

Lowney's shows you how cocoa ought to taste

## The Snake Scotched Justice Done.

CHAPTER XXXI  
(Continued.)

"Drive quickly, please!" Talbot said to the coachman; and as the high-spirited horses tore down the road Talbot tried to recover his self-possession. He realized that he had been unwise in not returning to the court-house, in flying like a criminal; but it was too late to go back now. He must reach the house and get to London; he could invent some excuse for his sudden departure. In London he would have time to think, to face the situation and meet it.

After all, there was no danger of the truth being known. He would live to see Ralph Farrington—Lord Denby, curse him!—hanged.

He got out of the carriage quickly and went up the stairs. At the top Gibbon, who had been looking down at him with a keen intenceness in his dull, colourless eyes, moved slowly across the corridor.

"Is that you, Gibbon?" said Talbot. "Pack my portmanteau and order a carriage—a close carriage—to take us to the station. I have been summoned to town on—on—important business."

"Yes, sir," said Gibbon. "There's no train till the four-thirty, sir," he added in his toneless voice.

Talbot, as he entered his room, turned on him savagely.

"Obey my orders," he said, harshly, "and be quick about it. You—hover about the place like a black slug."

Gibbon raised his head and looked at his master's back with a twitch of his lips that was like a snarl, snarl, then he went down-stairs. A few minutes later Talbot, who was pacing up and down his room vainly trying to

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"Quarrel!" he echoed, his delicate nostrils expanding. "There are some men whom one does not stoop to quarrel with. But there are some men one cannot suffer beneath an honest roof. Lynne Court has never yet harboured a liar and a scoundrel!" Talbot's sallow face grew dark. "You forget whom you are addressing, my lord!" he said, with an affection of wounded dignity and indignation.

"Would to God I could!" said the old man, with a stifled groan. "If I could only forget! But the bitterness, the shame, of remembering that you are of my blood, that you might have followed me here, here where no such villain as you has ever been master! But that—the chance of your following me—has been averted, thank God!"

"I am not so sure," muttered Talbot. But, then he checked himself and sighed deeply. "You are attaching undue importance to the statement of that young woman, Fanny Mason. Surely sir, you cannot be so ignorant of the world as not to be aware that a woman of her character is unworthy of credit, is never, yes, never to be believed! Is it not quite a common occurrence for such a woman to lay the blame of her misfortune, misconduct, at the door of some prominent person, someone whom she may hope to blackmail, someone of higher rank than herself, so that her fault may seem excusable?"

The earl regarded him with increasing loathing and disgust. "The girl spoke the truth," he said, sternly. "There was not a soul in the court who doubted her!"

Talbot raised his brows. "Nor would they if she had ascribed her fall from virtue to anyone else—say the prisoner," he retorted, with a sneer. "In fact, I think she was rather foolish in not doing so! She left the place soon after his mysterious disappearance. He is a man of no character—in the eyes of the law at any rate; he is charged with murder—this other peccadillo is a slight one compared—"

The earl's eyes flashed. "You malign him!" he cried. "He is my son—he is not capable of such baseness—"

"Grant it, sir; but why should you think me capable of betraying her?" said Talbot, gravely.

The earl leant forward. "Because a thief is capable of most things."

"A thief!" Talbot retorted. Then he laughed as if the accusation were too absurd to cause resentment.

"Yes, a thief! By what other name can you call the man who steals a will from a safe and destroys it?" Talbot's face blanched and his lip worked.

"You saw—" escaped his lips. "I was awake—I saw!" said the earl. "No more. Wait! A thief is always a fool, but you are as great; one as ever existed, for you were not careful enough to see that the will you burnt was the right one; you burnt the wrong one!"

Talbot eyes flew to the safe and he bit his lip. "There is some mistake, sir," he stammered.

The earl smiled a terrible smile of merciless cynicism. "Yes, it was a mistake. But no matter. You are going. It is long since I offered up a prayer, but I pray now that I may never see your face again!"

Talbot's dark eyes flashed savagely; then he cast them down and sighed deeply.

"You are unjust, sir; you wrong me!" he said. "I will write to you from London—I dare not stay—and I will ask you to keep an open mind until you have heard my explanation, my defence."

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stairs, and, lighting a cigarette, paced up and down the platform, his head erect, though his face was pale and heavy; in fact, he looked as he had often looked when the luck had gone against him in some gambling hell.

After a time he grew tired of the monotonous pacing, and, on reaching the end of the platform, he stepped off and walked beside the line, scarcely conscious of what he was doing. No one interfered with him—though he passed a porter and the signal man seated on the steps of his box—and indeed he was in no danger, for the embankment was broad. It was also a very high one, and after about half a mile it led to the viaduct which, at its erection, had caused considerable excitement in the neighbourhood, and was still regarded with pride by the simple country folk, who considered it a marvel of engineering skill.

Talbot leant with folded arms against the low stone wall and looked into the valley which the arches spanned. But it may safely be said that he did not see the pretty combs, with its beech and oak-trees, and its silvery stream running peacefully between banks of fern and gorse. So far down seemed the sheep and cattle that browsed beside the brook that they appeared dwarfed and as if in a "bird's-eye" picture. Talbot, though he was staring at it, saw nothing of the loveliness of the view; he was looking at the mental picture of the stern, white-faced old man pointing to the door; at a still more unwelcome vision: that of the hated Ralph Farrington reigning at Lynne Court. But no, no! Ralph Farrington would be hanged.

He was awakened from his reverie by a shadow falling across the coping of the bridge and, turning his eyes, he saw that it was Gibbon.

"I told you to wait at the station!" said Talbot in a low voice. "Go back!" Gibbon still approached, so that his shadow fell athwart his master's.

"I wanted to speak to you, Mr. Talbot," he said. "I wanted to tell you that I'm not coming up to town with you."

(To be continued.)

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No Cause for A

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The News Contra

The News professes yesterday no trouble a nima's deils. We more than refer the wrote that to Mr. J. President of the Labour he will soon give him tion he wants. The U asked to work but Union rate of 20 cents were offered 15 cents the permanent employe we would ask how many arrived here to dischar whenever he likes we men who advocated the viewing the Premier. The News man puts on air sometimes, but the things that he says "aint so."

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