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The Mystery of Rutledge Hall
—OR—
"The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER XXVIII

How long she lay there she did not know; she had no knowledge of passing time in her misery—moments were as hours, hours as minutes, disregarded, unheeded, as she lay there motionless.

"No, not at all," he answered cheerfully. "It was a charming ball, and a brilliant success in every way. Universal disappointment was expressed at your absence."

"My friends are very kind," she said carelessly.

"I hope Miss Greville is better?"

Sidney looked at him for a moment as if she did not understand, and a faint tinge of color rose in her face.

"I do not know," she said, in a low tone. "I have not seen Bessie this morning yet. Have you made up your mind to leave us to-day?" she asked, abruptly.

"I am sorry to say that I must go," he answered, with a little sigh.

"Stephen will miss you terribly," she said, wistfully. "I should have been glad if you could have stayed with him now."

There was an unconscious emphasis on the last word which made him look at her with closer attention.

"To be very pale was no new thing with Sidney; but this morning her face was utterly colorless, her eyes were sunken and hollow, and there were dark tell-tale circles round the lustrous, beautiful eyes, while her manner was the strange repressed her of a woman who was putting down an unnatural restraint upon herself. She looked to Lloyd Milner almost

like a dead woman who had suddenly come back to life, and who still retained the pallid hues of the death from which she had come.

"Are you ill, Mrs. Daunt?" he asked, hurriedly.

"No," she said quietly. "I am not ill. What makes you ask? Because I am so pale? I am always pale, you know."

"I am afraid you have over-fatigued yourself in your attendance on Miss Greville," he said, gently.

"No; I am well," she answered, hurriedly. "Mr. Milner, I shall be glad to have a few minutes with you before you go, if you can spare them to me."

"And I was wanting to speak to you," he replied, with a slight smile. "Nay, pray do not be alarmed and look at me so; it is about my own affairs only that I wish to speak."

She looked at him inquiringly for a moment, then led the way to the library. He followed her in silence; and they stood together before the fire for a few minutes without a word.

Lloyd Milner was the first to break the silence.

"Mrs. Daunt," he said, earnestly. "I think you have seen how it is with me. Will you help me to attain my heart's desire? I know that I am unworthy of the love I crave; but, notwithstanding my unworthiness, it is mine, and she will never win a truer, deeper love than that which I have given her. Why are you silent, Mrs. Daunt? Do you think that my cause is hopeless? Will you come with me?" he said, eagerly.

"I cannot," she answered, averting her face for a moment. "But since

you wish it, I will give you a note for Mr. Daunt."

She wrote a few lines, slipped the note into an envelope, and gave it to him unsealed.

"Read it," she said, smiling a little as he took it, eagerly.

"Dear Father," Sidney had written. "I want to be the first to congratulate you on Dolly's engagement. I know she will be very happy. Give her all my love and trust, warmest wishes."

SIDNEY.

"How can I thank you?" he said, eagerly, as he replaced the note in its envelope.

"By thinking of me as kindly as you can," she answered, with a sudden startling earnestness, almost passion, in the repressed eagerness of her tone. "I need hardly ask you to continue your true friendship for—Stephen—strive as she might, she could not prevent her voice from trembling as she spoke the beloved name. "I think nothing could alter that; but—but—I should like to have your assurance that nothing," she repeated, with almost feverish excitement, "could come between you."

"I hope you would not have needed such an assurance from me," he replied, gravely and earnestly. "But I will gladly give it to you, Mrs. Daunt—nothing in the world could alter my friendship for Stephen."

"Thank you, thank you," she said almost passionately. "And you will think kindly of me too, will you not? And you will not let Dolly grow to dislike me, to hate me perhaps, in the future? I love her so well, and—and—I am glad beyond words that she will be sheltered from all storms in the haven of your love."

