

LORD MORDEN'S DAUGHTER — OR — THE TRAGEDY OF THE CEDARS.

CHAPTER XXXI.

"That same evening Viscount Melville alighted from a cab at the door of the mean little house in the New Cut.

He asked the man who answered his peremptory knock if Gooding & Wright had apartments there.

"I have some work for them," he explained, "and believe that this is the address they gave."

"Yes, they live here," replied the man; "but I can't say that they are both in. The old man doesn't go out much, though. What name shall I say, please?"

"It is quite immaterial. Say, you can tell them that I come from Edmund; they will understand."

"Come inside, sir," the man said, respectfully. He was somewhat overawed by the faultless attire of the stranger and the flashing gem that adorned one of the fingers of his left hand.

He hurried upstairs, but was soon back again, and invited Melville to follow him.

"Only the old man in," he said, "and he nearly jumped out of his skin when I told him that a gentleman had come from Edmund."

"Thank you," replied the viscount. "That will do. Kindly see that we are not disturbed for half an hour."

So saying, he turned the knob of Locksley's door, entered the room, and held up a warning hand to the startled occupant.

"You!" hissed Locksley. "My dear friend—peace! peace! I beg to you. Do not let others into our secrets. I have come here in obedience to your son's wishes—in obedience to Edmund's wishes, and if you are wise you will at least listen to me in silence."

"I do not believe you," panted Locksley. "I do not believe one word that you say. If you have hunted me down, do not keep me in suspense; I am ready to go to prison; I am ready to stand my trial for the heinous offenses of which I have been guilty."

A look of distress passed over Melville's flexible features.

"Locksley, old friend—it is not this. I have come to save you, to save you and poor Edmund the horrors of the disgrace that must be yours and his if you will not listen."

"I am listening," replied the wretched man, "but I doubt every word that you utter."

"Were I half so bad as you believe me to be, what would be easier than a cry for the police? Your son has confidence in me, and you, above all, should pardon the sin of craving for wealth, and it is this, and this alone, that has at times killed the man within me and raised the fiend. I have wrung money from you by threats which were empty. I now plead for you to come home before the scandal has time to spread. Why sacrifice yourself, and, above all, your only child, for one who has been dead for many years? It cannot benefit him, it cannot benefit any one, but will scatter untold misery about your own hearthstone. Make all the restitution you please in a monetary sense—return all you have taken, every penny; but, for Heaven's sake, drop the mad, the quixotic notion yourself as a murderer!"

"It is too late," groaned Locksley. "I have sent full particulars to my lawyers."

"No, it is not too late, old friend. I anticipated that you would do something of this kind, and went to the lawyers at once. I believed that you were mad when you disappeared in the night, and I declared that you were so to them. I begged of them to regard your raving as worthless, and your papers were sent to me unopened."

"I believe that you are right, Melville," Locksley said, at length, "and I know that you are not now plotting for money. You cannot be. By this stroke you lose all."

He was silent for a little while, then asked:

"Why did my son not come to me again? Will he ever forgive me, Melville? Think of it, Melville! I took the life of his wife's father!"

"And is it to be trumpeted to the world? Is she to know it? Never, Locksley, never!"

He spoke with a fervor that carried conviction of his sincerity to the heart of the vacillating old man.

"And the money you have hoarded, my old friend—the money is all here, and Edmund's! Do you not see how happily all may yet end? Ah! if you had but trusted me, even your son might never have known—might never have suffered one pang by knowing that which carries evil wherever it be spread."

He took Locksley's hand, and it was not withdrawn from his grasp; he smiled to think that the magnetic power he had exercised over this man was not yet dead.

"I promised Edmund that I would take you back to 'The Cedars' with me, if you were well enough to travel. The poor boy was sorely stricken by the confession you made to him, but places implicit trust and confidence in me now, as he did in the old days."

"I do not think I can go with you now, Melville, unless my boy is waiting for me," said Locksley. "My man is away—by man Peters."

"Peters! Ah, I understand that he had remained firm to his old allegiance. He must be well rewarded for this, Locksley. True friends are few and far between."

"Peters is as true as steel."

"And you have told him all."

"I have."

Melville bit his lip.

"I am sorry for that," he said. "I do not doubt the man's honesty, but his mind is hardly of the caliber to give valuable advice to his master. I do not think that Peters holds me in very high favor, but if you will speak to him, Locksley, and refute some of the dreadful things that have been laid to my charge, I may rise in the faithful fellow's estimation."

"I will not forget this, Melville. I believe that I must have been mad to act as I have done; but I thought you wanted me dead, and I was afraid of dying with so much on my soul."

He shed a few weak tears, and the viscount placed before him a pencil and sheet of note paper.

"Write a few words to Peters," he said. "Tell him that you have gone back home, and say that he is to follow you."

"I would prefer to wait for him," objected Locksley.

"Then I will make myself content for a while," smiled Melville. "Though it is rather hard on my cabman, and



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Edmund promised to wait until nine for you."

"Is he not staying at 'The Cedars'?"

"You forget, old friend, that your son is married; that he has a home of his own. A pretty place it is, too, at Richmond. Lady Clare and I visited him yesterday."

Melville seated himself at the window and pretended to be absorbed in a newspaper, while he watched his victim narrowly.

