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CHAPTER XII.
SIR CYRIL'S CHOICE.

Edna opened the envelope and read the short note, and her face went from pale to red, and back to pale again. The three pairs of eyes were watching her closely.

For a minute she sat with the letter in her hand; then, with a little start, she rose and held it to Mr. Burdon.

"Am I to read it?" he asked.

"Yes—aloud, if you please," she answered, in a low voice.

Mr. Burdon put up his glasses, and his voice actually quivered as he read:

"My Dear Miss Weston: Mr. Burdon has informed me of your uncle's strange will, and it only remains for me to state, at once and without equivocation, that it is impossible for me to conform to the condition which is stated therein. I, therefore, withdraw any claim which I may have had, or may still have, to any part of the money accounted for by that deed; and I in no way intend to stand between the fortune and the rightful inheritor—yourself.

(Signed) "CYRIL MORE."

Edward More sprang from his chair and stood grasping the back of it and gasping for breath.

"What!" he cried; "the idiot, the mad fool, actually refuses—yields up all claim! Then the money is here!"

"By virtue of this little note," said Mr. Burdon, "Miss Weston, allow me to congratulate you upon the inheritance of a splendid fortune."

CHAPTER XIII.
EDNA COMES HOME.

COULD it be true? It seemed so strange, so unreal, that Edna—little mountain flower, as Cyril had once lovingly called her—could scarcely persuade herself that she was awake and not dreaming, although Mr. Burdon—tall, robust and grave—and Edward More, stern, thin and irritably fidgety, looked anything but visionary. Yes, it must be true if they said so, and she, Edna, who had entered that room so poor and helpless and insignificant, would leave it rich beyond her wildest dreams, powerful, and, alas! with too many so-called friends anxiously waiting to pay their devotions.

She looked from Aunt Martha, who was crying, to Mr. Burdon, who was beating his right hand with the letter he held in his left, with a questioning, almost terrified gaze; then suddenly her eyes grew dreamy, and a subtle change came over her face—a change that made her look sad, wistful and abstracted.

Of what was she thinking? It was a strange look for so young a girl, with all youth's innocent bloom on her, still more strange for a lady who had just heard of such an accession to wealth. Edward More stopped biting his nails to stare at her; then, as she raised her eyes and sighed, he fidgeted forward—the first to pay homage.

"Very sudden, this news, Miss Weston—takes you quite by surprise, of course; so it did me. Er—er, I think you said you were staying at Moffat's—don't you think that you would be

more comfortable if you were to come and stay with us until you get settled? My wife will be delighted to receive you—she half expects you, in fact—it was very questionable whether Mrs. Edward More was conscious of Edna's existence. "We are near town—Richmond, you know—and you shall be your own mistress. Mrs. Weston—and he swung round sharply to Aunt Martha, who was drying her eyes furtively—"let me enlist you on my side—pray make our house your home until you are settled."

Edna hesitated for a moment only; the longing to be alone—at least, with only Aunt Martha—was too strong upon her to allow of her accepting.

"I think I would rather go back to the hotel at present, thank you," she said, gently.

Edward More nodded and frowned. "Very good, just so, very natural, perhaps; but you will come and stay with us in a day or two, perhaps, my wife will be very much disappointed unless I take back a promise," then, too wily to force a refusal, he went on, quickly: "She will be up in town to-morrow, and will call on you; she would have come to-day, but was suffering from an attack of neuralgia; you will be at home to-morrow? I will come, too, if you will allow me; I may be of service—eh, Burdon?" and he turned his sharp eyes round on Mr. Burdon, who bowed assent.

Edna gave him her hand and thanked him, and Sir Cyril More's brother hurried out of the room.

Mr. Burdon, who had been writing for the last few minutes, looked up with a respectful smile.

"May I offer my services, Miss Weston? I trust there are some few things in which I may be of use to you. It has just occurred to me—it hadn't for he had thought of it and prepared for it early in the morning—that you might wish to have a little change—it is so convenient in London—and I have got you some ten-pound bank notes. There they are—five hundred pounds, I think you will find," and he smoothed out a packet of crisp paper.

Edna stared and then smiled, but as Mr. Burdon appeared quite serious she took the tempting packet of stationery.

"Aunt Martha gasped: "Five hundred pounds in bank notes, my dear Edna! Why, what shall we do with it?"

"Spend it, my dear madam, spend it!" said Mr. Burdon, rubbing his hands complacently, and added, impressively:

"If you knew the extent of Miss Weston's fortune—I don't myself as yet—you would consider five hundred pounds of its little consequence as five hundred pence. I would have got you more, and will do so now, if you wish it," he said to Edna.

Edna shook her head.

"I do not know what to do with this," she said.

