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Duchess

FOR A MILLION OF MONEY

BY ARTHUR W. MARCHMONT

Author of "By Right of Sword," "When I Was Czar," etc., etc.

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CHAPTER XX.

Enrolled as a Member.

Olive had not in the least underestimated the value of her good looks as an aid in her new campaign. In three days she had established herself firmly in the little household of the Hartmanns. The sister, Anna, a rather stout, motherly woman of about 30, had opened her heart straight away to Olive; had accepted her story without question; and had, indeed, insisted that she should remain with them from the moment of her arrival.

The brother had been even more cordial. He made no secret of his intense admiration for his sister's new friend; and before a week had passed he was on the verge of proposing marriage.

Olive had designedly led him on. It was essential that he should have blind confidence in her; and there is no blindness of that sort so absolutely reckless as love.

As Jack would soon be back from Berlin, and the machinations of the gang commence against him, there was no time to lose; and thus Olive found a means of hastening matters. She had read the man easily, and had been able so to tone her conversation as to completely mislead him.

At heart an ardent Socialist, he had been led to "war upon society"—that was his pet phrase to justify a life of dishonesty—by some wrongs, real or imaginary, which his parents had suffered. The descent had been easy; all the easier, indeed, because of the justification by which he imposed upon himself. He did not at first admit to Olive that he was dishonest; but he employed this indirect means of excuse to prepare her for the revelation to come later. Olive had played upon this feeling in a hundred ways, leading him to feel that he could count upon her sympathy.

Then, suddenly, she brought matters to a crisis by announcing her intention to go away. This was one evening as they were walking alone together in the park at Herne Hill; and she made the announcement with all the signs of great emotional distress.

"Rosa!" he exclaimed, in a tone of intense consternation. "Leave us? Why?"

"You have been too kind to me, Anna and you. But—but——" and she broke off, as if her feelings were too deep for utterance.

"You cannot go. No, no, it is impossible. Where would you go, indeed?"

Olive threw up her hands in direct perplexity, and sighed deeply.

"Anywhere. Anywhere. What does it matter. I must live."

"Would you make me miserable?"

Olive turned her eyes on him for a flashing glance, and then looked away. "You don't understand. You musn't understand," she cried, vehemently.

"I understand that I will not let you go," he replied, passionately.

Again she looked at him earnestly, straight in the eyes. "That is the reason, Karl," she said, slowly, and with much feeling.

"I love you, Rosa. By heaven, I worship the very ground you tread."

"Ah, that is terrible," she cried, shivering. "Terrible. I feared it. But I have deceived you, Karl. Oh, I must tell you now, even if the shame of it kills me." Olive was a born actress, and her affectation of grief, agitation, and remorse was perfect. "When you know, you will spurn me from you."

For a moment she lapsed into silence, as if striving to nerve herself to tell him; and he waited with all the impatience of a lover. "Tell me, Rosa," he said, at length.

"I am a thief, Karl. I have come into your house with a lie. I am not worthy to touch your sister's hand. I am a thief; a thief! Do you understand?" and she lifted her head, as if in very bravado.

He laughed. "My dearest, if you were the worst woman in the world it would make no difference to me. Besides, how do you think I live? Anna and I, both?"

A quick, questioning light shone in her eyes. "Karl!" she cried, eagerly, as she put out her hand hastily and touched his arm.

"Yes. If you did not tell us, we did not tell you. That need not part us, Rosa," he answered, with a smile.

"Tell me," she said.

"I was not always like this; but I was always a Socialist. I have known what it is to starve, to beg, to grovel at the feet of those who did me and mine the cruelest of wrongs; ground us under their feet until the iron of suffering and hunger and misery entered into my inmost soul. Then I turned; and with others declared war against the oppressor, against the rich and powerful vampires who feed and feast, and riot on the wretchedness of their victims."

"Poor Karl," said Olive, with a sigh. "I know. I know."

"I am glad you have told me, Rosa; so glad. I feared lest, when you learned the truth, you would turn from me with hatred, and despise me."

"Poor Karl," she murmured again.

"We are strong now," he continued, after a pause. "There are several of us banded together, here in London, all heart and soul in the work. You shall join us, if you will. We need a girl with your quick wits and cleverness. Anna is with us, but she is not sharp and shrewd as you are. You have seen Rosenstein at our house? He is one of us; and only yesterday he was speaking of you, and urging me to get you to help us."

"We should not have to part then, Karl," said Olive, concealing every trace of the feeling of triumph with which she had heard his proposal. "I am not a coward; but should I have the courage needed for this? Would the others have me for a comrade? I am almost frightened, I think."

He smiled reassuringly. "I know you better than that. Besides, there would be no danger for you in what is needed. They would welcome you on a word from me. It is but to make some inquiries."

"Tell me."

