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Stella Mordant:

The Cruise of the "Kingfisher."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

While Ralph the earl had been drifting from passive vice into actual crime, Rath and Edward had been working with an energy which, if a little less feverish than before, was impatient of every darkening hour. Their golden harvest, a treasure trove which falls to the lot of few men, was comparatively easy to get at, and they amassed—it is the only word that suits—a large quantity of gold in the nugget and in dust.

This they packed into boxes, which Rath made of strong planks, groaning at the waste of time; for to these two men every occupation which took them from their gold-digging was regarded as an imposition hard to bear.

As each box was filled, it was buried in a corner of the hut; and Rath and Edward used in the evening to lie full length before the fire, resting their aching limbs, and speculating as to the value of their daily increasing hoard. Then, when they had come to something like an agreement, they would fall silent. Edward would think of Mary, of her surprise and delight at his wealth, and picture their meeting; and Rath would dwell upon his memory of Stella, and wonder whether his share of the gold was to be of any use to him; for assuredly, if she were lost, all the money in the world could not console him.

When the Indians arrived, the two men, who had timely notice of their approach, led their work at the precious hill-side, and made up the bundle of pelts and other produce, and Edward cautioned Rath to seem as keen in his dealing, lest the Indians should suspect the existence of the gold. They had brought two carts drawn by shaggy ponies in pairs, and Rath bargained for one of the carts, explaining that he wanted it for hunting purposes. The Indians were not very willing to part with it; but Rath tempted them with good barter, and a cart and a couple of ponies were left behind when the Indians took their departure.

Rath and Edward watched them ride away with a sigh of relief. "They suspected nothing," said Rath, with anxious interrogation. "No," said Edward; "but you can never tell; and in case one of them happened to be sharper than the rest—they say that gold has a scent which proclaims its presence to the

man who has once handled it in the rough—we will stick up notices of claim in the workings."
They returned to their toil in the morning, but after a day or two Edward began to grow thoughtful. He would lean on his pick or shovel, and gaze before him with an absent, wistful expression which Rath noticed and understood, though he said nothing; and he was not surprised when, one evening as they lay before the fire, Edward said, with a flush of something like shame:

"Rath, I can't stand it any longer! Don't be angry, old chap. I've held my tongue and fought against the fever within me for some days, hoping that it would pass; but it's got the upper hand of me, and—and if we don't get away I shall go mad."

Rath nodded in his silent way; but though he was silent, he was full of sympathy. A warm mutual regard and affection had grown up between the two men, and they had learnt to read each other's thoughts, as men do when they have been living together alone for some time.

"To make it worse, I had a dream last night," Edward went on, half shamefacedly. "I dreamt that Mary was ill, or in some trouble—I couldn't quite make out which; but I woke with a cry, I think—"

"I heard you," said Rath, succinctly. "—And found I was bathed in perspiration. That dream haunted me all day—it's absurd, of course; but—"

He passed his hand through his hair and sighed. "Then the sight of that cart has unsettled me, Rath; I thought that we have the means of carting the stuff away, and the reflection that the trail to Vancouver is still open, but may soon be closed by the snow." He rose and paced the narrow space. "We're rich men, Rath, at the present moment. Heaven only knows how rich prospectively. We could either come back, or sell the diggings; in either case we should be worth—oh, I can't calculate! Let us go!" he broke off, suddenly.

Rath looked up gravely. "I am ready," he said, simply. "I am willing to go or to stay, but I'd rather go. I have only been waiting for you. You have a distinct hope while I—"

His head drooped and he shut his lips tightly.

Edward laid a hand on his shoulder.

"We'll hope that your chance of finding her is a good one, Rath," he said. "Let what may await me at home, I'll help you look for her. In simple truth, I don't think I could be happy if you were not. We've been good friends, you and I, Rath; more like brothers than friends, and come what will, we won't be separated."

