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OR

**Lord Somerton's Ally.**

CHAPTER XXIV.

"Certainly, my lord. Why should I not? A bargain is a bargain! I shall be here this day week."

Ten minutes later they parted, and Mr. James Castlemon proceeded to enclose a somewhat bulky packet which he had taken out of a leath satchel, in a large linen envelope, and addressed it to

NOEL CAMPBELL, Esq., Barrister,  
Temple Chambers,  
Temple Court, London, E.C.

This done, he sent it by registered post, a satisfied smile on his dissipated but handsome face.

"I don't like Lord Somerton," Mr. Bingley said to him, confidentially. "He looked more like a devil than a man when he went away."

"I had to be cross with him over some financial matters," explained Mr. Castlemon, with a smile. "We shall not complete our business until next week. Keep my apartment intact, Mr. Bingley; I am going to London to-morrow to try and replenish my wardrobe, but shall be back here again in the evening."

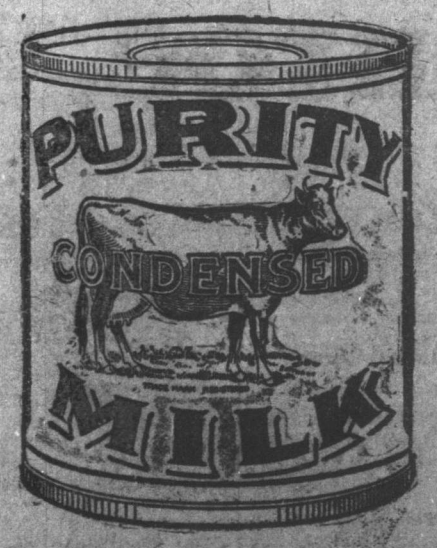
"Thank you, sir, I will attend to your orders," the landlord replied, warmly. "And," he added, to himself, "I'll see that he comes to himself at the hands of that smiling little villain, Lord Somerton!"

In the meantime, his lordship had

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37-23

stepped briskly toward the Park, his quick, nervous movements, compressed lips, and glowing eyes indicate of strong internal emotion.

"Ah, my astute friend," he hissed. "So you propose being an old man of the sea about my shoulders, eh? Of course, I shall win Miss Sterne—I am determined to win her, but the price is a little too heavy to pay. You are clever, but not clever enough. I can believe the story about the hatred, the vengeance, etc., but it strikes me very forcibly that you are Harry Campbell, and that the farce is nearly played out! A week will decide it. I am not going to lose Sir John's fortune, also in favor of your son! But, ah! that accursed scene in Zeba's cottage! He has me there!"

He smashed his teeth with impatient fury, and muttered:

"Next week—next week solves the problem!"

CHAPTER XXV.

Quite unconscious of the cloud that hung over her young mistress, Annette Moffette chatted almost gaily while preparing for their journey to London.

The pleasure was so unexpected that she was flushed with delight at the prospect of seeing all the beautiful things in the windows of the shops in Oxford and Regent streets.

"If you can spare me just a little while, madam," she said, "I want to make a few purchases—little presents for—William. He is giving me so much, and I want a surprise for him."

"Certainly," her mistress replied. "I have no doubt that I can remain in Mr. Grant's office for an hour. But won't you be afraid to walk in the bustling streets by yourself?"

"Oh, no, madam," Annette replied, with confidence. "I have spent most of my life in the heart of the great city, and know every street. It is perfectly safe in the day time. William has never been here, and I am going to take him soon," she laughed, blushing prettily. "He wants to buy the things for our home in London, believing that they cannot be had anywhere else half so good. I did not know that he had so much money, for he showed me quite a bag full of gold this morning!"

"I am very glad to hear it, Annette," her mistress said, "very glad, because matters are very unsettled with me at present. I may have to dispense with your services for a time. I may be in no position to keep a maid. It is difficult to explain, Annette, but the affairs of the estate are in great disorder. Poor Mr. Vallance was one of the executors, and his power has devolved upon Lord Somerton, a man whom I dislike extremely. It's unfortunate for me—unfortunate for those who are faithful to me; but I will not be subject to the dictates of Lord Somerton, and shall be guided by one whom I can trust, even if I leave the Park until my father returns home."

