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he quitted the apartment, bearing the wretched woman in his arms.

The scene had unnerved me. I sank into a chair the moment they were gone. I heard the soft rustling of silk close beside me, but did not look up. A tiny hand was pushed into mine; presently—

"Barton," whispered a voice that thrilled me as none other had the power to do, "I thought you stole the topaz. Can you ever forgive me for the unjust suspicion?"

Eloise was on the floor at my feet, sobbing pitifully. I stooped and kissed her.

"My darling!" was all that I could say.

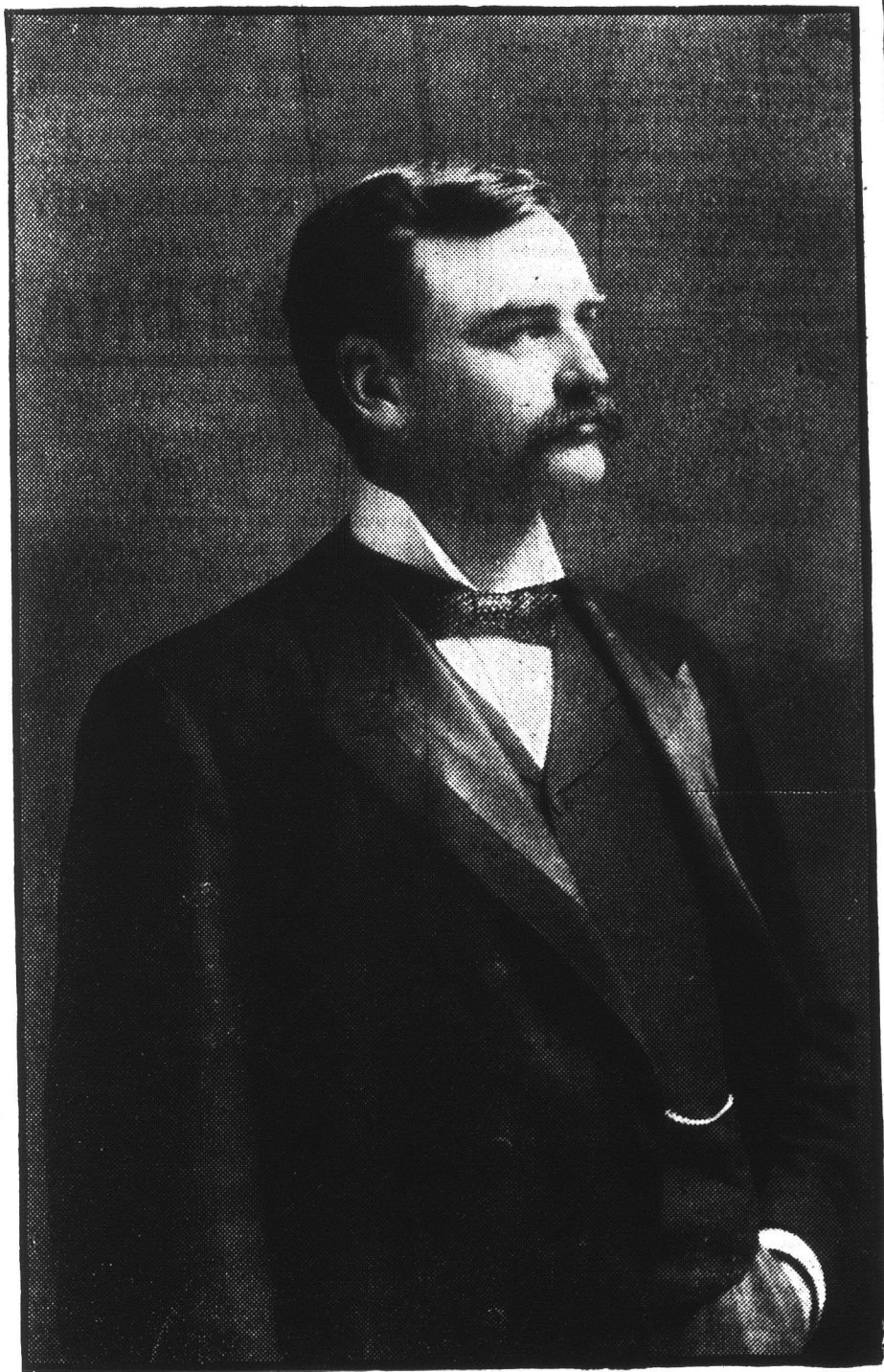
While she clung to me, I thought that not for a thousand topazes would I pass through such another experience as the last twenty-four hours had held.

Mrs. Dacre was not seen by any of us again that night. When the next

morning dawned, we found that she had fled, and that Guy had gone with her. Later in the day, a letter was put into my hands. Here are the closing lines:

"I firmly believe, dear Barton, that Clarice has been more weak than culpable, and—I love her! She clings to me like a child who has nobody else to right its wrongs. I shall make her my wife. She will get over her pen- chant for you, by-and-by, and be all that heart could wish. We shall never come back to Fair Oaks. Tell Mr. Richard so; and tell him, for his dead brother's sake, he must not seek to punish a woman who is punished sufficiently already. May God bless and prosper you, my brother, whether we meet again on this earth or not. Guy Devonshire."

Could he be happy with a woman who had deliberately imposed upon us all to the very last? Perhaps God had wrought a change in her heart, after all. I hoped it might be so.

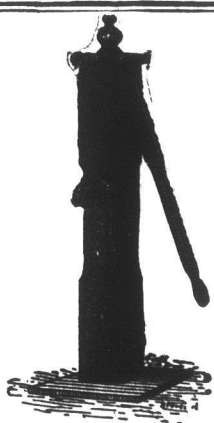


R. L. RICHARDSON, Ex-M.P.

Author of the latest exciting Canadian Novel.

R. L. Richardson, the author of "The Camerons of Bruce," the fascinating new story of semi-contemporary Canadian life, is a journalist of wide fame in Canada, and is not unknown in the United States. Founder, editor and chief owner of the Winnipeg Tribune, his life has been that of the typical Canadian whose strenuous energy is assisting in building up Western Canada. Going west from Lanark County many years ago, Mr. Richardson became widely known when he was elected a member of Parliament for Ligar in 1896. He was active and outspoken on the floor of the House. The uncompromising partisanship which is demanded by the leader of a party was not possible to one of Mr. Richardson's temperament, and he was soon at variance with his own party. But in or out of Parliament, he will always be a strong factor in the making of the West.

Mr. Richardson's present story, which starts in the old historic county of Bruce, Ont., and which is carried to the North-West, is replete with adventure, and presents a stirring picture of Indian and half-breed life. The story is not the author's first contribution to Canadian fiction. How he can find time to devote to his literary work is the wonder of those who are intimately acquainted with the busy life which he leads. A couple of years ago his first novel, "Colin of the North Concession," was published, and this book is treasured still in the homes of many growing up who seek the inspiration to success under difficulties, and by older ones who recognized perhaps the best picture of old Ontario that has ever been presented.



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