

A Lover's GERALDINE: Romance.

CHAPTER VIII.

The entrance of the celebrated Dr. Ledbury into the drawing-room at Warrington Hall made a profound impression upon its occupants. He was a man so striking in appearance that this would, in a less degree, have been the case even if the fate of almost every member of the household had not hung upon the results of his skill, which was about to be exercised upon the master at Warrington, now lying speechless upstairs.

Dr. Ledbury was a man of tall and commanding figure, with fair and long, well-trimmed, wavy hair, handsome aquiline nose, and blue eyes as cold as piercing as those of Miss Elizabeth Otway herself. In spite of the gold-rimmed spectacles that he wore, he looked young for a man who had attained so high a place in his profession. The only sign by which it was possible to tell that the sleek brilliancy of his appearance was the result, not of youth, but of careful preservation, was his walk, which was measured and rather heavy, not that of a young man. He spoke very little, very slowly, and in a deep, low voice, listened gravely to Elizabeth's brief explanation of the case he had been summoned to attend, and then asked:

"Result of some shock, I suppose?"

"I believe so."

"You were not present?"

"No."

"Anyone present?"

Elizabeth hesitated. The physician waited. At last she said:

"Yes, one person."

"I was present at the time of Sir Charles' seizure, Dr. Ledbury. I am his cousin. Indeed, I am afraid it was a disclosure made by me with unthinking suddenness which produced on my poor cousin such lamentable results," said Lindley, coming forward and bowing to the great physician, who examined him attentively through his gold-rimmed glasses.

"What effect does your presence have on him now?"

They had to listen very closely to catch the sense of the great man's words, so low did he speak, besides having apparently a slight difficulty of utterance.

"I have not seen my cousin since his seizure."

The doctor looked at him steadily, evidently surprised.

"You had better see him now. The sight of you may have some effect. Kindly show me the way."

His quiet manner was so authoritative that Elizabeth, who had started at his suggestion, dared not interfere. Fortune was with Lindley still; in powerless rage she had to submit to the unannounced departure from the room with the physician. For one wild moment she thought of resisting, but this doctor, summoned by Lindley in connection with his cousin, was not a man to be trifled with. He was above suspicion; the next, the suspicion flashed across her mind that this might not be Dr. Ledbury. At all, although she had seen his telegram announcing the hour of his coming; but that idea had also to be dismissed, for nothing could be more unlike the bearing of an impostor than the grave dignity and assured manner of this man, whose shrewd, penetrating glance had exercised upon herself a strange fascination. She was not surprised when, having listened with straining ears to the last sound of the footsteps of the two men as they crossed the central hall and went up the staircase, she entered the room, still wearing her bonnet, and, coming with tottering steps close up to her sister, whispered:

"Oh, Elizabeth, he frightens me! Oh, I would not go through this drive again with him for the world!"

"Why, what makes you afraid of him? He is neither old, ugly, nor very ferocious, unless he is very different in tete-a-tete from what he is at other times. How did you meet him?"

"The London train came in just as I drove up, and a minute after he came out of the station; he was looking about, so I guessed who he was, and spoke to him."

"So, then, he frightened you coming alone, did he? What did he say?"

"He didn't say anything—at least, he said scarcely anything. He apologized to me for opening my pocket-book, and he looked at it, and read and made notes in it nearly all the time."

"Well, that was not very alarming."

"Oh, but you don't know! There was something in the way he did it which seemed to say that he did not want my company, and that I ought not to have come. But it was more than that, Elizabeth; he had a horrible effect upon me; he is one of those terribly clever people who read one through at a glance; his eyes are like lancets. If he were to come to attend my sister, I should be at once, I know I should."

"Indeed, I believe that a siller doctor would be quite as able to treat you successfully," said her sister, dryly.

