

FOR A MILLION ... OF MONEY

By Arthur W. Marchmont.

(Continued.)

Karl Hartmann told the other that Olive was to be his wife; and when he turned and looked at her, lifting his glass high, with a smiling "Prost!" she accepted the congratulations and smiled back, and then smiled at Karl, as though he were the centre of all her hopes, desires, and thoughts.

It was the shock of the man's confidence, and she took it readily and eagerly, as she would have taken any other course that would have led her nearer to her object.

On the following evening, she went to the meeting in the same deliberate, purposeful mood. Some three or four other men were present, and they came to offer congratulations upon her betrothal to their comrade. She wished the fact of the betrothal to be spread abroad, knowing that when Gilbert Merridew heard of it, and met her as Karl Hartmann's future wife, it would do more than anything else to blind his eyes.

The hour for his coming arrived; and when the clock struck, she served her self for the first of meeting him. Then the sound of footsteps told he was coming.

"It is Gideon Mawford," said one of the men. Olive clenched her hands involuntarily, and her heart quickened its beats. But outwardly she was as calm as a statue; and she turned to Karl, and made some trifling remark in a casual tone that was without a quiver of nervousness.

But her eyes were fixed stealthily on the door and, as it opened, she caught her breath.

CHAPTER XXII

Olga Schmidt, Under-housemaid. Olive was not to meet Gilbert Merridew that night, however. The man who entered brought a message that he was unable to be present; and despite her courage, she was glad of the respite.

It would be better for her to have some further experience of the men among whom she had thus thrust herself before facing him, that she might grow more accustomed to her assumed character.

"Who is this?" Olive asked Karl, referring to the new arrival, a well-dressed young fellow, with a face which would have been prepossessing had it not been for the sinister expression of the eyes.

"Mawford's secretary, Abner Franks, an American. He is with the boss at his chambers in Whitehall Avenue."

"Here was another face to be noted. It was obviously the place where Merridew lived as Mawford, and where the rest of the gang communicated with him. Olive watched Franks closely as he came, and he held a handkerchief to his face, as if he were weeping.

Presently he glanced round at her, and a moment later crossed the room with Karl and held out his hand.

"Our comrade has told me the news, Fraulein. He is a lucky man."

"Thank you, sir," she answered, in broken English, and tried to look embarrassed.

"He is one of the best of us," he replied, smiling. His smile was like a grimace, and had the effect of making him almost repulsive, for his mouth was large, and the thin lips drew away to the side, while the under jaw seemed to close up, revealing a set of ugly, discolored fangs of teeth.

"I have told Mr. Franks that you will help us, Rosa," said Karl.

"I am sure we could not have a better ally, Fraulein," said Franks, who had been closely scrutinizing Olive the while.

"I shall do my best," she said.

"Come to the table, Rosa, and we will tell you what has to be done," said Karl.

They moved over together, and Franks explained the instructions he had received from Gideon Mawford.

"Is not Herr Mawford coming himself?" asked Olive.

"No. He has important business—our business," replied Franks. "It is all arranged for you to go to the house tomorrow. You will go as Olga Schmidt, and you will be an under-housemaid."

"But my character, my name, and as if she could not explain herself easily in English, she turned and spoke rapidly to Karl in German, that she would need to give a reference.

"Oh, we've made that all right," answered Franks, when this was translated to him. "Madame has done that, of course," he added to Karl.

"Madame? Who is Madame?" asked Olive.

"Madame Boncourt," replied Franks. "But you speak English, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, well, and understand; but not so well as my own language," she answered, with a smile.

"Well, what you have to do is this. The Minister will return from Berlin in about two days, and brings back with him his secretary, the Hon. John Fenwick. In the meantime, you must get the run of the house."

"The run of the house? What is that?" And Olive crinkled up her brows in perplexity.

"Find out everything that concerns the way in which papers are brought to the house from the Foreign Office; who brings them; where they are taken; where the Minister does the business relating to them; at what hours; whom he sees; whether he is alone when he reads them, and if not, who is with him; how they are taken back to the office; and whether they are ever left in the house all night. You understand this?"

"It is very simple," declared Olive, with a shrug. "A child could do it, though I was to get some papers."

"Oh, no. Those which we have to get are sure to be kept at the Foreign Office. But we have to get all this information in order to make our plans to find the opportunity we need."

"Well, what you have to do is this. There was something difficult to do," she said to Karl. "Dangerous, perhaps, but this! Oh, Karl, why didn't you tell me this! Oh, Karl, she threw up her hands. "How long do I remain there?"

