

The Tangle of Fate

No, he came up again outside, and with swift and graceful strokes, ventured toward the victim. Brave, yes, he was the bravest of them all, and—hurray!—he reached the tossing white form, grasped the skirts, a rope is thrown by strong hands, and then deafening cheers rend the air! Rescued! rescued! And not a life lost! The hero, grasping the woman he has saved, is drawn into the lifeboat, and it is swiftly rowed to shore.

Tenderly they lift out the still white form and lay it reverently upon the sands. There seems no sign of life in that pale, but conscious, on her, utters a cry of the cruellest despair: "Dead! oh, Bonnie! Bonnie!"

The anguish of a terrible suspicion blends with that bereaved cry. He has remembered her words of last night. Has she then sacrificed herself to her sister?

They beat back the surging, curious crowd, a physician comes and kneels by her side, and close to Lin presses a wild-eyed, pallid-faced woman—Imogen—behind her Mrs. Cornwall and the Rainsfords. They are all sobbing bitterly, but they hold their breath to listen to the doctor's dictum:

"There is life; she will recover." Was Imogen glad or sorry—she who only last night had longed to see poor Bonnie lying dead! When the shock of excitement was over, when Bonnie lay dead, Imogen found that Mrs. Cornwall, the maid, had been telling everyone how the two girls had gone into the water together, and how strange it was that Mrs. Westland had come out safe while "Avis" tried to teach me to swim, but I became frightened and left her alone in the water, and—

CHAPTER XIX.
When Bonnie was quietly sleeping, and the strain of anxiety was lessened, Mrs. Rainsford suddenly remembered the telegram from Miles Westland.

"I hope you will forgive me, but I almost forgot it entirely in my anxiety over our dear girl," she said, as she placed it in Imogen's hand.

Imogen frowned and bit her lip over the message that she must come to her sick child.

"I shall not go home till to-morrow, anyhow," she declared. "It would look cruel to desert poor Avis now."

"But I am sure she would excuse you, my dear. She would not wish you to stay away from your sick infant."

"I do not believe that Baby Lin is the least bit sick. He has the kindest nurse in the world. I dare say this is only a clever scheme on the part of my husband to bring me home. He is lonely without me, that is all."

The lawyer's wife looked at her in surprise, but said no more, and Imogen sent Miles a telegram that she would leave for home the next day.

She begged Mrs. Cornwall to let her nurse the sick girl, but the maid grimly declined.

"It is my business to wait upon my mistress, ma'am," she replied, and would suffer no one but Mrs. Rainsford to relieve her at the post of duty.

By noon the next day Bonnie was up and dressed, though very pale and nervous from yesterday's peril.

It was the day after Imogen had received that second telegram from her husband.

Lloyd Hill the blinds were drawn at the windows, and white crape veils stretched from the door.

Within the darkened parlor, upon a great bank of fragrant flowers, lay a little white casket. Imogen's dead child, the careless mother had come too late.

Baby Lin had been dead several hours when she returned, accompanied by the Rainsfords, the heiress, and Lin La Valliere.

Miles Westland met his wife with a marble pale face and heavy, reproachful eyes. To her passionate mourning for her child, he answered, coldly:

"Had you taken Lin with you, as every one wished, this might never have happened!"

She remembered, with a remorseful pang, that Avis had begged her to take the nurse and child to the sea-shore, and Miles had added his persuasions.

But Imogen had refused to take them. Baby would be better at home, she said. But never had Imogen realized how dear to her heart was the beautiful infant until she saw it lying dead in the little white casket upon the bank of flowers, the tiny dimpled waxen hands folded so peacefully, the dark eyes, shut forever, and the angelic smile of death on the silent lips.

Agnes, the nurse, told her, between bitter sobs, how the little one had died of croup.

"I did all I could for him, indeed I did, Mrs. Westland, but we could not save the dear child," added the housewife, who had been fond of the baby, although she disliked the mother.

They all left her to herself at last, and she knelt by the dead child, gazing into the lovely face with great sombre dark eyes full of terrible despair.

Her lips moved as last and she whispered faintly:

"God has taken you away from me, my little darling. Was it in punishment for my sin?"

She stared so long alone that Mrs. Rainsford became alarmed and sent her husband to see what she was doing.

"Perhaps she has fainted," she said, uneasily.