He took off his hat ,and passed his hand through his long, fair hair, and a smile of enthusiasm lighted his face. "We have a great scheme on hand, Rosa. Some important papers have to be got from the British foreign office, for which a big price will be paid. We already have one of our number employed in a humble post in the office; but these things are guarded well, and that is not enough. We have a plan, however; and it is to help in this that these inquiries must be made."

"But how could I help?" asked Olive.

"We must have someone to enter the household of the minister himself, to find out every detail of the life there. Anna was to go; but she is not quick enough. She has no eyes for such a work. We must know who comes to and from the bureau to the house, and who carries papers to and fro."

"That would not be difficult, surely."

"Not for you; but for a timid soul like our Anna, yes. Would you do it?"

Olive paused, as if considering. "How could I get into the house?"

"That is arranged already. A servant is wanted there. You would only have to observe and report your discoveries to us."

"To your leader, Herr Rosenstein?"

"He is not our leader. Gideon Mawford is the leader." He said with an air of pride. "You have heard of him in the States?"

"Yes. I have heard of him, of course," said Olive, as if the fame of the man were international. "He is the man who always succeeds."

"Yes," nodded her companion, readily. "He is wonderful."

"I could do it easily, Karl. Yes, easily. But can you tell me more of the scheme?" She was anxious to learn the part which Selma had told her Jack was to play.

"If you join us, you will be told everything. We work in common; sharing the danger as well as the rewards. You will have your share, of course."

"What is the reward in this case?"

"Good," he cried, delighted at this practical question. "No less than five thousand pounds will be divided when we are successful."

This was the amount which the rest had been told was the sum to be paid.

"It is a fortune. It takes my breath away," cried Olive. "Twenty thousand dollars! Twenty thousand dollars!"

"Yes. A hundred thousand marks," said Karl; adding, with his former air of satisfied pride, "we do not touch any small affairs."

"And what will be my share?" she asked, with Teutonic directness.

"About five hundred pounds. Is it enough?" he laughed.

"It takes my breath away," she repeated. "Of course, I will do it."

"Good! And then you will marry me?"

"Karl! We must wait yet. You must see whether I can do all this. You must know me better. No, no; not yet."

"I loved you the moment I saw you looking about for our house, and heard you murmur those words in our dear tongue. And Anna can live with us for a time. She is a dear, good soul, is Anna, and a rare housewife. You know how she can cook, Rosa. She will teach you, if there is anything in the world you do not know," and he tried to take her hand and kiss her.

"I am thinking of this scheme, Karl," she protested, and drew away. "Let us talk of it, for, unless it succeeds, we shall have no money to marry with."

"Ah, but you are shrewd and far-sighted!" he cried, vastly pleased. "I will tell you. The minister has a secretary of the name of Fenwick; and we think that he takes these important papers to his chief from the bureau; and we have a plan by which the suspicion of having stolen this one shall fall on him."

"Ah, that is clever, indeed," cried Olive, with a smile; and she always believed that the smile with which she received that news was the most successful piece of acting of all that strange time.

"He is a self-conceited fool, with his head in the air, like so many of these English aristocrats," said Karl, contemptuously. "When you get to the house you may even be able to get the papers yourself."

"That would be a stroke, indeed," she cried.

"But, at any rate, you will certainly find out how they can be got," and they entered upon a long discussion of the means to be employed.

"You will come to our meeting tomorrow night," he said, as they rose to return to the house.

"I shall then see Mr. Mawford. I wish to see him."

"Yes, he will be there; and in the meantime I will tell Rosenstein that you have joined us. It will be splendid to work together, Rosa."

"We must succeed and get the money, Karl, or else——" and she finished with a significant and somewhat coquettish laugh.

He laughed in response with much satisfaction, and drew her arm into his as they walked away.

"You are late, children," was Anna's greeting, as they entered the little house. "Supper is getting spoiled. Why do you dawdle?"

Karl told her the news—that Rosa was to be one of them. She was pleased, and declared that she would not have believed it. She was older than her brother, and treated him in the house more like a son.

To Be Continued.

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CAUTION.—Be careful to inclose above illustration and send size of pattern wanted. When the pattern is bust measure you need only mark, 32, 34, or whatever it may be. When in waist measure, 22, 24, 26, or whatever it may be. If a skirt, give waist and length measure. When misses' or child's pattern, write only the figure, representing the age. It is not necessary to write "inches" or "years." Patterns cannot reach you in less than one week from the date of order. The price of each pattern is 10 cents in cash or in postage stamps.

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PATTERN DEPARTMENT, ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONT.

ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION

London Township Wants Better School Accommodation.

A BIG MEETING HELD FRIDAY

At Which the Matter Was Threshed Out—Different Opinions.

