

The Heiress of Heathdale

CHAPTER XXII

"William," cried Lady Linton, springing excitedly to her feet, the document which had caused her so much joy, but a moment before, dropping unheeded on the table beside her. "What brings you home in this unceremonious manner. Are you ill? Has anything happened?"

"Am I ill? Yes, my heart is breaking within me. Has anything happened? My wife is lost to me forever!" he cried, in a hollow tone, as he sank into a chair and groaned aloud.

"What can I do for you? Let me call John to remove your boots and bring you dry clothing," his sister said, thoroughly alarmed by his appearance, and seating the action to her words, she ran for the butler.

John came and attended to his master's wants with alacrity. Wood was piled upon the already cheerful fire, something hot was provided for the traveler to drink, and Lady Linton soon had the satisfaction of seeing something like warmth and life stealing into her brother's haggard face.

She understood at once that he must have been nearly smothered upon receiving the document which she had sent him, and that he had immediately started for home. He must have been taken ill on the way and been detained, else he would have been here before, and she could imagine how he would chafe at the delay, and how heart sick he had grown over the fact of being too late to stay the proceedings for the divorce.

She dreaded to have him know that the die was irrevocably cast, although his own words had told her that he apprehended it; but she absolutely feared the first passionate outbreak when she should give him those other papers that had just arrived.

When he began to grow more calm, and also to realize the comfort of being once more before his own hearthstone, Lady Linton stole softly away to confer with the housekeeper about preparing him something specially tempting for supper.

She was absent about fifteen minutes, and was about to return to him, when she was startled by a heavy fall on the floor above her.

Her heart told her what had caused it, and she hurried up stairs with all the speed that fear could lend to her feet, and burst into the library, to find her brother stretched lifeless upon the floor, an open paper clutched tightly in his hand, and John, the faithful butler, was bending over him in an agony of terror.

"Send for Sir Herbert Randall at once, then come back to me," commanded her ladyship, as she stooped to lift her brother's head to place a cushion under it and loosen his necktie.

John sped to her bidding, and during his absence Lady Linton succeeded in removing that tell-tale document from Sir William's hand, and locking it away from all inquisitive eyes; for her first thought was that there must be no scandal over the affair.

Few knew of his marriage. She had persisted in keeping still about it, in spite of all his orders to the contrary, and when his return from his search of Virginia, he had been far too sensitive upon the subject to talk of it himself, and thus almost everybody believed him to be a single man.

Hence Lady Linton's anxiety that nothing should be known regarding the divorce.

When John returned to her she summoned other servants, and had Sir William carried to his own rooms, where she and the housekeeper applied all remedies that were at hand to revive him.

When the physician arrived he had recovered from his swoon, but was in a raging fever, and wild with delirium. Sir Herbert pronounced his illness to be a fever of a serious type, and Lady Linton knelt, from the grave look on the wise man's face, that he had but very little hope of his recovery.

When Virginia left the hotel on the morning after her husband's death, and her to vacate her rooms, she drove to a quiet street, where she engaged lodgings for a few days, until she could arrange her plans for the future. She then gave notice at the hotel, and had her baggage deposited that she would draw it all on a certain date. As soon as she received it she purchased a ticket for San Francisco, and a week from the time of receiving Lady Linton's card, she was rolling over the Central Pacific Railroad toward her former home, intent upon only one purpose—that of gaining indisputable proof as to whether or no Virginia, in order to shield her child from wrong and shame.

She reached a small town only a few miles from her old home among the mountains, and there she sent a messenger for Chi Lu to come to her.

He came at once, glad to do anything for the "young miss" whom he had served for years, and learned to regard with great affection.

Virginia felt sure that she could safely confide in him, so she told him something of her trouble, and asked him to help her gather the proofs of her marriage.

He proved himself very efficient in this respect, and was only too eager to secure justice for her.

After all was done, and she had the precious papers in her own hands, she would have paid him handsomely, and sent him back to the mountains again. But he threw at her feet the money she offered him, and begged to be allowed to go with her wherever she went—to his home for her and the "little issue," as he had used to do in the old days before she went away.

"He did not want any money—only let him have a little rice and curry, and a mat to sleep on, and he would serve her as long as she needed him."

Virginia was moved to tears by this evidence of his faithfulness, and, though she had not thought of such a thing before, it suddenly occurred to her that it might be a wise proceeding on her part to grant his request.

She knew that he was entirely trustworthy; he was very capable in many ways, and she was sure that she should feel a sense of security and protection with him that she could not experience to go alone into a strange place, and have to depend entirely upon herself.

