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Half a Chance

The Great New Serial Story of
Adventure by
FREDERICK S. ISHAM
Author of "Under the Rose," "The Strollers," etc.
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The nobleman had been forewarned of John Steele's coming. He sat behind a high desk, his figure and part of his face screened by its massive back. One drawer of the desk was slightly open. What could be seen of his features appeared sharper than usual, as if the inner virulence, the dark hidden passions smoldering in his breast had at length stamped their impression on the outer man. When he first spoke his tones were more frangible, less icily imperturbable than they had been hitherto. They seemed to tell of a secret tension he had been laboring under; but the steady, cold eyes looked out from behind the wood barrier with vicious assurance.

The police agent he addressed first; his services could be dispensed with for the present; he should, however, remain in the hall with his men. Mr. Gillett looked from the speaker to him he had brought there, and after a moment turned and obeyed; but the instant's hesitation seemed to say that he began to realize there was more to the affair than he had fathomed.

"There is no need for many words between us, Mr. Steele," Lord Ronsdale's accent was poignant and sharp. "Had you listened to what Mr. Gillett, on my behalf, would have said to you that night in the gardens at Strathorn House, we might, possibly, both of us, have saved some little annoyance. We now start at about where we were before that little contretemps."

John Steele silently looked at Lord Ronsdale; his brain had again become clear; his thoughts, lucid. The ride through the cool and damp air, this outdoor encounter at the end of the journey, had acted as a tonic on his faded sense and faculty. He saw distinctly, heard very plainly; his ideas began to marshal themselves logically. He could have laughed at Lord Ronsdale, but the situation was too serious; the weakness of his defenses too obvious. Proofs, proofs, proofs, were what the English lord demanded, and where were his? He could build up a story, yes, but—if he could have known what had taken place between Mr. Gillett and this man a few minutes before, when the police agent had stayed in first and tarried here a brief period before ushering him in!

Had Mr. Gillett delivered to his noble patron the memorandum book and other articles filched from John Steele's pockets? That partly opened drawer—what did it contain? The nobleman's hand lingered on the edge of it, with an effort the other resisted allowing his glance to rest there.

He even refused to smile when Lord Ronsdale, after a sharper look, asked him to be seated; he seemed to sift and weigh the pros and cons of

the invitation in a curious, calm fashion; as if he felt himself there in some impersonal capacity for the purpose of solving a difficult, cathechetical problem.

"Yes, I think I will." He sat down in a stiff, straight-backed chair; it may be he felt the need of holding in reserve all his physical force, of not refusing to rest, even here.

Lord Ronsdale's glance narrowed; he hesitated an instant. "To go back to Strathorn House—a very beautiful place for a girl's face, white and accented, which had appeared—vanished. 'You spoke of certain instructions' he even forced himself to say.

"Mr. Gillett, in the garden at Strathorn House, was authorized by me to offer you one chance of avoiding exposure, and," deliberately, "the attendant consequences; you were to suffer to leave London, this country, with the stipulation that you should never return." John Steele shifted slightly. "You did not expect this," quickly; "you had not included this contingency in your calculations."

"I confess," in an even, emotionless voice, "your lordship's complaisance amazes me."

"And you would have accepted the alternative?" the nobleman's accents were now those of the seer, diplomat; they were concise, but measured.

"Why discuss what could never have been considered?" was the brusque answer.

Lord Ronsdale frowned. "We are still fencing; we will waste no more time." Perhaps the other's manner, assured, contemptuously distant, goaded him; perhaps he experienced anew all that first violent, unreasoning anger against this man, whose unexpected coming to London had plunged him into an unwelcome and irritating role.

"That alternative is still open. Refuse, and you will be in the hands of the authorities tonight. Resist—" His glittering eyes left no doubt whatever as to his meaning.

"I shall not resist," said John Steele. "But—I refuse." He spoke recklessly, regardlessly.

"In that case—" Lord Ronsdale half rose; his face looked drawn, but determined; he reached as if to touch a bell. "You force the issue, and—" "One moment," he spoke. John Steele stepped toward the fireplace, he gazed downward at a tiny white ash on the glowing coals; a little film that might have been—paper? "In a matter so important we may consider a little

longer, lest," still regarding the hearth, "there may be a better secret. His words even to himself sounded puerile, but what they led to had more poignancy; he lifted now his keen, glowing eyes; in one little regard I did your lordship an injustice."

