

# **ECHOES** of the Past:

## The Recompense of Love!"

CHAPTER II. CHAPTER III.

Clive let himself into the modest littlehouse in Burleigh Street and went up to his rooms; small but by no means uncomfortable diggings on the second floor. His reading-lamp was lit, and he sat down, started a pine, and drew some papers toward him-for be it known that a member of Parliament's work does not cease when he leaves the House; that is a member plagued by a conscience

concentrate his mind on the Blue back and blew smoke-rings in the air trying not to think of the poor little street-singer. He had almos succeeded when there came a knock at the door; and in response to Clive's "Come in!" a man entered.

He was Clive's fellow-lodger, and lived in still more modest rooms on the floor above. He was rather a singular-looking man, with one of those clean-shaven faces which rouses the curiosity of the observer while riveting his attention. The face was not only an impassive one, but it appeared to be absolutely incapable of expression: the lips were thin, and scarcely moved when he spoke, and the eyelids were thick and drooping. so that Clive could not have told, if his life had depended upon it whether his fellow-lodger's eves were dark or light. His movements were as devoid of expression as his countenance; as he stood in the doorway-he was in his shirt-sleeves, and they and the rest of his clothes seemed to hang upon him as if they were displayed on a too meager tailor's dummy-he

One may live in a house in London for ten years without learning the name and the occupation of one's fellow lodger; but, by a few chance

did not rise until midday, and did no retire to rest until early morning. "Hello, Quilton!" said Clive. "Come

"Sorry to intrude," said Quilton 'but I've run out of bacca. Can you

Clive signed to his open pouch "Certainly. Sit down."

Quilton sank noiselessly into chair and filled a blackened clay slowly and with precision. "Do you happen to know the rest

'See, the Conquering Hero Comes'?' he said, without lifting his lids.

Clive laughed, and shook his head "No; I suppose not," remarked Quilton. "Nowadays people never know more than the first line of anything. I asked a bandsman in the park the other day if he could repeat the whole of 'God Save the King,' and offered him a shilling for the feat. Of course, he couldn't. If I knew the whole of 'See, the Conquering Hero comes,' I would repeat it to you, as my humble tribute to your triumph tonight."

Quilton nodded. "I was. It was press-gallery. I am writing a leader on it for 'The Beacon.'"

"Thanks," said Clive. "I am glad

you liked what I said." Quilton raised his lids for a second Yes. They were saying in the gallery that you were the coming man: and I'm inclined to agree with them. Whether you'll be happier when you have arrived is another question. From my knowledge of human nature

"Which is not limited," remarked Clive: for, from words that Quiltor had let slip from time to time Clive knew that the singular being had been a great traveler and was an extraordinary linguist.

"I should say the difference between failure and success in mappreciable. But don't let me discourage you; in fact, I should like to join the great Mr. Graham and equally great Lord Chesterleigh in their admiration and appreciation of your phenomenal suc-

"Thanks," said Clive again. "Yes, they were both very kind."

"I saw them," said Quilton, lighting words, Clive had come to know that his pipe and regarding the expiring the man was a journalist, which no match as if it were something of abdoubt accounted for the fact that he sorbing interest. "I heard some of

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Graham's men saying that you were the hope of the party." There was a pause; then, in an absolutely toneless voice, he added: "A very beautiful girl, Lord Chesterleigh's daughter." "You saw her? Yes; she is very

eautiful," assented Clive. "Yes. I was standing near the carriage while she was talking to you, said Quilton, in a casual way.

"I wish I had seen you," said Clive 'I should like to have introduced you to Mr. Graham and Lord Chesterleigh Mr. Graham is very much interested in The Beacon."

"Yes? It doesn't follow that he would be interested in me." sail Quilton. "I am only a reporter, hack and 'general utility' for that youthful but promising journal." Another pause; then he remarked: "Lord Chesterleigh was looking well, thought-all the better for his rest, no doubt."

This repeated reference to Lord Chesterleigh reminded Clive of the wild-looking woman who had seemed to threaten the ex-foreign minister and, wondering whether Quilton, whose knowledge of the history of public characters all over the world and of London life generally, seemed to be encyclopedic. Clive, after a mo ment's hesitation, said:

"By the way, I witnessed, in fact assisted at a rather curious inciden to-night. There was a block outside the gates as the Chesterleigh car riage was driving away, and, while i was stopping, a woman darted out of the crowd, and-well, appeared to b going to throw something at Lord Chesterleigh. I caught her arm, and tried to hang onto her; but she got away by a simple trick that ought not to have taken in a schoolboy, and lost her."

