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A Lost Gem

Stella gave him a reproachful look. "I have good reason not to trust you much," she said, slowly; "but I did not think that you would seek out Molly, of all people in the world, to turn her head by your attentions, and then—perhaps—to break her heart."

"As I did yours?" said Hannington, coolly. "Is that what you mean to imply, Mrs. Moncrieff? I must say that I never saw any signs of a broken heart about you; you consoled yourself very speedily, I remember. And besides, you talk as if I acted without motives. I have no particular wish to turn heads and break hearts, I assure you. But for unfortunate circumstances—upon which we need not enter at present—I should have been only too happy to make you my wife. As it is, I have every intention of asking Miss Moncrieff to take the vacant place as speedily as possible."

"That child!"

"Not so much younger than you were when you plighted your troth to me at Balmerino. Have you forgotten that? It is not two years ago."

"I wonder that you dare recall it," said Stella, her wrath suddenly flashing out against him. "A gentleman would be ashamed to do so."

Hannington shrugged his shoulders. "It is easy to call names," he said. "I should never have recalled it to your mind if you had not thrust your presence upon me uninvited—you will excuse the freedom with which I speak, I hope? There is really nothing for you to excite yourself about, Mrs. Moncrieff. Your stepdaughter is pretty; I admire her exceedingly, and we are very good friends. A little harmless flirtation will not do her any harm."

"It must cease at once. I do not wish to consider whether it will do her harm or not."

"Well, it shall cease. In fact it has ceased—as flirtation. Molly has consented to be my wife."

"And you dared to win her affection without consulting her father first?"

"You were not quite so anxious that your father should be consulted before I won yours, Stella."

"Mr. Hannington, I am Alan Moncrieff's wife, and I am surprised that you should forget it so far as to insult me in this way."

Hannington laughed again. "Come," he said, "don't be so hot, Stella. I didn't mean to insult you in the least. I am very glad indeed that you are Moncrieff's wife, and hope that years of uninterrupted prosperity lie before you. Moncrieff is rather a stiff old fellow, isn't he? A little apt to be over-punctilious—a trifle jealous and suspicious? That used to be his character, I know, when his first wife was alive."

"I wished to speak to you about Miss Moncrieff, not about my husband, Mr. Hannington."

"Very well. Then we will speak about Miss Moncrieff," said the man beside her, his voice assuming the hard tone which always characterized it when he was annoyed. "I will tell you my intentions respecting Miss Moncrieff, and I will leave it to yourself to decide on your own future course. Molly is fond of me, as no doubt you have seen, and any opposition will only make her more determined to follow her own will. As I said before, I have asked her to marry me. She is young; I have no especial wish to marry her at once; therefore I should prefer to have no formal engagement for the present. All I want now is admittance to your house, permission to see her now and then, and your assistance in gradually inducing Mr. Moncrieff to consent to the marriage. That is all."

"And do you think that Mr. Moncrieff will ever consent to it when he knows that you have persuaded his daughter to meet you here in a clandestine way, and have made love to her already without his permission?"

"No, I don't," was the frank reply. "But then, I don't want him to know anything about it, don't you see? Nobody will tell him, if you don't."

"But I must! I shall!"

"Just so. And if you do, are you under the impression that I shall not defend myself?"

He faced her as he spoke. The light of day was growing dim, and made his countenance look pallid, but it did not conceal the dark and almost malevolent expression that crossed his features, nor the sardonic glitter of his dark eyes. As Stella stood and looked at him, she wondered what glimmer had ever been thrown over this man to make him rank high in her esteem.

"I do not know how you can defend yourself," she said, after a pause.

"It would be easy, Mrs. Moncrieff, to defend myself by playing on some very well-known characteristics of your husband. It would be easy to say that you—like many another stepmother—were anxious to put the worst interpretation on anything that Molly said or did. It would be easy to say that I had met Miss Moncrieff seldom, and only by accident, and that I had not said anything which need cause him anxiety."