"I should like to have you, Chi," she said thoughtfully, "but I am afraid it

would be hardly fair to you, for I haven't a great deal of money, and I shall have to be very economical."

Chi Lu's little round black eyes flashed with anger, when he slightly opened his mouth. "He takes money too!" he demanded, with contemptuous emphasis on the pronoun.

Virginia flushed. She could not bear, and she almost resented, as a reference to the wrong she had suffered.

"How much money?" the man hastened to add, as he saw that she was troubled.

She had a little over four thousand dollars, Virginia replied, thinking it best to fully confide in him.

Her bills had been heavy in New York, and it had taken her the most of one thousand dollars out of the five thousand that Sir William had deposited for her, to settle them.

Chi Lu gave a grunt of delight at this information. "Good! missive long. Chi Lu know how; he fix 'em," he said, with an air of confidence that was reassuring, and Virginia believed that he would be with her inexperience, so she resolved to trust him, and told him that she should go with her if he wished.

The next question to settle was regarding a place of residence, and she finally decided, after taking the matter over with her servant, that she would be less conspicuous in some large city, and as there was no place she knew as well as San Francisco, she resolved to once more make her home in that city.

These matters decided, Chi Lu went back to the mountains to dispose of his own affairs, and a tiny kitchen with a good sized cooking outfit, which he had allotted exclusively to Chi Lu.

Virginia soon found that she had indeed done wisely to take her old servant along with her, for he managed everything in a most economical and comfortable way, while she realized that if she had been obliged to depend wholly upon herself and have the care of her little one besides, her strength and courage would have both failed her in a little while.

The younger Lady of Heathdale deplored a great deal of attention during the first year of her life, and, being wholly unaccustomed to children, Virginia found her care a great tax upon her.

They had been in San Francisco some months when Chi Lu proposed that he and Virginia go into business for himself.

He told her that he had not half enough to do to keep busy; there was a large unoccupied room adjoining the kitchen, in which he could set up a laundry business.

He wanted to employ two or three of his countrymen to do the work, while he simply had the boy played fair. The only complete remedy would be the entire cancellation of the last drawing, the actual cost of which to the city would have been \$239,000.

Sillius—Old Gotrox murders the English language, and yet no one thinks any more of the Cynicus—Well, when money talks nobody makes fun of its grammar.

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Yours respectfully, Dr. W. D. COWAN.

The Williams Piano Co., of Oshawa, publish three booklets on the history and construction of pianos which should be read by all contemplating the purchase of a piano. They are sent free on request, or can be obtained from the local warerooms.

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GO FOR YOUR LETTERS.

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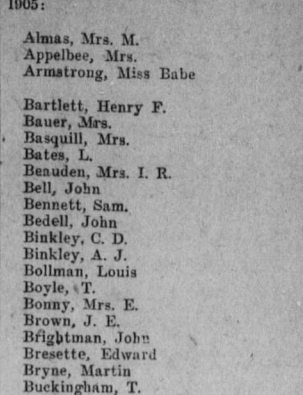
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At R. McKay & Co's., Tuesday, October 10, 1905

The Foundation of Our Success: The Best Possible Values



With each succeeding season this foundation becomes stronger. In fact every day does its little toward strengthening it and every other quality that a successful business career depends on grows in proportion. Observe carefully all details when shopping here, you will find plenty of evidence.

Important Dress Goods Values

A Grand Venetian Cloth at Special Per-Yard 75c. A Splendid Shipment of Panamas Special 47c Per Yard. This is a worthy bargain in a popular material, makes up a pretty, serviceable dress, will not gloss nor catch the dust. See this special on sale to-morrow in navy, green, red, brown and black; regular value 76c, Tuesday special 47c per yard.

Two Special Black Silk Chances

85c Black Peau De Soie Silk 59c. A splendid guaranteed Silk for dresses, shirt waists, etc., has McKay's guarantee, will wear perfectly, a splendid black, with a brilliant finish; reg. 85c quality for 59c.

A \$1.25 Black Corded Silk for 89c. Secure a dress length of this special silk, on sale at a great reduction for one day's selling, guaranteed in every respect. Call and see this silk to-morrow, even if you don't intend buying one; reg. \$1.25 quality for 89c.

Corset Cover Embroideries 19c Yard

Only 100 sample ends of 18 inch Embroidery in dainty open blind designs, with heading inserted to carry baby ribbon; come in 14 1/2 and 15 1/2 yard lengths for corset covers; regular 29 and 35c, on sale 19c yard.

