

A FATEFUL...DIAMOND

He hesitated for a moment, then, with evident disappointment, said he could not go at that hour; he had an important engagement that would require his presence elsewhere.

Something, a sort of fascination of mesmeric power, perhaps, made him lift and turn his eyes upon Margaret as he said this.

She was observing him with a keen, penetrating look; it was a strange look, a questioning look, and then, as his glance encountered hers; her eyes suddenly fell, and a slight, very slight flush, tinged her cheek.

The young man was startled; he could not understand it; hitherto she had hardly noticed his presence, now it seemed as if nothing escaped her observation.

"She is disappointed; she wanted me to go," he said to himself. "Patience is all I need; I shall get on with her all right yet; but I need not be too eager—I must make myself very agreeable and necessary to her, and yet be a trifle shy."

"I am sorry I cannot go," he said aloud, "but I will arrange it so as to accompany you after today, if you wish."

Again he was conscious of that swift, intent, penetrating glance from Margaret; what could it mean? "Thanks—it is pleasant to have an escort when one drives out for several miles," Mrs. Houghton replied, "and we choose this hour because it is warmer and pleasanter and there is not so much danger of Margie catching cold."

But, Arthur, she added, as he was moving toward the door, "you are lame. What is the trouble?"

The young man changed color slightly, and then laughed, as he replied: "Yes, I am a trifle unsteady; I turned my ankle coming down stairs yesterday; it came from being a bad sprain, and after sitting still for a while I find it a little difficult to start off naturally. I shall be all right in a few days, however. By the way," he added, as he was about to leave the room, "wonder if you or any of your servants have seen anything of a stray diamond about as large as a pea? I have lost one out of a sleeve-button."

He turned back the sleeve of his coat as he spoke, revealing a handsome cuff-button of black enamel and gold, out of the center of which there appeared to be a stone gone.

Margaret arose from her chair, and came swiftly to his side. "Let me see!" she said, with an eagerness that surprised both her companions.

"I have seen nothing of it, and I do not believe that the servants have; but I will have them look very carefully when they sweep again," Mrs. Houghton said.

"What makes you think you have lost it here?" Margaret asked, while a maid just then entered and spoke to her mother, and she went out, leaving Arthur and Margaret alone.

"Oh, I have no particular reason for thinking so, only I am here so much, and I thought it might possibly have dropped out during one of my calls," Arthur replied, smiling.

"When did you miss it?"

"Let me see, it was some time ago, and I meant to have asked about it before, but kept forgetting it. I believe after you had told me about this," he concluded, lowering his tone and gently touching with his finger the diamond which she had told him was the pledge of affection between herself and Louis.

For a moment Margaret stood absolutely motionless, as if riveted to the spot by some sudden thought.

"Why?" she exclaimed, "that was the very night that Louis was—that Louis disappeared!"

A shock went through him, and for a moment there was a like stillness in the room.

"So it was," he said, at last, in a forced tone. "It did not occur to me before, however," he added, with a regretful intonation, "forgive me again, Margie, I seem fated to wound you continually, and—never mind the stone; I suppose I can have another put in its place, though I am sorry to lose it, for my mother gave me the buttons on my 21st birthday."

"We will look for it," Margaret returned, "it may have rolled into some corner, or behind some piece of furniture and escaped observation. You sat over here in this chair, didn't you?"

She had turned abruptly away from him while speaking, and walked to the place where he had sat when he said such hard things of her lover.

How well she remembered it; his very look, even the tone of his voice and the passionate gestures he had made.

The chair was close by the tete-a-tete where she and Louis had afterwards sat and planned so hopefully for their future.

"I believe so," he replied, absently, while his quick eye glanced rapidly all about that corner of the room.

She was watching him breathlessly, fixedly, and with a glance that was almost like that of a madwoman, waiting for a chance to spring upon her victim, she did not lose a movement that he made.

"We will look carefully," she repeated, and he watched the sudden interest that she manifested in this trifle after all her previous apathy about everything else.

"Thanks," he said, as he again turned to go; I should be glad to go it; but, pray, do not put yourself out too much on account of it."

Then, with a smiling good-bye, he went out, leaving her standing alone by that chair, a strangely intent look on her fair young face.

CHAPTER XXIII.
Margaret stood motionless until she heard the door close after him. Then she guided into that corner of the room where she and her lover had sat that last night, and getting down upon her knees she began to look carefully all about for Arthur's missing diamond.

She moved the tete-a-tete aside, and lifting the draperies from the floor, she searched carefully along the edge of the carpet, but she found nothing.