**Perhaps You Need a Tonic**

A tonic is necessary in all run-down conditions, after colds, fevers and illnesses of all kinds. When a person is anemic, undernourished, nervous, tired, listless, he needs a tonic. If you can't sleep, have no appetite, feel miserable and depressed, a tonic will fix you. The tonic best suited for general use is Carnol. It can be given with perfect safety to a delicate child, a convalescent, or to an aged person. It is made from the prescription of an eminent physician. Hundreds of doctors prescribe Carnol in their practice. Here's what Mr. Davis says about Carnol:

"We have sold Carnol for two years. During those two years we have seen many other so-called tonics tried out, but they did not repeat, and people did not advise their friends to buy them. Carnol has been bought by people who used it before. It has been recommended by people to their friends and has enjoyed a good sale. We believe that it has the ingredients that go to make up one of the very best nerve and body builders ever put before the public."—Davis the Druggist, Columbia and 6th Sts., New Westminster, B.C.

11-9  
Carnol is sold by all good druggists everywhere.

Annette stared at her young mistress with wide-open eyes.

"But I will stay with you, madam, if you will permit me," she said. "until Sir John is back again. William can wait, though he has been urging me to be married next Christmas. Surely, Sir John will be home before then. I do not want to leave you, at least while you are in trouble. It would be unkind and ungrateful of me. You have done so much for us!"

"What I have done, it is in the power of Lord Somerton to revoke, Annette, unless I listen to his love-making, and that is impossible. He has threatened me, and I am afraid he will resort to any cruelty to bend me to his wishes. I have told you this, so that you may be prepared for any change. If your lover has money enough to start a home, it will perhaps be wise for you to leave me if the trouble I fear cannot be averted."

"I will tell William what you say, mistress"—there were tears in Annette's eyes—"I will tell William what you say, and I know that he will be willing to marry me at once, he is so impatient. Jones has left the lodge and William has taken possession to-day. He is going to fill it with new furniture! But, oh! don't let us speak of it yet. Let us be sure that you can do without me first. I could not bear to be happy while you are unhappy!"

Still Annette could not help thinking of her lover with many happy little thrills—thinking of her lover and the prospect for a beautiful home of her own.

At eleven o'clock the carriage took them to the railway station, and when they passed Blairwood Arms, Annette remarked upon the manner in which a strange man stared at her young mistress.

Elsie said nothing, but she remembered him instantly. It was the stranger she had seen in the Park with the Earl of Somerton.

They left Blairwood station soon after eleven o'clock, and arrived at Waterloo about noon.

From Waterloo station they were taken to Mr. Grant's offices in a cab, and when Miss Sterne's name was announced the lawyer was just upon the point of going to lunch.

"My dear Miss Sterne," he said, "I am delighted to see you, but why on earth do you spring these surprises upon me?"

As a matter of fact, Mr. Grant had in his pocket at that moment a telegram from Lord Somerton, informing him that Miss Sterne was coming to see him that day, believing that he would fall in with her caprices. He had previously had an exhaustive conversation with his lord about the baronet's headstrong daughter, and was prepared to treat her merely as a willful child which knows not what is best for it.

"Use your tact," the telegram said, "in telling her sufficient to make the way easy for me to control her."

"I ought to have written, perhaps," Elsie admitted, "but I do not think that my business will detain you long, Mr. Grant, and, oh! it is of vital importance to me!"

"To be sure," smiled the lawyer. "I never saw a lady yet whose own affairs were not pre-eminent! For instance, my wife and daughter expect me to reach Delmatto's in the Strand promptly at twelve-thirty. It is now twelve-twenty-five, and they will never forgive me. We are to dine together at Delmatto's, and then I have to do the usual paternal business of finding funds for an afternoon's shopping."

(To be continued.)

**Wisdom From the Reviews**

(John O'London's Weekly.)  
**HAVING A ROOT.**

After all it is a great thing for a man to belong somewhere: to have a real root in the earth.—Stephen Gwynn in "Blackwood's Magazine."

**THE BUHL.**

What is really certain is that neither M. Poincare, however great the hatred of Germany which animates him, nor M. Millerand, who himself is of a very different sentiment—he is said by his familiars to advocate a rapprochement with Germany—would have dreamed of undertaking the Ruhr expedition if they had not felt that public opinion favoured the enterprise.—Joseph Callaux in the "Fortnightly Review."

**THE PATHWAY OF ARMIES.**

No hand has ever written the story of the sea as the pathway of armies. The military strategist has failed to investigate, save in his broad outline, the facts and theories of maritime lines of communication; the naval authorities have confined discussion to the influence of sea-power or to the role of the Navy in protecting trade and troop movements.—"Pari-scope" in "Blackwood's Magazine."

