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GILLETT COMPANY LIMITED TORONTO, CANADA

"KYRA,"

OR,

The Ward of the Earl of Vering.

CHAPTER XXV.

A Game of Cards.

Charlie was as popular with the set as Percy himself; indeed, it would be difficult to name any society where the gay, frank, generous-hearted and handsome boy would not have been welcomed, excepting, perhaps, a meeting of the Society of Friends. Charlie would certainly have been out of place at the Quakers, for his open heart made him free of speech, and his happy, well-bred laugh was easily excited. It must not be forgotten also, that Charlie was only two remove from the Vering title; the two men between were old and childless, and life is uncertain. Already anxious mothers were beginning to speculate on Lord Percy's remaining a bachelor, and letting "young Merivale" in after him. "Lord Vering is not a marrying man, my dear," they would say, "though he is young, and has the Vering beauty. Something went wrong with him a few years back, and men of his kind do not get over these little things easily."

"But there is always the Devigne girl," would be the reply, followed by a doubtful shrug; for by this time Lady Devigne and her daughter had somehow lost ground a little, and the curious ones looked back to those years of her absence, and were still inquisitive about her whereabouts and doings therein.

The afternoon following that on which Lillian Devigne had given them five o'clock tea under the veranda, Charlie was passing what was called the earl's room; the door was open, and Percy, who was reading, knew his cousin's step.

"Is that you, Charlie?" he called. Charlie, exquisitely dressed in a

morning suit of Schultz's latest, turned back and came in.

"What!" said Percy, looking up with a smile, "not dressed yet?" He pulled out his watch. "Six o'clock. It will take an hour to drive to Richmond, and Egerton said half-past seven, did he not?"

Charlie nodded, and went up to the window overlooking the square.

"Yes," he said, "half-past seven. You'll go without me, Percy, won't you?"

"Yes, if you wish it, dear boy; but don't you care for it? Ungrateful vagabond! I shouldn't have accepted but for you."

Charlie colored, and bit his whip with evident annoyance.

"I know that, Percy," he said—"I know how often you go out of your way for me. Don't think I'm a blind, ungrateful puppy; but—but I'd rather not go to Egerton's banquet, thanks."

"All right," said Percy. "I must go, if only to carry your excuses—a prior and forgotten engagement, eh, Charlie?"

Charlie nodded, with something like a sigh.

The evident reluctance expressed by this sigh did not escape Percy's quick ear; he put his book aside, and went over to where Charlie was standing, looking down rather dolefully on the broughams and carriages below.

"What is it, Charlie—really another engagement, or are you already bored by the little dinners which, at your age, are generally looked upon as the delights of our short existence? You are beginning early, Charlie, if that is so."

"No, I'm not tired yet," replied Charlie, candidly. "I know you'll have a jolly evening, and I'd like to go, that's the truth; but—" and he hesitated.

Percy put his hand on the strong, broad shoulder.

"Charlie," he said, "if there is anything to tell, you can go to no one who will listen to it with a warmer heart than mine, my boy."

"Don't I know that?" exclaimed Charlie, looking round with a great flush and a twitch of the lips not unpleasant to see. "What should I be without you, Percy? You've been everything to me, father, brother—ah, almost mother; that—that makes it harder to tell. It would come easier if you had been different, close and stiff like other fellow's elders. But I'll tell you, Percy. They'll bring the picture books out to-night at Egerton's, and—it must out, Percy, and its shameful with my allowance—but I can't afford it."

A smile came upon Percy's face that was almost sad.

"I know of no one who could better afford such play as we shall get to-night than you, Charlie."

"Than I," exclaimed Charlie, with rueful surprise. "Why, Percy, I'm cleaned out!"

Percy shook his head.

"Not yet, I hope, Charlie, we've still a few thousand at the bankers—and Vering would fetch something in the market."

Charlie stared—then smiled.

"We," he said.

"Yes!" responded Percy; "for half of what I have, to the last penny, is yours, Charlie, if you wanted it. If I had only known!" Then, with a look of self-reproach, "I must have been dozing, or half dazed, not to have thought of it! Of course your allowance was not enough! Haven't I done Oxford myself?"

