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LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE

The Imprisoned Heiress

—OR—

The Spectre of Egremont.

CHAPTER XXIII.

"It is not that, love," answered Lyle soothingly. "He could not find any one more beautiful than you if he were to search the world over. But I suspect he would prefer a home-loving woman, one of those tame creatures who show to advantage behind a tea-urn. You are peculiarly fitted to adorn society, and I am enough of a Frenchman, Alexina, to care nothing for any home, but care a great deal about creating a sensation in the world."

"You and I are fitted for each other, Lyle," said the heiress, regretfully. "Oh, why could you not have been Lord Ashcroft? Or why must papa have made such an atrocious will? Sometimes I fairly loath the sight of Lord Ashcroft, and a hundred times a day I wish that Kepp had succeeded in his attempts to kill him."

Lord Ashcroft shuddered at these fearful words from the lips of his almost bride, but the assurance that she did not love him lifted a great weight from his heart, and he could have leaped for joy.

She did love Lyle Indor, the gentle, feminine Lyle with his soft voice and his bland manner. Her imperial will bound in Indor an unquestioning submission, yet Lord Ashcroft could not help thinking that the gentle Lyle concealed a hand of iron, as the saying goes, under a glove of velvet.

"Hush, Alexina,' said her favored lover, in tones of soft reproach. "You know I love you, yet I could not wish harm to happen to Lord Ashcroft. He is not to blame for being bound to you and so far as I know he is true and good. I blame him only because he has not bowed the knee in love to you, because he can look coldly upon your superb beauty. Were I in his place my time should be spent in serving you, happy if you but looked at me."

"Lyle, it is you I should have married!" cried the heiress. "If it were not for forfeiting my fortune, I would dismiss Lord Ashcroft now. Yet," she added, "there is some satisfaction in thinking I shall make him rue our marriage, and perhaps he may commit suicide in self-defense. Or perhaps Kepp will find an opportunity before this day week to rid the world of him."

"What would you do in that case?"

"Marry you within the month, and go to London!"

Lyle uttered a gentle reproof, then praise for her devotion to him."

"We must endeavor to forget our love. and I must consider you as Lady Ashcroft. It is hard to give up the love of so many months, Alexina, but we must not be weak."

The heiress sobbed aloud.

"I wonder," she said, "if Kepp has left the neighborhood. I could almost seek him out and offer him a bribe to remove Lord Ashcroft. I will try and find him; I will indeed."

"Alexina!"

"Hush, Lyle," she said, imperiously, drying her tears. "It is not so easy for me to give up my love for you. If I were in your place I would leave no stone unturned to remove all obstacles between us. But you are a weak, pitiful coward."

"My love," said Indor, deprecatingly.

"You are. Why don't you do something? Why will you let me be forced into a hateful marriage? You have no spirit, no manhood."

"My darling," said Indor, humbly, "what can I do? If I am a coward I have manhood enough to recognize and worship your beauty. I am perhaps better fitted to be your slave, for I could bear to be trodden on by you. I know I am different from Lord Ashcroft, for he would command where I would obey."

"Enough, Lyle. I would rather have you as you are, than to have you like him. I like to be peramount, and I will be. I have an idea that something will occur to break off my marriage with Lord Ashcroft, and yet preserve to me Egremont."

"I hope so."

"How cold it is," shivered the heiress. "I am almost freezing."

"You ought to run in, love. I forgot to bring out an extra shawl for you. We can talk as we go up to the house."

They quitted the pavilion, and locked the door, and then passed Lord Ashcroft, Alexina's velvet robe brushing the knees of her betrothed as she went by.

Lord Ashcroft silently followed them toward the dwelling.

It would be difficult to describe the tumult reigning in our hero's soul as he walked after them at a safe distance; the wild joy and thanksgiving at the revelation he had overheard; the horror he experienced at the discovery of Alexina's baseness in holding him to his contract while wishing him dead; and above all, the exultation he felt at the thought that he need no longer hesitate to claim his freedom.

"I will seek the picture-gallery," he thought. "Perhaps Aimee may be there. I can clasp her in my arms now without fear of wronging another."

He waited until his betrothed and her clandestine lover had entered the house, then he followed them, locked the door, and took his way up to the picture-gallery.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The announcement from the heiress that the day had been appointed for her marriage with Lord Ashcroft, and that it was near at hand, completely overjoyed Lady Egremont, and dispelled her fears that Aimee was to come between the betrothed young couple. She bestowed congratulations upon Alexina with a hearty sincerity that showed how truly relieved she was, and mentally determined that the prisoner should be more closely guarded than ever until after the bridal.

In pursuance of this intention, she went up to the haunted rooms immediately after Alexina had quitted her presence.

