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IN THE TOILS; But Happiness Comes at Last.

CHAPTER II. ANOTHER OFFER.

Olive had been sitting so long in the dim hall—dim, notwithstanding that the old carved oak shone in the soft light of the wax candles which beamed aloft in an antique candelabra suspended from the ceiling—that it was with a start, and with the strange absent, dreamy expression on her face that she rose and followed him. Some dead-and-gone earl of the race had thought to enliven the grimness of the oaken staircase by inserting huge sheets of Venetian plate glass in some of the panels, and every now and then the graceful figure and dark, beautiful face of the girl was reflected as she slowly ascended. There were few faces, even among the patrician ones that gleamed dimly from the heavy frames, more patrician and striking than the one the glass reflected, and Stephen Rawdon, her unknown lover, had no little excuse for his passionate energy.

The footman stopped before one of the numerous doors which ran round the sides of a vast corridor, and knocked gently.

A silky imperious voice answered "Come in!" and the footman, opening the door, made way for Olive to enter.

For the moment she was too much dazzled to move. Coming from the aristocratic gloom of the oaken hall, the glitter and sparkle of the room before her dazzled her.

So she stood—unnoticed for a moment—and again heard the voice which had rung out with such royal carelessness in the avenue.

"A skittish thing, she is! Tried to upset the apple-cart three times as we came along. Then in the avenue something that looked like a witch sprang up from among the trees, and the mare had another shy for it."

By this time Olive's eyes had recovered themselves, and took in the scene; the elegant, richly furnished room, the figure of an exquisitely dressed woman lying back on the soft cushions of a low chair; the broad-shouldered figure of a man lounging against the carved marble mantelpiece. His face—as handsome as an

Apollo Belvedere's, bright, with deep blue eyes, and a crown of golden hair cut just too short for curls, yet clustering wavyly on his white forehead, made dignified and patrician by the cleverly cut lips and the thick, tawny mustache.

His face was turned toward the woman, his eyes looking eagerly down into hers, hers turned with an assumption—an assumption only—of cynical, easy indifference up to his.

"Some of your people, Flo, I suppose; anyhow, it was nearly the last straw that broke the mare's back."

Then he became conscious that some third person had entered the room, and he raised his head.

As his eyes fell upon the pale, beautiful face, framed by the doorway, and set off by the semi-darkness behind, an expression of surprise, of admiration, rested on his face. Lady Florence, seeing that expression, turned and discovered the cause.

Her handsome face hardened—it had been pliant and pleasant a moment before—and her eyelids drooped.

"Oh!" she said, with that icy, insolent, insolent air which her class know so well how to use, and abuse—"It is you, Miss Estcourt! Come in, if you please." Then, looking up at him with a swift change of face, "Only the dressmaker—you need not go."

"Eh?" he laughed. "Mustn't trespass upon the mysteries, I'm afraid; besides, I have to get into civilized costume," glancing down at the tweed morning suit which clothed his stalwart, graceful figure; "at any rate, allow me to assist at the preliminaries," and with a frank, careless laugh, he stepped forward and took the box from Olive's hands. Then he drew a chair forward.

"Take a seat, Miss Estcourt," he said, with as much courtesy as he could have used to my Lady Florence herself.

Olive raised her eyes, and gave him one of her quiet looks, and again the surprised admiration shot up into his face. Lady Florence, with a little touch of annoyance about her lips, rose languidly.

"Don't trouble, Charles," she said, with an icy stare at Olive.

"No trouble, Flo," he answered carelessly. "Anything pretty inside?" and he laid his hand on the box laughingly, his eyes seeking Olive's face, not her ladyship's.

"Nothing worthy your attention," smiled her ladyship. "You may escape," and she rang the bell.

"Show his lordship to his room," she said to the footman.

"Dismissed!" laughed his lordship. "Well, I shall see the novelty to the best advantage when you wear it, Flo!" and, with a laugh, he nodded an adieu. Turning, however, as he reached the door, he bowed to Olive, who, neither by look nor sign, ventured to acknowledge the courtesy of the young and wealthy Lord Heatherdene.

CHAPTER III. A COVETED PRIZE.

YOUTH, wealth, beauty. These were the gifts the gods had bestowed on Charles Viscount Heatherdene, bestowing them with no measuring, grudging hands, but liberally, lavishly. At the same time they had endowed him with a disposition to match—a nature as frank and fearless, as cheerful and careless as a schoolboy's. Neither his youth, his wealth, nor his good looks were wast-

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ed by him; he used them as generously as the gods had given them. No man was more popular among his set, no man more envied, no man more liberal. It was a byword with his companions, that none of them had ever seen him out of temper or hip-pled; meet him where you would, trotting his great bay through the park, lounging over a five-o'clock tea in some Mayfair drawing-room; lying full length in the smoking room of a country house; tramping through the rain and mist of a Scotch moor, or riding a hard-mouthed Irish mare over a ploughed field with the hounds out of sight, Charlie Heatherdene was always the same, quietly cheerful and happy, in the best of humors, and the height of contentment. Now, as a rule, good-tempered men very seldom remain bachelors, their very dispositions render them an easy prey to the fair sex. People said—especially the ill-natured—that Charlie Heatherdene would "be caught," as they elegantly phrased it, the first year of his appearance; but strange to say, Charlie steered through the matrimonial rocks of his first, his second, and his third year. He was always the same, pleasant, amiable, good-natured, generous to a fault; many a belle set her cap at him, many a manoeuvring mamma read homilies to her fair daughter of his behalf, many a Parisian hack and fashionable debutante set snares for the great Heatherdene prize, but Charlie had escaped as yet.

