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Under False Colors
OR
Lord Somerton's Ally.

CHAPTER XXXI.

"I do not know these people, but anywhere at the present time is better than remaining here. Let me have your address, so that I can communicate with you. A surprise may occur at any time."

"You shall hear from me the day after to-morrow, darling," Elsie said. "If Mr. and Mrs. Parker should happen to have changed their minds, though I do not anticipate anything of the kind, I must look elsewhere."

Time passed rapidly, and Elsie shivered a little, for there was no longer any sunbeams on the lawn. The russet leaves of the beeches suddenly quivered above them, and a shower fluttered to the earth with strange, unearthly sounds.

"It is five o'clock," Colin said, respectfully, "and the sky is clouding over. Elsie, when shall we meet again?"

"Soon, very soon. I hope, darling. How miserable these partings are! You alone can determine how soon. Colin, I came to-day prepared to lose you, rather than cause you disgrace. My love is not a selfish love. But your assurances of hope and happiness have made me inexpressibly happy!" Elsie said, almost hysterically. "I only want to know that my papa is safe, and—"

"Noel Campbell is crushed," added Erselville, with a strange laugh. "And then, sweetheart"

She hid her face on his shoulder with a happy blush.

"And you trust me, Elsie?" he went on, "in spite of Somerton, of Grant, and Adeline Cleveland? In spite of all the cruel things that may be said about me?"

"Oh, Colin, you know it. You are too good, too manly to deceive me. We have no secrets, one from the other. Our love was the best of all loves—love at first sight—spontaneous and pure! It was the mutual recog-

niton of twin souls! It was born of that sympathetic intuition which no mortal can explain, but which is one of Heaven's sweetest gifts!"

She looked at him with misty eyes, in whose depths smoldered the fire of perfect hero-worship. He could not bear such adoration for a minute, and half turned his head.

"Kiss me, Elsie," he said, at last; "I must go; I have a long way to walk, as I must not be seen at Blairwood station. I must return the same way that I came."

She clung to him passionately, reluctant to let him go.

"Good-by, my sweetheart," Colin said. "I shall hear from you in London in two days. Do not stay in the noxious atmosphere of the Earl of Somerton one hour longer than you can help."

"I am happy to go," responded Elsie. "I shall leave here to-morrow."

Another passionate embrace, and she saw his lithe figure pass rapidly beyond the belt of trees. He did not look back once, and it seemed that the light had gone out of her life.

CHAPTER XXXII.

"I have news for you, Annette," Elsie said, while she was being dressed for dinner, "and I want you to make yourself busy this evening without attracting any unnecessary attention. I am going to London again to-morrow, to stay until there is news of my father."

"Yes, madam. You don't think that my Lord and Lady Helena will offer any opposition to you?"

"Why should you ask that, Anette?"

"Oh, it may mean nothing, but I seem to be under a system of espionage," the maid replied. "The butler follows me everywhere, and I know that he's a favorite of my lord."

"There is nothing to fear, Annette. The earl understands that I am going to London, but does not suppose that I have no intention of returning immediately. I have seen Mr. Erselville, and am following his advice. We will go to the Parkers, in Euston square. The dear old people are always glad to welcome me. We must be content to take as few trunks as possible, and then no suspicions will be awakened."

There were two or three casual guests at dinner, in whom she had no interest, and, having left them to Lady Helena, Miss Sterne watched for an opportunity to tell the Earl of Somerton that her arrangements were complete for the next day.

He bowed slightly, a swift, sardonic smile passing over his features.

"Have you written to Mr. Campbell to apprise him of your intended visit?"

"Yes!" he whispered, hoarsely, "to both of us. Do not be surprised, Elsie, no matter what may happen, and do not blame me too much for practicing a slight deception. It is hard for a man, placed as I am, to unmask an enemy of this kind. He seems to lose proportionately in the eyes of the one in whom he wishes to shine prominently."

Elsie made no attempt to unravel the meaning of this ambiguous speech, and shrunk under the mesmeric glow in the earl's eyes. His familiarity filled her with loathing, and it seemed that he would read the secret thoughts of her heart.

"You have seen Mr. Erselville?" he questioned, slyly.

"I have seen Mr. Erselville," was the cold reply.

He looked away from her, still with that inscrutable smile on his face.

"My man met him tramping back to Stepwell station—miles and miles out of his way. To some it would seem strange that the artist should see the necessity for such secrecy. There is no reason for clandestine meetings. To me it is as clear as noonday, and will be so to you very soon, poor child. This thing has perhaps gone on too far, but I have been helpless—helpless!"

Elsie turned away, but he followed her, saying:

"If you will accept the offer of my escort to-morrow, Miss Sterne, you will make me happy."

"No, thank you, my lord. My maid will answer all my requirements."

He bowed in acquiescence, and Elsie took the opportunity to escape from his hateful presence.

"I believe that he half-suspects my intentions," she thought. "My senses appear to be numbed when he fixes those burning black eyes upon me. Ah, how delightful it will be to come to the end of all these wearisome insinuations. It would seem that everybody is affected with wretched mysteries that they either cannot or dare not explain. But there is only one in whom I can trust absolutely, and that is my lover! He has promised to help us against our enemy—to clear my father of the cruel imputations that have been cast upon him, and I know that he will keep his word!"

