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A Lost Gem

"I know only what Bertie told me," he said, looking fixedly at the lad as he spoke. "Bertie brought me the check for eighty pounds, and ingeniously explained that you had written eight in your check-book—which you had then left open on your desk. I, myself, at his request, took upon me to alter the figures on your book—legally, of course, involving myself in fraud and forgery—but simply because of my trust in Bertie's word. In fact, I thought so little of the matter that I never even asked you about it; and the item passed unchallenged, you will remember, Alan, in your accounts."

Moncrieff had seated himself again during this explanation; he sat silent, with head bent and arms crossed upon his breast. It was his own carelessness, he knew, that had made this fraud possible; and he was too honest a man to acquit himself of blame. But Bertie flamed into sudden wrath.

"I can't stand this!" he exclaimed. "Uncle Ralph, your story is false from beginning to end. You knew—you knew everything! You helped me to deceive my father; you used to take me down to the town at night when everybody thought that I was in bed; your little door in the Tower was constantly used at night when we were out and in. And now you pretend that you know nothing about it. I would have shielded you if I could; but this is too much!"

"I think you will want 'shielding' yourself, you need not talk of shielding me," said Ralph, with irony. "Your stories are as unfounded as they are malicious; and I am sure that your father will give me his confidence so far."

"Yes, yes, Ralph, yes, I believe you," said Alan, wearily. "Whom should I trust if not you?"

"Father, father!" Bertie's cry was full of anguish. "I swear to you that I am speaking the truth. Uncle Ralph is not worthy of your trust."

"And you are?—is that what you would imply?" said his father, the sarcasm sounding more sad than bitter, as it fell from his pain-drawn lips.

"I am not—I am not—but I will be!" And then, by a sudden movement which no one could have anticipated, the lad threw himself at his father's feet and clasped his knees. "I have been wicked, and weak, I have done everything that you despise," he said, vehemently, "but if you will forgive me, father, I will show you how I repent what I have done. You shall not always be ashamed of me; you shall see that I—that I—"

He broke down in a passion of sobs and tears, such as could not be deemed unmanly by any one who appreciated the sincerity of his repentance. Stella's fear that her husband would mistrust it amounted to positive agony. If he were hard, stern, obdurate now, she knew well that poor Bertie would be driven to desperation. No such moment of self-humiliation could occur twice in a young man's life. If his father did not forgive him then, would Bertie ever ask again for his forgiveness?

Kingscott looked on sardonically. Between Bertie's choking sobs, the sound of a low, grating laugh jarred unpleasantly on the ear. Ralph knew the value of ridicule.

"Repentance without confession? Very genuine indeed!" he sneered. "Alan Moncrieff's bent form straightened itself a little. He had been sitting in a dejected, listless attitude, his head hanging upon his breast, his gloomy eyes fixed upon the floor. When Bertie touched him he raised his eyelids and looked steadily at the bowed dark head, the slight form shaken by uncontrollable sobs before him. A sort of quiver passed over his set grey face. Ralph's words seemed to rouse him; he turned hastily toward his brother-in-law, and addressed his reply to him.

"Confession has been partly made, Ralph. The rest will come later." Then he laid his hand on Bertie's head. "I cannot afford," he said with unusual gentleness, "to think that my son wishes to deceive me now."

Bertie could only gasp out some inarticulate reply. Kingscott let himself sink back upon his pillows with a look of vexation while Stella, relieved of her anxiety, drew nearer to her husband and his son.

"I am sure," she cried, "that he is sorry, Alan. Dear Bertie, we will trust you for the future."

The sigh that came as it were involuntarily from Alan's lips, the reproachful glance that shot from his eyes to hers, startled her a little. She did not understand their meaning; that had still to be explained.

Mr. Moncrieff stirred and helped Bertie to rise; then, holding him by the arm, he said a few words very earnestly.

"I pray God that you do mean to amend your courses, Bertie. Without amendment there is nothing but misery before you—misery that will touch us all as well as yourself. I will try to trust you, and, if I cannot do it all at once, you must remember that when trust has been lost it is not easily given again. But I am willing to try—it is all that I can say just now."

"Enough, surely!" muttered Kingscott. Possibly he intended Alan to hear. "If you think it too much," said Moncrieff, turning quickly towards him, "I will hear your reasons at another time. I have shown great carelessness my-

self, but it seems to me that you have been quite as careless as I. There are several points which require to be elucidated before my mind can be set at rest."

"I should be much obliged to you if you would defer the elucidation," said Kingscott, with an attempt to recover his usual suavity of manner. "You seem to forget that I am something of an invalid, and my arm is exceedingly painful, and that the doctor told me to beware of fever."