She found Toplift perusing a book in the drawing-room, by the globe-lamp, and Aimee was half reclining upon her Indian couch, her guitar in her hand, in the beautiful little bower beyond. She was not playing, but her slender fingers now and then idly touched the strongs, the plaintive sound according with her thoughts.

Lady Egremont closed the door between the study and the drawing-room, that her interview with the governess might be private, and then addressed herself to Toplift, who had laid aside her book and risen respectfully to her feet.

"Toplift," began her ladyship, taking possession of the arm-chair, and fixing her gaze upon the woman, "you expressed an opinion to me this morning that Lord Ashcroft was in love with the Lady Aimee. He has given to-day a proof that he is not, by desiring to hasten his marriage with the Lady Alexina. The wedding is to occur this day week."

The governess looked surprised, but said nothing.

"The romance surrounding Aimee may have captivated his fancy," resumed Lady Egremont, "and it is quite possible that, under such circumstances, that fancy might ripen into love. We must prevent those circumstances."

"What are they, my lady?"

"Simply, further meeting. If she be permitted to leave these rooms they will meet. It is possible that he may again seek entrance to this part of the house, and you must keep on your guard. Watch Aimeee day and night. Hide the key of the anteroom where she cannot find it."

"Your ladyship can trust me there," declared Toplift. "I've got a hiding-place for the key that she would never suspect."

"I am glad to hear it. Take care that she does not see you hide it. If she should leave this room only once, I should hold you responsible."

"I shall be faithful, my lady."

"I do not know what has come over you lately, Toplift," said her mistress with some severity. "It is only since Lord Ashcroft came that Aimee has been able to wander about the house. I never knew her before to evade you, or to leave these rooms. You must have slackened your old vigilance, or you are getting old and unfit for your post. I wish I had sent her to a convent a year ago."

"I am not to blame, my lady," declared the nurse. "The Lady Aimee used to be contented enough, but for the last few months she has asked me so many questions about the Lady Alexina, and wondered why their lots were so different, and why she must be shut up so. I think the poetry she has read has brought about the change, my lady. Then seeing Lord Ashcroft has completed her discontent, I often hear her muttering the name of Lionel as she sits in her study."

"Poor child!" murmured the countess, pityingly. "It is so strange that they should have met and loved. But love and marriage are not for her. Be very gentle with her, Toplift, but do not relax your vigilance."

Toplift declared that she would carefully heed her mistress' commands, thankful that her immoderate love of opium had not been discovered and remarked upon.

Lady Egremont gave the nurse a few more directions in regard to her young charge, and finished by a sharp reprimand for her former lack of vigilance.

She then arose from her chair.

"Won't your ladyship look in upon the Lady Aimee?" questioned Toplift, swallowing her resentment at the reproof she had received.

(to be continued.)

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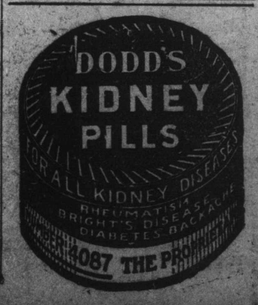

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Our Workless Season

GERMANS IN BRITISH SHIPS.

Ministry of Labour returns show that at the end of October last (the latest date for which detailed figures are available) there were 23,732 British seamen, firemen, and stewards drawing unemployment pay, or one in every five registered under the Insurance Act. This total was an increase of 2 per cent. compared with that for the previous month.

Recently a deputation from the Mercantile Marine Workers' Union met Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, President of the Board of Trade, to protest against the reported decision of the Government to embody a clause in the Anglo-German Trade Treaty permitting the employment of German seamen in British ships.

Sir Philip promised that any disturbance resulting from the employment of German seamen would be carefully watched, but added that before the clause mentioned was agreed upon he had consulted the president and officers of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, who had acquiesced in the proposal.

The danger of the knowledge obtained by German seamen in British ships being used to the detriment of this country commercially and in time of war was emphasized in a leading article in the Daily Mail recently.

Krupps in Spain

TECHNICAL CONTROL OF COAL AND IRON MINES.

MADRID,—According to El Liberal, an agreement will shortly be signed under which the mines and factories at Mieres, Asturias, will be under the control of Messrs Krupp.

The scheme involves the establishment of a new company with a share capital of £1,500,000 and a like amount of debentures. Messrs. Krupp would not hold the majority of the shares issued but would be charged with the technical control of the enterprise.—Reuter.

Since the war Krupp have steadily developed their grip on Spanish industries. They have a controlling interest in shipyards, arsenals, and metal works, and since the singing of the Spanish-German commercial treaty this year their tentacles have been extended even more. In the Mieres district there are very important coal and iron mines.

Total Eclipse of Sun On January 24th.

RARE SPECTACLE VISIBLE ONLY ONCE IN 450 YEARS.

