#### SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS

bel Stormont, daughter of Sir David nont, a wealthy Scotch country genin, disappears without leaving the slightrace. She was a quiet, retiring girl only one distinguishing feature—beauTitian hair, which had been a mark a Stormont family for generations. Her a Stormont family for generations. Her a Basil Conyers comes from London to the search for her, and finally receives igenee that a girl answering to her detion has been seen with a band of gypties. The search for her, and finally receives igenee that a girl answering to her detion has been seen with a band of gypties. The search for her, and finally receives igenee that a girl answering to her detion has been seen with a band of gypties. The search for her find the seen of the seems to another girl. All memory experiences has been wiped out by the times she has undergone, and she begins will fire the seen with the seen more of outsinly kind. The seems to be more of outsinly kind no details of her sown is found.

### CHAPTER XXV (Continued)



ITH but one goo hotel open, and only a sprinkling of guests dotted over itsbig rooms, the little English contingent was thrown more together than if there had been the usual crowd. To-lessen the constraint of the long, lamplit evenings Lady Stormont had given her voiceagainsta private sitting room,

but she regretted it now, since it was impossible to exclude Ashe, a recent guest, a man to whom they owed an unforgettable debt, from their circle. Why she now found his presence so irksome she could hardly say. That Basil should resent it she did not wonder. A man in love is always one-sided, but that a man in Ashe's position should presume to Miss Stormont was absurd, and all the more as Isobel evidently avoided him; but before another day had passed Lady Stormont had become

#### CHAPTER XXVI IPHIGENIA.

WAS not only Lady Stormont who had wondered uneasily at Isobel's sudden variations of mood. Convers had observed them, too, and his deep inward discomfort was forced to attribute them in some way to Ashe's presence, though he had to admit that the latter strolled along to all appearance little affected by them. The truth was that Isobel's endurance was reaching the breaking point. Since she had flung her last taunt at Ashe, that meeting under the chapel por-

tico might have been a bad dream

for all the reference he made to

undertake to leave Zermatt today I'll hold my tongue, and that's more than you deserve." Conyers' words were purposely as insulting as a blow, but Ashe only answered easily. "It would be a bad thing for most of us if we got what

alone, but if there's any more of this I won't spare you. There are some things

of Conyers arm, heard his voice in her ear through the uproar. "We'll have to make a fight for it; there's no shelter here." cousin bullied or blackmailed. If you'll

And step by atep they battled on against the furious wind through the sufforating smother of snow. It was still early in the afternoon, but so thing for most of us if we got the laden clouds, so browne of our friends think we deserve."

'It's no question of friends," said digious the downfall of snow, that what light struggled through was laded they had darkness to contend that which held such consequences so with, too, their plight would have places was built up with huge-rough blocks along the edge of the ravine,

Isobel was about to withdraw softly. For once her mother was wholly unconscious of her presence, and this aspect of her mother was wholly new to her. It was not the face which had now grown familiar to her, but the face of Marian Drummond, the woman whose patient, steadfast heart had not think: "I've played the game been hopeless. As it was, it was dessen stronger than her pride, who square," he went on. "I'd have let you perate enough, for the path in many had waited long for the love which came back to her at last.
"My own wife," Sir David kept re-

and, making one step to his wife's side, caught her in his arms.

"My wife, my dear wife-my own-my very own-my wife!" he gasped, as if overcome by some sudden, uncontrollable emotion.

I wouldn't have been guilty of such a present, but should you break it to me fatuous proceeding unless, as you see, I —well, I will make that document just fatuous proceeding unless, as you see, I had something to offer. 'Knowledge is power' sometimes, though not so often, That, I think, would somewhat repower' sometimes, though not so often, perhaps, as the copybooks would have us believe. It will save time, however, if you will allow me to state what I happen to know, and then you can decide what it is worth, or," with a smile,

"kick me out, if you please. I shall be as brief as I can." "It will be better," said Sir David, sternly, as he resumed his seat. "I can understand, though, that you should

wish to justify your conduct if you "I think you will agree with me that

barefaced fortune-hunter you think me. know the exact value of your word at dress the balance as to general respect. I shall write you a check just now if you like, as I don't think there is anything further to be said, or, if you prefer to think over it till tomorrow, you can let me know your price then," Sir David was no longer inclined to choose his words. "Till to-morrow then-very well," and he sat down to his letters, turning his back upon Ashe.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

AS A MAN SOWS.

THE sun rose next morning upon a dazzling wonder world, in which, in earth or heaven, there were but two colors, blue and white but such blue and such white Nothing could change the contours of the eternal peaks, but down in the valley every shape and outline was smoothed or wholly concealed by the muffling mantle of ineffable white. A keen frost had crisped the surface which, while it made walking possible, rendered the task of clearing the railway all the harder, while the road was even more unfavorable for a carriage.

In any case, Isobel was, however, hardly fit to travel. Her adventure in the snowstorm-at least Lady Stormont supposed that to be the cause-had left her feverish and excited. She started at every footfall, every sound, as if she were on the strain of expectation. "Is my father out?" she asked at last abruptly; "I have not seen him tisis

morning." "He went out early, but he may have come in again," said Lady Stormont, both surprised and pleased that Isobel should ask for her father. "If you will promise me to rest for a little, I shall go and see."

The great deserted place seemed more silent than usual as she went to Sir David's room in search of him. What had become of every one? she wondered. Convers had sent up a message of inquiry for Isobel, but she had seen nothing of him nor of Ashe that morning; though the latter was no cause for regret. The room was still empty, but conspicuous on the writing table was a bulky envelope, which, to her surprise, was addressed to herself. She looked at it wonderingly for a moment before ft occurred to her to open it.

