The Imprisoned Heiress
—OR—
The Spectre of Egremont.

CHAPTER XX.

She paused, her smile faded, for she saw how nearly she had imperiled her secret.

"Consider it unsaid, Lady Aimee," returned Lord Ashcroft, with gentle tact. "I would not intrude into your confidence for a thousand worlds, but I would be a friend to you and render you a service, if you would allow me."

"Thank you. I have not many friends, Lionel," and her tones lingered upon his name, making it sound inexpressibly musical to its owner. "You shall be my friend and brother!"

The word "brother" was rather distasteful to Lord Ashcroft, but an instant's reflection convinced him that the girl's delicate instinct had well defined the relations upon which they must stand to each other, if they would continue the acquaintance.

"Lady Aimee," he said, "permit me to speak frankly to you. Has it never occurred to you that it was strange that one so young and beautiful, and gifted as yourself—pardon me, for I speak truthfully—should be kept by her friends a prisoner?"

"It has seemed strange," replied Aimee, adding, naively, "I know I am not deformed, or unpleasant to look upon," and she looked innocently into Lord Ashcroft's face.

"Unpleasant to look upon! Why, you are—but I won't speak what I feel, lest you might think me a flatterer. I conclude, from what you have said, that you have been secluded from your birth, and that your existence has been carefully kept secret from some inexplicable reason. Do you know this reason?"

"I do not."

"Will you tell me something about yourself, that I may unravel the mystery? Who were your parents when they died?"

"My parents are living," interrupted Aimee, with a passionate quiver in her tones. "Oh, Lionel, you can't do anything for me. Death alone can solve the mystery of my life. I am to be sent to a foreign nunnery very soon, and there I shall drag out my days in an imprisonment far worse than my present one. It is fearfully hard, when I love the beautiful trees and the flowers and the birds so. It seems sometimes as though I could not submit to it."

She clasped her hands in an unconscious attitude of entreaty, and looked up so pleadingly and mournfully that Lord Ashcroft's heart bled for her.

"Something should be done," he said. "Why should any one wish to shut up one so young as you in a nunnery? It is a fearful wrong to you and I wish you would let me be your advocate and champion."

She shook her head hopelessly.

"It is my fate," she said, touchingly. "You will marry the Lady Alexina, and go away and forget Aimee, and who else can speak for her? And if any one could, it would do no good. I have not tamely submitted to it all, Lionel. I have struggled against it, and chafed, and, oh, I have begged and implored, but mamma—she always hardens her heart against me; otherwise they are very kind. They pet me as you would pet your caged bird; they bring me pretty, fanciful things; they give me flowers, and books, and everything I ask—everything but freedom."

And that was all she desired.

Lord Ashcroft's eyes filled with tears, and, with a sudden, uncontrollable impulse, he put out his arm and drew the trembling, fluttering fig to his heart.

"Aimee," he said, in tones thrilling with the love that could not be repressed, and which leaped up from his heart in strong, steady gushes, "Aimee, beloved! my poor little one! If I might only protect you."

He drew her head to his shoulder, and she nestled there with the peaceful happiness of a child upon her mother's bosom.

"Aimee," he repeated, "my life, my soul! Do you know I love you, darling? Share my future, and let me watch over and guard you. I will make your life so bright and joyous that you will forget the trials of your youth. Say, Aimee, shall I not unlock for you the door of this beautiful world you long to enter? Shall I not protect you from your enemies?

He bent over her as if to press his lips to her pure forehead, but her sweet, tranquil eyes met his in such sisterly affection that he was instantly reminded of his duty to the heiress and drew back with a groan.

He could not kiss Aimee when he was affianced to Alexina.

"Why do you groan, Lionel?" she asked, unconscious of his emotion or its cause, passing her soft little hand caressingly over his face. "You are my brother now, you know, and you love me," she aded, a blush mounting to her cheeks.

"I love you more than my life," cried Lord Ashcroft, despairingly.

Aimee regarded him a moment, surprised at his grief, and then, as she thought that he loved her not as a brother, she withdrew from his supporting arm, and stood before him, blushing and agitated, her eyesfilled with a strange sweetness, yet her manner and attitude indicating alarm.

"Aimee," declared her lover, "do not shrink from me. I know you must despise me, knowing that I am betrothed to the Lady Alexina, but I have never spoken one word of affection to her—have never even held her to my breast, as I held you but a moment since. Aimee, pity me."

"I do pity you, Lionel!" she answered, in a faltering voice, and with a troubled look. "I don't know so much about the world, nor of human nature as you do, but I can't help thinking—that is, I must go, Lionel," she exclaimed moving from him. "I want to be alone."

"You do not hate me, Aimee?" he pleaded.

"Hate you, Lionel? No, indeed," and her glance was brimming over with an ineffable sweetness. "But I hardly know what to think——"

"Think, Aimee, that I could not help loving you; that love does not go where we wish, but where fate ordains. If you would but be my wife——"

"Hush!" and a glorious light transfigured her lovely face, till it seemed indeed to belong to an angel. "It is enough that you love me. But marriage is not for me, dear Lionel. I have been set apart for a life of solitude. Good-night."

