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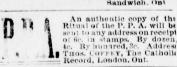
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### ARMINE.

CHRISTIAN REID.

CHAPTER XVI.

Perhaps those last words - which Egerton felt afterwards to be rather presumptuous in what they impliedmade an impression on Miss Bertram, for the next time he called at the D'Antignacs' he heard that she had been there with Miss Dorrance.

"And I do not know when I have been so much struck by any one," said Helene D'Antignac. "What a brilliant, handsome, intellectual face she has! I confess that I am very fond of clever people; and one has only to look at Miss Bertram to see that she is very clever

"Yes, she is certainly very clever," said Egerton-"too clever for her own good, I am afraid."

"How is her good threatened by her eleverness?" asked Mile. D'Antignac,

Egerton rather vaguely. "You will soon find out what they are, if you know her, as I hope you will; for I think your friendship would be of institute of the same finite benefit to her.

I am afraid I do not feel within myself the power to be of infinite bene-fit to any one," said Helene simply : but I should like to know this girl well, for I am quite sure that she is The cultivation of the acquaintance will depend on herself, however. I cannot pretend to pay visits. Those who wish to see me must come to me. My life is here. "Did Miss Bertram see M. D'Antig-

nac?" asked Egerton. "No. Miss Dorrance said something about desiring to see him; but he was not well enough to be disturbed that If they come again-as I asked

them to do-they may see him then. "I think they will come-at least I think Miss Bertram will come," said Egerton. "She desires to see M. d'Antignac very much."
"Raoul will like her," said Helene.

She is a person who is sure to inter-st him. He likes brilliant people est him. He likes brilliant even if they are a little erratic.

"So you have discovered that Miss Bertram is a little erratic," said Egerton smiling.

"I have not discovered, I have only suspected it," answered Mile. d'Antig-"Brilliant people often are. But I am sure she is none the less attractive for that."

"She is very attractive," said Egerton, discreetly holding his peace with regard to certain drawbacks to this attractiveness.

When he came again it was on Sunday evening, and he was not surprised to find Miss Bertram sitting by D'An-tignac's couch. He had felt quite sure that she would return, and the expression of her countenance-an expression compounded of gentleness, com-passion, and vivid interest—told him how deeply she was impressed, even before he found an opportunity to speak to her. Indeed, it chanced that ust then two or three intellectual men were gathered around D'Antignac, and their talk was different from that which Miss Bertram was in the habit of hearing in the social circle which she chiefly frequented. One slight man, lean as a greyhound and dark as an Arab, was a professor of the Sorbonne; another was a journalist of note, the author of a political brochure of which just then all Paris was talking: while a third was an Englishman with rugged face and leonine mane, whose name was Godwin, who occupied an apartment above the D'Antignacs' and of their warmest frien man had been talking when Egerton

came up. logic is your strong point," he was say ing to one of the Frenchmen, "but it seems more likely to prove your destruction than your salvation. Taking

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AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

and reduces life to chaos. Whereas the Englishman, strong in common sense and recognizing the multitude of mysteries that surround him in life, accepts with philosophy an illogical position for the sake of its practical advantages." The professor shrugged his shoul-ers. "The mot de l'enigme is in the ast sentence," he said. "Your counlast sentence." he said. trymen, monsieur, would do much more than accept an illogical position for the sake of its practical advantages, especially since you will not deny that,

generally speaking, their sense of logic "Generally speaking it is very obtuse," said Godwin, " and so much the better for them. What has the fine logic of the French ever done but lead them into atheism, revolution, and anarchy?"

"And does it not occur to you," said the other, "that the temper of mind which seeks truth, and truth only, even if it leads to what you caliatheism, to revolution, and to anarchy is better than that which contentedly compromises with error for the sake of the practical advantage of present peace and prosperity

"No," answered Godwin, "I cannot admit that it is better until you prove that your atheism, revolution and anarchy have been of benefit, or are likely to be of benefit, to the human race

"It appears to me," said the other, "that it is late in the day even to

make a question of that." "But it is a question-in fact, the supreme question—of our time," said Godwin. "And I, for one, deny that you have accomplished any good in comparison with the evils inflicted upon France, for example — evils which every man must see and acknowledge, and for which the panacea is revolution, still revolution; so that in the end this once great Frank nation will sink lower and lower in the scale of nations until no man can pre dict her degree of final abasement.

His words struck home, and there was a moment's silence; for no Frenchman of any sagacity, however much of a revolutionary doctrinaire he may be, can close his eyes to the waning influ ence of France abroad and to her shrinking population, her failing credit, and her moral decadence at home.