"Not easy for a man of honor—not easy if you spoke the truth!"

Hannington bowed with sarcastic composure. "It would be a case of hard swearing, perhaps, but a man's honor allows him to tell lies in order to protect the woman he loves Mrs. Moncrieff. As for me, I love Molly, and I shall do my best to win her. There would be nothing at all remarkable

in Moncrieff's eyes in your opposition to the marriage if I hinted to him that you had had a previous attachment, and that no woman likes to see herself supplanted—and so on—he would be ready enough to believe that you found it impossible to be magnanimous, no doubt, and it would be a pleasant little piece of news to hear, perhaps, that his wife had once written very pretty and affectionate love-letters before her marriage to another man!"

To do Hannington justice, he did not intend to carry his threat into execution, but the look of terror that came into Stella's face showed him that he had hit upon a very effective method of managing her. At least, so it appeared to him just then. He half expected to hear that Mr. Moncrieff had already been told of Stella's former attachment, and that it was for this reason that Mr. Moncrieff had of late shown himself so little friendly with Hannington. But a look at Stella's face made him see his mistake.

For a moment she was mute, but he read in her eyes that such revelation of her past would be disastrous indeed for her. "You would not tell him that?" she murmured. She was too much startled to be prudent.

"But indeed I would. So you have not told him yourself, I see? Well, you were wise. He is a man who never forgives—never trusts again where he has been once deceived."

"But I never deceived him!"

"Oh, no; I did not say that you ever did. The story is of very little importance after all. Only, if you interfere with my plan, Mrs. Moncrieff, I shall take care to let him know the reason; that is all. Let me have my own way about Molly, or I will send her away from you. You can choose."

"He would not read them!"

"Oh, yes he would."

Hannington smiled. "Suppose he did not read them then. Suppose he burned them unread. Would he not always remember that there was something which he might have read? Would he be very likely to trust you again? Perhaps you don't care for his trust; if so, that is all right, and I stand aside abashed; but if you do—as a friend I would recommend that you kept those letters out of his hands; that is all."

Again there was a silence. He watched her white, quivering face with a faint, furtive smile; he felt very certain that he would ultimately gain his point.

"It is growing late," he said at last, "and this is a matter which possibly requires a little consideration. Perhaps you would rather give me your answer to-morrow, Mrs. Moncrieff. I take it for granted that you won't spring the matter on your husband the moment he comes home tonight? That would be rather too unkind. To-morrow afternoon, shall we say?"

CHAPTER XX.

Stella consented to the delay. It seemed to her that it would be better to talk to Molly before doing anything else, and that perhaps Molly's own anxiety to clear herself from double-dealing might simplify the matter. So she said very gravely that she would postpone further conversation till the morning.

"And you will meet me here?" said Hannington.

She hesitated, and her lip quivered. It seemed to her almost as if she partook of Molly's blame-worthiness, as if she would be deceiving Alan Moncrieff, by consenting to meet John Hannington in private. But there was no other way out of the difficulty. She felt that she must speak to Molly before deciding whether to tell her father or ignore the whole affair, and in that case she must see Mr. Hannington again. And so, very reluctantly, she consented to meet him next day in the afternoon.

Then she turned her face sadly homeward, and arrived at her room only just in time to dress for dinner and to meet her husband, who was inclined to express surprise at her being out so late—even for the sake of the people who lived at Tomgarrov. The dinner was a tolerably cheerful one, in spite of the weighty test lay so heavily upon the hearts of certain persons present. Alan was in an unusually lively mood, and entertained them with some racy stories which he had learned during his recent visit to Edinburgh.

(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, assist digestion, cure headache.

She—I think there is considerable room for improvement in ladies' dresses nowadays. He—Well, in the sleeves, especially, I should say there was room enough for almost anything.

