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**LORD WHARTON'S NECE**  
—AND—  
**THE HEIR TO REGNA COURT.**

CHAPTER V

"You've been so many things," she repeated.

"He nodded.

"Yes, I am what the world calls an adventurer, Miss Sartoris.

"What is that?" asked Claire.

"Well, in the old days, it meant a soldier of fortune, a man who sold his sword to the highest bidder, one who went sailing in search of new lands or somebody else's ship and treasure; it meant all sorts of romantic things. Nowadays it means a kind of vagabond, a ne'er-do-well, who gets his living in odd ways, and is regarded as a kind of disreputable character whom it is best to avoid."

"You are not very charitable to yourself," said Claire.

"She spoke almost coldly, to conceal her increased interest.

"He laughed a short and not unmusical laugh.

"You asked me, and I told you the truth," he said. "I have been an adventurer—that is a vagabond—ever since I can remember. (If I can only keep her sitting still another ten minutes, I shall have got her!) At the early age of fifteen, I ran away to sea and worked my passage out to America in a sailing ship. So you may say I am a sailor. Out in America I worked my way—by breaking stones, chopping wood and similar intellectual occupations—to the mines. I worked in the mines for two years."

"So that you are a miner," said Claire, absently.

"So that I am a miner," he assented, trying to indicate the exquisite wave in her hair. "Mining is not an exhilarating pursuit. There is too much 'tailings' about it."

Claire leaned her elbow upon her horse's neck, and looked at him.

"What are 'tailings'?" she inquired, with a kind of reluctant curiosity.

"Tailings are, so to speak, the dregs of the ore that fall at the bottom of the stamping machine, the machine that stamps out the precious metal from the rock. There still remains some of the silver in these tailings, and they have to be washed to separate the metal from them. It is maddening, a soul-destroying occupation. I threw it up and went cattle driving; so that you may call me a cowboy."

"And did you like that better?" asked Claire.

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"I fancy I should have spent the remainder of my days with those children of the forest, but one morning that happened to come a bank of clouds across the sky that looked like 'Glims', I thought of the cliffs of old England, and a sudden homesickness fell upon me, and took possession of me. I sold my skins and feathers to the chief, and that same night rode out of the camp and straight for the coast, and took ship for England, and so came back to the land of my birth, which I had not seen since a boy."

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**Perils of Under-sea Divers**

The pearl fisheries were among the first of the "undersea" industries to be developed by the ancients.

The Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Red Sea were the early sources of commercial pearls. The pearl fisheries to-day are centered around Ceylon, the Australian coast, the Island of Margarita, off Venezuela, Massowa, Panama, and the Dutch East Indies. The pearl oyster is technically called *Avicula margaritifera*, and the mother of pearl oyster is called *margaritina margaritifera*.

The sponge fisheries also have had a strong attraction for divers. These fisheries are centered in the Mediterranean and the West Indies. The divers for sponges are weighted by stones, like the early Greek divers. They cut the growing sponge clumps with a knife and put them into a basket which, when full, is hauled to the surface from a schooner's deck.

Coral reefs supply the gem and bead corals. The chief fisheries are around Corsica, Sardinia, Algeria and in the South Sea Islands. Amber is secured in the Baltic Sea bed in the same manner. The role played by the native diver has been a great one. He has concentrated pearls, gem stones, coral, sponges, fish and many other commercial articles of immense value to the world's supplies, undergone immense exertions in developing the resources of the sea, meeting with extraordinary adventures and suffering astonishing pains. The combined weight of the air and water on the body constantly troubles the openness of the diver. This pressure is felt in the ears, which may be compared with a one-sided drum. When the air pressure acts on the drum it forces it into the ear tube, or, in a bad case, causes the diver great distress. He may relieve the congestion temporarily by stopping his descent for a moment and swallowing saliva, but if this does not relieve the inverted eardrum he must return to the surface. These men work in tropical seas infested with sharks and other dangerous fish. They are frequently attacked by these and by giant octopuses.

In order to facilitate the work of the pearl, oyster, clam, sponge and coral divers, dredges, harpoon grapnels, diving helmets, diving bells and caissons have been devised, and dredging in places has been substituted for naked diving; but there are many thousands of men still daily engaged in this primitive form of industry.

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**Untimely Death of John Cook**

**CREATES UNIVERSAL SORROW.**

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INGONISH, Dec. 9.—Gloom was cast over the Ingonish fishing fleet this afternoon when it was learned that for the first time in a quarter of a century's sailing of the wintry seas, loss of life occurred in the rough waters off Ingonish Island. The schooner Julia F., Capt. Will Dunphy, best her way in the teeth of a howling southerly breeze to the harbour bringing the sad news that John J. Cook, one of our most respected citizens, had been drowned when his dory was swamped by a mountainous sea at noon.

The two months between November 15 and January 15 find a fleet of thirty sailing vessels at South Ingonish prosecuting what is known locally as the fall fishery. These boats sell fresh to the National, Leonard and Maritime fish companies a catch averaging one hundred thousand pounds a day. Rough weather, unless it is extremely rough, does not prevent the vessels from going out every day to the fishing grounds five or six miles off.

This morning the sea was quite heavy, but all the boats took a chance that late in the day moderate weather would prevail. Instead, it

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turned out worse, a gale of wind developing, heavy seas running and a downpour of rain combining to call for the best qualities of seamanship on board the little schooners.

The Julia F. three miles to the eastward of Ingonish Island operated two dories a mile or so apart, and each dory setting about five tubs of gear. In one dory were Cook and B. Dunphy, the other Hardy and Bungay. This Julia kept running back and forth to the two dories, taking their catch and watching lest some accident should happen. A heavy squall struck the schooner and tore down her mainsail. Cook and B. Dunphy seeing what had happened cut their lines and started rowing to the disabled schooner.

Looking back they saw bearing down upon them a sea of mountainous proportions. Before they had time to move, it broke fairly in the center of the fish-laden boat and swamped her. Both occupants were thrown into the sea grasping anything at hand to keep them afloat. Another sea struck and the dory re-appeared bottom up. Cook reached the top of the little boat in the other Hardy and Bungay. This Bart Dunphy grasped the oars and held on, meanwhile conversing with his dory-mate as how to escape. Their talk was short, as another sea coming along swept Cook out of sight and Dunphy, chilled and discouraged, was at the mercy of the rowing to the disabled schooner.

John J. Cook, who lost his life, was a prominent man in the district. A skilled fisherman, he was for twenty years a resident of South Ingonish, where he was postmaster. Born in Carboneau, Nfld., where he leaves a mother and several sisters and brothers. He moved to Canada where he married and leaves a wife and 7 small children. His untimely death has cast a gloom over the entire community where he was so well and favorably known.—Sydney Post, Dec. 12.

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