"Oh!" said Quilton. "That sounds nteresting." But he did not look at all interested: indeed, his face was nore like a waxen mask than usual f that were possible. "What sort of

"What sort of woman? Oh, a tall lark woman, with a foreign look bout her; something Spanish, thought. She was poor, I should think, for she was shabbily dressed; but with a touch of finery, a dash of color somewhere about her dress; perhaps that is why I thought she

was a foreigner." "Did Lord Chesterleigh see her?" asked Quilton indifferently.

"I think not," replied Clive. "Ho was looking the other way, toward Victoria Street."

"And Lady Edith?"

"No, I'm sure; yes, quite sure, sho did not; she was looking at the block You know her-you called her Lady

Quilton shrugged his shoulders very slightly. "No." he said. "How should a poor devil of a literary hack know the daughter of Lord Chesterleigh? But I suppose most persons know her Christian name: it's in the papers often enough. What do you make of the incident? By the way, it would serve for an interesting paragraph for The Beacon. Oh, don't be alarmed. Strange to say, I have that singular possession for a jouranlist, a delicate conscience; it is a great encumbrance, and handicaps me rather severely, as in this in-

"I am not alarmed," said Clive. "I am quite sure you wouldn't use the incident, Quilton. What do I make but she wasn't. I rather fancy that she mistook Lord Chesterleigh for some one else. Why should a queerlooking woman rush up to his carriage and threaten him in that fash-

ion? What do you make of it?"

"I don't make anything," replied Quilton. "I am rather inclined to think with you that it was a case of mistaken identity. I should say that Lord Chesterleigh was the last man which a woman was concerned. He is reputed to be a temple of all the virtues, the domestic ones especially. But it would have been embarrassing papers, and Lord Chesterleigh and his innumerable friends-to say no-



"That occurred to me just in tim to prevent my giving chase to her, said Clive; "so I let her go."

TORONTO, ONT.

"You acted wisely, in my humble opinion," said Quilton. "Always avoid a scandal. It is just possible," he added, "that the woman was mad. Did that solution occur to you?"

"Of course," said Clive; "but I don't think she was mad, excepting with passion. I never saw a woman in a greater rage. She reminded me

There was a pause. Quilton smok ed without opening his lips, and blow ing dense clouds through his nose Presently he rose.

"Good tobacco of yours this, Har vev." he said.

"Take some more," said Clive "take enough to carry you through the night. I guess you smoke right

heart will be as weak as mine, when you are as old as I am." Clive regarded him with faint curi-

osity. He had often wondered whether the man was young or old; the smooth face, the impassive manner baffled any conjecture.

"You spoke as if you were a Methuselah," he said. "I am older, as a matter of fact,"

said Quilton. "Good night!" He paused, with his hand on the door-knob; and with his thick eye lids completely covering his eyes, and his tone and manner one of absolute indifference, said:

"The woman stood right under the amplight, and yet you say you should not know her again?"

Clive looked up with slight surprise. "How do you know she stood right under the lamplight?"

Quilton turned his pipe from one corner of his mouth to the other be-

"She could scarcely have been out of the light where she stood," he

"Oh, well, of course, she was in the of it? I don't know. At first, I light," said Clive; "but I didn't say tral fastening all the way up the front thought she might be intoxicated; I shouldn't recognize her again. I'm of the coat.

ot sure. Yes, I think I might. Why

wered Quilton. "I imagine my ques-I've likened you to Cicero, Cato and Peabody. Is there any other orator or philanthropist, ancient or modern ou would like me to mention?" Clive laughed, and picked up his

Blue Book. "Good night," he said. "Don't lay t on too thick, there's a good fellow.' Quilton went upstairs with his noiseless tread and entered his own room, turning the key mechanically, and as if the action were a habitual one. The room was sparsely furnished and much littered-the servant was never allowed to arrange or dust anything-and the deal table, the chairs, and a rickety lodging-house sofa were crowded with books and papers. A cheap paraffin-lamp, and a bottle of gin and its accompanying glass, stood by the writing-pad or which lay the leader that Quilton was

He poured himself out some gin and sat down to his work, finished it and putting on his coat, got his soft felt hat from its hook; then he paused, and, with his hands thurst in his ly6.m.s.tf pockets, stared at the shabby carpet worn by his continual pacing to and fro during the act of composition. He half-turned toward the door, then went to an old cupboard at the end of the room, took from it a small, battered box, and, unlocking it, turned over some papers and trinkets, until he found a small miniature.

He carried this to the light and regarded it for some moments with an impassive countenance.

"Yes, she's changed a good deal," he said reflectively. "I doubt whether he would have known her. So she has broken out again; that's bad."

He tossed the miniature into the box, locked it carefully, and, letting himself out of the room, went down the stairs in his usual noiseless fash

(To be Continued.)

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