"In what way?" The nobleman had been studying him closely, had followed the direction of his glance; noted almost unquestionably what it had rested on—the coals, or vacancy?

"In supposing that you yourself murdered Amy Gerard," came the unexpected response. The other started violently. "Your lordship will forgive the assumption in view of what occurred on a certain stormy night at sea, when a drowning wretch clung with one hand to a gunwale, and you, in answer to his appeal for succor,—"

"—and—'a lie!' The words fell in a whisper.

"What?" John Steele's laugh sounded maliciously. "How, then, will you give a charitable interpretation to the act; the boat was already overcrowded; one more might have endangered all. Call it an impulse of self-preservation. Scarcely a word, repeated, 'The struggle of the survival of the fittest. Let the episode go. Especially as your lordship incidentally did me a great service; a very great service.' The other stared at him, and the nobleman looked at it only in that light, and then it would not have played me the trick it did of affording a false hypothesis for a certain conclusion. Your lordship knows what I mean, how the facts in this case of Amy Gerard have come to light."

John Steele's glance was straight, direct; if the other had the paper, had read it, he would know.

Lord Ronsdale looked toward the bell, hesitated. "I think you had better tell me," he said at last.

"If your lordship did not tell me, then who did?" Ronsdale leaned forward just in the least; his eyes seemed to look into the other's as if to ask how much, just what, he had learned. John Steele studied the nobleman with a purpose of his own. "Why, she killed herself!" he said suddenly.

"How?" The nobleman uttered this word, then stopped; John Steele waited. Had Lord Ronsdale been surprised at his knowledge? He could hardly tell, from his manner, whether or not he had the affidavit and read it.

"How—interesting!" The nobleman was willing to continue the verbal contest a little longer; that seemed a point gained. "May I ask how it occurred?"

"Oh, it is all very commonplace! Your lordship had received a threatening letter and called on the woman. She already had a husband living in France, a ruined gambler of the Bourse, but had tricked you into thinking she was your wife. You had discovered the deception and discarded her. From music hall singer she had gone down—down, until she, once beautiful, courted, had become a mere Dandy Joe, cunning, unscrupulous. At her refusal to become the victim of their blackmailing scheme, she in her anger seized a weapon; during the struggle it was accidentally discharged."

(To Be Continued.)

UNKNOWN ITALIAN KILLED.
Port Arthur, March 9.—The body of an unknown Italian was found on the trail leading to a mining camp near Beck's Siding, under circumstances pointing to murder. The provincial police are investigating. The body was covered by brush and stripped of all valuables. Coroner Brown brought the body in here this morning.

In Spite of the Weather
You can keep face and hands soft, smooth and white by using Campana's Italian Balm. It prevents the raw winds and bitter cold from chapping, roughening or reddening the skin. It is a pure, "balmy" skin food—not greasy or oily—free from anything that could possibly harm the skin. See a bottle at your druggist's, or from E. G. West & Co., Toronto.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over THIRTY YEARS by MILLIONS OF MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES THE GUMS, SOFTENS THE GUMS, LAYS ALL PAIN, CURES WIND COLIC and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Sold all over the world.

ANOTHER SNOWSLIDE IN THE ROCKIES

Vancouver, March 9.—There was a snowslide this morning a mile west of Glacier, half a mile long and 80 feet deep. Because of this all trains will until further notice, be handled by way of Nelson and the Crow's Nest. Forty-one bodies have in all been recovered, leaving 20 in the slide. The bodies recovered yesterday and this morning are: Foreman D. J. McDonald, C. Anderson, A. Johnson, T. Murray, J. Wheatley and J. Makowski. The remainder are Japanese.

THE NAVAL ESTIMATES

Great Britain Will Spend 203 Millions This Year.
London, March 9.—Great Britain will spend on its navy this year \$203,018,500, according to the estimates issued by the admiralty tonight.

This is an increase of \$27,805,000. The increase is almost wholly taken up by shipbuilding armaments authorized by Parliament before dissolution.

The new programme provides for five large ocean ships, five protected cruisers, 20 destroyers and a considerable number of submarines. By April there will be under construction seven battleships, three cruisers, 37 destroyers and nine submarines.