Rath took the hand Bryan stretched out to him and pressed it in his strong grip. "I sha'n't write to my people," said Edward, thoughtfully. "In the first place, I—well, I want to surprise them. Everybody there thinks of me rather pityingly as a kind of bad egg, and I want to enjoy the amazement which they will exhibit when they find that I've been able to make a fortune after all. Sounds rather weak and childish, but—"

"I understand," said Rath. The simple words had become almost a formula with him by this time. "Then, again, I feel that if I wrote I must let the cat out of the bag; and it wouldn't be safe. The dear mother would open her heart to someone, our

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secret would be known, and in these days of telegraphs and ocean greyhounds it wouldn't be long before the diggings were like an ant-hill. No; we'll cart the stuff to Victoria and get it aboard a ship."

"Not sell it there?" asked Rath. "No, no! Everybody would want to know where we came from, and the mine would be discovered. No; we must get the stuff to London, shipping it as ordinary merchandise, and sell it there, and, if we decide to do so, the mine itself. "The Island Gold Mining Company, Limited. Capital—what shall we put it at, old chap? Two, three millions?" he asked, with a laugh and a flush of excitement. "Pon my word, I don't think the latter sum would be too heavy."

Rath nodded. He was not in the least excited. Two, three, four millions were all the same to him if he could not recover Stella. They constrained themselves to work until they had filled the sixth box, then they commenced to make their preparations for departure. Rath looked round the hut with a sad wistfulness on the last night. It was his home; it was more than that; it had been the home of Stella, and the birth place of the passionate, enduring love which still engrossed all his mind and heart.

"You won't take more than you can help, Rath?" said Edward, as Rath proceeded to take a box. "No," said Rath. "There are some things of my father's—the books—they would be spoiled if they were left behind, and—I think that is all."

He had already seen the small tin case, which he had found under Stella's pillow, inside the pocket of his coat.

"The rest can remain. If—if I don't find her, I shall come back," he added quietly.

"We'll find her, I'm sure of it!" said Edward, almost solemnly.

Rath went on packing the books silently. As he was taking them from the rough shelves he came upon an old leather writing-case. It was stained with dust and mould, but it was quite sound, and locked. "What have you got there?" asked Edward, as Rath turned the thing over and regarded it gravely. "Something of my father's," said Rath. "It is full of something—papers, I think."

Edward looked at it curiously. "These are his initials, I suppose? Have you got the key to it?" Ralph shook his head. "No," he said, thoughtfully. The sight, the touch of the old case, recalled his father. "I won't open it now."

"They might be papers of importance and value," suggested Edward; "aren't you at all curious?" Rath looked up dreamily.

"No," he replied. "Why should I be? What does it matter—now?" "Well, put it somewhere safely, and where you can get at it," said Edward. "In England, in the world, we attach a great deal of importance to such papers as that may contain; and you're going there, you know, old fellow."

Rath put the case amongst the books, and paused in his packing to realize that he was leaving the island, the place in which his father

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As here shown, white linen was used, with the waist fronts embroidered in blue. This style is good for combinations of materials, for ginghams, crepe, taffeta, serge, voile or poplin. The over blouse is cut in jacket style and with deep front opening. The back is slashed to hold the girdle, which may be omitted. The skirt is gored and laid in deep plaits, at the seams. The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: 10, 12, 14 and 16 years. It requires 3 yards of 24 inch material for a 14 year size. A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

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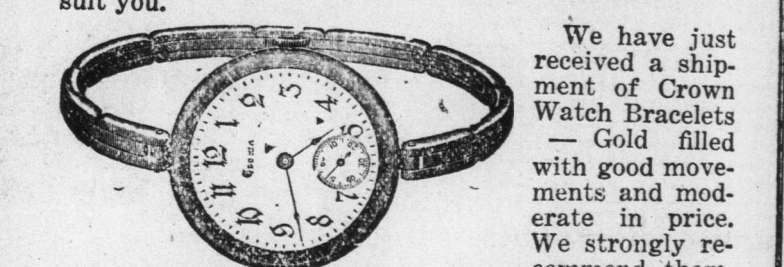
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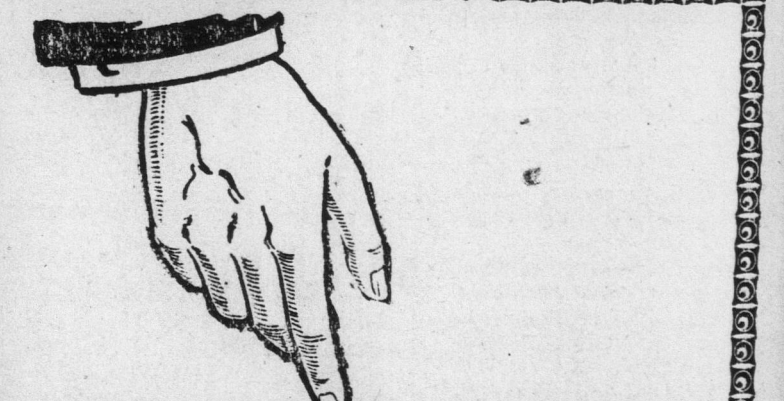
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AT THE NICKEL.

