

A DISCONTENTED WOMAN

The servant who let him in was a little surprised when Mr. Sturtevant asked for Miss Olivia. He usually called for Mrs. McChesney. The solemnly deliberate manner in which the young man asked to see the father instead of the daughter suggested to the quick-witted maid that Mr. Sturtevant's courtesy of the heiress was about to be submitted to the final question of papa's permission.

But when Mr. Sturtevant, who was the embodiment of propriety and poise, came into the library and the presence of the irascible old banker, he quietly took the seat indicated, and without more ado and in a perfectly modulated voice, said:

"Mr. McChesney, I should apologize perhaps for seeming to trouble you with what may seem to you a family affair, but your daughter, Miss Olivia—"

Here the old millionaire raised his eyebrows and tried to look pleasant. Sturtevant went on, a coming man in the street, and well, Olivia had been "out" four years, and her bills were beginning "to count."

"Miss Olivia," resumed Sturtevant, "is having her portrait done by this fellow, this painter, Arthur Cameron."

"So?" growled McChesney, disappointed at the trivial turn of the talk. "She has been posing under a cloud, and, as you say, she is a young paragon, with the suggestion of a sneer, 'spending considerable time in Cameron's studio, and from what I know, the fellow is in love with her.'"

"What?" gasped the old man, dropping his paper and wadding over to shut the door.

"Of course, I know Miss Olivia is too sensible to permit or encourage such a ridiculous attachment, but—"

"But what? What do you know? Is he—"

"Yes, that's it, he's talking about her. Calls her 'Discontented Lady,' and oh, I assure you, he displays the picture to his friends and raves about Miss Olivia quite impudently. I thought you ought to know. It's too bad, you know."

"That's bad! It's a d— outrage! Is that all, Mr. Sturtevant? Well, it's enough! Thank you. Good evening."

The old man was in a rage and his mind was made up. The next morning, without a word to his wife or Olivia, he went to Cameron's studio with:

"Are you painting my daughter's likeness? I'm McChesney, Horace McChesney, banker. The door was ajar, for it was a warm autumn night, and across the entrance inside was a bamboo screen draped in the light breeze. She stood behind that and

"It's a goddess for us, Kate. The old gentleman actually thought I was in love with his daughter. He couldn't understand that I was only delighted, fascinated, captivated with the creature of my brush and colors. Now, if we're lucky, I'll never have to do another portrait. Still, I was fortunate to have such a model, wasn't I, Kate?"

"Did you ever see such a perfect illustration of fretful, nagging, envious discontent upon the face of a woman who might be beautiful if she were only happy? And I caught the very spirit of her. I know it. I know it."

"Yes, dear," a soft voice said, "it is perfect. Van Vleet told me this morning that he could get a thousand for it and no commissions. I'd take it. And I'll have it done in a month or two, and I'm tired breathing."

Here the old fellow nearly had a fit, so loud, so unbecomingly he laughed. "Why, I wouldn't give you \$10 for it! Livvy never had any clothes like this, never had half as many diamonds!"

That freak of yours looks like she had a pain somewhere. Ha, ha, hi, hi, oh! what a freak! The artist drew on the curtain and set down a bit disconcerted, but smiling too.

"So you don't like it, sir?" "Like it! Why, I wouldn't have it. Not that I'd see you lose any money. But let's see, is it done? Well, I'll give you, say \$50 for what you've done and—"

"And the picture?" "Oh, keep the dang thing if you want it. You can hang it up in State street if you ain't ashamed to. You can use it for a cigarette ad. Only don't put Olivia's name on it. Nobody'll ever know it's her unless you tell 'em. But mind (counting out \$50), don't you go blabbing my daughter's name around like you was a friend of hers. That's what I won't stand. Here!"

"Thank you," said Cameron, turning red, and a look of delight in his eyes as he pushed away the money. "I don't want any more, Mr. McChesney. I'm quite satisfied to own the picture. Think of it, I—"

"See here young man," said the old fellow, almost gently, "you ain't gone on my daughter, are you?"

"Gone? You mean in love? Oh, no, no, indeed! Never thought of her. But this fellow, I just like the picture. You see, it's altogether, the best thing I ever did—"

"And you won't take the fifty?" "No, indeed. I am ready to oblige to—"

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ten feet at the shoulder does not exist in India or Burmah. Sanderson, who is admitted to be the best authority on the subject, says that the largest male he ever met with measured nine feet ten inches and the tallest female eight feet five inches. The majority of elephants, however, are between eight feet and nine feet. An animal rarely reaches nine feet, the female being slightly shorter than the male. The carcass of an elephant, however, is a most interesting sight. It weighs in portions gave a total weight of 3,000 pounds, so an elephant weighing two tons should weigh about three-fourths of an inch to one inch thick.

