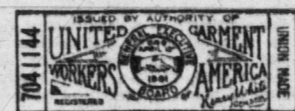


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JENNIE BAXTER: JOURNALIST

BY ROBERT BARR.

IX.—An Unlooked For Encounter.

When Lord Donal came out of the telegraph office, Jennie said to him, "Wait a moment till I go into the sleeping-car and get my rug and hand bag."

"A likely thing," cried the ardent lover. "Indeed, Miss Princess, if you think you can get rid of me so easily as all that, you are mistaken."

"Well, I want to tell you why I did not allow you to resign."

"Great heavens!" he gasped at last. "Do you mean to say you have it?"

"Yes," she said, buttoning up her jacket again. "I have a trumpety revolver in my pocket. Little good it did me last night."

"Very well; we shall be across the frontier by noon today. If the Russian authorities find before that time how they have been checkmated, and if they have any suspicion that I am the cause of it, it is not likely that they will have me stopped and searched on some pretense or other."

Lord Donal pondered for a moment. "They are quite capable of it," he said; "but, Jennie, I will fight for you against the whole Russian empire, and somebody will get hurt if you are meddled with."

"Well, this is jolly," he said. "Yes," murmured Jennie, "it's very nice. I always did enjoy foreign travel, especially when it can be done in luxury, but, alas, luxury costs money, doesn't it?"

"That is true. I had forgotten all about it." "I hope, Jennie, that the fact of my traveling on a train de luxe has not decided you regarding my wealth. I should have told you that I usually travel third class when I am transporting myself in my private capacity. I am wearing this padded elegance from the reluctant pockets of the British taxpayer."

"Dear me, how much more honest the newspaper business is than diplomacy! The idea of returning any money never even occurred to my young blood and makes such particular hair to stand on end like quills of the fretful porcupine. Car motto in the service is 'Get all you can and keep all you get.'"

"But, then, you see, your case is different from mine. You did your best to succeed, and I failed through my own choice, and thus I sit here a traitor to my paper."

"There," she whispered, with a tiny sigh, for she was giving up the fruits of her greatest achievement, "put that in your dispatch bag and see that it doesn't leave there until you reach London. I hope the Bessians will like the copy of The Daily Eagle they find in their envelope."

The telegram of the princess was handed to Lord Donal at Berlin. He congratulated you most sincerely," she smiled, "and tell Jennie the next time you see her"—Lord Donal laughed as he read this aloud—"that the Austrian government has awarded her £30,000 for her share in cradling them to recover their gold, and little enough I think it is, considering what she has done."

"Now, I call that downright handsome of the Austrian government," said Lord Donal. "I thought they were going to fight us when I read the speech of their prime minister; but instead of that, they are making wedding presents to our nice girls."

"Ah, that comes through the good heartiness of the princess and the kindness of the prince," said Jennie. "He has managed it."

"But what in the world did you do for the Austrian government, Jennie?" "That is a long story, Donal, and I think a most interesting one."

"Well, let us thank heaven that we have a long journey for you to tell it and me to listen."

And, saying this, the unabashed young man took the liberty of kissing his fair companion good night right there amid all the turmoil and bustle of the Schlesischer Bahnhof in Berlin.

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"Do you mean to say that the official in question is the man to whom I am to hand this letter?" "Yes."

"Oh, my prophetic soul, my uncle! Why, that is Sir James Cardiff, the elder brother of my mother! He is a dear old chap, but I am well understood as an outsider thinking him gruff and uncivil. If the editor really means what he says, then there will be no difficulty and no disappointment. If all that is needed is the winning over of old Jimmy to be civil to Hardwick, I can guarantee that I am the special protégé of my uncle. Everything I know I have learned from him. He cannot understand why the British government does not appoint me immediately ambassador to France. Jimmy would do it tomorrow if he had the power. It was through him that I heard of this letter, and I believe his influence had a good deal to do with my getting the commission as special messenger. It was the chagrin that my uncle, Jimmy would have felt had I failed that put the drop of bitterness in my cup of sorrow when I came to my senses after my encounter with the Russian police. That would have been a stunning blow to Sir James Cardiff. We shall reach Charing Cross station about 7.30 tonight, and Sir James will be there with his brougham to take charge of me when I arrive. Now, what do you say to our settling all this under the canopy of Charing Cross? If you telegraph Mr. Hardwick to meet us there, I will introduce him to Sir James, and he will never have any more trouble in that quarter."

"I think," said the girl, looking down at the t.blecloth, "that 'd rather not have Mr. Hardwick meet us."

"Of course not," answered the man quickly. "What was I thinking about? It will be a family meeting, and we don't want any outsiders about, do we?"

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"Then I am glad too, for we have some very disquieting hints from the east."

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THE LABOUR BUREAU

By an Act passed at the 1901 session of the Ontario Legislature a Bureau of Labor has been established for the purpose of collecting, ascertaining and publishing information relating to Employment, Wages, Hours of Labor throughout the Province, Co-operation, Strikes, or other labor difficulties. Trades Unions, Labor Organizations, the relations between Labor and Capital, and other subjects of interest to workmen, together with such information relating to the commercial, industrial, and sanitary conditions of wage workers, and the permanent prosperity of the industries of the Province, as the Bureau may be able to gather.

F. R. LATHFORD, Commissioner of Public Works B. GLOCKING, Secretary The Labour Bureau

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