At the last meeting of the London Township council a petition was presented as follows:

"To the municipal corporation of the township of London,

"Gentlemen,—We, the ratepayers of the township of London, whose signatures are hereto affixed, beg humbly to bring to the attention of your council the fact that the school building in section 22 is at the present time so crowded with pupils resident of the section, that the accommodations are not adequate within the requirments of the act. The present conditions will not be allowed to continue, and the trustees of the section have already been advised that a further addition will have to be made. In view of this and in view of the unreasonable long distance many of the children, whose parents are parties to this petition, have to travel to reach the present school site, we deem it a most appropriate time to press upon the council the necessity of making the division of the section."

Meeting Held.

The petition, which was signed by 44 ratepayers, was referred to Councilor S. F. Glass, commissioner of St. Lawrence Ward, and to the reeve, to call a meeting of all of the ratepayers in the section, as well of the ratepayers of School Section No. 1, of Dorchester, which under the proposed division (being part of a union section with London Township) would be affected.

According to notice duly given the residents of both sections met at the school house of Section 22, on the Hamilton road, just east of the city limits, Friday afternoon, when about 150 were present, as also Reeve Kimball and Councilor S. F. Glass.

Mr. J. B. Ingamelles was appointed chairman, and R. H. Sanders secretary of the meeting. The chairman, referring to the reason of calling them together, said he understood it was for the purpose of considering the proposition of dividing the section, that he like others had received notice from the township clerk to attend,and he presumed as Councilor Glass and the reeve were here, they might explain to them the matter to be considered. Reeve Kimball, alluded to the petition that had been presented, and said that he and Councilor Glass were there to hear their grievances, to talk the matter over with them, so that we may be able to lay the question clearly before the council. He was of the opinion that in many other sections children had to walk as far, if not farther, to reach their schools than even those who were farthest away from the school in question.

A Hardship.

It was somewhat of a hardship to some children, and he supposed that if they decided that the remedy should be in building a new school nearer to those who had this complaint, it would be for them to consider and to carefully look into the question of cost. After the council knew what their wishes were in the matter, he had no doubt action would be taken, that would be in the best interests of the people. Councilor Glass could not, he said, add much to what the reeve had said. He could tell them that the object of the meeting was to discuss in a friendly way, without prejudice, and, he hoped, without selfishness. This meeting, said Mr. Glass, is not empowered to finally deal with this question. It is merely to get an expression of opinion. He thought that from what he had heard there was a real grievance, and it was their duty to meet the issue in a spirit of fairness, with a feeling of wishing to do unto others as you would wish they should do unto you. The school act, he said, made provision by which minorities could not be overridden by a majority, and the fact that a majority of those present opposed a division of the section, would not, if an injustice were being done to the minority, prevent action being taken, even if the council itself refused to intervene. He hoped they had not met in that spirit. They were neighbors and friends, and it was their duty to give the matter full and fair consideration.

An Explanation.

Those who wished to secede would also have to count the cost, and be certain whether the assessment of the area they wished to incorporate within the new section, would be large enough to enable them without undue taxations to support the new school. In taking away the assessment this new area would represent, he did not think it would impose any hardship on the old section, as the growth in that district immediately east of the city had been so great that the increase in assessment this year would amount to more than the whole sum that would be detached from the division by the proposed new section. The effect of this on the old division was not a consideration to be weighed in equity with the hardships imposed by existing conditions on those who in this matter constituted the minority, but notwithstanding this, those who wished a new school established should count the cost, and if after full explanations they were prepared to assume the responsibility, and wished the accommodation the new school would give, he thought as fair men and good neighbors, it would be unjust to block their efforts, and further said Mr. Glass, in this country of British freedom, majorities cannot refuse justice to the minority, and though it would be a matter which the township council would have power to dispose of, even their action would not be final if it imposed an unjust hardship on a minority. The school act made ample provision for equity and fair play to all. But he trusted to the people's sense of fairness to agree to what was right for all.

Mr. Poad Speaks.

Mr. George Poad, speaking for the children in the district of the Gore, who were most inconvenienced, said that there were over 30 children who were not attending school, and could not do so by reason of the long distance they had to travel. They were willing to assume the responsibility of running the new school. The area, they thought, should comprise the new section was from the Mill road south of the Hamilton road east to the Town Line, and thence north to the south line of concession B, thence west to Hale street, and thence south and east to the Mill road. Representatives from Dorchester school, No. 1, were heard. The school which they represented was a union one, about four-fifths of the area being in London Township and the balance in Dorchester. This school is situated at Crumlin. It was stated that if part of this section were incorporated in the proposed new section the school might have to go further east in Dorchester, which would be an inconvenience to many who were now attending the school from London Township.

Mr. W. R. Colby.

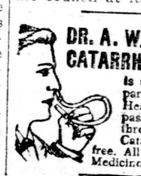
Mr. W. R. Colby, who was a large property-holder, one of the largest in the section, said, though he lived nearer to the present school and would have no interest in a division of the section, he thought there was need of the additional school, and he would support it.