WENT THROUGH ICE

Two Men Drowned in the Murray River on Prince Edward Island.
Charlottetown, P. E. I., March 9.—L. R. McLaren, of St. John, and Angus Martin, of Murray River, were drowned in the Murray River, about half a mile from the village of the same name Tuesday night.

McLaren, accompanied by Martin, driver of the team, left Murray Harbor, north, at 10 o'clock to drive on the ice to Murray River. That was the last seen or heard of them until 10 o'clock this morning, when someone noticed the horse's head in a hole in the middle of the river, the empty sleigh being attached to the dead body of the horse.

Martin was past middle-age, married, with a grown-up family.

BLACK KNIGHTS ELECT

Lieut.-Col. Belcher Once More Made Grand Master of Ontario.
St. Catharines, March 9.—The Grand Black Chapter Ontario West Royal Black Knights of Ireland elected the following officers, the principal officers being chosen for another term:

Chief, Lieut.-Col. A. E. Belcher, Southampton; deputy grand master, Dr. A. Hunter, Orangeville; associate deputy grand master, Fred R. Parnell, St. Catharines; grand chaplain, Canon Walsh; associate grand chaplain, T. R. White, Grand Valley; C. E. Perry, Toronto; E. T. Hughes, Tillsonburg; grand registrar, E. A. Pennell, Toronto; grand treasurer, William Cook, Meaford; censor, Tom McLennan, St. Catharines; S. Mahood, Wallaceburg; grand lecturer, V. McCausland, Toronto; assistant lecturer, Ed Lankin, of Toronto; standing bearer, C. Armstrong, Toronto; pursuivant, H. E. Glennevin.

ASQUITHS UNHAPPY

But There Is No Intention of Asking for a Separation.
London, March 10.—An emphatic denial was made today by friends of the family of Premier Herbert Asquith, of the story that the Premier and his wife are shortly to seek a judicial separation.

It has long been no secret that the domestic affairs of the Asquiths are not of the happiest, but the social aspirations of Mrs. Asquith and the political ambitions of the Premier are said to be such that neither wishes a separation, which would seriously work against the future plans of both.

FRED DANE BRUISED.
St. Catharines, March 9.—Fred Dane, the T. and N. O. Railway commissioner, fell on a sidewalk here today and badly bruised his hip. He will be laid up for a week. He was attending the Orange Lodge.

TWO NEW JUDGES FOR THIS PROVINCE

Toronto, March 9.—Hon. J. J. Foy is introducing a Government bill to provide for the appointment of two additional high court judges. Three was the number wanted by the present judges.

It is understood that Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, minister of justice, will make the appointment before the opening of the court in September, and a rumor has it that one appointment will be made from Eastern Ontario, the other from Western Ontario.

FAIRBANKS ON PEACE.

London, March 9.—Ex-Vice-President Fairbanks was banqueted at the Hotel Savoy tonight by the Pilgrims' Society. Replying to a toast proposed by Lord Nalbury, Mr. Fairbanks made a humorous speech, dealing with American and British politics, which kept his audience in a state of laughter.

In a serious passage, referring to the immense expenditure of the leading nations on their armies and navies, he said that if they expended but a small fraction of the energy now devoted to preparing for war in an effort to prepare for the peaceful adjustment of international difficulties, such difficulties would soon be settled.

There would seldom be war if these upon whose backs the burden of war sooner or later rested, were free to determine war or peace.

Colds Affect the Kidneys

MOST PAINFUL AILMENTS FOLLOW—THEIR HEALTH AND ACTIVITY RESTORED BY
Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills

When you catch cold there is nothing better to do than to take a dose of Dr. Chase's Kidney and Liver Pills at bedtime.

Colds often settle on the kidneys and are followed by the most painful and fatal results. By quickening the action of the kidneys at this time you enable them to carry off the lurking poisons and prevent serious disease.

Keep the back warm, avoid sitting with the back in a draft and regulate the kidneys by the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney and Liver Pills. These rules are worth following, particularly at this season of the year.

Mr. W. Ferguson, blacksmith, Trenton, Ont., states: "In my work I am bending over a great deal, and this, together with the constant strain on all parts of the body, and the sudden change of temperature when going to and from the forge, brought on kidney disease and backache. At times I would suffer so that I would have to quit work to ease my back, and felt so miserable most of the time I did not enjoy life very much."

