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E. N. HUNT, 190 Dundas street.

THE TRIUMPH OF TRUE LOVE

CHAPTER XIX.

"You are speaking falsely," cried Lady Beatrice. "What does this play-acting, this absurd ranting mean? You are surely mad. Lady Violante Selwyn—the low-born woman who inveigled my noble husband into marrying her—is dead. I saw her dead; I saw her buried; she lies far away in Florence."

"Nay," interrupted the clear voice, "she is here! Look well at me; do you know my face? Do you not know my voice? Do you want further proof? See!"

Then, with calm, quiet hands that had ceased to tremble, she removed the widow's cap and the hair that had so effectually disguised her, and then, when Beatrice saw the soft golden curls clustering, short, and wavy, she uttered a low cry, as though she stood face to face with the specter.

"Have you risen from the dead?" she asked.

"The dead never return," was the grave reply. "Do you believe me now, that I am Violante Selwyn?"

But Beatrice waved her away with outstretched arms.

"You are Violante Selwyn," she cried; "and I—oh, Heaven, what am I?"

"A murderer in heart and in deed," said Violante. "Listen, and in a few words I will tell you why I did what I have done."

In her dark dress, with the short, clustering, golden curls, her face flushed until she looked like a being from another world, she seemed to return to her like an avenging angel. So thought the guilty woman crouched at her feet.

"I speak to you before Heaven. I accuse you before Heaven, that you, Beatrice Leigh, drove me to madness and despair. You taunted me; you sneered at me; you persecuted me; you held me up to the ridicule of friends and foes; you deliberately set to work and stole my husband's heart from me; you took it quite away, and he ceased to care for me; you made him ashamed of me, you thrust your beauty, your wit, your thousand accomplishments before him, and contrasted them with my ignorance; and you won my husband's love. I knew it. I saw him kiss you, and then I went mad."

A cold sneer on the white face, a wicked gleam on the dark, angry eyes. "You drove me to despair, Beatrice," she continued, "and my sorrow was so great that it confused my notions of right and wrong. Snered if you will—it hid from me the face of the Most High. I dared not kill myself; but I resolved to go away forever from my husband's sight—to relieve him from what I believed to be a burden to him—my presence. You can guess how it happened. I fled, and sent my maid on first to England, and then to Italy, and I had sought shelter in a little village not far from Florence."

"When I read in the papers that I was dead, and my husband mourned for me," she continued, "a temptation came to me and I yielded to it. I allowed the world to believe me dead; God knows why—he understands—man never will. In this disguise I have lived ever since; but my heart ached so to see my husband and to think that I came here, I could not help it."

"An infamous story—an infamous plot to disgrace me!" cried Beatrice. "Nay; not so! It was an error—a woman's error. I forgot right or wrong. I forgot the probability that my husband would ever marry again—it never occurred to me."

"You did it all for this one hour of vengeance and of triumph," said Beatrice.

"It is not so! You have tried to kill my son, and my heart is full of indignation, of sorrow, and of anger; but believe me, for the disgrace I have unthinkingly and unconsciously brought down upon my head, I am sorry—sorry with my whole soul. I would kneel to beg your forgiveness for it; I would do anything to atone for it."

"Disgrace!" cried Beatrice. "Oh, heaven, that any living woman should use that word to me!"

Her tall figure was drawn to its utmost height, her dark eyes flashed fire.

"I have to thank the plotting, low-born daughter of a country attorney that I, Beatrice Leigh, am disgraced!" she cried; "that I have lived for six years with the man I love, yet am not his wife; that I have borne a child who has no right to his father's name! It is to you I owe it!"

The fair head drooped before her in unutterable sorrow.

"It is all my fault," she replied meekly. "Would that I could bear the punishment alone."

"It is your fault," said Beatrice. She drew herself up with the hauteur of a queen. She raised her bare, white arm as though appealing to the highest tribunal. "Listen," she cried. "You

have outwitted me. You have triumphed over me. I curse you! I curse the fair beauty of your face; I would fain trample it out. Sleeping, waking, eating, weeping, laughing, I curse you, Violante Selwyn, and I hate you with the hate of hell."

