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'Margaret,' The GIRL ARTIST, OR, The Countess of Ferrers Court.

CHAPTER XXIV.

"I see! Ah, well! It will not matter to me, I suppose? But it is rather a pity, is it not? Ours is a good title, not a mushroom affair of yesterday. There are stones in the Court upon which time and history have set their seal, and they are to be flung in the gutter, eh? And with the heart of one of the best girls in England to be broken—"

Blair started. For a second he had thought of Margaret, though he knew it was Violet Graham whom the earl meant.

"Poor girl! What fools men are!"

Then his voice grew pathetic in its earnestness and entreaty. "Blair, is it too late? You owe me something, I think; I know you owe something to your name and all that belongs to it. Is it too late? Think! A woman's love, a good woman's heart is too priceless to be spurned with a light laugh. Blair, I your kinsman, lying here dying, prefer one request. I do not ask you to spare this old roof or the wealth I leave you, but I do ask you to grasp the happiness within your reach. Will you make Violet your wife?"

Blair rose and paced the room. An agitation which seemed utterly beyond reason, worked in his face. The old earl watched him in silence for a moment, then he said with a sigh: "I understand. You consent?"

"No," said Blair, "I refuse. I will marry Violet, if she wishes it, and, please Heaven, I will try and be less unworthy of her."

The earl raised himself on his elbow, and touched a silver bell, and fell back panting on his cushions, and as Blair bent over him, the door opened, and Violet entered.

Her quick eyes glanced at Blair questioning, but before either of them could speak, the earl took her hand and said:

"Violet, Blair has asked you of me for his wife. What have you to say?"

Her face went pale, then grew crimson, and she steadied herself by the head of the couch.

"Yes," she breathed, then just touching Blair's hand, she glided past him and fled to her own room.

The news spread with marvelous rapidity—for Violet told her maid within ten minutes of the proposal; but the interest that was excited was as nothing to that called forth by the further announcement that the marriage was to take place immediately.

The whims of dying men, especially when they are as great and as mighty as the Earl of Ferrers, must be regarded, and it was the desire of the earl that he should see his nephew,

Blair, married to his ward, Violet Graham, before he died.

Under such circumstances it could not be anything but a quiet wedding; but even a quiet wedding between two young persons of their rank require some preparations, and though these were hastened by the expenditure of large sums of money, a week had elapsed since their betrothal before they stood hand in hand before the altar in the little chapel of the Court.

Never perhaps had Violet looked handsomer. She had loved Blair Leyton for years with a passion of which, fortunately for the General peace, the fair sex alone is capable; and now she had got the desire of her heart, and he was her own. The fullness of her happiness almost frightened her, and as she found courage to glance up once at the pale, handsome face of the bridegroom, a sudden pang shot through her, the pang of a doubt and dread which she strove to kill even as she felt them.

Would she be able to win his love, or, after all her striving and its success, should she but own the shadow and semblance of the heart she craved for?

The little chapel was nearly empty, for only a few of the household had been permitted to view the ceremony, and no other guests had been asked.

At the request of Blair himself, an invitation had been sent to Austin Ambrose, but he had declined. It was, therefore, with some surprise, that Blair, as he returned from the altar with his wife—his wife—upon his arm, saw Austin Ambrose's thin figure standing near the door. The sight of him gave Blair a sudden chill, for it recalled that other church in sleepy Sefton, and that other bride whom he had lost forever, but whose image was still enshrined in his heart; but he summoned up a smile, and held out his hand.

"You have come after all, then?" he said.

"Yes," said Austin Ambrose, with his calm smile. "I found that I could not keep away, and so ventured to look in, just to see the ceremony."

Then he turned to Violet Graham, who, rather pale now, stood silently regarding him.

"One inducement, Lady Leyton," he said, his eyes looking over her head and carefully avoiding hers, "one irresistible inducement was my desire to be among the first to wish your ladyship the happiness and joy you so well deserve!" and he held out his hand.

Lady Leyton's face grew even paler as she gave him her hand, but as he grasped hers a shudder ran through her, and her eyes sought his face with a quick glance of alarm, for his hand was so cold that it struck like an icicle even through her glove.

And yet what could harm her? Was she not Blair's wife, the Viscountess Leyton, the future Countess of Ferrers?

So, with a smile, she passed on.