She retired to her apartments at an early hour, and immediately saw that Anette had something that she wished to say.

"If you want an hour on two to yourself," Elsie said, "I can spare you, Annette. I have to select my wearing apparel, and if we are up an hour earlier than usual in the morning, there will be ample time in which to do the packing."

"Thank you, madam," Anette replied, blushing a little. "William is back, and wants to tell me all about what he has bought. He has sent me this with a note."

She produced a receipted bill, containing a long list of goods, amounting to upward of five hundred pounds, her eyes sparkling with pride.

Elsie did not make any remark, but she considered that a young man in Stratton's position had been recklessly extravagant.

Annette went out to find Stratton, but before she had gone many paces she stopped short, for there were two men in earnest conversation not twenty yards away, though it was too dark to see who they were.

"Kemp!" whispered Annette, below her breath, and with a thrill of fear and repugnance. "And he's talking to William. I'll put a stop to this!" (To be continued.)

A Mammoth Water Supply

Engineers have on many occasions had to construct enormous works in order to provide us with the most vital necessity of life, but few of us have stopped to consider the cost of bringing water to our homes.

To construct a lake 40 miles long 26 feet deep, holding 13,633 million gallons of water, seems a stupendous task, but such are the facts relating to the Vaal River Barrage of South Africa, which has just been officially opened.

The scheme, which has taken nearly ten years to carry out, will supply Johannesburg and the Rand with twenty million gallons of water a day. The Barrage, costing almost £900,000, is 1,400 ft. long, and stands on 36 concrete piers. Each pier is 8 ft. thick, 6 in. high, and 5 ft. long. The 36 steel sluice gates closing the openings are 25 ft. high and 32 ft. 6 in. wide. Each gate weighs about 28 tons. A wagon road and a railway track run along the top.

All the water is passed through mechanical filters, and carried along 4 1/2 miles of steel pipes varying in diameter from 18 in. to 24 in., and costing £455,000. The whole scheme cost £1,500,000 of which £12,000 was spent in providing quarters for the men engaged on this huge and important landmark in engineering progress.

The Three-Mile Limit

London Daily Telegraph: The case against extending the three-mile limit is not of a "purely formal or technical" character. Such an extension as is desired by Washington might well lead to serious complications wherever questions of seaboard jurisdiction should be raised in the future as they frequently have been in the past—unless the most clearly-worded and positive limitations were attached to the concession which it is

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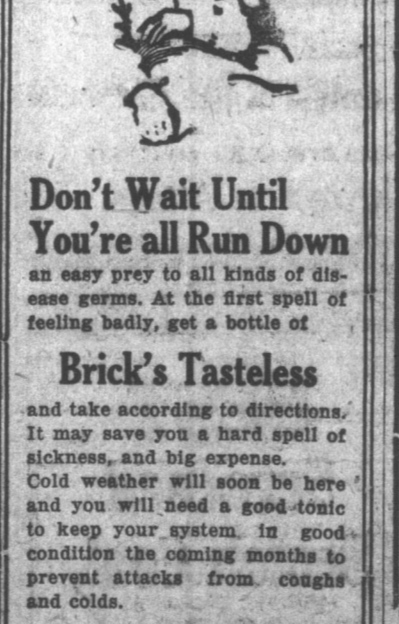
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Of standard width, good quality, pretty patterns. Each \$1.98

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Fads and Fashions.

Very graceful is the coat in which the lower part has a flare of the same character as that of the sleeves.

The latest cigarette holder is of onyx, and is worn in a small onyx pendant or on a half-onyx black cord.

Black silk braids, both wide and narrow, is used to trim the revers of a V-necked coat-dress of black rep.

Jet and white crystal embroidery is used on the wide girdle and short sleeves of a tea-gown of white satin.

Gray silk lace makes the soft, cuffs and graceful train of an afternoon frock of pale gray crepe de chine.

Copper metal, and self-color thread are used in embroidering a stonced dress of tete negre brown velvet.

The evening bandeaux and combs are designed to emphasize the distinctive simplicity of the evening costume.

Edges of fur and graceful draperies of chiffon give added richness and dignity to superb dinner gowns of velvet.

Embroidery in red, blue and gold is used on a dinner gown of blue crepe with a bouffant overskirt of black maline.

A gown of chiffon-velvet in shades of rose color has its flaring embroidered skirt edged with a heavy band of bolinks.

Edges of fur and graceful draperies of chiffon give added richness and dignity to superb dinner gowns of velvet.

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SAY REPORTS

Official quarters wholly unfounded broad that the G has decided to rep Versailles in its

BALDWIN PLAC

Premier Baldwin our motion of co Commons to-dis pnce to the Ruhr mission, that he a letter, it be k n's Allies that could not contin maintain the spir operation if the p allowed to contin pokes, he said, t nations with An night really be

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From

The will lea CHARL John's, For FA Ha

nov 14, 1923

Many Business Folk know that **SCOTT'S EMULSION** increases Energy