"I beg your pardon," said Alan, in a mechanical way, which showed that his thoughts were far away from the words that he uttered. "I will disturb you no longer. Come, Bertie."

There had never been more tenderness in his voice than when he called his son to accompany him, never more gentleness in his manner than when he placed his hand within Bertie's arm, and leaned slightly upon it as he left the room. It was a sad sight to see him so bowed and broken—the blow had been a heavy one, and had turned him from a tolerably young man into an old one. It gave Stella a pang to notice that he would not look at her as he passed out. She paused for a minute or two to give Ralph some water, for which he asked.

"I hope," she said, as she took the glass from his hand, "that we have done you no injury by talking so much in your room while you were ill?"

"Is that meant for satire?" asked Ralph, irritably.

"Satire? Certainly not!"

"You are exceedingly kind, Mrs. Moncrieff. I can hardly say that I have not received an injury in the course of the evening's conversation, but I think I know how to protect myself."

"Not, I hope, at the expense of any one's reputation," said Stella, gravely. She was thinking of Bertie, but his reply showed her that he attached a different meaning to her words.

"A lady's reputation is sometimes hardly worth preserving," he said, with a malignant look that she was beginning to know so well. "You may be sure that I shall guard mine at any cost."

She felt it useless to answer him, and left the room, therefore, almost immediately. A nurse, hastily summoned from the town, was in attendance on the next morning, and great was her indignation at the state in which she found her patient. It had indeed been unwise on Alan Moncrieff's part to allow so exciting a scene to take place in a sick man's room, but he was hardly capable of considering anything but his own troubles at that moment, and he had certainly never expected the confession that Bertie had been impelled to make. He would have gone into the matter more thoroughly then and there but for a glimmering recollection that Ralph was ill. Yet there were so many points to discuss, there was so much that was puzzling in the case, so much that filled him with sorrow and dismay, that he felt himself unable to cope with the whole affair just yet. Bertie's heartfelt grief softened him; he could not bear to believe the boy anything but sincere. It was a relief to him to be burdened spirit to think that he had yet some one to love—some one, even, though with reservations, to lean upon and trust.

He did not turn to Stella for comfort. He was hurt and indignant with her still. He would not question her, although he felt that there was something untold which he wanted to hear. What it was he did not know, but he was miserable until it was told.

(To be Continued.)

Rheumatism Cured.
Rheumatism is caused by lactic acid in the blood attacking the fibrous tissues of the joints. Keep your blood pure and healthy and you will not have Rheumatism. Hood's Sarsaparilla gives the blood vitality and richness and tones the whole body, neutralizes the acidity of the blood and thus cures rheumatism.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills. They cleanse, cure headache, indigestion, and constipation. A native regiment, the Twenty-Ninth Punjab Infantry, won the "Honor and Glory" rifle match in India during the past season, with a total of 924 out of a possible 1,050.

Worms cause feverishness, moaning and restlessness during sleep. Mother's Graves' Worm Exterminator is pleasant, sure and effectual. If your druggist has none in stock, get him to procure it for you.

It is estimated that two years are required for the gulf water to travel from Florida to the coast of Norway. Nothing impure or injurious contaminates the popular antidote to pain, throat and lung remedy, and general corrective, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It may be used without the slightest apprehension of any other than salutary consequences. Coughs, rheumatism, bruises, sprains, cuts and sores succumb to its action.

The consumption of horseflesh is increasing in Vienna. Last year the residents of that city ate 18,207 horses.

Chronic Derangements of the Stomach, Liver and Blood, are speedily relieved by the active principles of the ingredients entering into the composition of Parmentier's Vegetable Pills. These pills act specifically on the deranged organs, stimulating to action the dormant energies of the system, thereby removing disease and renewing life and vitality to the afflicted. In this lies the great secret of the popularity of Parmentier's Vegetable Pills.

Midland Hall, of the London Congregational Union, has sheltered 162,955 poor outcasts in the last decade.

A Baby's Life Saved.
"My baby had croup and was saved by Sabin's Cure," writes Mrs. J. B. Martin, of Huntsville, Ala. For sale by W. T. Strong.

It is estimated that the water of the whole ocean contains in solution over 2,000,000 tons of pure silver.

A Great German Prescription.
Dissolved blood, constipation and kidney, liver and bowel troubles are cured by Karl's Clover Root Tea.

Boston boasts of having had 610 pairs of twins and nine triplets during the past year.

A Prominent Lawyer Says:
"I have eight children, every one in good health, not one of whom but has taken Scott's Emulsion, in which my wife has boundless confidence."

There are springs of fresh water in the Persian Gulf that furnish supplies to vessels.