THE GREAT SEAL AND ITS KEEPER

Duties of the Office of Lord High Chancellor.

The First Lay Personage of the Kingdom After Princes of the Blood.

Among the changes announced as probable in the English Cabinet in connection with the accession to the premiership of the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour was the resignation of Lord High Chancellor of England, says the *Marquis of Fontenoy*, in his weekly letter.

This is the highest administrative and judicial dignity of the empire. For, although the lord high steward ranks as the first great officer of the crown, yet his appointment is only made by the sovereign for specific functions of state, such as, for instance, a coronation or the trial of a peer by the House of Lords, and lapses back to the crown.

Hence, the lord high chancellor of England, although theoretically only the second of the great officers of state, is at all other times the principal temporary dignity of the empire, and on the official table of precedence his position is second only to that of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the primate of the kingdom, and before the Archbishop of York. In one word, he is the first lay personage of the realm after the princes and princesses of the blood royal.

Lord High Chancellorship is not the most illustrious, but like the office of the most ancient offices of the British Empire, the unbroken line of holders of the dignity, dating back to 1068, that it is said, two years ago, when the late Lord Chancellor, Lord Halsbury, died, was a seat in the cabinet, a salary of \$50,000 a year, the presidency of the House of Lords, a hereditary peerage, and a seat in the House of Commons.

Even if the woolstack has only been occupied for a few weeks—and an immense amount of patronage. Besides this, the lord high chancellor is a member of the Privy Council, and president of all the courts of justice of the empire, which, of course, renders him a member of the legal profession. True, in olden times the woolstack was frequently occupied by ecclesiastics, and at one time the chancellorship was held by a monk, but since the days of John Wicliffe, Bishop of Lincoln, who succeeded Sir Ranulf de Glanville, the office has been filled by a more or less distinguished lawyer, the woolstack being, indeed, regarded as the highest prize of the legal profession.

The Lord High Chancellor has the appointment of all justices of the peace, as well as of all judges of the supreme court of law. He is the supreme guardian, ex-officio, of all infants, idiots and lunatics, and as such has the legal right to remove any guardian of any kind, and to appoint in his place one who is more worthy of the office.

He is also the guardian of the property of all persons who have been appointed as such by will, but who have shown themselves, in his opinion, to be unworthy of the office. He presides, has two distinct tribunals as a court of law and as a court of equity, and as president of all the courts of justice of the empire, he is the highest authority in the land.

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ing that there was nothing that he could possibly do that would cause so much inconvenience to the government, which had deposed him, as the absence of the great seal and the impossibility, therefore, to summon parliament, he had decided to resign. He had, however, under the provisions of the act until a new one was engraved. If he dropped it into the river rather than took it away with him to France, it is likely that he would be captured before he reached the mouth of the river.

There are all sorts of laws dealing with the custody of the great seal, which is a huge silver altar, costing about \$5,000. Thus an ancient statute still in force declares that it must not be taken out of the United Kingdom, and one of the offenses for which Cardinal Wolsey was impeached and punished in the reign of King Henry VIII, was that he had violated this law by taking the great seal out of the kingdom with him to France.

A Lord High Chancellor who allows the great seal out of his own custody renders himself liable to removal from office, but likewise to other more serious pains and penalties. Lord Chancellor Eldon was in the habit of carrying the great seal under his pillow, and when, on one occasion, his house was destroyed by fire, it was the only treasure that he thought of saving.

The great seal is kept in a very elaborate purple velvet and gold embroidered bag, adorned with the royal arms. The state seal, which is a new bag of this kind each year, at a cost of \$400, and the old bag then becomes the perquisite of the holder. The great seal is carried in its gorgeous bag by the Lord High Chancellor himself, while on minor occasions it is carried by one of his gentlemen-in-waiting in full court dress.

As to the naval measures by which the empire, with all its lines of communication, may be most effectively secured in the event of a sudden attack, it is a subject which is not likely to be brought forward by the government.

It is to maintain her fleet at a strength sufficient for all needs, apart from any local operations, and to be able to rely on her own resources without reliance on colonial co-operation to any material extent. With regard to a permanent organization of the navy for imperial purposes, involving liability to service other than purely local, the self-governing colonies, while claiming a right to be heard, are not likely to be successful.

Obviously that was what Sir Edmund Barton meant when he deprecated anything like pre-emptive in such matters. A comprehensive scheme, involving liability to service other than purely local, the self-governing colonies, while claiming a right to be heard, are not likely to be successful.

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