lip and appear

ed embarrassed and hesitating. "I-I really scarcely like to tell you!" he said. "It is so unlikely, so improbable; and yet-"

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 clew 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,

locked, or, to speak with more exactness, closed."

"Yes," said Marie. "Well?" "Well, I searched to see if I could 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

"For certain!" exclaimed Marie, raising her brows. "Not for certain!" he repeated.

say for certain!"

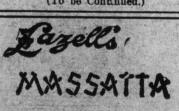
"Then-but go on!" "I then examined the lock to see it not a scratch or an indentation in the gilding or the polished wood. If there had been I should have seen it in a

easily as I myself could." "Then the thief must have unlocked the panel!" said Mrs. Dalton. A silence fell, as all 'eyes were

urned on the marquis. "I cannot come to any other concluison," he said, gravely. Lucille glanced at Marie, then low-

Mrs. Dalton was grappling with the facts in her prim, conscientious fash-

(To be Continued.)





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of an apron is the protection it af- before a Stipendiary Magistrate. fords. The design here shown has this good point and some others. It 36 inch material for a Medium size. 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 As-

sembly, 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 aud 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 by stamps." 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

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 Col-

4. If any Bank doing business in this Colony or any branch of such bank cashes 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 One of the most practical features be recovered in a summary manner

5. Every instrument to which this has deep arm openings, and is cut Act applies shall be stamped with adwith sufficient fulness. It is held to hesive or impressed stamps of value position at the back with a belt. Ging- equal to the duty payable thereon, and ham, percale, drill, lawn or linene are for the purpose of so stamping any good materials for this style. The pattern is cut in 3 sizes: Small, Medium discover any foot-marks on the and Large. It requires 41/4 yards of hereto, either stamps provided or procured for the purpose of the Act A pattern of this illustration mailed 61 Vic., Cap. 14, entitled "An Act reto any address on receipt of 10c. in specting the Payment of Certain Fees and Charges by Stamps," or ordinary

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 attixing 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.

Cheques on a Banker Promissory Notes Bills of Lading and Shipping Receipts 2c. Bill of Exchange for every \$100 or part thereof 5c. Charter Parties\$1.00 sept18,21,23,26



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

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

1.—Every instrument shall tamped on its face.

ade by person cancelling by writing ame or initials, with date, across 3.—Bills of Exchange, Cheques romissory Notes, Bills of Lading ping receipts and Charter Par-

es, shall be stamped and the Stamps (1) Bills of Exchange, Cheques

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 unstamp they may be stamped by person receiving same. 4.—Charter Parties by the Charter-

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

sept.18,21,23,26.

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