Why had he not thought of it? Because his mind was wholly absorbed by another subject. And now he was full of self-reproach and remorse.

"Where's the bills—of course there are bills—you silly boy."

"Yes, Charlie admitted there were bills.

"Put them on my desk to-morrow, any time, and now," he stopped, and going to his escritoire, took out a bundle of crisp notes. "Will you put these in your pocket to go on with?"

"Oh, Percy—"

"Oh, Percy, indeed, you silly young idiot!" retorted Percy shaking him on the shoulder. Then, more gravely, "Charlie, my dear boy, you and I are alone in the world, so to speak; you'll never keep anything like this from me again—never again."

"That I won't, Percy," warmly responded Charlie; but, indeed, I don't

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deserve you should treat me like this! If you knew how I've fooled it away! these cursed cards!" and he struck his whip against his legs.

Percy smiled.

"Charlie, you have my views on the question. I don't say 'don't play,' because I know that men of our class must play; but I will say—if you like, and if there is any occasion for me to say anything—don't play beyond your pocket!"

"Percy! I never will again; you may trust me!"

"Not a word more!" said Percy, laughing, "or you'll make me think I'm gray-headed. Why, dear boy, what difference is there between us in the matter of years?" and he put both his long, white hands on Charlie's shoulders and gazed.

"Very few, Percy!" laughed Charlie. "Not ten, I should say. But then, see what you've been to me! How I've come to you in everything! I couldn't have carried half the things to a father that I have to you!"

"Always bring your troubles to me, Charlie," said Percy. "There is nothing more to tell me now, is there?—nothing I can help you in?" He fixed his eyes with keen and almost anxious scrutiny on the handsome, candid face before him.

Charlie's eyes fell for a moment, and there was a queer look about his mouth; then he looked up frankly.

"No, Percy; nothing you can help me in at present."

Percy's hands dropped, and he turned away with something like a sigh of relief. What was it he dreaded to hear?

"Time's short now, dear boy. Beauty unadorned adorned the most. We have got a quarter of an hour. Take Beamish."

"All right, he'll pull me through in ten minutes," said Charlie, and he strode away with a light heart, "Dear old Percy!" he murmured. "Was there ever such a thorough piece as he is? Never, since the world began. I wonder whether he suspects anything about Mary—Dear little witch! He looked at me awfully hard! Ah, Kyra, was right! He's never happy unless he's laying himself out for somebody's benefit!"

In a quarter of an hour the two—Charlie happy enough now—were riding rapidly along in Percy's mail phaeton toward Richmond. They were a little late as they entered one of the handsome of the many hand-some rooms in the Star and Garter, and were received with all the more enthusiasm. Such greetings as:

"Here you are, Apollo!" and "Percy, my boy, thought you'd thrown us over for the Geographical Society, or sailed for Kamschatka," went round as seats were found for them.

Percy looked round the table with

mild curiosity, replying to greetings and questions here and there, and suddenly the little dark shadow, so well known by his friends, came over his brow as his eye rested, for a moment, on the dark, smooth face of Count Hudspiel.

Charlie did not notice it and he had just nodded, rather carelessly, to the Count, and taken the seat found for him beside a friend, young Lord St. Clare, who was scarcely out of his teens, but had recently come into a peerage and an immense estate, and who was seeing life, as he called it, at the rate of a Brighton express.

He and Charlie had been at Eton together, and were great chums, and, of course, the young peer had caught from Charlie's touch of the hero-worship in regard to Percy; indeed, so much had Lord St. Clare heard and read of the Earl of Vering that he looked upon him as something more than usual, and when Percy, on entering, had cast him a smile and nod in his kindly fashion, the boy literally beamed with pride.

The dinner was of the stereotyped kind; the viands and wines of the best that money could procure, the waiting of that high, silent sort which money even will not always command, and the conversation, roaming like a wild horse over a plain in Tartary, fitting from the last ballet dancer to the newest horse, from the latest scandal about a certain countess to the most recent expedition to the Arctic regions, and it was noticeable that when Percy opened his lips he attentively his words were listened to, especially when they treated of travel or adventure, for he was their high authority.