Elizabeth was beginning to take courage from her own confidence in this man's penetration; he was not likely to be the dupe of such a man as Lindley; nor at all the sort of person to encourage dying delusions in his patient. Nevertheless, she was restless and feverishly impatient as time wore on, and there was no sound to be heard above Sir Charles' bedroom was over the smaller dining-room. She left the lamp and the place at the fire, where

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she and her sister usually sat, and, crossing to the dim, cold corner under the spot where her brother lay, she listened in vain for some sound overhead. At last her endurance gave way and she opened the door softly; after a few seconds' hesitation, she elided quietly and quickly through the large ill-lighted outer hall into the small, well-lighted inner one, where she was stopped with a sudden shock by coming suddenly against a motionless figure at the foot of the staircase. She was in a state of such intense nervous excitement that the meeting almost forced a cry, even from her resolute lips. It was Johnson, the man-servant.

"What are you doing here?" she asked, sharply.

Mr. Fielding told me to be about, ma'am; he said he might want me," replied Johnson, respectfully.

"And since when have you taken your orders from Mr. Fielding?" she asked, coldly, but stung to fury by the discovery of this never-do-well cousin, on the strength of his secret, was making into the very heart of the household affairs.

Johnson stood in a respectfully deprecatory attitude, saying nothing.

"I don't not wait any longer," replied Johnson, respectfully.

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Grocers Object

To the Stalls and Tables at the Market Bazar.

Council Will Be Recommended to Do Away With Them.

Street Watering Contracts Let—The Fire Department to Have Three New Horses—Other Matters Before No. 3 Committee.

The fire, light and water committee of the City Council decided unanimously at the regular meeting last night to recommend the Council to do away with the stalls and tables at the market bazar. The members present were: Ald. McManis (chairman), Taylor, Dreaney, Stevely, Hunt and Olmstead.

Mr. E. Meredith appeared on behalf of a number of landlords and tenants to urge the council to do away with the market bazar. He said that the stalls and tables were a nuisance to the city and that they were a source of danger to the public. He also said that they were a source of annoyance to the residents of the city.

Mr. E. Meredith also argued for the abolition of the bazar. He said that the stalls and tables were a nuisance to the city and that they were a source of danger to the public. He also said that they were a source of annoyance to the residents of the city.

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is something that ought to be tacked up in every grocery! It's on a signboard over a large New York store in Broadway, where they don't believe that "substitution" pays. And nobody does believe it, except shift and short-sighted storekeepers. When a woman wants Pearlina, for instance, she won't be satisfied to have some inferior washing-powder in its place. It is a fraud on the customer and a fraud on Pearlina. You can't help to put a stop to it. When you ask for Pearlina, don't let any imitation of it be substituted for it.

residents of Queen's avenue, between English and Ontario streets.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Roe urged that something be done at once to procure horses for the fire department, and Ald. Hunt moved to ask the council for permission to purchase three horses, which was done.

At first a motion was made to appoint Ald. Dreaney and the chief a committee to locate suitable horses and set prices.

Ald. Olmstead objected, and during the discussion, Ald. Olmstead and Dreaney vied with each other in the airing of knowledge regarding horses and horse dealers. They differed as to the best method of making a purchase.

Inspector Bell reported the amount on general licenses collected for 1897 to be \$282. This is about \$50 in excess of last year at this date. He also asked that a dog pound be built in Queen's Park. Last year the dog catchers were not out early enough, he said. The engineer and chairman will look into the matter and report to the council. Three hundred and two tags have been given out so far this year.

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With regard to the streets on which the sewers will be laid, there is provision in the specifications, whereby the street watering can be discontinued and the amount deducted for the time even if the work is done.

Ald. Dreaney called attention to the fact that John Kelley was a London West resident.

Ald. Olmstead vigorously defended the principle that residents of London West should be paid for their water. Every dollar of theirs was earned in London and spent in London.

Ald. Dreaney said that he was aware that when the London Furniture Company secured a fixed rate of taxes there was a provision that they should not employ outside labor.

Ald. Dreaney—We are not catering to the outside public.

Ald. Olmstead—Well, if we are only catering for home, so much the worse for the city.

The cost of street watering last year was \$2,250.

Two petitions against street watering were received, and referred to the assessors and commissioners. One from the residents of Ridout street, south of Elmwood avenue, and the other from

Provision was made in calling for tenders to admit of letting all the work

Use It This Spring

It Purifies the Blood

THE BLOOD

THE BOWELS

THE LIVER

THE STOMACH