"At last I decided that I would have to get relief in some way, and having heard of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills as a successful cure for backache and kidney disease, I began using them. To my surprise and pleasure they helped me at once, and a few boxes entirely removed my troubles."

Dr. Chase's Kidney and Liver Pills, one pill a dose, 25 cents a box, all dealers; or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

ALLAN LINE

ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.
To Liverpool.
From St. John, Halifax, Mar. 19
Tunisian, Fri. Mar. 25
Victorian, Fri. Apr. 1
Boston to Glasgow.
Nunonian, Thursday, March 24, 2 p.m.
Gruampian, Thursday, April 7, 2 p.m.
Portland to Glasgow.
Ionian, Thursday, March 24

Rates of Passage According to Steamer.
First Class—\$20, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, \$50.
Second Class—\$12, \$15, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$35.
Third Class—\$8, \$10, \$15.
Full information on application to F. R. Clarke, E. De La Hooke, W. Fulton, R. E. Ruse, local agents, London. The ALLAN LINE, 71 Yonge street, Toronto.

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Including certain points on Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.
April 5, 19; May 3, 17, 31; June 14, 28; July 12, 26; Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 6, 20.
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Tickets good for 60 Days.
Proportionate rates to principal points in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.
For pamphlets, giving list and particulars of "Free Homeseekers' Lands for Purchase along the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway," apply to E. DE LA HOOKE, C. P. and T. A.; R. E. RUSE, Depot Agent, or address J. D. McDONALD, D. P. A., G. T. Ry., Toronto.

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From West From Liverpool.
Mar. 19, Empress of Britain, Mar. 2
Mar. 25, Empress of Ireland, Mar. 11
Apr. 2, Lake Champlain, Mar. 16
Apr. 8, Empress of Britain, Mar. 25
Apr. 16, Lake Manitoba, Mar. 30
SPECIAL SAILING—"LAKE ERIE," from Liverpool, April 6, and from St. John to London DIRECT, April 21.
Third class rates to and from London and Liverpool, \$30, via "Empresses," and \$25 via "Lake" steamers.

All steamers are equipped with wireless and all conveniences for the safety and comfort of passengers.
To book or for further information apply to the nearest C. P. R. agent, or to S. J. SHARP, 71 Yonge street, Toronto.

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THROUGH SPECIAL TRAINS
Leave Toronto 2 p. m. on above days.
Through First and Second Class Coaches, Colonist and Tourist Sleepers.
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Ask for Homeseekers' Pamphlet.

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TRAVELERS' GUIDE

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

SARACIA TUNNEL TO BUSBY BRIDGE AND TORONTO.
Arrive from the east—7:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:12 a.m., 11:28 a.m., 6:59 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:10 p.m.
Arrive from the west—12:00 a.m., 7:52 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 6:58 p.m.
Depart for the east—12:14 a.m., 7:43 a.m., 7:50 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 6:53 p.m.
Depart for the west—7:55 a.m., 7:40 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 1:40 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:58 p.m.
LONDON AND WINDSOR.
Arrive—10:15 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:56 p.m., 11:06 p.m.
Depart—6:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 6:53 p.m., 11:35 p.m.

STRATFORD BRANCH

Arrive—9:25 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:33 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 11:25 p.m.
Depart—6:40 a.m., 10:35 a.m., 2:45 p.m., 6:55 p.m.

LONDON, HURON AND BRUCE

Arrive—10:00 a.m., 6:10 p.m.
Depart—5:30 a.m., 4:50 p.m.
Trains marked * run daily. Those not marked, daily, except Sunday.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Arrive from the east—11:25 a.m., 16:30 p.m., 17:02 p.m., 10:52 p.m.
Depart for the east—4:55 a.m., 17:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 5:42 p.m.
Depart for the west—11:33 a.m., 17:10 p.m.
Daily, except Sunday.

PERE MARQUETTE RAILWAY

Depart—5:45 a.m., 17:10 a.m., 9:40 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 12:40 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
Arrive—8:45 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 1:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 12:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILWAY

Arrive—6:55 a.m., 11:10 a.m., 5:19 p.m., 6:25 p.m.
Depart—7:20 a.m., 2:20 p.m., 6:35 p.m., 10:25 p.m.

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