Then, the dinner being over, and much claret having been consumed, some strolled out on the balcony and enjoyed scenery diluted with tobacco, while a few adjourned to an inner room, where cards were produced in a half-mysterious fashion, and more claret and champagne made its appearance.

Among those rotaries of the goddess Chance, were the count, Egerton, and Lord St. Clare; not that the latter was fond of cards, but rather that he considered it inconsistent with his present occupation of "seeing life," to ever let slip a chance of losing money in a fashionable, dissipated way.

Percy and Charlie lounged half an hour away on the terrace, and then, being reminded that coffee was waiting in the card-room, turned in there, Charlie and he making two at a whilst table at a corner of the room.

At some little distance Count Hudspiel, young St. Clare, and one or two others, all strangers to Percy, were playing at ecarte.

As they entered the room, Charlie had stopped to look over his friend's shoulder, and had noticed how flushed and excited the young peer seemed, and that excitement appeared to increase as the half hours flew by.

The party he had left called for champagne, and amid the popping of corks, the click of the cards as they were shuffled by the supple hands of the count, arose the feeble voice of St. Clare, not clear as it should be, but thick, rapid and strained.

Percy never glanced that way, but at last Charlie said, in a loud voice: "They seem going it rather fast over there, Percy. I hope St. Clare isn't losing! Do you see?"

"I see," said Percy, almost grimly, as he led his ace.

Presently the laughter seemed to subside at the further table, and looking round Charlie now saw that only two men were playing. St. Clare and the count, the others looking on intently.

"What is it?" asked Charlie, of his partner.

"Poker," was the significant reply.

"Nice game for a millionaire. Can't afford to play it myself. Lucky it's young St. Clare."

There was a smile and a significant shrug of the shoulders, but, of course, nobody could interfere.

Then the rubber came to an end, and Percy glanced at his watch.

"We'd better have the boys put to bed," Charlie said.

Charlie turned to one of the footmen to give the order.

"I don't know whether I can give any one a lift," said Percy.

Charlie seized the opportunity in a moment.

List of Unclaimed Letters Remaining in the G. P. O. to June 26th, 1916.