After one glance at the first few senences she swiftly crossed the room and locked the door. She would need silence and solitude for what lay before

"Marian, my dear wife, dearer than ever to me, though of late I have given you little reason to think so," the letter



"He did not even look at her as he stepped between her and Ashe."

a man can do, and more things he can't

presume to be another day before the content day had placed below the content day had been day to be a second day of below the day of b

ren look at her as he stepped between he and a false step amid the muffling snow would held them to the depths of the gorge, where far away down, when the writhing mists parted, they could catch a glimpse of the jagged black spikes of the pines.

"Are we in danger?" Isobel asked once in a low voice.

"Well, a slip here would be rather awkward," said Conyers as cheerfully as he could.

With one arm he was supporting Isobel, with the other hand feeling for the path with his stick, which he devoutly wished had been an alpenstock.

"If only you can hold on, we shall soon be past the worst of it," he added.

But cold and fatigue were doing their work, and to Isobel at that moment that swift downward slide through the soft yielding snow seemed the easier part—no more questions, no more struggle, Basil with her, not doubting nor wondering any more.

"You're getting tired. I wish you'd let me carry you a bit." Basil's voice seemed to come from a long distance off, and she roused herself to shake off the deepening stupor.

"Carry me! You couldn't. It is only in stories that full-grown young women are picked up and carried like feather-weights," with a valiant effort to make light of the situation.

"I carried you once, dear, and for a good way, toe," said Conyers, and suddenly the choking hand about his heart gave way. It is not easy to maintain a hard and critical attitude toward the beautiful woman of your love when facing a common danger together your arm upholding her and clasping her lithe warmth to your side. That Impossible scene in the chapel had filed Conyers with bitterness unspeakable, but the peril, the siruggle they were sharing, Isobel's courage, her effort not to be a burden on him, had all been telling on him, and now the barrier was burst and his heart flowed out to her again. "Isobel," he said, as the wind slackened a little and breathing was less toil, "I don't want to pry, but I would like to help you if I could. That fellow Ashe is a dangerous snake. I hoppe he's at the bottom of the ravine, though

peating. "Marian, I have been a sorry husband to you. I have tried you sorely since-since-"
"David, my husband, my love," in a voice of infinite soothing tenderness and gentle patience, "I know you have been sorely troubled-sorely distressed-but trust me, dear; has my love-my trust-ever failed you?"
There was a sudden smart tap at the door, and in very German English a waiter's voice said"Mistare Ashe requests most special to see Sir David Stormont."

I have done so when I have finished,"

work of the state in the proper between her and shade."

The work of the state is the company of the state of

# INSPECTO

Over Fifty Million Some Abuses Over Oat Inspe

At the convention of grain held at Saskatoon recently Horn, chief grain inspecto paper, which the Saskatoo reports as follows:

In appearing amongst naturally expected to say about inspection, as so mu criticism of inspection is of misapprehension and standing. A grain inspect in a peculiar position, ina
he can never expect to give
tion. He is in the posit
arbiter, and in any arbitr often as not, one or other ties is dissatisfied. He mu he believes to be the right matter how assailed or bes one is impressed with the tures and worth of his own and is more or less bli drawbacks and defects, so that I always tell grain their own opinion about grain is worthless. The procedure and work

ing on the inspection is as ried out and safeguarded possible under conditions ist at present. The mode dum of meeting the trains ing the samples has so ofte plained that it is now fami of you, and I hardly know ter to accomplish it. The c samples are wrong sometic a mistake has been made in ple, has never been substant men never go out singly they go in gangs or sets, of a foreman, and the worl ed systematically. I alw plenty of efficient and reli My deputies are all men come forward under mysel have been familiar with me years. All are tried and tr

There has been inspecte crop nearly forty million wheat, over eight million oats, two million bushels and about a quarter of bushels of flaxseed.

The frost damage was The frost damage was peculiar to the crop of t causing a third of the inspect below three nor sixty per cent. of the dawhite. On barley the da equally bad, whilst flaxed much affected, the crop of the largest we ever had all of high quality. This age made the work of more than usually difficul essitated the convening of essitated the convening of dard board to make sta the wheat offered. The prijected for smut and for be with other grain has for some years, but the quite a percentage of no not being kept quite dry partly accounted for by

the low grade being so h into good condition. The frosted oats in this a serious complication. the position that these should come under the N fication, by interests in mediately served me by that I would be personal for damages, as also the if oats carrying a No. proved to be frost dama taking legal counsel on

I was advised that this and that I could be held Some years ago a simi arose in regard to Alben although their oats had desirable appearance very much more than oats, they could not be to the same grades on their being damaged by standards board that special commercial gra the case of their oats these grades "one Alber Alberta" rather then he classed rejected. Strang action displeased Albert

> pared with Manitoba or counted so much in cor Manitoba oats that in ation they moved to ha of standards for oats the control of the st and next time the ac amendment by parliam accomplished, and specially exempted fro trolled or interfered wit by any action of the st This is the explanation the standards board crop, they did not ta this question of our fr this crop. They did no thority, and there was but reject them as no in the requirements o grades as defined by the exclusion of oats from the standards board, ious mistake, and the able efforts of your well direct your energ

Their fine appearing o

The inspector's offic formation shippers re But it is surprising and how inexact ma in writing. The num the key to everythin that car, and we at