Give Holloway's Corn Cure a trial. It removed ten corns from one pair of feet without any pain. What it has done once it will do again.

The saline matter held in solution by sea water comprises one-thirtieth of its weight.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Church, St. Thomas, have been let. It will cost \$12,000.

Forest's assessment is \$359,711, and the population 1,559.

The following is Goderich's assessment: Real property, \$395,510; personal, \$53,925; income, \$55,170. The population is 3,598.

The assessment of Tilsonburg village this year is \$175,590, compared with \$196,410 last year, an increase of \$9,180. Contracts for the First Methodist.

The funeral of E. W. H. V. Allen, of Brantford, took place on Tuesday, and was attended by all the leading manufacturers and business men of the city.

Ex-Ald. James Hough and ex-Ald. Wm. Hearn have been nominated to fill the vacancy in St. James ward, (Jeph, caused by the death of Ald. L. J. Barber. The election takes place on Tuesday next.

The assessment of the town of Mitchell has been completed. There is \$6,000 more property on the roll this year than last. The population is about the same, 2,205. The Methodists are the largest denomination, 83; Presbyterians, 43; Church of England, 38; Lutherans, 17; Free Church, 12; no church, 17, and one man independent of any church.

There are now nearly 50 horses in training at the Windsor Driving Park Association's track. Since the new surface has been put on the track it is in better condition than it ever was before. On Wednesday ten horse-races will be run at the track, Brannagan's Gallant (2:17 1-4) being among them. The stable of Pete Kerr, of Galt, and other stables from up in Ontario are expected in a few days.

A breach of promise case of more than usual interest, because of the advanced ages of plaintiff and defendant, will come up for trial at St. Thomas. The writ, which was issued by Mr. McIntosh, of Aylmer, claims \$5,000 damages and \$30 costs from the defendant. The plaintiff is a widow of some years' standing. The lady, who is a resident of Yarmouth, is said to be 67 years of age. The defendant, who is a wealthy and highly respected farmer of the same township, is a widower and is said to be 78 years of age.

Abraham Miller, a prominent citizen of Tavistock, has issued a writ through his solicitors, Messrs. McKay & Ecknell, against F. Krug, of the same place, to recover possession of certain securities to the amount of \$2,000 alleged to have been obtained illegally and under duress. Mr. Miller has been in the employ of Mr. Krug, who is postmaster, for a number of years, as his bookkeeper. He was dismissed from the position by his employer with misappropriation of certain moneys, and gave the securities in settlement. Mr. Miller repudiates this settlement, and asserts that he never gave his leg hand as a promissory note to the defendant, and that he felt himself unable to cope with the whole affair just yet. Bertie's heartfelt grief softened him; he could not bear to believe the boy anything but sincere. It was a relief to him to be burdened spirit to think that he had yet some one to love—some one, even, though with reservations, to lean upon and trust.

ALVINGTON.

("Advertiser" Agent, P. A. McDiarmid.) May 8.—The Epworth League concert last Thursday night was a grand success. The entertainment was good. The singing of Miss Nellie Burnip, of London, was greatly appreciated.

Mr. James Gardiner, tailor, had the misfortune to have his leg broken last evening from being thrown off a bicycle.

The bicycle club held their runs on Tuesday night now.

The fire brigade was out for practice last night and made a very creditable showing. The brigade intends to enter some of the tournaments this year.

Miss Sarah Rickard, who died last Friday, was interred in the Rickard burying ground, Euphemia, last Sunday. A large number attended the funeral.

Men are at work grading up a number of streets with the township road machine.

Mr. J. B. Brooks, G. W. P. of Sons of Temperance, will address an open meeting in the Methodist Church next Friday evening.

The funeral of Mrs. Peter Duffy took place last Friday, and was largely attended. Between 50 and 60 vehicles followed the remains to the cemetery, showing the esteem in which she was held by all who knew her.

UNCLE SAM'S CORN PATCH.

Condition of the Crops Across the Border.

Cincinnati, O., May 9.—The Price Current summarizes the crop condition for the past week as follows:

Rains west of the Mississippi River have improved the grain crop situation. There has been insufficient moisture in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. The promise of winter wheat is positively poorer than a year ago. The outlook for corn is encouraging. Rains in the northwest make the situation there decidedly encouraging. There are indications of a possible moderate increase in the interior offerings of grain.

The Ohio Southern Railway went into the hands of a receiver on Thursday.

The New York State Hardware Jobbers' Association, including some of the largest firms in the State, have resolved to advance prices 10 per cent.

Portrait of a Lady who has cleaned house all day without Pearline—and she's had a lively time of it.