- W
Way, William, card
Wallis, Dr. A. M., care General Delivery
Warren, Miss Mary, West End
Walsh, Thomas, Long Pond Rd.
Walsh, Miss A., Freshwater Rd.
Whelan, Thomas, Water St.
Walsh, Miss Annie, Military Road
Warren, Miss Millie, 85 — Road
Wallace, Mrs. Mary, New Gower St.
Walsh, Mrs. H., Brien St.
West, D., Adelaide St.
Weir, James, Newtown Road
Walsh, E., late Heart's Content, New Gower Street
West, Miss Nora, No. 55 —
Westman, Miss E., Institute
Winstor, Miss J., card, Cochrane St.
Willshire, Frank, South Side
White, D.
Williamson, Mrs. A., LeMarchant Rd.
Woodford, Miss Agatha, LeMarchant Road
Wormell, E. J., care General Post Office
Woodfine, Mrs. Annie
- Y
Yates, G. W., card
- H. J. B. WOODS, P.M.G.
- A
Aylward, Martin, card
Aylward, Miss Sarah, Duckworth St.
Anstey, Miss Emma, Power St.
Arder, Wm., Hamilton St.
Almsworth, Mrs., ret'd., Parade St.
Alcock, Master W., card, Parade St.
Austin, Chas., Freshwater Road
- B
Blake, Henry A., card
Bradbury, Miss Annie S.
Barnes, John
Bradley, Miss Addie
Bailey, Miss M. M., Franklin Avenue
Bodett, Miss Annie
Barron, Master John
Bradbury, Miss Edith, Cochrane St.
Barnes, A., Cochrane St.
Barnes, James, Water St.
Barrett, D. J.
Bragg, Wm., James' St.
Bradbury, Abraham
Bell, James, Nagle's Hill
Bennett, Wm.
Best, Ethelbert
Brien, Mrs. Mary, Flower Hill
Boone, Miss Sarah, Queen's Rd.
Brody, Miss Sarah, Scott St.
Bowring, B.
Brown, Miss Leah
Brown, Miss Ella, Springdale St.
Boone, Hattie, Notre Dame St.
Burton, Robert, LeMarchant Rd.
Burt, Miss Maggie, Hamilton St.
Butler, Mrs. Emily, South Side
Burry, James, care John Snelgrove
Burt, Miss Annie, Quill Vidi Road
Burke, Joseph
Blackler, E. J., slip, Brad's Square
- C
Campbell, Miss Seville, Charlton St.
Clark, Miss Sarah, Lime St.
Chauk, Miss Fannie, New Gower St.
Clark, Mrs. Ellen, care Mrs. L. Hall
Clarey, Mrs. A.
Cawley, Pat. J., late Badger
Clarke, John
Cleary, Miss G., care G. P. O.
Chestman, Miss Sarah, care Mrs. Brewer
Cricht, Patrick, Lime St.
Chafe, Fred, Water St. West
Coffin, Miss B.
Cochrane, J. M., Spencer St.
Cook, Miss Florence, Water St.
Culleton, J., Spencer St.
Churchill, Mrs. M.
Curtis, Miss Emily, LeMarchant Road
- D
Davis, Miss Beatrice
Davis, Wm., 15 — Street
Dawe, Miss Lizzie, Queen's St.
Denty, Herbert, Military Road
Dicks, Miss P., care Mrs. Brewer
Dodge, Miss Elizabeth, Springdale St.
Dawe, Edgar, Cabot St.
Duffy, David, care Harvey & Co.
Duke, Veronica, care Miss O'Brien
Duffett, Miss Annie
- E
Egan, Samuel, St. John's West
Fleming, Thomas, George's St.
Fleming, Mrs. John, P. O. Box 1241
French, Miss Maggie
French, Miss Marion, LeMarchant Rd.
Fleming, Mrs. L. A., Pennywell Rd.
Fifeild, Miss L. A., Pennywell Rd.
Flynn, D. A., Barnes' Rd.
Foley, Miss M., Spencer St.
Fox, Mrs. Mary, Waterford Bridge Rd.
Ford, Mrs., Prescott St.
- G
Gardner, Miss Theo., Water St.
Grant, Miss Kittie, LeMarchant Road
Grant, Wm., Barron St.
Green, Mrs. E., Monroe St.
Howell, Miss Amanda
Goodwin, Miss S., King's Road
Grusby, Robert, card, Carter's Hill
Grudger, Mrs. Rosalind, care General Delivery
- H
Harris, Mrs. Herbert, Water St. West
Harris, Miss Elsie, late Grand Bank
Hamilton, Mrs. J., care General Post Office
Halleran, Miss K., Gower St.
Hardenberg, Alex.
Harley, Miss Annie, Plank Road
Halfyard, Mrs. Hannah, Nagle's Hill
Hayes, Thomas, Bambrick St.
Hayward, Miss B., Livingstone St.
Hansen, Miss E. M., St. St.
Hennebury, Thos., King's Bridge
Heldard, Nelson, Newtown Road
Henderson, Ned, care Ned Murphy
Hewett, Stephen, Allandale Road
Hill, Miss Edna M., P. O. Box 193
Hiscock, Miss L., 80 — Street
Hickey, Mrs. Mary, late St. Pierre
Hiscock, Miss Louise, care Miss B. Hiscock, Spencer St.
Hill, Miss Fannie, Gower St.
Hickey, T., Military Road
Howell, Miss Amanda
Hurley, Miss Johanna, New Gower St.
Hustens, Arthur, John St.
Hutchings, Miss Annie, New Gower Street
- J
James, Robert, care General Delivery
Judge, Joseph, Cabman
Joyce, H., Joyce
Jones, Miss Margaret, card
Jones, A., late Sydney
Carter's Hill
- K
Kelly, Mark
Kearney, Frank, Pennywell Rd.
Kelly, May, Wood's Factory
Kearsey, Alexandra, Freshwater Rd.
Keefe, Mrs. Thomas
Kennedy, T., Barter's Hill
King, L., Flower Hill
King, Mrs. Bertha
Kielley, Mrs. R. W., Water St.
Kirby, Mrs. Phillip, c/o Gen'l Delivery
- L
Levilliant, Edgar, Flower Hill
Lacey, Mrs. Jennie, Pennywell Road