"Until you have found out what we

wish. You will have some time off, and then you can meet Karl, and tell him. You won't mind that part, at any rate," he added, with his unpleasant smile.

"I shall want some dress of a servant."

"That is all ready. A box will be sent to the house tomorrow afternoon. You will be at the house, 229 Cromwell Gardens, South Kensington, at three o'clock tomorrow, and will look for Mrs. Grimston. Tell her you are Olga Schmidt, the new housemaid; that you have just come from Madame Boncourt's country house in Lichfield, travelling up by the Great Northern Railway. You don't forget all this?"

"I have memory," replied Olive. "Ask for your box, and say you sent it on by the railway. You will find all you need in it. As for the rest, you must trust your own wits."

Again Olive replied with a confident smile.

"About a week ought to let you know all the ways of the house. You will quarrel with the housekeeper, and leave instantly."

This completed Olive's initiation into the work assigned to her, and she returned to her former seat, while the three men spoke together again in low tones.

The completeness of the details surprised her, as well as the care with which everything had been thought out, even to the matter of her clothes. All arranged in advance. Certainly, this was evidence of a woman's hand in the plans; and she sat wondering who this Madame Boncourt ever did, how she could have contrived to get a servant into a house of the sort; and whether it could have been done without some aid inside the house itself.

She felt intense curiosity to see the woman who had done this, and she resolved to question Karl at the earliest opportunity.

After a time, the man, Franks, crossed to her, and bade her good-night; repeating his congratulations upon her betrothal, and adding that he considered they were almost as fortunate as Karl in having secured her aid.

"A woman of genius, Rosa, as you will say when you meet her. She plays a dozen parts, and all successfully. She plans all the big things we do, and works so cleverly that nobody ever does we fail now. It wasn't always so. She has much more money than the rest of us; she is the one exception. But it is necessary, because she has to appear rich in order to win the confidence of those from whom she gains the knowledge that helps us."

"What is she like, Karl?"

"What is she like, Karl?" "I am not good at describing. She is little, dark, ordinary looking. But she is clever. A genius, I tell you. Sometimes French, sometimes German—anything. She speaks a dozen languages as naturally as you speak our own, and much better than you speak English. She is wonderful."

"You make me long to see her, Karl."

"This was true enough, and although there were many other questions she would have liked to ask about Madame, Olive deemed it best to restrain her curiosity."

In the night she pondered all the strange information she had gained, especially in regard to Merridew. If Karl Hartmann was right, Merridew was risking his life in keeping secret his possession of her father's fortune. Already she knew enough to put him in her power.

But how could she use the knowledge to drag from him the secret that was all in all to her? She must set face to face with him some day, and the opportunity would come; must come, and soon; and the thought encouraged and nerved her for the work she had so readily undertaken for these men.

She had to put her hand to the plough, and there should be no drawing back; she resolved; and on the following day her spirits were as high as her courage while she completed the few remaining arrangements she had to make for her adoption of the role of Olga Schmidt, the under-housemaid.

But she had no intention of playing the spy in earnest. She would go to the house, because that was necessary for the continuance of her work; but she would just content herself with doing the work assigned to her in the household, and then make any report which appeared suitable. It would be easy to say that she was too closely watched to find out much.

One very unpleasant detail she had to pass through. When she left the house Karl insisted upon kissing her, and appeared intensely disappointed that she did not respond with the warmth he expected.

"I am agitated, Karl. You don't understand," she told him. "And I know I am not demonstrative; but, ah, Karl, you will see."

And she made up in glances for the fervor which she had appeared to lack in the embrace to which she had forced herself to submit.

"It had to be done, of course," she said to herself, when she was in the train. "But, ugh, I didn't bargain for that," and she rubbed the spot where his lips had touched her cheek, as if to erase both the kiss and the memory of it. "If he insists on kissing me again, I shall have to break off the engagement. I know I shall," and she shuddered again.

But she was quite herself when she stood on the steps of the big house in South Kensington, and rang the bell. A tall footman opened the door and stared at her.

"I wish to see Mrs. Grimston, the housekeeper," said Olga Schmidt, the new housemaid, she said, in her broken English.

"His head went up in the air with offended dignity. 'The new housemaid, eh? Then why didn't you go to the house? Bring me up like this. Come in, now you are here; and go down stairs.'"

And very submissively Olga Schmidt did as she was told.

(To be continued.)

AGAIN ON THURSDAY; DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY IRISH HAND-EMBROIDERED LINEN WAIST PATTERNS AND ROBES.