Indigestion Resulted From Bad Case of Inactive Liver

Experience Proved That Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills Were Exactly What Was Needed.

If every sufferer from indigestion would study his case as did the writer of this letter the great majority would find sluggish action of the liver and bowels to be the cause of trouble. It is then an easy step to finding a cure, for there is nothing like Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills to awaken the action of the liver, kidneys and bowels. With these organs performing their natural functions the system is thoroughly cleansed of all poisonous waste matter and the process of digestion is no longer impeded.

Mrs. W. L. Jones, Hill Spring, Alta., writes: "I have often thought I would write and tell you how much I appreciate Dr. Chase's medicines, especially Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I suffered terribly from indigestion and did not know what was the cause. I got to using Dr. Chase's

Kidney-Liver Pills and was so improved that I began to study the malady. I found that the indigestion resulted from a bad case of inactive liver, and as soon as I got the liver working right, I didn't have any stomach trouble or indigestion, the nervous spells vanished and the 'blues' flew away. I am never sick now, but should the old trouble return, I know how to cure it quickly."

There is a whole host of derangements which disappear when the liver is set right. Biliousness, indigestion, headache, irritability, constipation are a few of the more common results of torpid liver action. By the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills you can control all such disorders. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

CHAPTER XXV.

Christmas had gone and there was a vague suggestion of spring in the air; but it was cold still, and a huge fire burned in the great drawing-room of Leyton Court. It was after dinner, and the room, though by no means full, contained a fair number of people representing a small house party which had been spending the Christmas with the new earl; for the old earl had died a week after Blair and Violet Graham's wedding, and Blair reigns in his stead. Not only is he in possession of the old title and the estates and the large sum of money bequeathed by the old earl, but he has married one of the wealthiest young women in England, and consequently the world speaks of Lord Blair with bated breath, murmuring, "Lucky beggar!" and sometimes adding, "Just in time, too! Another month and he would have gone under, by George!"

And so they point him out to country cousins as he walks down Pall Mall, and whisper, "The Earl of Ferrers—the famous Lord Leyton, you know," and his county neighbors regard him with awe not far short of adoration, and everybody, great and small, combines to envy him.

Some say that the long course of reckless dissipation has told upon his constitution and the general break up, which is always and inevitably the result of burning the candle at both ends, has arrived. And yet those who are intimate with him have never heard him complain, and it is notorious that there is no harder rider in the hunt, and that the earl can out-walk, out-box, and generally out-do any man of his age and weight, just as he has always done. There is not a stoop, not a sign of weakness in the stalwart, well-knit figure; the face is as handsome, is even more distinguished looking than ever; but there is a strange look upon it, an expression of utter weariness and lassitude, a far-off preoccupied air which falls upon it whenever he is silent and alone.

And he is very silent of late, and very fond of being alone. Leyton Court is a charming place to visit, it is in very truth Liberty Hall, and so long as a guest does not bore his host or his fellow guests, he may do just what he pleases. And this freedom which is enjoyed by his guests, the earl claims for himself. Sometimes days will pass without his being seen, excepting at the dinner table, or for a few hours afterward in the drawing-room; but while there he is a model of what a host should be. Courteous, attentive, gentle mannered, everything but the smiling and light-hearted Blair who is still remembered in club land as the one man who never had the "blues!"

If he is attentive to his guests, to his wife he seems devoted. It is easy to gratify your wife's desires when you happen to be an earl, and wealthy to boot, but Blair, it would appear, aims at something higher than this—to anticipate the countess's wishes.

"Your rake makes the best husband!" exclaims a character in one of the old comedies, and it would really seem as if the saying were exemplified in Blair. The countess never leaves the room, but he is at the door to open it for her. In these days of sixteen-button gloves, that useful animal, man, has discovered a task suited to his energies, but no man save her husband ever buttons the countess's gloves; it is he who assists her with her pony carriage, rides beside her in her morning gallop, turns her music at the piano, and is ever at hand to perform those hundred and one little offices which renders a woman's life so sweet to her.

For the rest, Austin Ambrose is as close a friend of the countess as of the earl, much to the surprise and annoyance of their friends, to whom it is still a mystery what those two young people can see in him.

It is he who assists Blair in the management of his vast estates, interviewing tenants, engaging servants, etc. And it is he who helps Lady Ferrers with her visiting lists, and executes all the little offices which a lady of rank and title is so glad to find some one to undertake.