Centenary of St. John's Methodism

Editor Evening Telegram.
Sir,—Since my letter of Tuesday last in your paper asking for the loan of portraits of eight pioneer Methodist preachers named therein, I have had one photograph sent, and also (which is nearly as good) the names and addresses of other persons who could lend some of the wished-for portraits. To those I have already written.
Now, perhaps, there are others who are not able to lend the photos themselves, yet if they would only think it over could send me the names of other persons in the country, from whom I might get the other photos desired. Having so nearly reached the goal I should like to gather all in. I will repeat the names of the ministers:—
John Cubitt (1816); Minian Bannister (1816); John Bell (1818); William Wilson (1820); Thomas Hicks (1824); Thomas Tompkins (1831); George Ellidge (1834); John Smith (1834).
Will any of your readers oblige by doing so as promptly as possible?
Yours, with thanks,
J. W. NICHOLS,
Secretary.

Exhibition Projected.

The Mechanics' Society held its regular meeting last night. After general routine business was gone through, considerable discussion took place in regard to the repairs to the hall and the heavy cost incurred thereby. It was decided to hold a mechanical exhibition and sale of work during the first week of November next to help defray the expenses incurred in renewing the roof and otherwise renovating the building. It was also agreed upon at the meeting that every member make some article relating to his own trade, which article can be sold at the exhibition for the benefit of the Society. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the members of this old institution will be attended with much success.

Patriotic Movement.

At the public meeting of the Regatta Committee to be held the latter part of this month for the purpose of deciding about the abandoning of the Regatta for this year, there will also be considered the feasibility of holding a "Garden Party" in the set down of White Hill Lake on the first Wednesday in August, in aid of the Patriotic Fund. The idea is considered good and no doubt will meet with the approval of the Regatta Committee. It may be pointed out that the first Wednesday in August is set down as a general holiday and there is no event already booked for that day.

Amusements.

A GORGEOUS PANTOMIME BY ROSSLEYS.
Last night Rossley's was crowded to the doors, and its safe to say that the pantomime will be town talk for his positively beautiful. Mr. Ballard Brown, the villain of the play, sang an Italian song in great style; Miss Locke made a delightful Boy Blue, and was loudly applauded, as she deserved to be; Mr. Deakin, as the old Pame, was also very good; Bonnie Rossley, as Bo Peep, was charming in her quaint costume, also in her magnificent wedding costume. The Sunshine Girls excelled themselves. The Transformation scene was one of the most beautiful sights ever seen and will have cost money, time and wonderful patience. The dances of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter were delightful. Jack Rossley, as little Simon, who bought a watch and all the works fell out, had the crowd ed house in roars of laughter. There is a special matinee on Wednesday under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor, Lady Davidson and the Misses Davidson.

AT THE CRESCENT.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen, young and old, attended the Crescent Picture Palace last night and were charmed with the big show for little money. The headliner "The Passing of Diana" is a great 2-reel special feature by the Vitagraph Co., beside two splendid dramas and comedies. Mrs. Hannaford sings the Irving Berlin's fine ballads and music furnished by the talented pianist Mrs. Nurse. It is appropriate and classy. The same show will be repeated to-day and the admission for the summer months is five cents. On to-morrow another big 2-reel "The Right of Way" will be the headliner.

BRITISH THEATRE.

A splendid entertainment was presented at the above house last night. The consensus of opinion being that it was undoubtedly a "bill" of exceptional merit. The two reel photo play "Grendolyn" adapted from one of the late George Eliot's famous works.