Violante made no attempt to stay the passionate torrent of words. "I must return to my child," she said. "Beatrice, Rupert's life trembles in the balance; the least excitement will kill him. Let us keep this secret yet a little longer—until tomorrow evening, cost what it may, I will tell my husband myself, then go out of his presence for evermore. Will you keep my secret until then?"

"As you will," was the sullen reply.

"And, Beatrice, I have something to forgive. You have tried to kill my son; I will pardon you," pleaded Violante gently. "I will pardon and forget if you will forgive me the wrong I have done you."

The proud, implacable face, full of angry resentment, was turned to her. "No," was the bitter reply; "I would not forgive you, Violante Selwyn, if an angel from heaven asked me. I will curse you, and hate you; but forgive you, so help me heaven, I never will!"

"You will keep my secret until tomorrow!" said Violante, humbly.

"If by the raising of my finger," said Beatrice Leigh, "I could stretch you dead at my feet, I would lay you there. Better, Violante Selwyn, to have me your enemy than your enemy."

She shall not triumph in the end."

And so defiant, so proud, so wicked was the face turned to Violante, that she shuddered as with a mortal cold.

"Remember," hissed Beatrice, as she passed her, "my last word to you was a curse!"

She swept from the room without another look at the unhappy woman she left behind.

The Violante replaced her cap and her disguise; she took the bottle from the table and hastily quitted the room. She flew rather than walked down the corridor—all was silent; that terrible interview had not been overheard.

Rupert lay wide awake.

"Where have you been?" he asked, "I was just getting frightened."

She looked at her watch. It was half-past twelve. Then, pouring out the medicine into a glass she held it to his lips. He drank it eagerly, as he did everything she offered to him.

"Now," she whispered, "try to sleep."

And the eyes that had so long been hot and sleepless closed at last—not in slumber, but in stupor—closed, and the limbs relaxed; a faint color crept into the cheeks, a faint moisture came on the hot brow.

[To be Continued.]

FATAL FIRE

American Hotel, at Genesee, N. Y.

Burned—Two Men Suffocated—The Guests Lost All Their Belongings.

Genesee, N. Y., May 8.—The American Hotel here was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. There were about 30 guests in the hotel at the time, and most of them barely escaped with their lives. After the fire had been gotten under control, the dead bodies of Lafayette Carney and Sherman Deboray, of West Sparta, were found on the third floor. The men had evidently been suffocated by the smoke. It is thought that a woman also lost her life, but her identity is unknown, and the body has not as yet been found. The cause of the fire is said to be incendiary.

Many of the guests had narrow escapes, and most of them lost everything except their night clothing. Miss Skidmore, a niece of the proprietor, jumped from a veranda, and was quite seriously injured. James Sweeney jumped from a second story window and sustained a broken ankle. Others of the guests were slightly injured. Loss estimated between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

SMALLPOX IN WINNIPEG.

Winnipeg, May 8.—A third victim has been added to the smallpox list of deaths. Nurse Lynch, of the Winnipeg General Hospital, died of the smallpox hospital. Another lady, Mrs. Thomas Lyons, is in a critical state.

REV. DR. EASTON AND NETHERSOLE.

Washington, May 8.—Rev. Dr. Easton, who has been sued by Olga Nethersole for alleged slander, made this statement from his pulpit on Sunday evening: When I quoted the alleged 'wet actress' in speaking of Miss Olga Nethersole in the role of 'Sapho,' I had reference not to her personal character, of which I have no knowledge, but to the character of the role she is playing. I had not the slightest intention of denouncing Miss Nethersole's personal character, but that of the persons she impersonated, involving as it does, a widespread and pernicious influence upon society. This explanation is given so as to be as public as the original discourse."

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INCREASE IN BRITISH TRADE

April Figures Illustrate the Old Country's Prosperity.

A Turning Point in the History of England's Established Church.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

London, May 8.—The statement of the board of trade for the month of April shows increases of £2,244,900 in imports and £2,137,600 in exports.

ASSASSIN ATTEMPTED GEN. ALFARO. Guayaquil, Ecuador, May 8.—An unsuccessful attempt was made Monday to assassinate President Alfaro. This is the third attempt made to kill Gen. Alfaro.