This evening the countess is seated in her accustomed chair, exquisitely dressed—it is said that she takes Mr. Austin Ambrose's advice on this point also—and playing the part of hostess with admirable tact and judgment;

Be Cured To-Day of Backache

Your persistent back-ache can have but one cause—Diseased Kidneys—and they must be strengthened before the back-ache can be cured.

Your best remedy, and the quickest to act is Dr. Hamilton's Pills; they cure kidney back-ache in a hurry. Simply wonderful is the action of this grand old medicine which for liver, kidney and stomach disorders has no equal. Dr. Hamilton's Pills will surely cure your back weariness, they will bring you appetite, color, strength and good spirits. Being purely vegetable they are mild, not drastic. Get a 25c. bottle of Dr. Hamilton's Pills today.

but every now and then the keen observer might see that her eyes turned toward the earl, who leaned against the mantel, his hands folded behind him, his eyes bent on the ground, and that look on his face which had become habitual to it. Presently the tall, thin figure of Austin Ambrose came between her and the earl, and sauntering up stood beside him.

"Blair," he said, "here are the letters."

Blair awoke with a little start, and took them and glanced at the addresses indifferently.

"One from Tyler & Driver, isn't there?" said Austin Ambrose.

Blair nodded.

"Yes," he said, listlessly.

"I expect it is about the late earl's will," said Austin Ambrose.

Blair walked into an anteroom, and dropping into a chair, threw the letters on to a writing table.

"See what it is they want, will you, Austin?" he said.

Austin took the letter and opened it.

"It's about that five thousand pounds which the earl left to—"

Blair turned and leaned his head on his hand, so that his face was concealed.

"Well?"

"They say that every effort has been made to discover Miss Hale's whereabouts, by advertising and inquiries, and that they can find no trace of her."

"Ah, no!" said Blair, with a deep sigh.

"And they give the usual advice, that the money should be funded. It is the best plan."

"Yes, unless we tell the truth," said Blair, in a low, sad voice. "Sometimes I think that I have been unwise, Austin, in keeping the story of—of my marriage and my darling's death from Lady Ferrers."

Austin Ambrose watched him closely.

"Take my advice, Blair, and while trouble sleeps let it sleep. The past—that past—is dead and done with. The poor girl is dead, and lost to human ken! Why provide the public prints with sensational paragraphs?"

"No, I could not do it, and yet, I feel that it is due to my poor dead Margaret. I will think it over. If it should be done, if it is my duty to do it, I will do it," he added, with mournful firmness. "See what the other letters are about, will you, if it isn't too much trouble."

"Not a bit; it amuses me to flatter myself I am of some use to you," was the prompt reply, as the speaker sat down to the table.

Blair strolled back to the drawing-room. Some one was playing, and the vast room was filled with the music. For a moment Violet seemed left alone, and, with the courtesy which never deserted him, Blair walked across to her and took a chair by hers.

"You look tired, Blair," she said.

"Tired? Do I? I am not in the least," he replied.

(To be Continued.)

Stafford's Liniment is sold in over 500 stores. Ask for Stafford's.—may3,t

Everyday Etiquette.

"Is it necessary for a man to stand with his hat off all the time he is talking to a woman on the street?" asked Joe.

"He is supposed to stand with his hat doffed while talking to a woman, no matter what the vicissitudes of the weather may be. However, the woman should request him to cover their heads when the weather is inclement," said his father.

The young man spent the whole day walking about enjoying the scenery and retired weary and footsore. Promptly at midnight, when he was wrapped in the soundest slumber, he was aroused by a thunderous knock at the door. He sprang out of bed, and encountered Lord Strathcona, ta-

Footwear Bargains advertisement by STEER Brothers. Features images of ladies' tan calf buttoned boots and high cut shoes. Text: 'We have secured a lot of 300 pairs... Ladies' Tan Calf Buttoned Boots, High Cut... An Extra Special Lot Real High-Class Shoes, All Sizes... Would in the regular way be \$3.50 to \$4.00. Our price: \$2.50 per pair.'