Miles went in, and found her drooping in a chair by the coffin. Her face was wan, white, despairing. He could see that cruel remorse was working at her heart.

"Oh, Miles!" she uttered, in a hollow voice, and there was more love in her heart toward him at that moment than she had ever felt before. This was their common sorrow. It seemed to draw them nearer together in her thoughts.

AS A SLAVE.

REMARKABLE ADVERTISEMENT BRINGS MANY OFFERS OF HELP

Willing to Sell Himself—Able to Do Many Things, But Was Not Able to Procure Any Employment.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 14.—The appeal of Thomas E. Swann, the young college graduate from Seattle, Wash., for any kind of work, which was made through an advertisement in the want columns of a newspaper, in which the young man offered to sell himself into temporary slavery rather than starve, has not fallen on deaf ears.

"White man, twenty-seven years old, will sell himself into slavery to highest bidder for any period not exceeding five years; graduate of High School and military academy; can use typewriter and assist at bookkeeping or other clerical work; and proficient in nursing and perform minor surgical operations; competent to care for invalid or mildly insane case; am total abstainer; want work of any kind; purchaser must provide lodging and clothing."

Swann has been looking for work for six weeks. He says he has been obliged to sell much of his clothing in order to get a little money with which to buy food, and that Wednesday night he had to sell his last extra pair of shoes.

He stated that he had been working for a while in Chicago. He then went to Norfolk, Va., where he was employed in the navy yard as a timekeeper until discharged on account of lack of work. Then he came to Baltimore.

To-day's mail brought generous responses and offers to provide work for Swann in some cases and food and shelter in others. One tender-hearted lady was touched by the young man's plight, and even though she explained that she herself was in poor circumstances, she offered to take care of him until he could secure something to do to even partial service.

Next Harbor-master Joseph L. Farnam offered Swann work on a farm. Harry Hechheimer, an attorney, made a similar offer, and A. S. Pettit, of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, called in person to interview the young man. A representative of the big department store of Joel Gutman & Co. sent Swann an offer of work. Mr. Gutman himself took an interest in the young man, providing him with a complete outfit of clothing and agreeing to put him to work Monday morning at a good salary.

WEDS BOTH.

Daughter Shoots Him When He Gets Mad Over Comic Valentine.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 14.—In the probably fatal shooting of William Smith, a carpenter, over a comic valentine, came to light a strange domestic entanglement.

Mrs. Cora Smith, who fired the shot at Smith, told the police that she married Smith, knowing that her mother was already his wife. The three have lived together for years, the man posing as the husband of both mother and daughter. The daughter, who is 22 years of age, sent Smith a comic valentine in person. Smith became angry on receiving it, packed up his clothes and started to leave the house. Thinking he was going to desert her, the daughter-wife shot him.

The mother-wife says she was married to Smith secretly in 1902 and took her 13-year-old daughter to a former husband to live with her and Smith. A year after her marriage, she says, her daughter and Smith fell in love with each other, and the mother made her husband marry her daughter.

ATTORNEY'S BEARD

Trimmed Off by Opposing Party at Polling Booth.

New Orleans, Feb. 13.—A sensation was created in the United States Circuit Court this afternoon when a Grand Jury returned indictments against Mayor Paul Felix and other prominent citizens of Kenner, Jefferson parish, charging them with "conspiring and agreeing to arm themselves with pistols, guns, scissors and other weapons to injure, oppress and threaten certain voters."

The indictments grew out of the cutting off of the whiskers of A. J. O'Sullivan, a prominent attorney of New Orleans, at the Kenner polls at the last national election. Mr. O'Sullivan went to the polls for the avowed purpose of giving legal advice to certain clients opposing the Felix regime.

As he approached the polling booth he was seized and his flowing whiskers, with a State-wide reputation for their luxuriance, were summarily clipped.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c

MAN MISSING.

Feared That Alfred Stohr Has Perished in the Woods.

Port Arthur, Feb. 14.—Alfred Stohr left his home on Dawson road January 3rd, with three days' provisions, to explore land, and has not been seen since. It is believed he became lost in the woods and perished. Stohr was a highly educated Frenchman, having once been a professor in a French college and was fluent in five languages.

Misfortune followed him from the time of the San Francisco earthquake, in which he lost practically all his means. He leaves a wife and three children destitute.

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