MAD KING OTTO NEAR DEATH.

Munich, May 7.—It is stated that mad King Otto, of Bavaria, is in a critical condition, and likely to die within a few hours or days at Fuerstentried Castle.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

London, May 8.—The archbishop's decision on the revocation of the elements of the sacrament is regarded by the religious press as a turning point in the history of the English Church. The judgment utterly disallows the practice which ritualists consider of vital importance, and this is done on legal grounds, because the matter was settled at the time of the reformation, and the decision has never been reversed. It is not yet clear whether a strong minority of ir-reconcilable extremists will decline to obey the bishops, but the great majority of high church clergy will be bound by the decision whether with or without constraint of conscience.

CABLE NOTES.

Colombian rebels are said to have secured a torpedo boat.

Thirty-eight persons were hurt in a railway collision between Severs and Charville, France, on Sunday.

The national party has been highly successful in French municipal elections, competing with republicans and radicals.

Sunday's gorgeous festivities in Berlin closed the celebration of the crown prince's 21st birthday. Emperor William attended mass in St. Edward's Church and later a Lutheran service.

Madam Sarah Bernhardt and Countine, it is announced, will make a tour of the United States, to last six months. The actors will leave for America at the end of October.

Mount Vesuvius has been in a state of eruption for the three days, and explosions within the crater have thrown lava and masses of rock to a great height.

Advices received from Samoa, announcing that the United States flag has been hoisted over the island of Tutuila amid great native rejoicing, and that the chiefs have made a formal cession of the island to the United States.

The Russian flag is also announced, request the formal hoisting of the American flag over that island.

IN MANCHURIA

Serious Friction Between Russians and Chinese.

London, May 8.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times says: Reports have reached here of serious friction between the Russians and the Chinese in Manchuria on the Russian railway construction route. In one case a detachment of 35 Chinese soldiers shot the Russian captain and ten Cossacks who were doing police duty. The Cossacks attacked and pursued the Chinese, cutting them down.

A premeditated attack was made upon two camps of the Wei Hai Wei boundary commission, May 5. Major Penrose and four men of the Chinese regiment were killed. The attacking party were repulsed with the loss of thirty men killed. The disturbances are due to Chinese officials working on the credulity of the natives.

BOER VOLKSRAAD

For 1900 Inaugurated by President Kruger—Boers Have Plenty of Money and the Sympathy of the World.

Pretoria, Monday, May 7.—The official closing of the 1899 Volksraad, which broke up unofficially in September last, occurred this morning. The vacant seats of Gen. Joubert and Gen. De Kock and others were crowded with flowers. The hall was crowded, a large number of ladies being present. After prayer the raad adjourned to the afternoon, when the session of 1900 was inaugurated. President Kruger, in his speech opening the session, alluded feelingly to the vacancies. Referring to Gen. Joubert, he said: "Future generations will be able to judge the work of the deceased, whose demeanor inspired the enemy with respect, and whose humane and brave conduct gave fame and importance to the state among civilized nations." He was profoundly struck, he said, by the proof of sincere friendship given by the people of the Free State, who had fulfilled their obligations to the Transvaal under the treaty. They had realized that a united front was required, as an attack upon the independence of the Transvaal meant a threat against the Free State. He had implicit confidence in the future of the Afrikaner nation. He was pleased to say that the relations of the Transvaal with foreign states, with the exception of Great Britain, were good.

After referring to the peace proposals of the presidents of both republics and Lord Salisbury, President Kruger said: "We proved by legislation and our dealing with Great Britain last year that it was our desire to preserve peace; and now that war has broken out we will do everything to restore peace."

After alluding to the deputation now on a mission to Europe and the United States, he said he was pleased to see that the sympathy of the world was on their side in the war; that ambulances had been sent, and that their friends were united in endeavoring to alleviate the distress caused by the struggle.

After reference to alleged violations of the Red Cross convention and to the consequent protests of foreign powers, President Kruger continued: "Knowing the difficult circumstances, I am glad to say that our finances will enable us to bear the great expenses of the war, and that the mines are flourishing."

The president concluded with a re-

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