Laney, Miss Monica, Cabot St.
Laitie, Mrs.
Lamb, Mrs. Mary, Queen's Road
Lamb, Miss Katie, Gower St.
Lamb, Miss Ethel, John St.
Lennie, Miss Ada
Ledrew, Wm.
LeGrow, Michael
Laney, Mrs. M., LeMarchant Road
Lydon, Miss A., Queen's Road
Lundrigan, Miss Maggie, Springdale St.
Legge, Captain J., late schr. D. M. Hilton
- M
Markey, P.
Marshall, Mrs. M., King's Road
Maldmire, Mrs. S., Newtown Road
- Maddock, Mrs. M., card
Markey, Mrs. M., King's Road
Mahoney, Mrs. Elizabeth
Malone, Mrs. John, King's Road
Martin, Mrs. Peter, City
Martin, Mrs. Henry
Mardi, Mrs. Henry, Gower St.
Martin, Miss Annie, Belvidere St.
Malynes, F., Gower St.
Martin, H.
Masters, Wm., Rossiter's Lane
Melbon, Chas., c/o Gen. Post Office
Mercer, Miss Janet, care Mrs. Kelly, Gear Street
Mercer, Miss Maud, LeMarchant Road
- Miscellaneous
Miskell, Peter, care Miss M. Miller, Mullock St.
Morley, Miss Bride, Job's St.
Morrissy, Laurence
Moss, Bernard, McDougall St.
Morgan, Miss Bertha, South Side
Moss, Mrs. Charles, Gower St.
Moore, Miss Annie, Freshwater Rd.
Morris, Alex., card, Victoria St.
Milley, Mrs. John, Flower Hill
Murphy, Miss A., Barnes' Road
Mulloway, Miss Anna, Queen's Rd.
- Mc
McKivert, care Mrs. Flight, Lucas St.
MacLean, Duncan, card, Duckworth St.
McDonald, Nellie, Nagle's Hill
- McCarthy, Mrs. Ellen, care G. P. O.
Water Street West
McCarthy, Miss Mary, Charlton St.
McNeil, Mrs. James
McDermott, A.
McKenney, Miss N., Long's Hill
McInnes, C. M.
- N
Nell, Mrs. Henry, Pope Street
Newhook, Miss P., Military Road
Nichols, John
Nox, Mrs.
Notfall, Mrs., New Gower St.
Noel, P.
Noseworthy, Miss F., Queen St.
Noseworthy, Sr., care G. P. O.
- O
Oakley, Wm., care Gen. Post Office
O'Neill, Mrs. F., card, Colonial St.
Oldford, Miss Mary, care Mr. Butt
O'Toole & Skiffington
O'Rourke, Mrs., New Gower St.
- P
Power, Miss, King Edward Hotel
Parsons, Robert P.
Parmiter, Albert
Parsons, G. W., care G. P. O.
Patterson, Robert, care Reid Co.
Peddle, Miss Lena, South Side
Pepton, H., Pleasant St.
Penney, Miss Violet, Queen St.
Prendergrast, Mrs. Catherine, Water Street
Penney, Sarah, Gower St.
Penney, Wm. D., McFarlane St.
Pike, Wm. Thos., McFarlane St.
Percey, Wm., Water St.
Phillips, Miss Isabella, LeMarchant Road
Payne, John (of Peter), Wood St.
Picco, Miss Selina, Newtown Road
Pike, John
Powell, Miss Annie
Power, Thomas, Gilbert St.
Power, Thomas, Cabman
Power, John
Powell, Annie, Water St. West
Poole, Mrs. Ambrose, Charlton St.
- Q
Quick, R. C.
Quigley, Miss Maggie, Cochrane St.
Quigley, Mrs. James, No. 1 Bulley St.
- R
Ryan, Miss Nellie, Water St. West
Ryan, Miss L., card, Cochrane St.
Ravill, Tom, care Gen. Post Office
Reyer, Miss Emily, Parade St.
Reid, Miss Agnes, late Dildo
Rendell, Claude C., late English Hr. West
Richards, Miss N., Hamilton St.
Richards, R., City
Rogers, Robert, George's St.
Rogers, Wm. G. (of J.)
Russell, A.
Roberts, Mrs. Susannah, care Mr. Long
Rogers, Master Ariel
Rowe, Miss Rose
Rolls, Miss Francis, Cookstown Rd.
Rose, H.
Roberts, Frank, New Gower St.
Rose, John, care G. P. O.
Roche, Michael, Plank Road
Roberts, George, Allandale Road
Russell, Miss H., Circular Road
Rumson, Sandy, South Side, East
- S
Saunders, John, Water St.
Stanley, H. S., care Gen. Delivery
Shay, Edward
Scanlon, Miss Alice, Georgetown
Shaw, George, Adelaide St.
Sparks, James, Long's Hill
Stapleton, Mrs. Elizabeth, Cabot St.
Sheppard, Miss Lillian May, c/o C.C.C.
Stead, Victoria, Casey St.
Stephens, S., Bambrick St.
Stevens, Mrs. Mark W., Colonial St.
Sheppard, Miss Mary, Rennie's Mill Road
Steward, Miss A., Prince's St.
Stead, Miss Neire, care General Post Office
Syme, John, Notre Dame St.
Sheppard, Miss Ida, Devon Row
Smith, Miss Violet, Hospital
Smith, Mrs. Wm., care Mrs. John Noseworthy
Sinnott, John J., George's St.
Shields, Jas., Theatre Hill
Smith, Max, New Gower St.
Smith, Wm., Stevens St.
Smith, Joseph
Shortall, J. J., care Gen. Delivery
Strong, Miss Annie, Freshwater Rd.
Snow, Miss Minnie, care Mr. Logan
Scott, D., slip
Snow, Mr. 47 — Street
Spurrell, Miss Mary, Power St.
- T
Taylor, Mrs. C. S.
Trainer, Wm., Prescott St.
Tiller, Raymond
Tobin, Mrs. Thos., Patrick's St.
Thompson, Miss Carter's Hill
Tucker, John C., Pennywell Rd.
Tucker, Miss Isabella, Lime St.
- U
Upshall, Miss Alfreda, Charlton St.
V
Vallant, Edgar L., Flower Hill

