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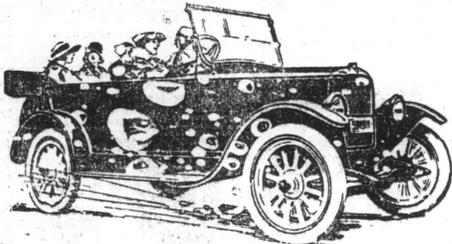
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**The Heir of Rosedene**

OR,

**The Game-Keeper's Hut**

CHAPTER XV. ROSEDENE.

But Edna laughed calmly.

"I suspect she will be very little more terrible than anyone else, aunt."

She had made the democratic assertion as she was standing on the broad steps that stretched from the hall down to the great lawn, and with the smile still in her face tripped lightly down the steps for her morning ramble. Two footmen and a porter stood aside statuesque and on the alert in case their mistress should have any commands for them, but Edna passed on, and drinking in the fresh morning air passed along the winding paths with a light foot, and made for what had, at first acquaintance asserted, a charm for her—the woods and preserves. These were approached after leaving the little stretch of ornamental garden, with its multitude of parterres, gay with tulip and hyacinths, and relieved by the gleam of white statuary and swiftly rising fountains, through a shrubbery in which the last tenant had succeeded in gathering as choice a collection of plants as any in the kingdom. At the end of the shrubbery the wood commenced. Edna passed two or three gardeners, who all touched their hats and seemed very gratified by the pleasant, kindly nod they got in response, and then sniffing at the odor of the pines, followed the narrow, beaten path.

It was the first time she had ventured into the wood, and she was conscious of that subtle pleasure which all of us feel when we are examining for the first time, a newly acquired possession. It was difficult to believe, even now, that it was all hers—every gigantic elm and spreading oak, every hare that fitted across her path, and every bird that flew with a frightened rustle above her head. The reflection, the sense of possession, pleased, and yet saddened, her in a singular way, and the smile with which she had started, gave place to that pensive, abstracted look which Mr. Burdon had so particularly remarked. She was so lost in thought that the sudden appearance of a man on his knees at the foot of a magnificent fir, startled and alarmed her. At first sight, and judging by his brown, rough suit, she thought it was a keeper, and smiling at the idea of being alarmed by one of her own servants, she was about to pass on, when the man, hearing her light foot-fall behind him, turned his head, and Edna knew that it was a gentleman. He was on his feet in an instant, but without any appearance of hurry, and with due composure, raised his soft felt hat. As he did so, Edna was struck by the grand, masterful expression of the high forehead and the serene power of the rugged, plainly marked face. Instinctively she paused a moment, and the gentleman, partly feeling that something more than a silent recognition of her presence was required of him, said:

"A very beautiful morning."

"Yes," assented Edna, "very beautiful." Then, in her impulsive, unconventional way, asked: "Were you looking for anything you have lost?"

"No," he replied, adding, with a smile that appeared for a moment and seemed to light up his grave face in a remarkable way: "Nothing that I have lost—nor for a hare—although I must have looked like a poacher."

Edna smiled and shook her head.

"Yes," he continued, his interest apparently centered in the little object. "I don't know whether you have ever noticed—I had never done so until this morning—how singularly this seed is formed. You see," and he turned the cone over with his fingers with the air of an enthusiast, "the shells are perfectly regular, in alternate rows, with an irregular line in between; the germinating powers lie between the fifth and sixth row—just here where this little red spider

had built its nest. The little fellow seems to have eaten away the vital portion of the shell; perhaps, but for him and his kindred, this spot would, in a hundred years, be choked with young firs, and all Rosedene a dense forest instead of the pleasure it is."

Edna stared at this strange speech, made all the stranger by the speaker's unconsciousness of there being anything unusual in it. In spite of herself Edna was interested.

"I am afraid I am not botanist enough to offer an opinion," she said.

"Ah!" said the stranger, thrusting his hand into the large pocket of his old shooting coat. "I was just going to show you some fine specimens of the hart's tongue; I don't think they grow to such perfection anywhere as do in Rosedene." Then, as if the name had reminded him, he looked up with a little, sudden knitting of the brows.

"That recalls me to a sense of my ill-manners. I am afraid I am trespassing—indeed, I know I am. I have been so used to ramble through these woods as if they were my own that, being a creature of habit—painfully so, which is, by the way, no excuse for my intrusion—my feet strayed in here this morning against my will. I hope that I may be forgiven," and he removed his hat with a gesture that was striking in its dignified humility and high breeding.

Edna colored with a sense of pleasure; at least, there was one delight in being owner of Rosedene.

"There is nothing to forgive," she said, with her own frank graciousness. "I feel more like a trespasser than you, as I am a greater stranger. I was going to ask you if you could tell me the way to More Park—I mean to some spot where I could get a view of the house. I know that it lies in this direction."

"Yes," said the gentleman, looking as if he was rather puzzled by the question; indeed, being a creature of more habits than one, and talking aloud unconsciously being one of his most marked, he explained his perplexity by muttering in a voice quite audible to Edna: "Hem! one of the visitors, I suppose." Then aloud: "If you follow this path until you come to the head keeper's cottage—Keeper's Lodge, it is called—and then strike to the right again until you reach the wooden cross—"

Edna's smile of assumed confusion pulled him up.