"You wil meet me here again, Aimee? Say that you will, I entreat you."

She hesitated, and yielded assent, and then glided away almost as silently as she had come, and Lord Ashcroft returned to his room.

CHAPTER XXI.

On the same evening, and at the same hour when Lord Ashcroft met the Lady Aimee in the picture-gallery at Egremont, the head-forester sat before his dying fire, engaged in his favorite occupation of watching the smoke from his pipe curl upward.

Jessy had long since retired to her little bed-chamber, but not to sleep, for her thoughts and fears were all occupied with her fugitive lover, and every sound of the winter wind in the forest startled her into the momentary belief that it was his cry as he yielded to the grasp of remorseless captors. Every time her window rattled she imagined that Gosman was knocking upon it, and more than once she sprang from her warm bed, and, raising the window, looked out into the cold and dreary forest in the hope of beholding her unhappy lover.

But Donald Kay knew nothing of his daughter's hopes or fears. He knew only that she suffered, but, believing as he did, that the underforester was guilty of the crimes of which he was accused, he was convinced that she would soon give over grieving for one so unworthy of her love, and would become again her coquettish, merry self.

But he was not thinking of Jessy now.

(To be continued.)

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR ACHES AND PAINS.

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"We don't dread the winter any more. Radio brings the companionship of the world right into the living room."

The lonesome evening hours are fast disappearing under the magic of radio.

Now the whole family can enjoy the world's best music, can listen to church services and receive the latest news of the world.

A good radio receiving set will do this, and more—but every radio receiver needs the best batteries, so when you purchase a radio, be sure to buy EVEREADY RADIO BATTERIES to make it operate at its best. THERE ARE NO BETTER.

Insist on EVEREADY RADIO BATTERIES. They last longer.

Trim Your Tree

GREAT FOR THE KIDDIE'S STOCKINGS
dec19,5i

Animals Eyes are Cunningly Placed

The American Review of Reviews quotes from the Bulletin of the French Sociliete de Biologie some interesting facts about the shape and position of the eyes in animals, according as to whether they hunt or are hunted.

In the hunters the eyes are in the front of the head and close together; they are deep in their sockets and protected by dorsal ridges and by the masticatory muscles. Thus, the binocular field of vision of such animals is large, while the panoramic field is limited. Hunters that lie in wait for their prey have pupils vertically elliptical; those that chase their prey have round pupils.

In hunted animals the yes are at the sides of the head and wide apart, with shaloiw orbits and no protection from ridges or muscles, so that they usually protrude. Hence, their binocular field is very small or entirely lacking, but their panoramic field embraces almost the whole horizon. In the fastest runners the pupils form a horizontal ellipse, which assists in broadening the field of vision; poor runners have round pupils. The frog, both hunter and hunted, has frontally placed eyes, but they protrude and have crosswise elliptical pupils.

Piver's Delightful Perfume—an ideal gift; at KIELLEY'S DRUG STORE.—dec17,7i

Beauty Hint for Girls

There recently appeared in the advertising columns of a popular newspaper an offer, for one shilling, of a recipe by the use of which the hands would become soft and beautifully white. Many thousands of girls responded, and in due time they received a piece of paper containing the following words, which could not be bettered: "Soak the hands three times a day in dishwater, while mother rests."—The Christian Advocate (New York.)

Before you turn in every night, scrub every part of every tooth with your Pro-phy-lac-tic Tooth Brush. Germs don't keep union hours. Night gives them the chance they want, to attack the beautiful enamel of your teeth.

The minute you roll out every morning, wake up your mouth with a Pro-phy-lac-tic Tooth Brush. You'll like the clean and breezy feeling that it gives your mouth.

AT ALL DEALERS

Gerald S. Doyle
Distributor

Pro-phy-lac-tic Tooth Brush

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Patent Galvanized Boat Nails
1 1-4 to 7 inch

Galvanized Bar Iron
1-2, 5-8, 3-4, 7-8

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The problem of what to give can be quickly solved by a visit to our Store. We have a splendid assortment of suitable gifts for all at most reasonable prices.

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We have—
Houbigant
Coty's
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and many other varieties of Perfumes and Toilet Waters.

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We have the finest assortment of Bath Salts and Soaps in town.
BATH SALTS—Various odours in Bottles, Jars and Boxes.
High Class TOILET SOAP in Fancy Boxes.

AT OUR CANDY COUNTER

You will surely find a suitable Xmas Gift if you wish to say it with CHOCOLATES—Moirs' in beautiful Christmas Packages; Page & Shaw, in Holly and other Fancy Packages; Pascall's, in unique Gold Colour Boxes; Cailars & Kohlars, the famous Swiss Chocolates, in Fancy Boxes.
Also, Clear Candy Toys, Chocolate Novelties, and real High Class Crackers, containing Toys and Caps, in Boxes from 40c. up.

WHILE SHOPPING VISIT OUR STORE AND WE ARE SURE TO PLEASE YOU!
ec10,12,13,16,18,20,22,23,24

FATHER CHRISTMAS.