War News

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.

OFFICIAL

LONDON, July 3.

The Governor, Newfoundland: In the Somme fighting, yesterday British reports announce the capture of a German trench labyrinth on seven mile frontage to the depth of 1,900 yards.

The situation on either side of the Ancre, valley is unchanged. Northward to Gommecourt we failed to retain some portions of the ground taken in the first attack. It is announced to-day that La Boisselle has been taken.

To-day the French report their advance continued south of the Somme five kilometers. Second line trench and the village of Herby court have been occupied. The total prisoners reported last night number 9,500. The details of the number of guns and munitions captured are not available.

In Verdun the Thiamont work which has frequently changed hands is now held by the French. Damlou work was lost, but recaptured yesterday.

The Russians have captured Kolo meo and are advancing westward. Heavy enemy attacks on the latter salient have been repulsed. The total prisoners taken number about 220,000.

The Italian offensive is progressing favorably.

BONAR LAW.

REPORTED PANIC IN BERLIN.

NEW YORK, July 3.

A despatch from Zurich to the News Agency here says a panic had been produced in Berlin by the steady advance of the Allies in France, according to information received to-day. The newspapers are urging the people to be calm, but at the same time they print vigorous protests against the use of asphyxiating gas by the British, which is said to be more deadly than that employed by the Germans. Berlin War Office reports to-day that the continuation of the French and British drive on both sides of the Somme has gained any advantage for the Allies, north of the river, but south of the Somme the Germans withdrew their divisions to the second positions.

LONDON BUDGET.

LONDON, July 3.

The surrender of the remnant of the German garrison at La Boisselle was officially announced this afternoon. Progress on other parts of the battlefield is also recorded in the statement which follows: Heavy fighting continues, but is proceeding satisfactorily for us, especially in

april 5, 1916.

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LOCAL CEMETERY WORK PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

april 5, 1916.

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(Published Annually)

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