It was D'Antignac's flow but clear

voice which broke the silence : "You are right enough, Godwin. The evils are tremendous-almost beyond calculation-which have been brought upon France by revolution-ary principles. But I should not blame the logic of the people for that. It is only by following principles out to their logical conclusions that we can truly judge what they are. Now, in France alone has this test been applied to ideas which in a more or less covert form are working in every nation of Europe. Here alone were men who did not shrink from carrying out to their utmost consequences the prin ciples of the great religious revolt of the sixteenth century; and if the French Revolution—which was the ultimate outcome and expression of those principles-startled the world, and especially England, into a reaction, you have surely French logic to thank for that.

"Oh! yes," said Godwin, with laugh, "I grant that we have that much to thank it for. But the result for France was not so fortunate as for us.

"The final result for France we do you have many thoughts to spare for yet know," said D'Antignac. higher things." "How far she is to wander, how deep she is to fall, we cannot tell. The false light of human reason, the false ideal of human liberty which she is following, will certainly lead her into misfortune and humiliation greater, perhaps, than any she has known yet but the depth of her fall may be the measure of the height to which she will rise when she, who was the Eldest Daughter of the Church, the first among barbarous nations to recognize and embrace the truth, shall again lift her eyes to that truth and be the first, perhaps, to return to that faith which so many of her noblest children have so hany of the transfer of the sense of logic which you deride may do for her. It is not logic which has been her bane, but the false principles which she accepted as a basis for thought. Given just principles and there is no intellect in the world so lucid and so luminous as the French in its demonstration of truth. The compromises with error, the building up of high sounding premises on unstable foundations, which are the characteristics of English thought, are unknown to the French mind. It either embraces truth in its entirety or it does not shrink from the utmost conse quences of negation.'

Those who had never heard D'Antig nac talk on some subject which deeply moved him could form little idea of how his eyes would glow, his whole face light up with the energy of his feeling. As Sibyl Bertram looked at him now she thought that she had never before realized how clearly the spirit might reveal itself through its

fieshly covering. "Bien dit, mon ami," said the professor. "On that point we agree. The French mind does not shrink from the utmost consequences of nega tion. And therein lies our strength and our best hope for the future. The present may be dark and uncertain; but it is by following the pure light of reason that we may at last solve our problems, rather than by returning to the twilight of that

certain principles, such as liberty of France, which has ever been in the van thought and the rights of man, you of human thought, is not likely to recarry them out to a conclusion which cuts every belief from under your feet and reduces life to chaos. Whereas to accept Christianity, but it was then to accept Christianity, but it was then a step into the light. It would now be a step into darkness."
"That," said D'Antignac, is a favor-

ite assertion of your school of thought-or rather of opinion, for I do not honestly believe that there is much thought in the matter-but assertions without proof, as you must be aware, carry little weight. And it is difficult for you to prove that Christianity is synonymous with darkness, when every ray of the light of your boasted civilization directly or indirectly emanates from it. There are many travesties of history, but none which can absolutely blind men to the fact that modern Europe, with its whole civil and moral order, is the creation of the Church, and of the Church alone She rescued from barbarism and built up into nations the people who now turn against her and wrest to their own destruction the knowledge which she taught; and it does not require a prophet to tell that in proportion as her influence diminishes and the traditional hold of the morality which she taught grows less the relapse of these people into essential paganism is cer

"We may see it in progress before our eyes," said the journalist. else is the tyranny of the State, the exaltation of material ends, the tampering with rights of property, the abrogation of the marriage tie - for the law of divorce practically amounts to that? There can be no doubt that ve are more and more approaching the ideal of a pagan state, with a corres-

ponding pagan corruption of morals. It was at this moment that D'Antig nac glanced toward Sibyl, and, meeting the bright intelligence of her eyes he said, with his exquisite smile :

"I fear, Miss Bertram, that you think us sad pessimists. Have you ever reflected much on these subjects? "I have reflected on them-not very

much, perhaps, nor very wisely-but enough to be exceedingly interested in all that you have said," she ans-wered. "You would not think so from my appearance, probably, but such discussions interest me more than anything else.'

"It is from your appearance that I have arrived at the conclusion that they interest you decidedly," he said, still smiling. "Why should you do yourself so much injustice as to imagine otherwise?

'Oh!" said she, smiling too, know that I look like a young lady who thinks only of amusements and toilettes and conquests. At least Mr. Egerton"-with a slight glance toward that gentleman - "has more than

once told me so."
"I?" said Egerton, who had drawn near in time to hear this speech. all unjust charges which you have ever made against me—and I must be permitted to declare that they have een many-this is the most unjust ! When did I ever intimate in the remotest manner that your appear-

ance so far belied her?"
"I thought I remembered something of the kind," said she indifferently, "but it does not matter. I ently, "but it does not matter. I only hope M. d'Antignac will believe that though I may look as if my soul was in chiffons, I have a few thoughts

to spare for higher things."
D'Antignac regarded her with a penetrating yet kindly expression in his dark, clear eyes.