BARGAINS WE ARE SELDOM ABLE TO GIVE.

TO BE CANDID AND FRANK we expected to sell all these lovely garments last month and early in May, but everybody knows how wintry the weather has been; cold blustery days that have deterred such sales to a rather serious degree. Therefore to ensure the ultimate clearance of the whole supply we have decided to make the following reductions in prices—mind you, all this summer's goods:

BEAUTIFUL PURE LINEN EMB'D WAIST PATTERNS, Now \$1.65, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.70, \$3.00, \$3.30, \$3.95. Dainty up-to-date designs, exquisite needlework.

WHITE HAND-EMBROIDERED LINEN ROBES, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$10.00, \$10.50, \$12.50, \$13.40, \$17.00, \$17.50. All have Round Skirt, hemmed at bottom, requiring only the band at top and skirt sewed up the back. Embroidered Waist lengths to match each skirt. A few have Bolero Jacket, others short Jackets.

SPECIAL LOT OF NATURAL LINEN ROBES, Only \$4.25 each. In the real linen color, both skirt and waist being hand-embroidered most beautifully. Only 15 in this bargain lot.

ANOTHER SPECIAL LOT OF LINEN FINISH ROBES, at \$4.25 each, but these are in White only. Both Skirt and Waist Irish hand-embroidered, and only 14 in the group.

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Choicest Patterns Go First.

Lace Counter, Back Store.

None on Approval

MANCHESTER ROBERTSON ALLISON, Ltd.

LAURIER'S SCHEME ENDORSED BY CONFERENCE; BRODEUR ON MARINE IMPROVEMENTS



Imperial Conference—An Historic Group Taken at Colonial Office on April 22nd.

READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Back row—Sir William Hamilton, Mr. Holderness, Sir William Lyne, Mr. W. A. Robinson. Front row—Mr. Asquith, Sir Joseph Ward, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Lord Elgin, Mr. Deakin, Mr. Moor, Mr. Lloyd-George.

LONDON, May 14.—Five million dollars per annum for ten years is the total subsidy from British, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian governments for the scheme of empire fast services on the Atlantic and Pacific which Sir Wilfrid Laurier placed before the Imperial conference today. This total two and one-quarter million dollars is said to be allotted to the Atlantic service.

The British ministers especially Lloyd-George, express themselves most sympathetic towards the general idea of the scheme, and the Canadian agents in Ireland, Campbell-Bannerman replied that the time did not permit of a return to the question of emigration, which has been already fully discussed. He also stated that he did not intend to ask the views of the premiers on the question of home rule for Ireland.

Whitehead Reid gave a dinner to the colonial premiers. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Frederick Borden and Hon. L. P. Brodeur were among the guests.

The Canadian Associated Press also says that in the presence of a large and representative gathering Hon. Mr. Brodeur addressed a committee at Lloyd's today. Lord Strathcona was present. Brodeur compared insurance rates of today with those of 1900 as affecting the St. Lawrence route. He pointed out that the annual expenditure for construction in 1886 was about \$20,000, while in 1906 it had reached \$1,200,000. He dealt most comprehensively with the improvements which were being made to further insure the safety of navigation, such as the perfection of the buoy service and the lighting of the St. Lawrence ship channel. He demonstrated that the acci-

dents last year were practically of no importance and very in no way due to the condition of the channel. He dwelt fully upon the amount of dredging which has been done every year and providing a thirty-foot channel from Montreal to the sea at high tide. In short, he explained fully the extensive works which were being carried on by the government towards perfecting the St. Lawrence route by light houses, gas buoys, fog alarm stations, wireless telegraphy, telephone and signal service, wrecking plants and submarine signals and referred to the regular inspection and sweeping of the channel annually. He explained that the pilotage system was under government control and referred to the improvements of lighting and buoying of the St. John and Halifax harbors and pointed out the usefulness of the tidal survey and meteorological service. Brodeur was given an enthusiastic reception and a vote of thanks was heartily given him. Lord Strathcona also said a few words in support of the St. Lawrence route.

At the close of the service of institution an informal reception in honor of the new rector was held in the school room of the church by the warden and the vestry. The reception was largely attended by the clergy and laity. About all the city clergy were present, as well as Rev. Mr. Trumppour of Hottelway and Rev. H. E. Gillies of Cambridge. Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond cordially welcomed the new rector to St. John and assured him of the support of all the clergy in the deanery of St. John.

Bishop Richardson spoke briefly. He felt sure that the new rector would have that cordial support of the congregation that had always been accorded him.