As the morning of January 24, 1925, approaches—the date when a total eclipse of the sun will take place over this section for the first time since white men have inhabited Manhattan—the posters plastered on subway windows may well read:

"Get off at stations above 110th Street for the total eclipse and solar corona—all stations below 110th Street will have markedly inferior show."

Such will be the case. So delicately have scientists made their predictions about the eclipse that we know in advance where the line of demarcation will fall, on one side of which the sun will be in total obscurity and on the other side of which a thread of curved gold will mark the eclipse as partial. This line in the present eclipse will run east and west thro' the centre of the city. The Bronx will see the total eclipse. Staten Island will have only a partial eclipse.

This is not to say that people on a housetop on the north side of 110th Street will view the total obscurity while their neighbors across the street will have only the partial eclipse. The line cannot be as finely drawn as that. But we have the assurance of the astronomers that the line will lie somewhere within a few blocks of 110th Street. Providing—here's the rub for science—providing the moon behaves herself.

That ficle lady still has her puzzling moods for scientists as well as for more sentimental folk. The moon's motions have certain small unpredictable irregularities. If she takes the notion, the line of obscurity may be shifted several miles—giving all of Manhattan a total eclipse, or else shifting it to White Plains.

Scenically a total eclipse is vastly more interesting than a partial one. In the former the pale glory of the solar corona becomes visible and the stars are seen. In a partial eclipse the tiny rim of sunshine shifting through obliterates the corona—a thing in nature as lovely as it is rare.

The total eclipse itself will appear as a band of night, 1,500 miles long and 100 miles wide, thrown on the earth's surface from Northern Minnesota, where the sun will rise totally eclipsed, to a point between Iceland and the Orkneys, where the sun will set eclipsed. The partial eclipse will be visible on either side of this dark scimitar on the north as far as Greenland and on the south as far as the Amazon.

By great good luck—total eclipses only occurring over the same locality about once every 450 years—the present one will fall on some of the most densely populated areas of the country. Here in New York the moon will begin to darken the face of the sun at 8 o'clock in the morning, reaching the point of total obscurity at 9.12 o'clock. Not until 10.29 will daylight again have full sway.

While the partial obscuration will thus last more than two hours, the total obscuration will last only about half a minute over this city. In New Haven, at the centre of the shadow, the totality of obscuration will last two minutes. Montauk Point will be the last bit of land over which the total eclipse will fall before it starts its journey seaward to startle only sailors and to fade away in northern darkness.

Arrested While Leaving Prison.

Ossining, N.Y., Dec. 24. (United Press).—The law in the person of Detective Sergeant Charles Kane of New York, was waiting for William H. Anderson, when the former state superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League stepped out of Sing Sing prison to-day.

Paroled on the eve of Christmas after having served nine months of a sentence of one to two years for forgery, Anderson was required to go to New York City and give bail in answer to four other indictments before proceeding to his Yonkers home.

Bench warrants requiring the errest while dry leader's arraignment in General Sessions Court in New York City were sent to Warden Lawes of Sing Sing by Acting District Attorney Ferdinand Pecora, who prosecuted Anderson when he was tried last spring.

Rev. Charles F. Ross, of Yonkers, Anderson's pastor, arranged to be at the prison gate when Anderson, attired in a new suit he ordered when he learned of his impending parole, should emerge—a free man for a few seconds until Detective Kane took him in charge. It was understood that bail would be fixed by Judge Manusco in General Sessions at $5,000, and that Anderson's friends would have a bondsman there.

The affair will be expedited to permit the former State superintendent to reach home by Christmas Eve.

Two of the additional indictments charge grand larceny and two charges extortion. Anderson has already pleaded not guilty to those indictments, just as he did to one charging third degree forgery on which he was tried and convicted early this year.

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The Champion Pie Eater

A mammoth Christmas pie was sent from Berwick to London in 1770 as a gift for Sir Harry Grey. It measured 9ft. in circumference, and weighed 168lb.

An enormous pie of similar weight provided the chief dish at a banquet at Gorleston some years ago. It was built in three sections, and walled in with a stout crust 3ins. thick. The ingredients consisted of kidneys, beefsteak, and rabbits, mingled with potatoes, onions, and carrots.

This monster pie was made by an old trawl skipper and took forty-eight hours to cook. After the feast the remains of the pie were made into ten gallons of soup for distribution to the poor.

When the pie-eating championship of New Jersey was decided, each pie consisted of a layer of pastry ¼in. thick, spread with canned fruit. The average weight of the pies was ½lb. Thirty-five young men entered the contest, during which the State record of twenty-six pies in half-an-hour went by the board, for the winner managed to eat twenty-seven in the allotted time. For this feat he was awarded the championship belt.

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