NEW ARRIVALS IN FURNITURE advertisement by The C. L. MARCH Co., Ltd. Text: 'We have just received and under construction in building for us the following goods: 200 BUREAUS and STANDS, from \$8.50 up to \$50.00... 100 SIDEBOARDS, from \$5.50 to \$50.00... 300 MATTRESSES, all sizes and prices, from \$1.00 to \$25.00... And to arrive in a few days a very large assortment of WHITE ENAMEL BEDSTEADS, all sizes and prices, from \$2.50 up. Also CANVAS, CARRIAGES, CHAIRS and the many other things so needed in the home, that we would advise intending purchasers to await same, as owing to us placing our orders before the late advances in prices, we have decided as far as possible to stick to our old prices during our MAY SALE, which we shall announce later.'

Honouring the Sabbath and EUROPEAN AGENCY advertisements. Text: 'per jn hand, and a winning smile on his face. "Come Mr. Blank—the Sabbath is now over, and we must make haste with those letters, you know, so as to catch the morning mail." By dint of incessant industry the morning sun had not risen very high over the vale of Glencoe when the letters were finally despatched, and Mr. Blank, a sadder and a wiser man, once more sought his couch to snatch a couple of hours repose before breakfast. Enjoy your meals by taking a teaspoonful of Stafford's Prescription "A" a few minutes before eating.—may3,t' EUROPEAN AGENCY Wholesale Indents promptly executed at lowest cash prices for all British and Continental goods, including Boots, Shoes and Leather, Chemicals and Druggists' Sundries, China, Earthenware and Glassware, Cycles, Motor Cars and Accessories, Drapery, Millinery and Piece Goods, Fancy Goods and Perfumery, Hardware, Machinery and Metals, Jewellery, Plate and Watches, Photographic and Optical Goods, Provisions and Oilmen's Stores, etc., etc. Commission 2 1/2 p.c. to 5 p.c. Trade Discounts allowed. Special Quotations on Demand. Sample Cases from \$50 upwards. Consignments of Produce Sold on Account. WILLIAM WILSON & SONS (Established 1814.) 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. Cable Address: "Annular, London."

5c. The Crescent Pic... 'When Love is... Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M. RAIDS OVER ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND. LONDON, May 3. There was a Zeppelin air raid on the northeast coast of England and the southeast coast of Scotland last night, and resulted in thirty-five casualties. This announcement was made daily to-day. A hundred bombs dropped. ZEPPELIN DESTROYED. LONDON, May 3. The Zeppelin L-29 has been completely destroyed and driven ashore on the western side of Hafso Firth, Norway, according to advices from Sweden. Some of the crew were killed. REPORTED TRANSFER PROPOSALS. LONDON, May 3. The Foreign Office announces that it has learned from the American Ambassador that Germany has offered the British proposals for the release to Switzerland of British German wounded or invalided prisoners of war for exchange. NO DEFINITE DATE. LONDON, May 3. A definite date can be set for the third demand which Washington made for the release of the 88,000 British prisoners of war held by the Germans, and the American steamer China near Manila. LLOYD GEORGE. LONDON, May 3. Mr. Lloyd George is going to give a remarkably frank speech on the subject of the war, in the House of Commons on Monday next. His speech will have a direct bearing on his future official life, as well as on the future of Great Britain's position in the world. Nothing will equal it in frankness, which has been said publicly by cabinet minister since the war. S.W. MINISTRY RESIGNED. SYDNEY, N.S.W., May 3. The New South Wales Ministry has resigned, owing to the unwillingness of the Government to accept the resignation of the Minister of Education. T. J. Edens A BARGAIN IN CANS AND PICKLES, English Pick. PURE FRUIT JAMS, 2 lb. pots. doz. Marmalade . . . 40c. ea. doz. Rasp. Jam . . . 40c. ea. doz. Apricot Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. Damson Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. Plum Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. Rasp. & Apple Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. Gooseberry & Apple Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. Damson and Apple Jam . . . 35c. ea. doz. TABLE & STRONG'S PICKLES 16 oz. bot., \$1.00 doz. Hay! Hay! Another shipment Codroy Valley Hay, prime quality. We are offering this lot at 11-2c. lb. Keeping Prices Down. Canadian Oatmeal . . . 1c. lb. Rolled Oats . . . 1c. lb. Blue Cleaned Rangoon . . . 6c. stone, 2 lbs. 9c. Tripple Sifted, 3 lb. tins, 15c. 1 lb. Sifted Oranges . . . 25c. doz. Valencia Oranges, 1 lb., 25c. doz. Miller's Spaghetti & Tomatoes . . . 20c. tin. J. EDENS.