"I do not believe he lost it here," she said; "but he lost it that night, and where?"

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She was about to rise from her kneeling posture when her attention was attracted by the arrangement of the rich curtains where they were drawn back from the window and the arch between the two rooms and fastened in folds in the corner.

"How awkwardly the girls arrange these things," Margaret said.

She took the massive tassels in her hands, untied the heavy cords, and was on the point of shaking out the draperies preparatory to gathering them up more gracefully, when something made her stop. The next moment she was bending over them closer than before.

"Ah!"

It was a sharp, startled cry that broke from her, and what she saw was sufficient to cause anyone a shock of surprise, for there, caught among the overhanging threads, and almost in the heart of a rich crimson rose, like a pure, gleaming diamond.

"It is his!" she cried in a breathless voice, "but how came it here?"

She stood as if paralyzed for a moment; then, with a resolution in her pale face, she added:

"I have a clue at last; but oh, it is such a slight one, I fear it will lead to nothing tangible. Nevertheless, I shall follow it, if it takes me as long as I live."

The next day Mrs. Houghton's maid was taken violently ill, and their physician, upon being called, pronounced her disease to be a fever of a malignant type, and advised that she be removed at once from the house, as Miss Houghton, in her present delicate condition, was liable to take it.

For the poor girl was removed to her own home—being fortunate enough to have one in the city—and a trained nurse was provided to give her proper care.

Every day Mrs. Houghton drove out to see how she was progressing, and Margaret accompanied her, although she was not allowed to alight, her mother going in alone to ascertain the needs of her maid, and to carry her comforts and delicacies.

She was where she was ill was a humble one, in a narrow street, which had once been an important business locality. Years before there had been one side of it, while upon the other immense warehouses loomed gloomily above them.

But as the tide of humanity rolled more and more into the city, pushing and crowding into every available nook and corner, business interests had gradually been removed to the more aristocratic portions of the town, and the buildings on the south side of the street had been made over into dwellings for the poorer classes, and those on the north rented for storage, or left empty and deserted.

It was not a pleasant locality, but it was not low there, and as the poor are forced to take what they can get for their money, they flocked into every available space.

It was a singular fact, however, that people shunned the side of the street that was uninhabited; the sidewalk there was almost deserted, while the opposite one was teeming with life. After dark the inhabitants of that place were disinclined to walk in the shadows of those great, gloomy buildings, and thus, after a time, the belief gradually prevailed that they were haunted.

Into this place, however, Margaret Houghton and her mother drove every day upon their errand of mercy, and after Mrs. Houghton alighted, the driver was in the habit of turning his horses about and turning up to the opposite sidewalk, while waiting for her reappearance, in order to be out of the way of other vehicles passing through.

Thus Margaret sat in the carriage one day, waiting for her mother, who, as usual, remained much longer than usual with Annette, her maid.

The young girl was extremely nervous and impatient that afternoon. She was sitting nearly opposite a narrow alley, which led at right angles through to another street running parallel with the one they were on. She had never noticed it before, but now she saw that there was an entrance all along, as far as her eye could reach, to the empty building on her right.

(To be Continued.)

THE FALL FAIRS.

WESTERN FAIR, London, Sept. 6-15. Industrial, Toronto, Aug. 27 to Sept. 8. Kingston, Sept. 10-14.

Owen Sound, Owen Sound, Sept. 11-13. Central, Ottawa, Sept. 14-22. Southern, Bradford, Sept. 15-20.

South Huron, Exeter, Sept. 17-18. Tavistock, Sept. 17-18. Stephen and Osborne, Exeter, Sept. 17-18.

Middlesex, Stratford, Sept. 17-19. North Waterloo, Berlin, Sept. 18-19. North Waterloo, Berlin, Sept. 18-19. Northern, Walkerton, Sept. 18-19.

S. Wallace, Listowel, Sept. 18-19. E. Elgin, Aylmer, Sept. 18-20. Central, Guelph, Sept. 18-20.

Great Northern, Collingwood, Sept. 18-21. Clinton Township, Sept. 20-21. N. Wallace, Palmerston, Sept. 25-26.

Mosa and Ekfrid, Glencoe, Sept. 25-26. N. Brant, Paris, Sept. 25-26. Southwestern, Essex, Sept. 25-27.

Amabel and Aldermarle, Warton, Sept. 25-27. Fullerton and Logan, Mitchell, Sept. 25-27.