Mr. George Poad moved that a new section be formed out of sections 22 of London, and No. 1, Dorchester. Mr. Ingamelles moved in amendment that there be no division, but that the section remain as it is until such time as the city extends its limits further east. Mr. Colby thought both motions were out of order, as the meeting had no power to pass such resolutions, the matter was for the council to deal with. Mr. James Homister thought that there was a grievance, and that no doubt a new school should be built, but he would suggest that the new one be built in the Gore, but that it be part of section 22, as at present, or that both schools should be run by the one board. This was held to be impracticable.

The Resolution.

Finally, Mr. Colby moved, seconded by O. Cannom, "That it is the sense of this meeting that the needs of the people require a new school to be established in the eastern section, and that we recommend that the township council take such steps as the act provides to carry this into effect, giving the greatest good to the greatest number."

All other motions were withdrawn, and, though in the excitement that followed, even the motion of Mr. Colby was not passed upon, the sense of the meeting supported it, and it is likely that the matter will be dealt with by the council at its next meeting.



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Nottingham Lace Curtains, 54 inches wide, 3½ yards long, a very pretty one, will wear well, finished with over-locked edges, white.

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Nottingham Lace Curtains, 54 inches wide, 3½ yards long, very fine and lacy effect. Hang easy top.

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Nottingham Lace Curtains, with floral scroll border and plain center, finished with over-locked edges, a very pretty curtain.

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EVELYN THAW GETS $50,000

Also an Annuity of $15,000—"It Is Splendid," She Says—A Formal Defense.

New York, March 14.—Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, who has sued Harry K. Thaw for an annulment of their marriage, admits that she is to receive a lump sum of $50,000, and an annuity of $15,000.

Smiling and radiant as a June bride, she was leaving the office of her attorney, Daniel O'Reilly, when interviewed.

"The financial arrangements made by your husband for your future is satisfactory to you?"

"Yes," said the young woman with some enthusiasm; "I am perfectly satisfied. It is splendid."

Refused to Accept Papers.

Developments seem to prove that the proceedings instituted by the wife meet with the approbation of Thaw's mother, and that the defense will be purely technical. Thaw wants a real defense made, but it is all but admitted that his mother and other members of the family are in accord with his wife in her effort to free herself.

That Thaw is not in a gracious mood over the matter is shown by the fact that he refused to accept service of the summons and complaint because Lawyer O'Reilly's clerk failed to have with him similar papers to be served upon the superintendent of the Matteawan Hospital.

The complaint of Evelyn Thaw is brief. After setting forth the date upon which she became the wife of Harry Thaw it continues to state that "at the time of the marriage of the plaintiff, Evelyn Florence Nesbit Thaw to the defendant, Harry Kendall Thaw, said defendant was a lunatic and of unsound mind and was incapable of contracting a marriage and that the cause for annulling this marriage, to wit, the lunacy of said defendant, existed at the time of such marriage."

All Part of a Plan.

There is reason to believe that the annulment suit is but part of a plan to sever Thaw from his former associations, and obtain his release from the insane hospital. He has been told that his mother will make no effort of this kind until the marraige has been annulled. She has five of the most noted alienists of the country observing Thaw in the hospital. Dr. Ferris and his experts, of the state lunacy commission, are likewise observing the patient,and should the two sets of alienists disagree, as seems likely, there will be a bitter legal struggle.

During the negotiations which led up to the annulment suit and settlement, Thaw has been under the delusion that his release was but the matter of a few days. Only a week or so ago he said to one of his counsel:

"I'll meet you at Delmonico's next Sunday, and we will talk this matter over more at length."

When he was first told that his wife contemplated the present action he blamed his mother.

"She wants Evelyn to leave me," he is reported to have said, "mother never wanted us to marry, and now that I am helpless to prevent it, they have got my wife to consent to this annulment."

Thaw believes that once out of the asylum he would have the same power over Evelyn as in the old days.

"She may separate from me now," he is reported as saying, "but when I get out I will win her back. Nothing can keep us apart."

It is his love for his wife that has caused Thaw to be so liberal in the financial settlement on her. He would have given her $100,000 quite as willingly as he did $50,000, but it is understood that the elder Mrs. Thaw decided that the latter amount was ample. The $15,000 a year will enable Evelyn to live without returning to the stage. In fact, one of the provisions of the agreement is that she will not go back on the stage and that she will avoid publicity as far as possible.

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Eczema or Salt Rheum, as it is often called, is one of the most agonizing of skin diseases. It manifests itself in little round blisters, which contain an extremely irritating fluid. These break and subsequently a crust or scale is formed.

The intense burning, itching and smarting, especially at night or when the part is exposed to any strong heat, are almost unbearable.

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