"Oh, Father Christmas, at the door, your girth is great, your beard is hoar! Come in a while, I pray! Come in and rest your busy feet, and let me brush the snow and sleet you've gathered on your way. When you arrive I feel the need of blowing in the chickenfeed I am too prone to keep, I feel that I should pull some trick to help the poor, relieve the sick, or comfort those who weep. I feel that I should buy some stamps to aid the worthy outdoor camps where poor consumptives lie, to work for every helpful cause, for every good that ever was, and make my sayings fly. There's something in your pleasant smile that makes me feel it's worth my while to think of other wights, of those who have no Christmas trees, who famish in the wintry breeze, through long cold winter nights. At last my calloused heart is torn by sympathy for all who mourn, for those whose lives are bleak, and I would trot the frozen roads, and round them up in their abodes, and their salvation seek. I would contribute to the mirth of every soul upon this earth, while you are here with me; O, Father Christmas, let your stay be longer than this fateful day, oh, tarry here with me!" But Father Christmas he will go, he soon will leave me in the snow, all my appeals are vain; and I can only hope and pray the kindly thoughts I have to-day will for a time remain. May I, until he comes again, love all my toiling fellowmen and aid the weak and sore; may I be kind in June or May, as I am kind this blessed day, with Christmas at the door.

Makes a Family Supply of Cough Remedy

Really better than ready-made cough syrups, and saves about $2. Easily and quickly prepared.

If you combined the curative properties of every known "ready-made" cough remedy, you probably could not get as much real curative power as there is in this simple home-made cough syrup, which is easily prepared in a few minutes.

Get from any druggist 2½ ounces of Pinex, pour it into a 16-oz. bottle and fill the bottle with syrup, using either plain granulated sugar syrup, clarified molasses, honey, or corn syrup, as desired. The result is 16 ounces of really better cough syrup than you could buy ready-made and saves easily $2. Tastes pleasant and never spoils.

This Pinex and Syrup preparation gets right at the cause of a cough and gives almost immediate relief. It loosens the phlegm, stops the nasty throat tickle and heals the sore, irritated membranes so gently and easily that it is really astonishing.

A day's use will usually overcome the ordinary cough and for bronchitis, croup, hoarseness and bronchial asthma, there is nothing better.

Pinex is a most valuable concentrated compound of genuine Norway pine extract, and has been used for generations to break up severe coughs.

To avoid disappointment, ask your druggist for "2½ ounces of Pinex" with full directions, and don't accept anything else. Guaranteed to give absolute satisfaction or money promptly refunded. The Pinex Co., Toronto, Ont.

Household Notes.

To clear fat, boil it in water, salt and cool.

Very strong washing powder rots and fades clothes.

Small fish are often baked in a casserole or bean pot.

Foods that are bought in season are cheaper and better.

Baked peanuts are excellent served with tomato sauce.

Save waste fats and use in making kitchen or laundry soap.

Fried out chicken fat is excellent in cakes, puddings or biscuits.

Serve Welsh rabbit on toast with a salad of greens, and cocoa.

If your meat course seems light, let a nourishing soup preceed it.

To clean undressed kid, rub it very lightly with fine sandpaper.

Cornbread has a particularly nice flavor when shortened with bacon fat.

Brooms and mops last longer if they are hung and not set on the floor.

Less butter will be wasted at the table if it is served in balls or blocks.

Eggs that are to be preserved should not be more than four days old.

Never soak steel knives in hot water, or their handles will become loose.

Tea, coffee and spices should be kept in covered boxes lest they lose flavor.

Dress fresh cod with strips of bacon, bake, and garnish with sliced lemon.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR HEADACHE.

WHO WILL GET YOUR LIFE INSURANCE MONEY.

Statistics prove that 90 per cent. of Cash Estates of $5,000.00 and upwards are lost in seven years.

65 per cent. of Widows lose their all in five years. A widow generally has no experience in making investments, and is liable—through bad advice to dissipate her whole capital.

Make Your Life Insurance Payable to The Eastern Trust Co.

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CITY OF ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Municipal Council

PUBLIC NOTICE.

The attention of the Public is called to the following Section of the St. John's Municipal Act, 1921:—

Section 138: The occupant of any house or building situated on Water Street, at any place between Job's Bridge and Temperance Street, shall remove the snow and ice from the roofs and from the sidewalk and surface drain in front of such house or building, and every owner of a vacant lot within the said limits shall remove the snow from the sidewalk in front of such lot within twelve hours after the same shall have fallen thereon, and shall deposit the same within the waters of the harbor or other place off Water Street, to be named by the Council for that purpose. Any one violating this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars and in default of payment to imprisonment for any period not exceeding thirty days.

J. J. MAHONY,
City Clerk.
dec19,22,24

A PRACTICAL CHRISTMAS GIFT which every user of machinery will appreciate: Treat yourself to a complete overhauling of all your broken, defective and doubtful metal parts and machinery in the plant. Let us weld the breaks and put all the parts in fine shape for the next year.

N. Hansen & Co.,
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Very Choice Beef Cuttings, lb. . . . . 12c.
Choice Spare Ribs, lb. . . 12c.
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Carrots, lb. . . . . 6c.
Beet, lb. . . . . 6c.
Extra Fresh Eggs.

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