FAGGED OUT.—None but those who have become fagged out know what a depressed, miserable feeling it is. All strength is gone, and despondency has taken hold of the sufferer. They feel as though there was nothing to live for. There, however, is a cure—one box of Parmenter's Vegetable Pills will do wonders in restoring health and strength. Mandrake and Dandelion are two of the articles entering into the composition of Parmenter's Pills.

Miss McFlirter—I have refused seven offers of marriage since last season. Miss C. Vere—Quite a sleight-of-hand performer, aren't you?

A Great German Prescription.

Diseased blood, constipation and kidney, liver and bowel troubles are cured by Karl's Clover Root Tea.

Jagers (weakly facetious)—Th—think I was a burglar, my dear? Mrs. Jagers—No! A burglar wouldn't have taken half the time to get in!

Consumption Can Be Cured.

By the use of Shiloh's Cure. This Cure is the only known remedy for that terrible disease. For sale by W. T. Strong.

"Don't you think the man who marries for money is a fool?" "He is, unless he gets it in advance."

The great lung healer is found in the excellent medicine sold as Bickie's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

Bobsled accidents have gone out, but a good crop of drownings will soon be seasonable, and the snake-bite institutes are laying in large quantities of sovereign remedy.

NUN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

A Crazy Woman With a Pistol Tried to Kill a Sister of Charity.

Toronto April 25.—A Sister of Charity today about noon went into the business office of the Star newspaper, Yonge street, to sell tickets for the House of Providence, while talking with one of the clerks an insane woman named Ellen Brown saw her from the street, and rushed in and began to beat her over the head with a revolver. She then tried to shoot the nun, but Mr. Cramp, an advertising agent, rushed from behind the counter, and, seizing the mad woman, saved the nun's life.

The woman was taken to the police station, where about 20 cartridges were found in her pocket. She told a disconnected story of having been robbed of a sum of money by the Roman Catholic Church. A charge of insanity was registered against her.

FIVE DAYS OF LIFE LEFT.

Buchanan's Gratitude for a Respite—May 1 the Death Chair.

Albany, N. Y., April 25.—Gov. Morton today gave out the following: "Sing Sing, April 24, 1895.—Most Excellent Sir,—Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation of the kind and benevolent act of mercy your Excellency seemed pleased to bestow on me yesterday by the granting of a respite for one week."

"May I please your Excellency for me to thank you for the kind and gentle manner you displayed towards my good wife while pleading with you for mercy. My earnest prayer to heaven last night was, 'May the Almighty God, who sees and knows all things, grant you and your good family many years of health and happiness together.'"

"I have the honor to remain, sir, most obediently yours,"

(Signed) "R. W. BUCHANAN."

Sing Sing, N. Y., April 25.—Warden Sage today said he would go on and execute Buchanan on Wednesday, May 1, when the respite expires. Lawyer Gibbons, Buchanan's counsel, says the papers have been prepared for application for a writ of habeas corpus, requiring the warden of Sing Sing to produce Buchanan in court and show on what grounds he is to be executed on Wednesday next.

A HOUSEHOLD REMEDY.

Druggists in Saginaw Confidently Recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Saginaw, Mich., April 26.—The wonderful effects which have followed a judicious use of the specific remedy known as Dodd's Kidney Pills are becoming very well-known in this vicinity, and as far as can be learned throughout the whole State. The remedy is far more extensively used in all cases of incipient and advanced complaints of the kidneys than is any other, and has reached a point when it is confidently recommended by druggists in preference to any other remedy. There have been so many proofs of the many benefits conferred by its use that it is not surprising that it is becoming a household remedy.

VIA THE CELLAR.

Burglars Rob a Store of \$35,000 in Cash and Bonds.

Millington, Pa., April 25.—Early this morning the store of Noah Hertzler at Port Royal, this county, was robbed of stocks, bonds and cash amounting to about \$35,000. The safe was blown open. Some of the property stolen belonged to William Hertzler, an ex-member of the Legislature. All approaches to the store were protected by burglar alarms but the robbers gained their way to the cellar and out through the floor.