Children's Bare Skin Coats \$2.79

12 only Bare Skin Coats, made in the box style with round-square collar, nicely lined, finished, trimmed with pearl and gilt buttons, regular \$3.50, for \$2.79.

Honeycomb Shawls 98c

24 dozen of Fine White Honeycomb Shawls, 1 1/2 yards square, with full fringe, a good heavy shawl, regular \$1.25 and \$1.50, for 98c.

Silk Bonnets 50c

4 dozen of Infants' Bonnets, made of heavy Japan Silk, nicely embroidered with full Val. lace, ruch and silk ties, sizes 12 to 15, regular 75c, for 50c.

Tuesday's Lines of Interest at Our Staple Department

English Ceylon Finished Flannelette 15c. Full 36-inch English Stripe Flannelette, fine Ceylon finish, which is firm, even, thread soft, warm finish, patterns suitable for men's pyjamas and night-suits, 25 different designs, all 15c.

Cream Saxony 13c. 34-inch Cream and Pure White Saxony Flannelette, soft, fleecy finish, perfectly free from dressing, regular 15c and 17c, Tuesday 13c.

American Bolero Waistings 15c. Our range of American Waistings are quite as slightly as the finest French flannel. The price should be 18 and 20c, Tuesday 15c.

Black and Colored Roman Satin 20c. A special purchase of 25 pieces of Black and Colored Mercerized Roman Satin, the correct weight for coat lining and drop skirts, cashmere twill, bright, Italian, a genuine bargain 20c.

R. McKay & Co. 55, 57, 59, 61, 65 King Street East

ITALY TO STOP STARVATION. Bread Houses to be Established All Over the Kingdom.

Rome, Oct. 8.—Rome is soon to have the "Bread House," which was promised the Eternal City last year. The idea on which the unique charity rests is that man comes into the world with the right to eat, so this is to be a bakery giving bread to those who cannot buy, and furnishing it to the poor who can at a price which will leave the smallest margin of profit. It is also intended to provide charitable institutions with the bread at the same low price, and it is calculated that the small profit realized on the sales will pay the cost of what is given gratuitously.

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Last Trip of the Season. Day line steamers make last trip of season from New York on October 21 and from Albany on October 23. The cheap excursion to New York via West Shore October 18 will give people a chance to take the trip. This is included in the price of the ticket, which is \$9 for the round trip from Suspension Bridge or Buffalo. For further information call on or write Louis Drago, Canadian Passenger Agent, 69-1-2 Yonge street, Toronto, Ont.

Ornaments 20% Discount. It's not often this opportunity comes. A 25% Discount means a saving of \$1.00 on \$5.00. Nothing makes a more acceptable wedding gift. Visit our Art Room.

ELLIS, The Jeweler 17 King St. East. A LINE OR TWO ABOUT "TICK." Just call on us of your watch or clock case you trouble. We warrant our work done first class and cheap. Wedding Rings, Watches, either gold or silver, Long Quartz, Diamond Rings, Engagement Rings, all at wonderful low prices. Eves, tested. Spectacles from 25c up. Jewelry call on us. E. P. ASB. English Jeweler, 21 John street, south.

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RAILWAYS.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN TIME Sunday, October 1st.

10.00 A. M., daily for Buffalo and New York, instead of 9.42 A. M. 1.05 P. M., daily for Niagara Falls and Buffalo, instead of 1.05 P. M. 9.10 P. M., New York Express, instead of 8.50 P. M.

GOING WEST. All through trains will run via Brantford, Galt, Guelph and North. Express at 7.50 P. M., for Brantford and Paris. 3.37 P. M., New Train for Harrisburg, Galt, Guelph and North. 3.50 P. M., Pacific Express, instead of 3.50 P. M. 7.05 P. M., daily except Sunday, running through to London, instead of 7.18 P. M. Express at 7.50 P. M., for Brantford and Woodstock, will be cancelled.

TORONTO BRANCH. 7.45 A. M., daily except Sunday, for Toronto and Montreal, instead of 7.56 A. M. 2.00 P. M., daily except Sunday, for Toronto. 6.35 daily except Sunday, instead of 6.25 P. M. 7.10 P. M. daily instead of 6.55 P. M. 9.05 P. M., Eastern Flyer, instead of 8.50 P. M. 8.55 P. M., Toronto Express, instead of 8.40 P. M. Express will not run through to Muskoka and Parry Sound; to Toronto only.

For tickets and full information, call at City Office, Queen Street East, or at C. E. Morgan, C. P. & T. W. G. Webster, Stuart Street Station.

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