Mr. Burdon waved his hand slightly.

"Would you like to open an account at a bank at once? Perhaps you would? If you will, permit me to ac-

company you to the bank. I will pay in two thousand pounds to your account; you can then draw by check as you please; that will be the best plan, for the present, perhaps. Afterward you would like to keep a much larger amount easy to get at."

What a dream it seemed! Edna inclined her head with a faint, puzzled smile that made her look bewitching in her tenuous innocence. "I will do as you advise me," she said; "I do not like to take all this money until—" and she hesitated.

Mr. Burdon smiled.

"I should feel quite pleased to advance you ten times the amount, Miss Weston; we will go to the bank, if you please," and he rang for his hat.

The bank was in Chancery Lane, and Mr. Burdon, conducting the two ladies into the manager's room, placed two thousand pounds to Edna's credit.

"You will have to sign your name in this book, so that the clerks may know your signature," he said. "Just here on this line, if you please."

Edna removed her glove and took the pen in her hand. Mr. Burdon pointed out the exact spot, and she wrote "Edna Weston."

As she raised her pen something in the name seemed to strike her, for she dropped her hand suddenly on the book, causing a blot, and turned very pale.

Mr. Burdon was ready with blotting paper and a reassuring smile.

"It is of no consequence," he said, lightly; "not the slightest; a clerk will scratch it out in a moment, Miss Weston."

Then, as Edna still seemed overwhelmed by the accident—for what else could have upset her?—he took the book from before her, and in another minute a clerk had borne it away.

Edna looked after it with a strange, wild look on her face, and seemed about to speak, but Mr. Burdon, evidently attributing her manner to overstrung nerves, interposed.

"Your cab is at the door; this has been a trying morning for you both," and, talking as they went, he escorted them through the bank offices into the street. "There is the check book," he said, handing it to Edna, "and there are the notes for a hundred pounds. I will not tire you with anything further to-day, but if I may call on you to-morrow—"

Edna nodded her head—she could not speak, and Mr. Burdon closed the door and the cab drove off. During the journey—not a great one—to the hotel, Aunt Martha found vent for her bewilderment in nervous exclamations and tears, but both were lost on the girl leaning back in her own corner, pale and abstracted, her small hands fast clasped together, her heart beating with painful violence.

Arrived at the old-fashioned hotel, Edna escaped to her own room, and there, alone at last, faced her position and held communion with herself. Where had she been hurried?—what had she done?

What name was it she had signed in that book at the bank? What name was it that she ought to have signed? Trembling, she threw herself on her knees beside her bed and hid her face in her hands. What right had she to the name of Edna Weston?—It had gone from her forever! But had it? Had he not given her name back to her when he left her that afternoon in the churchyard of the old cathedral far away? Had he not yielded her again all that she had bestowed upon him—all the love of her pure, virgin heart, all the trust and truth of her young, unswayed life! Ah, but had he yielded it? Had she ceased to love him when she ceased to trust and believe in him? Where was he now—now that she was rich and powerful? He had said, with happy carelessness, that he was poor and objectless; how well she remembered it! How glad she had felt at the time that it should be so; and now she was rich, rich, immensely, cruelly rich and he—?

As she asked herself the question the handsome face, with its light-hearted smile, rose before her like a reproachful vision. She was on the threshold of possessing a fortune that was princely in its capabilities of enjoyment and power, while he was wandering, perhaps poor, and solitary, and friendless.

"No, no," she cried, chokingly, as pride came to her aid, "not solitary, not friendless! He has other friends—fair friends—old friends, who will soon help him to forget the simple girl he deceived!"

(To be Continued.)

Fashion Plates.

A CHARMING DRESS FOR MOTHER'S GIRL.



2692—This attractive model is easy to develop. It has new and attractive features and will lend itself nicely to any of the materials now in vogue. One could use serge in blue or brown with broad trimmings, or velvet combined with silk. Corduroy, mixtures, plaid or check suitings would also be suitable.

The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 10 will require 5 1/2 yards of 37-inch material.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

A GOOD COMFORTABLE APRON MODEL.



2333—This style is nice for percale, lawn, gingham, chambray, drill or khaki. The apron is in one piece, with added straps that cross over the back and are buttoned at the waistline.

The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: Small, 32-34; Medium, 36-38; Large, 40-42; and Extra Large, 44-46 inches bust measure. Size medium requires 3 1/2 yards of 36-inch material.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.



NOTICE!

TO ROYAL NAVAL RESERVISTS:

It is notified for information that the Government has ordered that there be paid an additional amount of 20c. per day from the time of the commencement of the War, in cases where men were then serving up to the time of discharge, or of decease, or of death, from the 1st October, 1917, up to the time of discharge or decease.