**CATS.**

The very fact that cats have divided the world into two hostile and irreconcilable armies is quite the strangest thing about them. These curious insignificant little creatures play so small a part in modern life, they are so demure and self-effacing, that few people, one might have imagined, would bother to form an opinion about them one way or another.—Geoffrey Howard in the "Cornhill Magazine."

**THE DIFFERENCE.**

Speaking generally, dogs are the friends of those who act, and cats of those who dream.—Geoffrey Howard in the "Cornhill Magazine."

**THE CRYING NEED.**

The failure of democracy is already written large across the face of Europe, and it looms on the horizon of the United States. The Fascist movements resemble the efforts of Nature to shake off disease, for, let us repeat, good government, not democratic government, is the crying need of our time.—The English Review.

**HOUSES WITH SOULS.**


That there is a reasonable soul in houses, those only will deny who have lived in such houses as themselves deny it, and so confirm the truth by their own heresy. Even in those houses which the late century spawned in its streets there was a soul, albeit mean and wringing, the soul of a Tadpole or Forwidge as Sir Thomas Browne would call it; yet conscious of itself, pretentious and eager. Eyes it had to see; and with time it took to itself legs to leap, and organs and a voice; behold the Progeny of the new Democracy.—Helen Waddell in the "Adelphi."

**THE LEVY ON ENERGY.**

People who are shocked at the idea of any levy on capital should be more angry at the levy on energy which is imposed every day on business ac-

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activities, on brains, and on the industry of wage-earners by people who are in a position to impose a charge for the mere permission to carry on our trade and social life.—Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., in the "English Review."

**GENERAL SMUTS.**

He (General Smuts) is probably endowed with better brains than any Minister holding office within the Empire to-day, and as a former foe, a war-tired friend, a present ally, he is an incomparable Imperial asset. It was he who bade us remember that, in an age of "Fordism," you could not standardize parts of the Empire, and it may be his mission at the Conference yet further to reconcile Dominion nationhood with loyal partnership in the British Empire.—The Empire Review.

**H. G. W. AND INDIA.**

We British have not sufficient natural moral and intellectual superiority to the Indian peoples; we have not a sufficiently organized educational system nor a sufficient surplus of highly educated men to justify our continued usurpation of India's right to think out and work out its own role in the confederation of mankind.—H. G. Wells in the "Empire Review."

**Hunting by Aeroplane**

An interesting aerial development has taken place in Spain, where aviators have been hunting birds.

The principal victim of these hunts is the great bustard, a bird found in large numbers in Southern Europe. Bustards fly in flocks of eight or ten,

**Old Grab Bag in New Stunt**

The grab bag is not a new idea, but here is a new way of utilizing it which worked well in the store who tried it, though it might not appeal to the most exacting clientele. It is pretty generally recognized that the ordinary human likes to take a chance and when the proprietor of a popular-priced store decided to introduce a new line of goods via the grab bag, instead of the special price, he found plenty of patrons.

He placed in the store windows samples of the merchandise he intended to sell in the grab bag way. The articles were numerous in quantity and varied in shape, style and use. The public could see just what went into the bags, though entirely in the dark as to what each individual package might contain.

A large sign in the window read: "Take a chance for a quarter; you cannot lose, because you see what you are buying, but are not sure what you will get."

Inside the store on a large table were a number of each of the articles, that appeared in the window. These were all wrapped in a heavy paper, which concealed their identity.

The patron would take his pick, pay his quarter, and then anxiously open the parcel to see what it contained. Some people seeing in the window one particular article they want might take two or three chances to obtain it.

All the articles appeared to be worth considerably more than a quarter, and the customers seemed well pleased both with the idea and the goods received. In this way the

**Master Pianist at 5**

BOY PHOENIX TO ACCOMPANY MOTHER AT WIRELESS CONCERT.

A five-year-old musical prodigy plays classical pieces on the piano "perfection" will be heard as an accompanist by Miss Heinger-in who will hear the Paris wireless concert on Saturday night.

He is Pietro Maggini, and he will accompany his mother, Carla Benvenuti. Pietro can play twenty-one classical pieces by ear and likes Chopin's waltzes.

He first played in public after a month's tuition. His first important engagement is in Vienna, whether he proceeds shortly.

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