SHOT DEAD WHILE HE SLEPT.

Shawmut, Ga., April 25.—Miss J. Schweigert, foreman on the Evening Bulletin, was shot through the heart and instantly killed by his wife this morning at 3 o'clock. He was asleep at the time. The cause of the murder is said to be insane, and is now under arrest.

BROKERS IN TROUBLE.

Montreal, Que., April 25.—Robt. F. Meredith and James O'Brien were arrested today on a charge of having converted to their own use 1,000 shares of the Bank of Commerce which had been left in trust with them by a will of Mrs. Morris. Bail was accepted in \$10,000 each.

A \$200,000 FORGERY.

San Francisco, Cal., April 25.—A forged note for \$200,000 signed by the late Millionaire J. C. Flood and indorsed by W. W. Corcoran, of Washington Art Gallery fame, has come to light here. The signatures are pronounced perfect and the note is enough to have been forged by a man in New York who signs himself Stroud Starboard. He is believed to be the same man who made J. G. Fair's note for \$300,000 indorsed by Leland Stanford.

THE QUEEN OF THE LAKES.

Detroit, Mich., April 25.—The Detroit Dry Dock Company has secured the contract to build a new steamer for the Cleveland and Buffalo Transit Company for the Cleveland-Buffalo route. The steamer will be the largest side-wheel and fastest boat on the Great Lakes. She will cost about \$375,000, and will be ready for business April 1 next. The new steamer will be 308 feet long over all; 40 feet 8 inches molded beam, and 15 feet deep. She will have sleeping accommodation for 600 persons.

The startled fawn business is greatly overdone. The startled fawn act should not be attempted by a girl over 17, and even 17 is a little too old.

Leads the World

PEARLINE. The first washing-compound ever made, and the best. Proved to be absolutely harmless to anything that is washed—both by the women who have used it for years, and by scientific tests. But the enormous demand for Pearl-line—for something that will save work and yet be safe to use, has started a host of washing powders, all imitations of Pearl-line. They ought to make women think. If you can get risky help from a poor imitation, why not get safe help from the original and the best? **JAMES PYLE, New York.**

What is

CASTORIA

Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is a harmless substitute for Paregoric, Drops, Soothing Syrup, and Castor Oil. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays feverishness. Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Cud, cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves teething troubles, cures constipation and flatulency. Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—the Mother's Friend.

Castoria.
"Castoria is an excellent medicine for children. Mothers have repeatedly told me of its good effect upon their children."
Dr. G. C. Osborn,
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"Castoria is the best remedy for children of which I am acquainted. I hope the day is not far distant when mothers will consider the real interest of their children, and use Castoria instead of the various quick nostrums which are destroying their loved ones, by forcing opium, morphine, soothing syrup and other hurtful agents down their throats, thereby sending them to premature graves."
Dr. J. F. Kitchener,
Conway, Ark.

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"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me."
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"Our physicians in the children's department have spoken highly of their experience in their outside practice with Castoria, and although we only have among our medical supplies what is known as regular products, yet we are free to confess that the merits of Castoria has won us to look with favor upon it."
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Black Worsted Pants, \$4. Black Worsted Suits, \$20
Fine Tweed Pants, \$3.50. Fine Tweed Suits, \$12.75.
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100 cars best Beach and Maple just arrived, which is selling at \$4.50 per cord, in blocks.

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CAMPANIA..... Saturday, June 1, 11 a.m.
UMBRIA..... Saturday, June 8, 3 p.m.

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From White Star dock, foot West Tenth St. Saloon rates—On Tonic and Majestic, \$50 and upwards; second cabin rates, Majestic and Tonic, \$40 and \$45; round trip, \$70 to \$85, according to location of berth. Saloon rates on Germanic and Britannic, \$60 and upwards. Excursion tickets on favorable terms. Steerage at lowest rates. Company's office, 41 Broadway, New York.

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2 POUNDS CHOICE APRICOTS.....25c
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