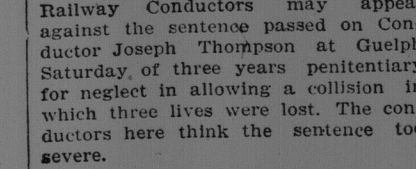
Mr. Armstrong replied. In a few well-chosen words he thanked those present for their kindness.

CONDUCTORS THINK SENTENCE TOO HEAVY

TORONTO, May 14.—The Order of Railway Conductors may appeal against the sentence passed on Conductor Joseph Thompson at Quebec Saturday of three years penitentiary for neglect in allowing a collision in which three lives were lost. The conductors here think the sentence too severe.

L. BORDEN AT COBALT

TORONTO, Ont., May 14.—R. L. Borden, Conservative leader, has been visiting the Cobalt mining camp. He left for Montreal today.



FORTY MEN MAY HAVE PERISHED

St. Pierre Fishing Vessels
Have Never Been Heard of

Believed They Went to Bottom in April Storms—If So 100 Children Are Left Fatherless

HALIFAX, May 14.—News comes from St. Pierre, Miquelon, of what is believed to be one of the greatest tragedies in the history of the unfortunate French colony at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Two fishing vessels carrying crews totalling forty men are believed to have gone to the bottom in the storms of April. On the 22nd of April four schooners, fully manned, left St. Pierre for the fishing banks. Among the number were the Labiche, Capt. Gaudin, and the Ste. Marie, Capt. Lafeme. Since then nothing has been heard of these two vessels or their crews. The other crafts returned shortly after their departure, both having encountered severe storms, in which all their gear was lost. After effecting repairs both vessels again started for the Banks, but were a second time overcome by the storms and compelled to return to St. Pierre in a greatly damaged condition. It is feared that both the Labiche and the Ste. Marie foundered in one of these storms with all hands. If these fears are well founded forty men, all of whom were married, have perished. It is said that one hundred children will be left fatherless. Scarcely a season passes without a disaster overtaking the French fishing fleet operating from St. Pierre. Many of the fishermen come annually from France to prosecute the industry, bringing their families with them.

WILL REPORT ON VARIOUS HARBORS ON GEORGIAN BAY

OTTAWA, Ont., May 14.—J. M. Butler, deputy minister of railways and canals, and Louis Lacoste, C. E., have been commissioned by the government to make a report on the various harbors on the eastern and southern shores of Georgian Bay. The transportation department recommended among many other things the necessity of developing one or more of these ports and the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and Mackenzie and Mann have spent a good deal of money at various points along the coast. Butler and Lacoste have been instructed to make the most careful examination of all the ports and to report on their comparative advantages and the possibility of their development for the benefit of the commerce of Canada. Among the ports which will be the subject of inquiry are: Owen Sound, Meaford, Collingwood, Penatanguishene, Midland, Tiffin, Depot Harbor, Victoria Harbor, Iyng Inlet, Pelly Sound, Spanish River and Key Inlet.

BANGOR MAN DIES IN MONCTON HOSPITAL

MONCTON, May 14.—Doctor Putnam, who was brought to the city hospital from Dorchester a few days ago, suffering from heart disease, died today. He was fifty-six years of age, and belonged to Bangor, Me., being very little known in this vicinity.

At the annual meeting of the Strathcona Coal Co., held here today, the financial statement was discussed with a view of more economical production of coal and the directors were instructed to install a compressed air plant and cutting machinery as soon as possible.

F. A. McCully was elected president.

An important meeting has been called to convene at Dorchester on Thursday afternoon. The four local representatives, Hon. F. J. Sweeney, Hon. C. W. Robinson, A. B. Copp and C. M. Legere, have invited the sixteen road superintendents of Westmorland to meet them in conference for an exchange of views on road-making and a discussion of the situation generally, in the hope of an improvement in the enforcement of the road act.

ROUTINE BUSINESS ONLY BEFORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FREDERICTON, May 14.—At the monthly meeting of the local government tonight business of a routine nature only was transacted. Another meeting will be held in the morning, when it is understood several delegations will be heard. Mr. Emmerson had several consultations with his solicitors today regarding the libel suit against the Gleaner.

NEW YORK, N. Y., May 14.—Japan has looked earnestly for an alliance with the United States because in substance we have always regarded this country as a real ally. We are desirous of having such an alliance if it could be arranged.

Most delicious, tempting biscuits—always crisp and fresh—

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Made from cream of wheat. A perfect daily for afternoon tea. In packets only from grocers. Buy by name.