TO SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT—SERVING OR DISCHARGED AND DEPENDENTS WHOM IT CONCERN:

It is notified for information that the Government has ordered that the following Allowances, in addition to already existing Allowances, shall be paid:

1. A Clothing Allowance on the following scale:
 - For men discharged up to 1st April, 1917—\$35.00.
 - For men discharged between 1st April, 1917, and 1st April, 1918—\$45.00.
 - For men discharged on or after 1st April, 1918—\$60.00.
2. A War Service Gratuity, in place of Post Charge Pay, to be graduated up to six months' Pay and Allowances, exclusive of subsistence or allowances in lieu of rations and quarters. For men who have served in an actual theatre of war, or were on the strength of some recognized overseas establishment on Nov. 11, 1918, the Gratuity is graded as follows:—
 - For three years' service or over—183 days' pay and allowances.
 - For two years' service and under three years—153 days' pay and allowances.
 - For one year's service and under two years—122 days' pay and allowances.
 - For less than one year's service—92 days' pay and allowances.

For men who have served overseas, and were discharged prior to November 11th, 1918, without having been in actual theatre of war, and for men who have served in Newfoundland only, the Gratuity is graded as follows:—

- For three years' service or over—92 days' pay and allowances.
- For two years' service and under three years—61 days' pay and allowances.
- For one year's service and under two years—31 days' pay and allowances.

In the case of an Officer or man without dependents whose pay and allowances, as above described, are less than \$70.00 for a 31 day period, a consolidated rate of \$70.00 will be paid in lieu of every 31 or 30 days' pay and allowances to which he is entitled.

In the case of an Officer or man, with dependents who are entitled or who, before his retirement or discharge, were entitled to Separation Allowances, whose pay and allowances including Separation Allowance is less than \$100.00 for a 31-day period, a consolidated rate of \$100.00 will be laid in lieu of every 31 or 30 days' pay and allowances to which he is entitled.

If part of, or all the gratuity under Post Charge Pay Regulations has been paid to an officer or man, the amount so paid will be deducted from the Gratuity provided for by "War Service Gratuity" Regulations.

3. Separation Allowance to wives of members of the Regiment and to other dependents entitled thereto, shall be retroactive, making it effective from date of enlistment, or from the date when entitled to receive same under authorities Regulations.

The foregoing will necessitate a large amount of accounting and additional work, and it will not be possible for the Department of Militia to make payments before the 1st of March.

J. R. BENNETT,
Minister of Militia

feb5,101

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LYCABLES

ARDELL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

PARIS, Feb. 6.

(A.P.)—Captain Andre Tardieu, of the French representation, announced to-night the programme for the Society's work for the next week. He said France is opposed to the blockade on raw materials against Germany until the French industries have recovered from the destruction of one of the factories of France and resumed production with facilities it will be a serious handicap for us.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENS.

WEIMAR, Feb. 6.

By order in Germany has determined to rule them, declared Friedrich Ebert, the President, calling the National Assembly to order this afternoon. He said, "We will be an order to the German spirit of justice and truth." The assembly opened the proceedings at 3.15 o'clock. He was with applause as he addressed the assemblage of gentlemen, a form of never before heard in a German legislative body. The Chancellor was an earnest appeal for untiring labor.

LEADERS WILL BE ARRESTED.

BELFAST, Feb. 7.

Warrants were issued to-day for the arrest of the leaders of the Belfast. The warrants charge them with conspiracy to injure the safety.

STRIKE JUSTIFIED.

LONDON, Feb. 7.

National Union of Railwaymen sent a letter to the electrical engineers saying that the Union had considered all the circumstances in connection with the strike of London electricians, and had decided that its members on strike were justified in the action that they had taken, and that therefore recognized the Union's right to refuse terms of the strike. The letter adds that the Board of the Union can accept the terms of the strike, it is still pursuing this with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement.

ELECTRICAL UNION MEN TO WORK.

LONDON, Feb. 7.

Electrical Trades' Union this morning ordered an immediate resumption of work by its members in action by the national body, the question of the change in the policy of the Government with reference to the strike.

POLES HOLD ENEMY IN CHECK.

WARSAW, Feb. 5.

(A.P.)—The Poles and the Lithuanians continue fighting in the region of Lemberg and the Poles are holding the enemy in check. In the last few days the Poles have retaken the prisoners. Among the prisoners recaptured were sixty male and female, according to reports from Lemberg, were impaled on wooden stakes by the Ukrainians. The bodies of the nurses are reported to be lying in a Cracow hospital.

FIGHTING IN GALICIA.

WARSAW, Feb. 3.

(A.P.)—In heavy fighting the last few days in Northwestern Galicia, Czecho-Slovak forces have pushed to within 10 miles of Cracow.

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