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The Mystery of Rutledge Hall

—OR—
"The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER XXIX.

"That is a sacrifice of friendship I to thank you for what you have done thoroughly appreciate," Lloyd said, for me to-day, I would do so; but I with a little laugh. "Travelling in such weather is anything but pleasant, and you will have three-quarters of an hour at Ling Station waiting for the down train."

"Perhaps I shall have pleasanter thoughts to keep me company than I have now," answered Stephen, lightly. The station-master secured the two young men a carriage to themselves, and a friendly porter renewed the foot-warmers, so that the short journey to Ling was not an uncomfortable one. Stephen's face was brighter—rather, less gloomy—as they drew near the little station where he was to part with his friend, for Lloyd had talked and argued and pleaded Sidney's cause to some purpose, so that Stephen's anger against her for her opposition to his wish had somewhat subsided, and he felt quite vexed with himself for having expressed such serious displeasure at her refusal to go to the ball.

It had been, moreover, a great relief to him to speak of his relations with his wife, for hitherto he had, of course, admitted no one into his confidence; and the besoin de s'epancher, although not a usual trait in Stephen Deant's reserved disposition, had more than once made itself felt. Lloyd Miner's common-sense view of the subject in which he took so sincere an interest, his hope, freely expressed, that a time would come when the husband and wife would understand each other and be happy had cheered him greatly.

"Good-by, old friend," he said warmly, as they parted. "If I had words

"I am going away," she said, simply, leaning against the wall for support, and trembling in every limb. "Going away!" he repeated, in a puzzled tone. "Where are you going?"

"I do not know," she answered, despondently. "I do not know!" he exclaimed, his bewilderment and distress increasing momentarily. "Had you no fixed intention when you left home?"

"Yes."

"Then what was it?" he asked.

"To go away," she answered, faintly.

"Do you mean to leave your home?" he asked, gravely.

"Yes."

He was silent for a moment, and she went on, feverishly:

"Ah, I am telling you the truth now! I was going away, not to distress and trouble you any more, not to shock you any longer by my deceit and my falsehoods."

"You must have strange notions as to what will distress and trouble me," he said, speaking with grave gentleness, for he saw that she was in no condition for reproach. "You thought that my wife would leave my home without doing so? Were you going to write to me?"

"No."

"Did any of the household know your intentions? Did you made them to the platform, already covered with a pure untrodden shroud."

"There is a fire in the waiting-room, sir," said the solitary porter, touching his cap to Stephen, whom he knew by sight. "There's only one lady there."

Stephen nodded, with a word of thanks, and went toward the waiting-room.

It was a plain, bare, shabby little apartment, but it looked cheerful now with the bright fire blazing in the grate and the gas lighted. A lady was sitting there, crouching over the fire, holding out her hands to its warmth—a slight figure wrapped in a costly dark fur.

"I hope I shall not be in your way," Stephen said, courteously, lifting his hat as he entered the little room; and a cry broke from her as she turned toward him a deathly pale face with great feverish dark eyes.

Stephen almost echoed her cry as his eyes fell upon her. The lady in the waiting-room was his wife.

CHAPTER XXXI.

For a few moments husband and wife looked at each other in silence, and without speaking. Stephen Deant stood just within the waiting-room door, where he had paused on entering, looking down at his wife with wonder and amazement in his dark eyes; Sidney crouched still by the fire, her face turned toward him over her shoulder, white as death itself in her surprise and terror. Then she rose slowly, and as it were mechanically, and stood before him, her head drooping on her breast, her hands hanging loosely by her sides, a strange resigned hopelessness in her attitude.

"You have found me," she said, faintly—"you have found me! How did you know that I was here?"

"I did not know that you were here," he answered, gravely, closing the door and advancing toward her. "I came here by accident. I am waiting for the down train, Sidney," he went on, as she shrunk away from him. "What is the meaning of this? What are you doing here?"

"Where you so angry with me that you were going away?" he said, with a little smile. "Was that your only reason, Sidney?"

"No," she answered steadily; and, as she looked at him gravely and fixedly for some moments, the tears were dried in her eyes, as if some inward fire had scorched them.

"Then why was it?"

"Need you ask?" she said, losing her self-control as she remembered the terrible reason which had induced her to make the desperate resolve of leaving her husband's home. "Need you ask? Ah, let me go—let me go! I could not stay any longer—it seemed to break my heart to leave, but I could not stay; that would have killed me!"

She was moving toward the door with tottering steps, when he advanced hurriedly and placed himself between her and it.

(To be continued.)

Tickets for Queen's College Concert may be obtained at the College (Phone 616).—nov.25.

Chinese Conference to Settle Future of Asia

GENERAL WU PE FU OBJECTS TO SETTLEMENT.

"The international tariff conference which meets in Peking to-day may have as important a bearing on the peace and stability of China as the Locarno conference had on that of Europe, or it may wholly fail of achieving any substantial result at the present time due to the military movements in China," said Hon. N. W. Rowell in his address at the Canadian Club to-day.

"We have been busy discussing the question of tariff affecting nine millions of people. The discussions in Peking to-day are to determine a tariff for 456 millions of people."

"The present conference is being held pursuant to one of the treaties concluded at the Washington conference. Under this treaty the conference was to be held within three months of the ratification of the treaty, but France did not ratify the treaty until August of the present year. In the meantime conditions have developed in China so that the people of China are not satisfied with the simple execution of the Washington conference treaty, but are demanding more fundamental changes. The present movement in China is aimed against the special privileges enjoyed by foreign nations in China, particularly in three respects—first, in relation to foreign settlements; second, the control of the Chinese tariff by the foreign powers; and third, foreign jurisdiction or extra-territoriality."

Seven Foreign Settlements.

Dealing with the question of foreign settlements in China, Mr. Rowell pointed out that in addition to Hong Kong, which is a British possession, there are seven foreign settlements in China—namely, Canton, Amoy, Shanghai, Chin Kiang, Kin Kiang, Hankow and Tientsin.

"The largest and most important is at Shanghai and it was at Shanghai on May 30 last that the incident occurred which has stirred China more profoundly than any event of recent years. The facts are briefly as follows: There are a large number of Japanese and British cotton factories in China, and the principal ones are located at Shanghai. There was a strike in one of the Japanese cotton factories and in connection with the strike a Chinese workman was shot and killed by a Japanese foreman."

This led to an anti-Japanese demonstration in which students of Shanghai had largely participated and in connection with which they held public meetings to protest against the conditions in the Japanese factory and the privileges of foreigners under which a Chinese workman was shot

and killed. The Japanese foreman was arrested and the order not being obeyed, the police opened fire. Some Chinese students were killed and some five of six more died shortly afterwards.—Toronto Daily Star, Oct. 26.

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