Westminster Ag. So., Lambeth, Sept. 27. N. Oxford, Woodstock, Sept. 28-29. North Waterloo, Berlin, Sept. 27-28.

Turnberry, Wingham, Sept. 27-28. Mornington, Milverton, Sept. 27-28. Springfield, Sept. 28, 29.

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AN ELECTION CATECHISM

[Montreal Herald.]

Q. Have the present government done anything for the country?
A. Yes, they have done a great many things. For example, they have settled the Manitoba school question.

Q. What was that?
A. A controversy which began in Manitoba in 1891, and which was not settled in 1895, and as the result of which Canada was torn by dissension from one end to the other.

Q. Discussion of what kind?
A. Race was set against race and religion against religion, largely because the Conservatives who were in power at Ottawa had displayed both cowardice and incapacity in dealing with this extremely difficult and delicate question.

Q. Did the political parties disagree about it?
A. Yes; the Conservatives, led by the Tupper, proposed to force Manitoba into obedience, although they knew they could not succeed. The Liberals announced their intention of using conciliatory methods and appealing to common patriotism.

Q. Then the Tupper failed?
A. Naturally.

Q. And did Sir Wilfrid Laurier succeed?
A. So much so that the Manitoba school question is now nearly dead.

Q. Do you consider this a meritorious work?
A. It is so considered by all who remember anything of the bitterness prevailing in Canada while the controversy raged.

Q. Have they done anything else?
A. Yes; one of the principal complaints made against the Conservatives when in power was that they refused to inaugurate any useful reforms in the tariff. At the end of a year, after carefully surveying the conditions of Canadian industry, the Liberals revised the tariff.

Q. Has the new measure given satisfaction?
A. Undoubtedly it has; the manufacturers, the commercial interests and the people generally are well satisfied.

Q. On what plan was the tariff reformed?
A. By no means. The Liberals recognized that free trade is impossible for Canada, which has to raise a very large revenue from duties on imported goods.

Q. What, then, was the object aimed at?
A. To lower the duties, consistently with existing interests, as near as possible to the basis of a tariff for revenue only.

Q. What means was taken to this end?
A. A new tariff was framed, involving a very considerable lowering of the scale of duties.

Q. What else was done?
A. It was resolved that all goods bought and made in Great Britain there should be a reduction from the ordinary duty. In the first year this preference was one-eighth, after that one-quarter, and finally one-third, on which basis we are now working.

Q. How does this work?
A. Well, for example, under the Conservatives the average duty on cotton manufactures was 25.20 per cent; under the new tariff it is 21.03 per cent.

Q. Well, that seems a pretty fair reduction. Are the Canadian manufacturers satisfied with it?
A. Apparently so; they are busier than they have ever been before, and there is talk of more new cotton mills.

Q. What about woolen manufactures?
A. Pretty much the same. The average duty used to be 32.61 per cent; now it is 23.03 per cent.

Q. Are there other such instances?
A. Yes; suppose we take hats, caps and bonnets. The duty was 30 per cent; under the preferential tariff in full operation the duty is 20 per cent. On gloves and mitts, which people use in this country, the old duty amounted to 35 per cent; now it is down to 23.33 per cent.

Q. What about steel and steel?
A. Well, Blake once said that "the duties on such material as iron, which is in universal use, should be reduced so as to enable the home manufacturer to produce a cheaper article for the benefit of his home consumers and the encouragement of the foreign trade."

Mr. Blake's idea has been adopted. The average duty on iron and steel manufactures was 21.02 per cent; under the British preferential tariff it is 11.21 per cent.

Q. What about earthenware and chinaware?
A. The same rule applies. The old duty was 30 per cent; under the new arrangement it is 20 per cent.

Q. And leather goods?
A. The same is true. The old duty was 19.30 per cent; now it is 12.25 per cent.

Q. Was there, then, nothing put on the free list that was formerly dutiable?
A. Yes; for example, binder twine, which formerly paid 12½ per cent; cream separators, which formerly paid 2½ per cent; barbed wire, which formerly paid 3½ cents per pound; other wire, which paid 25 per cent; a great many kinds of goods used by Canadian manufacturers on which duties were formerly paid.

Q. Why do you speak of the British preference?
A. Because this reduction of the duties on British goods in Canada and throughout the world touched low water mark. The imports from Great Britain of dutiable goods in that year were \$27,000,000; in 1897, the last year under the Conservative tariff, the imports of dutiable goods from Great Britain were only \$20,000,000.

Q. According to that Great Britain's sales to Canada were less at the time the National Policy was abandoned than they were before it was adopted.

