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Dr. Chase's Ointment

Phyllis Dearborn

OR, THE
Countess of Basingwille

CHAPTER V.

The habit of bearing all things with equanimity was so strong within Lionel that he made his way through the crush of Lady Mordaunt's drawing-room with the same air of smiling carelessness that he had borne on his entrance into it.

He noted that the Marquis of Gree had withdrawn, probably in anger or disgust; he saw that his farewell speech must have become known, and that he was more than ever a lion in consequence. He pressed his way to the hostess, and said good-evening, and passed out, stealing one last exchange of glances with Lady Flora.

When the cool, damp night air struck his face, all flushed as it was with the heat of the crowded drawing-room, and warmed, moreover by the fire that raged within him, it seemed to him that he had passed out of an unreal world to a real one. What he had done appeared to him suddenly in a new light; or, more exactly, it appeared to him in its true light—the light he should have seen it by all the time, and he realized that he had done a wrong act.

He passed by the line of waiting carriages and cabs, and sought calmness in the solitude of the deserted streets. Whether he walked he did not need. He wished to be alone, and he walked and reflected as he walked. "Why had he not known before what he so suddenly and unexpectedly discovered? Why had he made the terrible mistake of supposing her a woman without a heart? Why had he not known before that he loved her so much?"

These questions he asked himself, and then—did he love her so much? Did he? Was he questioning that? If he had not loved her, why had he gone to her? Strange questions these for a man who had had an unexpected happiness come to him. He had been very sure of his love only an hour before, and that had been the reason for his going to her, of all

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persons, after he had taken his farewell of the world. But these were not the things to think of. He had told her that he loved her, and he did—of course he did. He was troubled now by a reaction from the stress he had been in. He would leave that, to consider how he should excuse himself to himself for the baseness of accepting her love when he had no right to it. What should he do? What could he do? Such love as hers, at once so noble and so complete, he had never dreamed of. His own love seemed so paltry when tried by hers.

His own love! Why should that thought always recur to him with a sort of pang of dissatisfaction and distress? Was it that his love had been so dwarfed by a comparison with hers? Yes, that must be it. But he would try to be worthy of her—that he could do, and so order his actions that only her happiness should be wrought. It would be a pleasure to sacrifice himself in any way for such a peerless creature. How peerless he had not before even dreamed. Her physical beauty—perfection itself—was as nothing to that hidden beauty and grace of which he of all the world only knew.

But how to act, what to do, he could not determine. It was as if he was in a labyrinth, every turn of which only brought him back to the one point—that she had given him a precious treasure which he must cherish for her happiness, stopping at nothing to compass that end. However, it was something to have come to that conclusion, and at last he stopped and looked about him, to determine where he had wandered to.

He had only made out that he had come far from the aristocratic quarter of the city, when a frightened, piteous cry for help broke the stillness, and he looked around in time to see a woman struggling in the hands of three men. There was a lamp post near, with the light burning with the usual exasperating dimness, so that he could make out nothing except that the woman was disinclined to receive the pleasantries of the men. That was enough for him, however, and he was at her side in a moment, saying, sternly:

"Unhand the woman! Leave her, I tell you!"

"Mind your own business," was the angry rejoinder, and one of the men pushed Lionel aside, and then threw his arm around the struggling creature.

An undefined sense of something familiar in the voice struck Lionel, but it flashed out of his mind as it had flashed in, and without a moment's hesitation he caught one of the men by the arm and twirled him about with the muscular ease of the trained athlete who had stroked his college eight and been the anchor of the team of-war.

The sudden action made the other two men turn upon him, and there seemed the prospect of a rough tussle. It was only a seeming, however, for with startling force and precision the strong arm shot out right and left, and the two men fell on the other.

"Run for it, Gree! Here comes a bobby," said the man who had been thrown into the street.

At the same time Lionel turned to look at one of the prostrate men, and saw then that it was, indeed, the marquis of that name.

"Ah, my Lord Gree," he said, sarcastically, his aversion to the man suddenly aroused, "this is an unexpected pleasure."



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The policeman came up with this pompous air of his kind, and began a blustering interrogation.

"Hush!" said Lionel, imperiously. "I am Sir Lionel Warne, and will answer for the disturbance, if there has been enough to warrant any words from you."

"All very well," said the officer; "but anybody can say as how he's anybody, an' how am I to know?"

Lionel understood what that meant very well, for he had had more than one encounter with the guardians of the peace; so he thrust his hand into his pocket intending to draw forth a shilling; but, alas, he had to the literal truth in saying to Lady Flora that he was penniless. There was nothing in his pocket. It restored his old reckless humor to be so caught, and he whipped a costly ring from his finger and handed it to the officer.

"Here, take this and be off. It is the last souvenir of Sir Lionel Warne your sort is likely ever to get."

Sir Lionel was well enough known not to make it improbable that the ring given was of great value, and the policeman did not wait for a second order before turning his back and scuttling with his prize to test it no doubt, under the first gas-lamp.