"I think Dolly loves you equally well," he answered quietly, wondering a little at her words and the strange fervor of her manner. "But why do you speak so sadly, Mrs. Daunt? The cloud hovering over your happiness now is but a temporary one. I hope and believe. Can I do anything to help its removal?"

"Nothing," she replied, sadly, with a shake of her head—"except keep your promise to me, and be true to Dolly. And now I must not keep you. That little sister of mine will be impatient, and I must wish you good speed in your wooing!"

She held out her hands to him with all her old charming grace of manner; and he bent low over them and touched them with his lips.

"Good-bye," she said, smiling. "Give my love to Dolly, and—all good be with you both always!"

When he was gone, Sidney went upstairs to her dressing-room, still calm and composed, without any emotion ruffling her face, which was set and fixed as marble. Bessie was in her dressing-room, waiting for her with a face full of misery.

"If you please, Miss Sidney"—when ever the old servant was unusually excited, she relapsed into the old mode of addressing her young mistress—"I do not know what to do. Miss Greville, who is that weak that she can hardly raise her head from her pillows without assistance, insists upon returning home to-day."

"I think it will be better that she should do so, if it is in any way possible," Sidney answered, calmly. "I am afraid the air here is too keen for her. Make the best arrangement possible, Bessie. I leave it to you. Give your own orders, and accompany Miss Greville home. And now give me my sealskin. I ordered the ponies for eleven, and they are round, free."

"I am afraid you will take cold driving in the pony-carriage in such weather, ma'am," Bessie said, struck by the unusual gravity of Sidney's manner, and looking at her with questioning eyes.

"Not if I am well wrapped up," answered Sidney, carelessly, as she took her muff and gloves. "Good-bye, Bessie," she said, turning back from the door. "Be kind to Miss Greville. But I need not say that to you, for you are always kind," she added, with a little smiling nod as she went out of the room, drawing on her pretty tan-colored gloves.

(To be continued.)


For supper serve a cream soup, broiled bacon, rice muffins with maple syrup and coffee.

Fold the egg whites into the pumpkin pie filling after it is put into the pastry shell.

Salt fish should be soaked in water for at least twenty-four hours before it is cooked.

When tomato sauce is to be served with broiled steak, season it with a little minced green pepper.

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The Specter of War Responsibility

German persistence in conjuring up the specter of war responsibility, especially in connection with discussions of a security pact, is said to be an ominous effort that might result in a renewal of all the international passions of the war period. That at least is the opinion of certain British journals, which feel that the controversy is not worth pursuing. As the London New Statesman sees it, in speaking of this or that country in relation to responsibility for the war, it is necessary to think not of the general trend of public opinion, but of the attitude of those who were actually permitted to exercise power, and it goes on to say:

"England—in relation to any Continental war—was utterly pacifist, half militarist. Russia was an unknown quantity, but the Czar at any rate was most pacifically inclined. The Kaiser, on the other hand, was a militarist from top to toe, and the he was a fool, for whom even his own Ministers had no serious respect, his influence was necessarily enormous and, probably, in the event decisive. The publication by Kaunsky of the records of the German Foreign Office show conclusively how energetic and how provocative was the role the Kaiser played in the negotiations of the fatal 'twelve days.' He refused the conference proposed by Sir Edward Grey unless Austria expressly asks me to, which is not likely. He enthusiastically endorsed Austria's ultimatum to Serbia. He definitely opposed any moderation of Austria's demands. In so far as he was responsible for the policy of the German Government at that moment—and certainly his word was almost, if not quite, decisive—he was the maker of the war."

"There has been an attempt to suggest that Russia was really responsible, because the order for the mobilization of the Russian Army was issued before the corresponding German order. But this suggestion seems to be conclusively disposed of by the reports of the German military attaches in St. Petersburg. On July 29, 1914, he reported that the Russian military authorities 'do not want any war and would like to be able to avoid it,' and on the next day he telegraphed his impression that the Russians were mobilizing 'from a dread of coming events without any aggressive intentions and are now frightened at what they have brought about.'"