"I should never suspect you of putting your soul in chiffons," he said. "And I am quite sure that

"But to think even of the higher things with profit one must know how and what to think," she said quickly. 'And that is difficult. For instance what you have just been talking of— the tendencies of modern life and modern thought. There are so many conflicting opinions that it is hard to tell what is and what is not for the benefit of humanity.'

"We may be quite sure of one thing," he answered: "that nothing is for the benefit of humanity which ignores or denies man's dignity as an immortal being owing his first and highest duty to God. That is the necessary condition for morality, public and private; and although there is a benevolence widely preached at present which substitutes man's duty to his fellows for his duty to God, it is like endeavoring to maintain a toppling house after destroying its

foundation.' Egerton, who knew how attractive the idea of benevolence thus described was to Miss Bertram, could not refrain from a glance to see how she liked this chance shot. She met his eyes, smiled, and said to D'Antignac:
"Mr. Egerton is triumphing over

He knows that I am a great advocate and admirer of what you condemn-that is, the teaching which substitutes the pressing and immediate duty of helping one's fellow-creatures for a narrow and selfish personal religion."
"It is a very attractive teaching to

generous and-forgive me if I adduninstructed people," said D'Antignac.
"In reality it is the revolt of such people against a religion which you de scribe very accurately as narrow, self-ish and personal. Such was and is the religion of those who in their beginning proclaimed faith without works as their battle-cry, who seized and robbed every charitable foundation, who contradicted the words in which our Lord laid down the rule of perfection when He bade him who desired to be perfect to sell all that he had and give to the poor, and who absolutely superstition which you call faith. For obliterated from the minds of Christian

people the knowledge of the corporal works of mercy, as well as the sense of the obligation to practice them. The result was that order of material prosperity which has crushed and ground down the poor, until on every side they are rising with cries of revolt which are like sounds of doom in the ears of those who have so long oppressed them.

We know this movement of Socialism - it was now Miss Bertram's turn to glance at Egerton - "and it is one direct consequence of the denial of the necessity of good works. Another consequence is the outcry against the self-ishness of religion. It is chiefly made by people who only know religion in the narrow form of which I have spoken; but if you remind them that modern humanitarianism has nothing to show in practical result in compari on with the grand work of Catholic charity, they reply that this work is vitiated by the motive of being done for God rather than solely for humanity. They are not aware that all other duties are included in the supreme duty of serving God, as all the light of our material world emanates from the sun. Remove that great central light, and what artificial substitute can take its place? So good works undertaken without the motive of divine charity are but rays of artificial light, transient

and unsatisfactory."
"But surely," said Miss Bertram,
"you will allow that one may love one's fellow-man without loving God?

"After a manner—yes," said D'Antignac; "but not as if the central sun were in its place. You realize what the old cavalier meant in the noble lines:

Can you not, therefore, realize that a man must love his renow ?"
for loving God supremely ?"
for loving Har head, "I am afraid man must love his fellow-beings better

that I know very little of what is meant by loving God," she said. "Modern philosophers have certainly

made Him unknown, if not 'unknowable, to the generation they have edu cated," said D'Antignac. "But for all that He is to be known by all who choose to seek Him. And knowing Him "—the pale face lighted as with a flame-'none can fail to love Him.

They were simple words, yet, winged as they were straight from the ardent soul, it was to Sibyl Bertram as if they revealed a world of which she knew nothing, and before which she stood in awe and wonder. Suffering, sacrifice what meaning could such words have to souls which were filled with the love that seemed suddenly to shine on he like a light from the suffering stamped face of this man?

Just then there was the stir of new arrivals, and two or three people-evidently intimate friends of D'Antignac - came forward to his couch. drew back, and in doing so found her self beside Egerton, to whom she said

Mr. Egerton. I should never have thought of coming but for your ad-

vice."
"I hope," he said, "that you do not

regret having followed it."
"Do you know me so little as to imagine that possible? How could I regret finding myself in the most rare fied atmosphere I have ever breathed? I am inhaling it with delight.'

"I thought that it was an atmos phere which would please you," he

said, with a smile.

"If you really thought so you paid me a compliment which I appreciate. What an intellectual pleasure it is to listen to talk such as I have heard on all sides since I have been here! as for M. d'Antignac - well, I have never before seen any one in the least all the time literally as well as metaphorically at his feet you need not be surprised.

Egerton laughed, "I cannot im agine your sitting at the feet of any one, either literally or metaphori-

cally," he said.

That is because you do not know much about me," answered the young lady calmly. "I have a great capacity for hero-worship, but I have never up to this time found the hero on whom to expend it. But pray tell me who is the lady talking to M. d'Antignac now? She has the air of a grande dame.