"Now you are free to go," said Lionel, raising his hat as politely as if she were a duchess.

"Oh, sir, thank you so much," was the answer, in tremulous tones. Sir Lionel started with surprise. The voice and tones were unmistakably those of a lady.

"Stop!" he said, as she turned to go, "you have no business out alone at this hour. Let us get a cab."

"Oh, no, sir. Thank you. I live but a short distance from here. Just around the corner. I was going for the doctor. I have a friend very ill in the next room to mine. That is why I ventured out."

She spoke hurriedly and apologetically, as if desirous of setting him right if he should still think ill of her.

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for being in the streets at that hour. "It was very imprudent," he gravely said, for although he could not see her face, it was plain from the freshness of her voice that she was young. "Did you say you were going to get a doctor?"

"Yes, sir." "Tell me where it is, and I will go for you. But first let me take you home. You must not be out any longer."

"I don't wish to trouble you, sir, and I must fetch the doctor, for Carrie is very ill."

"I will take you to the doctor's, then," he said, decisively. "You are not afraid to trust me, are you?" "Oh, no, sir," she said, with emphatic frankness that was very grateful to his ear.

"Then let us go. Shall I tell you my name?" he said, as they started off.

"I know it—Sir Lionel Warne. I heard you give it to the policeman. Are you the Sir Lionel Warne?" she asked, with a simplicity that almost made him smile.

"I am afraid I am," he answered, wondering what sort of reputation the Sir Lionel had in this young lady's circle, for in spite of the fact that she lived in this extremely unfashionable quarter he was certain that she was a lady.

"I've heard so much about you," she said. "Not much good, perhaps," he ventured to suggest.

"Oh, yes, I have, indeed," she declared, eagerly. "Oh, I could tell you of many good things about you. And now I shall have something to tell on my own account. Oh, Sir Lionel," she cried, "how I wish poor Carrie could see you. She has heard so much about you, you know."

"If it will do poor Carrie any good to see me, I am sure I shall be delighted, and on my part I should like to see her. Who is she? What is the matter with her?"

"She is a cripple, and do you know, Sir Lionel," she said, with the deepest and sweetest commiseration in her voice, "she can't live long. And yet she keeps bravely on, working hard all the time."

"What kind of work?" "Oh, we're artists. Well, I don't know that I ought to say that either; but we paint pictures after a fashion, and sell them to people who don't know much about such things. I am sure she would be a great artist, though, if she were strong enough to study. Here is the doctor's. Do you think he will go with us?"

"Oh, yes, he'll go." "How confidently you say that," she said, in a tone of honest admiration. "But he is awfully cross sometimes. You see we can't always pay promptly. Of course you don't expect as much if you don't pay well. But we do the best we can."

How like a true-hearted child she talked. And how for granted she took his good offices, now that she was assured of his friendliness. It was just the sort of diversion from his own troublesome thoughts that he could have wished.

SOMETHING TO READ!

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The Little Girls' Knitting & Crochet Books—Edited by Flora Klickmann, 35c.
The Daily Mail Year Book for 1916, 17c.
The Daily Telegraph War Map of the Dardanelles; Sea of Marmora and Turkey, 30c.
Latest Quarterly Division of Spare Moments, 35c.
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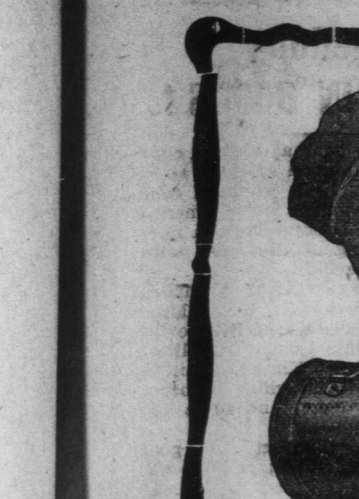
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War News

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.

OFFICIAL.

LONDON, Jan. 17. The Governor, Newfoundland.

The British bombarded Lill trenches and gravely damaged. Two heavy explosions were near Het Sas.

Austrians report that the gring, after the fall of Cezana, treated on the whole south front. Spiza was occupying Montenegro are stubbornly ing in Berane.

The enemy delivered two attacks northwest of Gorizia, and second penetrated some trenches. They were thrown back counter-attack the next day.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. A cable from London this morning for the New York Herald, informed that the report that Prince of Wales will not return to front, because the heir to the throne has recisely exposed himself to enemy, is unfounded, and that since he may be retained in public duties, usually performed by his father; He will remain in France, where his brusque simplicity have made him the talk ranks, as soon as the King completely recovered from his accident.

IRELAND AND CONSCRIPTION

LONDON, Jan. 17. Irish members in the Commons made an appeal to-day for the abolition of Ireland in the provisions of a bill for compulsory military service. A motion to this effect was made by James Chambers, of the Southern Division of Belfast, supported by an Craig, of the Eastern Division. Down. Both Chambers and Craig argued that the stigma placed on the countrymen by the terms of the bill should be removed. They appeal John Redmond, leader of the Irish

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