Some spiteful people said that he had no heart, that his easy good-nature was all on the surface, and that in reality he was shrewd and calculating, too wary to be caught by any female fortune hunter. Others said that there was an "early attachment," a penchant that had commenced in the early days of boyhood for a certain Florence Rivers, granddaughter of the Earl Rivers, and in some sort or other a connection of Charlie's himself.

Certain it was that though he was a cavalier servant, always the most charming and noble of knights, Charles Viscount Heatherdene had never entered the list with any one particular lady's colors worn at his heart; in fact, that he had never yet committed himself; while, on the other hand, he was constant in his attendance upon Lady Florence, escorting her to concerts and theatres, lounging beside her baronches in the park, caressing his long-legged bay beside her palfrey in the row, and dawdling in the drawing-room in Park Lane while she played at pouring out tea. Certainly it was rather singular that

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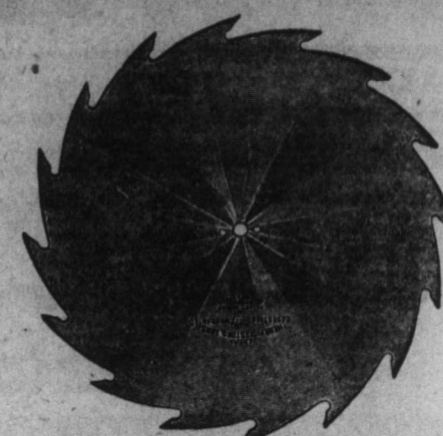
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EARLY MESS

WAR REVIEW.

British military forces have suffered their first heavy loss from operations against the enemy submarines. The British submarine Tuscunia with 2,179 United States troops has been torpedoed and sunk in the war zone. Eleven hundred survivors were landed at Irish ports. It was feared by officials of the Government in Washington that approximately 1,000 men had been rescued. Complex internal politics affected the great war have been added by the virtual expression of sympathy for Mexico for Germany. President Carranza sent the Emperor a message of congratulation and wishes on the occasion of the Emperor's 57th birthday, which occurred on Jan. 27th. According to ad- vances to Reuters from Copenhagen as to the friendly congratulations from Mexico by a neutral Government toward the enemy of the Emperor George V. In his speech pro- posing Parliament Wednesday, re- stated the determination of the de- mocracies of the world to continue the war against the quadruple alli- ance until a just and lasting peace should be obtained. The Germans on the west front are not yet numeri- cally equal to the French and British troops, according to Major- general Frederick B. Maurice, Chief Director of military operations, at the British war office. Notwithstanding a continued movement of German troops in that theatre during the last week in the opinion of General Maurice the situation there at the present isn't one to cause anxiety. The Entente military leaders. Artillery activity continues on the British front. Italian and American fronts, at aside from this, operations have been confined to patrol and aerial at- tacks. The French war office an- nounced the destruction of fourteen enemy aeroplanes during Feb. 3rd and 4th and three on Feb. 5th. The Germans report bringing down five British aeroplanes and one balloon were shot down Tuesday. The Entente ships sunk by mine or submarine dur- ing last week were 15 British, three French and one Italian. In Finland the White Guard or Government troops have won an important vic- tory over the revolutionary Red Guard the taking of Uleaborg on the Gulf of Bothnia. This city was the chief military depot for the Russians in the north of Finland and its loss accord- ing to military observers, means that the whole of Northern Finland soon will be in possession of the Govern- ment troops.

REBELS

General defeated at Uleaborg which has northern two days killed d... The British constructed presented to the the dra... ish Army the Bo... the act... Manchur... advised... na did... reported... been a... now... obligat... railway... tecting... property... tionalit... CARRAN... Reuter... to a... sident... telegram... latter... "Your... divers... refusing... to your... gratulat... press to... personal... august... perity... tion."

AMERICAN TRANSPORT SUNK.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The American steamer Tuscunia, carrying 2,000 U. S. troops, has been torpedoed and sunk in the war zone. The thousand survivors have been landed in Ireland.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Tuscunia, with 2,173 United States soldiers aboard have been torpedoed and sunk. The estimate of loss of life is avail- able but 1,000 survivors have been landed at Buncrana and Larne, Ire- land. The disaster was officially an- nounced by the War Department which had received only meagre ad- vices without the names of survivors.

The department is- sued this statement: "The War De- partment has been officially advised that the s.s. Tuscunia was torpedoed and sunk. That survivors numbering 1,000 as far as could be ascertained were landed at Buncrana and Larne, Ireland. There was a total of 2,173 U. S. troops on this ship. No names of the persons lost have been furnished to the War Department; no additional particulars are reported. As soon as received. Although still hoping for more favorable news the officials feared that the report means that all except the 1,100 landed are dead. No further reports are expected tonight. The Tuscunia was manned by British sailors with a British naval captain and was convoyed by British ships."

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