There's another day just like it coming to-morrow—and more afterwards. Now, see the difference. With Pearline, all this hard work would be easy; through in half the time; nobody disturbed by it. Pearline cleans, without the least harm, everything that water doesn't hurt. You won't have your paint streaked and rubbed off or your marble discolored or your temper ruffled or—well, Pearline banishes more of the ills attending house-cleaning than anything else known—just as good for washing clothes.

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CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

MOTHERS, Do You Know that Paregoric, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, many so-called Soothing Syrups, and most remedies for children are composed of opium or morphine?

Do You Know that opium and morphine are stupefying narcotic poisons?

Do You Know that in most countries druggists are not permitted to sell narcotics without labeling them poisons?

Do You Know that you should not permit any medicine to be given your child unless you or your physician know of what it is composed?

Do You Know that Castoria is a purely vegetable preparation, and that a list of its ingredients is published with every bottle?

Do You Know that Castoria is the prescription of the famous Dr. Samuel Pitcher. That it has been in use for nearly thirty years, and that more Castoria is now sold than of all other remedies for children combined?

Do You Know that the Patent Office Department of the United States, and of other countries, have issued exclusive right to Dr. Pitcher and his assigns to use the word "Castoria" and its formula, and that to imitate them is a state prison offense?

Do You Know that one of the reasons for granting this government protection was because Castoria had been proven to be absolutely harmless?

Do You Know that 35 average doses of Castoria are furnished for 35 cents, or one cent a dose?

Do You Know that when possessed of this perfect preparation, your children may be kept well, and that you may have unbroken rest?

Well, these things are worth knowing. They are facts.

The fac-simile signature of *Chas. H. Pitcher* is on every wrapper.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Pheno-Banum

The Wonderful Instantaneous Cure for Endorsed by Dentists and Physicians TOOTH ACHE. in United States and Canada.

Sold by Druggists Everywhere, 25c and 50c.

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—Manufacturers and Dealers In—

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All Kinds, Rough and Dressed. Write Us for Prices.

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LEAVE YOUR MEASURE

AND GET A PERFECT FIT.

Black Worsted Pants, \$4. Black Worsted Suits, \$20

Fine Tweed Pants, \$3.50. Fine Tweed Suits, \$12.75.

Fine Tweed Suits, \$10.

PETHICK & McDONALD, 383 RICHMOND ST. First door north of City Hall.

Gentlemen

BUY A SUIT OF OUR

75c or 90c

Balbriggan Underclothing.

Two Leading Lines Just Received.

GRAHAM BROS.,

Double Store—Dundas St.

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HANGERS

— FOR —

BICYCLE, BASE BALL, TROTTER, RUNNING, FAIRS, ETC.

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DETROIT, MICH.

SOLE AGENTS FOR CANADA.

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LONDON.

City Coal & Wood Yard

CHEAP WOOD.

100 cars best Beach and Maple just arrived, which is selling at \$1.60 per cord, in blocks.

CAMPBELL & CHANTLER

176 Bathurst Street.

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEAR

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.

W. G. F. DUNN & CO

Choice Dairy

and

Creamery Butter

Cheap for Cash at

Casswell's Meat Shop

Telephone 545. Market Lane.

Winzenberg Patent

Flat Opening Blank Books

E. H. Kordes,

Sole Manufacturer.

ORDERS SOLICITED.

John Ferguson & Sons,

FUNERAL DIRECTORS and EMBALMERS.

FIRST CLASS IN ALL APPOINTMENTS.

Telephone—House No. 313; Store No. 543.

Lawn Mowers

Easy Running, adjustable bearings, tempered steel knives, at \$2 and up; also one with double power and noiseless.

Alabastine Ready Mixed Paints, Rubber Hose, Lawn Rakes, —AT—

A. Westman's

111 Dundas Street.

Branch Store, 654 Dundas St., London.

W. Chapman,

BUTCHER.

Fresh and Salt Meats, Beef, Mutton, Fowls, etc. Goods delivered to any part of the city.

269 DUNDAS STREET

HINTON & RUMBALL,

THE UNDERTAKERS,

360 Richmond Street.

Private residence, 236 King St.

Telephone—Store 410; House, 428.

JAS. PERKIN

BUTCHER,

239 Dundas Street.

A CALL SOLICITED

BALLS!

Baseballs, Rubber Balls, Baseball Bats, Baseball Gloves, Footballs, Boxing Gloves,

JUST RECEIVED BY

JOHN MILLS,

Edge Block—404 Richmond Street.

LEADING HOTELS.

HOTEL IMPERIAL

Cor. Michigan

Boulevard and 12th St., Chicago.

"One of the largest and best in the city. Rooms \$1 per day and up. Send for circular