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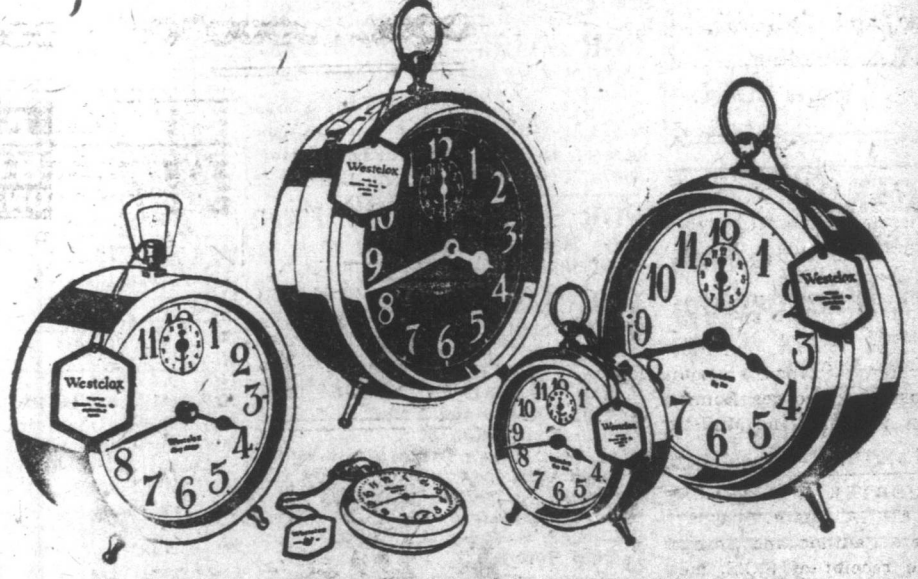


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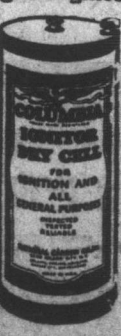
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declares The New Statesman, it was that irresponsible militarist monarch, the Emperor "William II." The "guilt" of the German people is said to consist in the fact that they allowed their destinies to be guided by such a man and by the generals with whom he surrounded himself. This weekly then avers that the French were as "foolish and culpable" when they surrendered their fortunes into the hands of the Emperor Napoleon III and "suffered accordingly in the war of 1870." The Kaiser and his military friends were supreme, and the German people loved them to be supreme, argued this weekly, which adds that the charge against Germany can not be rebutted.

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THE RETRYN

Canada's general Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of Finance, group in the next few days so far available documents, a clear majority of the cabinet figures available in the Minister's office, the parties was: Conservative, 97; Progressive, 245; Labor, 245. Everyone of the cabinet would have but a narrow margin over all when a special election is called. The position of Liberal dependents and Labor 121. Under the circumstances, much wonderment was early this morning. Premier King will resign in favor of Meighen, the assistant Prime Minister, Mr. Progressives, and his supporters are taking the former as the man who will lead the government. Working together in the fight closes in perfectly ready talk of another election to decide the issue. Returns gave indications in quick succession that the cabinet were Premier King, Minister of Finance, Mr. Meighen, Minister of Labor, Hon. G. N. D. Immigration; Hon. Minister of Railways, Massey, Minister of Commerce, and Hon. T. A. Lawrence. The complete returns indicated Hon. J. E. Sinclair's Portfolio as doubtful. The time provinces and Conservatives gained expected inroad in the stronghold of Quebec voters had counted. Hon. E. L. Palmer, Independent Conservative in that province was out of the 65 seats. Conservatives only captured 59, and independent candidates dependents one vote whose name came before the public some years ago. The Nationalist, Lavergne, Mr. Bourke, Lieutenant, ran against was defeated on the voters gained a seat the Three Prairie years ago. No Conservative six, Alberta five, one. In the last year Liberals made their according to the usual

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