"She is a grande dame - Mme. la Comtesse de St. Arnaud, sister of the Vicomte de Marigny and a cousin of the D'Antignacs. I have seen her here before.

"She has a striking air of distinct tion, and a charm of appearance without being at all beautiful." "She is very like her brother. Per-

haps if you saw him you might find another hero to your liking. He is D'Antignac's closest friend, and, I presume, a man after his ewn heart. "He seems to have a great variety of very different friends, this M. d'Antignac," said Miss Bertram. "By the

way, did you not promise that I should "Duchesne? Good Heaven, no That would be a little too much even for D'Antignac's tolerance. said you might meet his daughter. but not on an evening when they re ceive generally. I am quite sure that Mlle. Duchesne has too much sense for that. The Comtesse de St. Arnaud, for

moment most vigorously opposing her brother's election. 'Really, this is very charming!" said Miss Bertram. "It is my ideal of a salon, where people of the most different tastes and opinions can meet on neutral ground, and where there is a central mind of intelligence high enough and sympathy wide enough to

example, might be surprised to meet

the daughter of the man who is at this

attract them all."

Egerton, looking at the man who lay on his pillows with interest so keen and charity so gentle imprinted on every line of his face.

"You called him a hero," said Miss Bertram, following the direction of his eyes, "but do you know that he looks to me more like a saint?

Egerton might have answered that saintliness is the highest form and perfection of heroism; but he was pre vented from making any answer at all by the appearance of Miss Dorrance, who from some point suddenly swept down upon her friend.

"Have you had enough of it, Sibyl?" ne asked. "If so, I think we might she asked. take leave. Oh! how do you do, Mr. Egerton? You see here we are! Sibyl would give me no peace until I And now I suppose that she came. will be wanting to come all the time, for I think she has at last found an atmosphere sufficiently exalted to suit her. I confess that it is a little too exalted for me. I like something more sublunary; but no doubt that is owing to my unfortunate want of taste. I do think M. d'Antignac perfectly charming, however, and if I could fancy my-self falling in love with anybody I believe I should fall in love with him. Miss Bertram drew her straight,

dark brows together in a frown.
"It seems to me," she said, "that there are some people who should be exempt from the association of such an

"Do you think it a very terrible idea?" said Miss Dorrance, opening her eyes. "I thought it flatteringat least I meant it that way. What do you think. M. Egerton? Is it not a you think, M. Egerton? compliment to say that one is inclined to fall in love with a person?"

"I should certainly consider it a compliment if you were to say that you were inclined to fall in love with me," replied Egerton.

"Of course you would, and you would be a monster of ingratitude you considered it otherwise. But Sibyl —well, Sibyl is so exaltee that one never knows how she will look upon anything.

"I look upon the use of French terms in English conversation as very objectionable, especially they are used to stigmatize one unjustly," said Sibyl, with a smile. you are anxious to go, Laura, I am quite ready; but I must thank you again, Mr. Egerton, for having put me in the way of coming here.

TO BE CONTINUED.

#### POPULAR EDUCATION IN MEDI-ÆVAL TIMES IN ENGLAND.

Cardinal Vaughan's sermon at the re-opening of St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, Eng., was largely devoted to the education question. course of it, he said :

Catholics had been accused of being narrow, sectarian and hostile to popular education. He desired to address himself to that charge, so often made, "I have you to thank for being here, and his first appeal would be to the history of this country, and if we would see what was the part taken by the Catholic Church in England he would refer them to an article in the current number of the Contemporary Review, entitled "School Supply in the Middle Ages," which showed that the provision for secondary education was far greater in proportion to the population during the Middle Ages than it had ever been since, and that education was in some form ubiquit-ous, if not universal. "It was withous, if not universal. "It was within the truth to say," the article continued, "that there was thoroughout the period of eight hundred years more secondary schools in proportion to the never before seen any one in the least population than there had been since."

And again, "There was in the Middle Ages in England four hundred grammar schools to two million and a quarter of people, and the contrast was between one grammar school for every 5,625 people then, and that presented at the present day when there was one grammar school for every 25,750 people." The contrast was not flattering to ourselves, but, as we learned from the article in this review, the Catholic Church supplied the education, supplied it most abundantly, and that without charge, for the people in those days received their education gratuitously, and the expense of it was not taken out of rates and taxes, or out of the public purse, but out of the revenues of the Church herself, so that upon her endowments a first charge was made in every cathedral and collegiate church and parish church the education of the people. The Church, therefore, not only gave more abundant education in her day than was given now, but she gave it gratutiously. She, therefore, was the friend of education, as she always had been in every land, and as she was to day.

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"There is certainly that here," said

"There is certainly that here," said

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