A. That is perfectly true.

Q. Was there need of such a measure?
A. There was, if Canadians had any desire to make good substantially the claim that they always advance of being devoted to Great Britain.

Q. Had Britain's sales to Canada then fallen off?
A. Yes, indeed. In 1873 Canada bought from Great Britain goods to the value of \$67,996,945. In 1897, the last year in which the Conservative tariff was in operation, the purchases from Great Britain amounted to only \$29,401,188.

Q. Is that the lowest figure since Confederation?
A. The very lowest. In 1897 it was even worse than the year 1873, in which year general business in Canada and throughout the world touched low water mark.

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Q. Yet is not this Conservative party which introduced the National Policy the same that also boasted its devotion to Great Britain?

A. It is the same party.

Q. How has it been since 1897?
A. There have been gains in Canadian purchases from Great Britain year by year. Three millions the first year; five more in the second year; the returns for the third year will show another very large increase. Altogether the people of Great Britain have good reason to be pleased with the increased sales, as the people of Canada have to be pleased with the lowered duties.

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SPLENDID START

Sir William MacDonald's Manual Training Scheme in Operation.

Ottawa, Aug. 20.—In the course of a conversation on the subject of manual training in schools, the project so generously endowed by Sir William MacDonald, Prof. Robertson, of the millionaire manufacturer, trusted the inauguration of the scheme, expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the plan so far. It has just been definitely decided that the students in the Provincial Normal School will be taught manual training as a subject of the regular course of instruction. Thus there would be at the outset about 600 teachers and 5,000 school boys in training.

When, in a couple of months time the system has been set to work from Nova Scotia to Winnipeg, there will be employed sixteen or seventeen trained specialists in the schools of the leading cities and towns. These instructors have been engaged in England, on the continent and in United States, and are under engagement for three years, their salaries as well as incidental expenses of instruction being paid wholly by Sir William MacDonald.

Thus the system, which has been so successful in Europe, will be given a splendid start in Canada, and at the end of the three years, when thousands of school children will have experienced the benefit of the training and hundreds of qualified teachers will be instructing their pupils in this branch of practical education throughout the country, it will be known whether the system is worth continuing.

In view of the excellent results achieved by the system whenever it has been systematically tried, Prof. Robertson has no doubt that the scheme will come in Canada, and that the inclusion of manual training permanently as a branch of education under the auspices of the state.

Do you read what people say about Hood's Sarsaparilla? It is curing all forms of disease caused or promoted by impure blood.

An unusually bold burglary came to light in Cleveland. During the absence from home of the family the burglars lit up the house and had a feast. The neighbors thought a party was going on.

HAD LA GRIPPE.—Mr. A. Nickerson, farmer, Dutton, writes: "Last winter I had la grippe and it left me with a severe pain in the small of my back and hip that used to catch me whenever I tried to climb a fence. This lasted for about two months. I bought a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Eucalypti and used it both internally and externally, morning and evening, for three days, at the expiration of which time I was completely cured."

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Railways and Navigation

Intercolonial Railway.

On and after Monday, June 18, 1900, the trains leaving Union Station, Toronto (via Grand Trunk Railway), at 10:30 p.m., connects with the Maritime Express and Local Express at Bonaventure Depot, Montreal, as follows:

The Maritime Express will leave Montreal daily, except on Saturday, at 12 noon, for Halifax, N. S., St. John, N. B., The Sydney and points in the Maritime Provinces.

The Maritime Express will leave Halifax, The Sydney, St. John and other points east, will arrive at Montreal daily, except on Monday, at 7:30 p.m., and daily from Riviere du Loup.

The Local Express will leave Montreal daily, except Sunday, at 7:40 a.m., due to arrive at Levis at 1 p.m., Riviere du Loup at 5 p.m., and Little Metis at 8:45 p.m.

The Local Express will leave Little Metis at 4:25 p.m., daily, except Saturday; Riviere du Loup at 7:40 p.m., and Levis at 11:45 p.m., due to arrive at Montreal at 8:30 a.m.

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H. A. PRICE, Assistant General Passenger Agent, 143 St. James Street, Montreal.

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Parisian (5 a.m.) Aug. 23, Aug. 25 Sicilian (new), 5 a.m. Sept. 1, Sept. 3 Tunisian (5 a.m.) Sept. 7, Sept. 9 Numidian (5 a.m.) Sept. 11, Sept. 13 From New York to Glasgow—Sardinian, Aug. 25; Californian, Sept. 1.