"I see," he said, "you are indeed a stranger here, and my directions, like most of their kind, are more embarrassing than helpful. Will you allow me to show you the way?"

"I don't like to trouble you," said Edna. "One of the keepers—"

The gentleman bowed placidly, evidently too high bred to force his escort upon her; and Edna, half sorry that she had not accepted his guidance as frankly as it had been offered, bowed him an adieu and walked on. At a slight bend of the path she looked back and saw that he had seated himself at the foot of an elm, and was absorbed in the occupation of dissecting the fir cone with his pocketknife, and had evidently forgotten everything else.

"I wonder who that may be?" thought Edna. "Some enthusiastic botanist, who thinks that nature's grand secret lies in the petals of a daisy. A gentleman evidently, and not a stranger to the neighborhood, for he said that he was used to wandering about the woods. Yes, it is good to own all this, if only for the pleasure one derives from the power of granting the favor of full and free admittance to whomsoever one pleases."

In a very short time she came upon the keeper's lodge, a pretty, rustic cottage, with thatched roof, wide, sun-sheltering porch, and latticed windows. Two little children were playing on the little open space before the door, and the keeper's wife came out all excitement to courtesy and made obeisance.

(To be Continued.)

**Fashion Plates.**

"A COVER ALL APRON."



2723—This style is fine for gingham, seersucker, lawn, percale and calico, also for sateen, drill and khaki. The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: Small 32-34, Medium 36-38, Large 40-42, Extra Large 44-46 inches bust measure. Size Medium will require 3 1/2 yards of 27-inch material. This would make a good service uniform in tan or blue galatea with pipings of red or white.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

LADIES' HOUSE DRESS.



2720—Seersucker, gingham, galatea, drill, khaki, percale, lawn and linen may be used for this style. The sleeve length may be in wrist or elbow length. The dress is a one-piece model. The Pattern is cut in 7 sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. Size 38 requires 3 1/2 yards of 26-inch material. Width at lower edge is 2 1/2 yards.

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No. ....

Size .....

Address in full—

Name .....

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**NOTICE!**

**TO ROYAL NAVAL RESERVISTS:**

It is notified for information that the Government has ordered that there be paid an additional amount of 20c. per day from the time of the commencement of the War, in cases where men were then serving or otherwise, from the time when their services began up to the time of discharge, or of decease, or to Sept. 17th, 1917, inclusive. And the sum of 35c. per day from the 1st October, 1917, up to the time of discharge or decease.

**50 SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT—SERVING OR DISCHARGED—AND DEPENDENTS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

It is notified for information that the Government has ordered that the following Allowances, and additions to already existing Allowances, shall be paid:

1. A Clothing Allowance on the following sliding scale:
  - For men discharged up to 1st April, 1917—\$35.00.
  - For men discharged between 1st April, 1917, and 1st April, 1918—\$45.00.
  - For men discharged on or after 1st April, 1918—\$60.00.
2. A War Service Gratuity, in place of Post Discharge Pay and Allowances, exclusive of subsistence or allowances in lieu of rations and quarters. For men who have served in an actual theatre of war, or were on the strength of some recognized overseas establishment on Nov. 11th, 1918, the Gratuity is graded as follows:—
  - For three years' service or over—183 days' pay and allowances.
  - For two years' service and under three years—153 days' pay and allowances.
  - For one year's service and under two years—122 days' pay and allowances.
  - For less than one year's service—92 days' pay and allowances.

For men who have served overseas, and were discharged prior to November 11th, 1918, and for men who have served in Newfoundland only, the Gratuity is graded as follows:—

- For three years' service or over—92 days' pay and allowances.
- For two years' service and under three years—61 days' pay and allowances.
- For one year's service and under two years—31 days' pay and allowances.

In the case of an Officer or man without dependents whose pay and allowances, as above described, are less than \$70.00 for a 31 day period, a consolidated rate of \$70.00 will be paid in lieu of every 31 or 30 days' pay and allowances to which he is entitled.

In the case of an Officer or man with dependents who are entitled or who, before his retirement or discharge, were entitled to Separation Allowances, whose pay and allowances including Separation Allowance is less than \$100.00 for a 31-day period, a consolidated rate of \$100.00 will be laid in lieu of every 31 or 30 days' pay and allowances to which he is entitled.

If part of, or all the gratuity under Post Discharge Pay Regulations has been paid to any officer or man, the amount so paid will be deducted from the Gratuity provided for by "War Service Gratuity" Regulations.

3. Separation Allowance to wives of members of the Regiment and to other dependents entitled thereto, shall be retroactive, making it effective from date of enlistment, or from the date when entitled to receive same under authorized Regulations.

The foregoing will necessitate a large amount of accounting and additional work, and it will not be possible for the Department of Militia to make payments before the 1st of March.

**J. R. BENNETT,** Minister of Militia.

feb5,191

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