"If Edmund is waiting, I think a note to Peters will suffice," Locksley muttered at length. "I promised Peters that I would never leave this house under any pretext, without him."

Melville did not reply, and Locksley wrote a few words on the paper before him, saying:

"I am ready, Melville—I am ready. I have told Peters to follow me to 'The Cedars' the moment he returns."

"That is right!" assented the viscount.

Then he assisted the old man into his coat and they went downstairs together.

The cab was waiting at a dark corner, and the viscount smiled when he handed Locksley into it.

He sat down beside his companion and shouted to the driver the word: "Home!"

The horse plunged forward under the lash of the whip, then reared, for a firm grasp had seized the reins near to the bit, and a savage voice, the voice of Peters, demanded:

"What is the meaning of this? Where are you going to, master?"

"It is all right, Peters; I am going back home. Edmund has sent for me, and I have left a note asking you to follow at once."

(To be continued.)

Just Folks.

By EDGAR GUEST.

NATURE'S LAW.

Well you can argue 'till the crack of doom
And point your fingers to the stubborn facts,
But unconcerned the roses come to bloom
And silently the law of nature acts.

'Tis long admitted two and two make four,
Thistles breed thistles whereso'er they grow,
Chance does not bring contentment to your door,
Fate is not fashioned by the dice you throw.

Folly and trouble travel hand in hand,
Wisdom is never easy to attain;
Who builds his castle on the shifting sand
Shall have but loss and wreckage for his gain.

For ages long despair has followed sin;
Grim nature sets her price and takes it, too;
However much the shameful seem to win
Only the strong shall see the battle through.

The wisest children come from parents wise,
On honest conduct happiness depends,
That blissful ignorance which blinds men's eyes
In sorrow and disaster always ends.

Banish Pimples
By Using
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What Crime Costs

Statistics have been compiled by financial houses, assurance companies, and chambers of commerce which give the immense total of twenty million pounds as the annual toll exacted by all kinds of criminal procedure.

"Long-firm frands" and fraudulent bankruptcies, by which manufacturers and agents are swindled by men who open business never meaning to pay for the goods they secure, account for £10,000,000 of the total.

Forgeries, embezzlements, and fraudulent dealings in shares amount to another £2,500,000. Burglary, house-breaking, and pocket-picking account for more than £2,000,000. Half a million pounds' worth of property was stolen last year in London alone; and the proceeds of robberies in the next ten largest cities of the country reached £750,000.

Vast sums are lost by railway pilfering and the stealing of goods in transit, although this class of crime is steadily decreasing owing to the efficiency of the railway police and detective services.

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World's Biggest Family

What is known as the Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition has been brought into prominence again by the re-opening of the great exhibition at Wembley. The movement, which has the support of the Prince of Wales, has for its object the welding of Empire-lovers into one great family, each member of which is pledged to do his or her utmost for its welfare.

It is realized that the Empire is a vast trading concern, in which we are all shareholders. Anyone can become an associate of the Fellowship by a payment of only five shillings, which entitles the subscriber to a handsome certificate signed by the Prince, a special badge, and two tickets of admission to the Exhibition. Already many people have joined, and this year it is likely that their ranks will be greatly augmented.

For a good Kidney Pill—try Juniper Pills—25c. at STAFFORD'S—apr27,1mo

Lighted by the Wind

A small windmill that turns a generator provides sufficient electricity to give adequate light in every room in Mr. G. Robinson's house at Sandwich, in Kent. A five-mile-an-hour wind is sufficient to revolve the two small vanes and charge the storage batteries. The vanes are so delicately balanced on the top of a ten-foot support that the merest breath of wind will turn them round.

As much more current is made than is necessary to light the eight lamps in the house, Mr. Robinson charges his wireless accumulator with the surplus.

The whole apparatus cost only 100 pounds to install, and nothing has been spent since it was put to twelve months ago. So long as there is wind, electricity can be made.

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U.M.W. EXECUTIVE FOR MINERS INDIANAPOLIS

An opportunity for product of strikes in the fields of Nova Scotia, Virginia, and Kentucky, the International Executive United Mine Workers burned yesterday. The been in session since officials decline to state the

CANONIZATION

All the religious command of the church was displayed in Peter's on the occasion of the ceremony of canonization of Sister Theresia of Lisieux, Carmelite nun, France. Sister Theresia was canonized in 1923. All the lights and lightning bolts to preserve the sanctity of the Basilica which is a relic of natural and recalling the promise of a few days before after my death I will from Heaven a rain of

EARL OF YPRES

The Earl of Ypres, Marshal Sir John French, underwent an operation to preserve the leg, covered in an ambulance, fatal to his Kent residence. The patient stood the

COMMUNISTS RESIST

Communist Russia's indignation against the partition at Sata, Bulgaria, recently sentenced as respombing outrages.

RUM FLEET DIPP

NEW YORK

An observation cruise of the Atlantic City, N.J., which revealed about 12 rumsips in that area, which storage for over 60 rums the time the coastguard blurted on May 5.

U.S. DEPTS.

WASHINGTON

Debt settlement, negotiating not only with Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Greece, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

EXPLOSION IN

NOBOLK

Two sailors were injured in an explosion on the Italian steamer, the ship's Point. The explosion believed to have been a cumulation of gas in the followed by fire, which engulfed with the assistant guard cutter and a fire

BRIDE SENTENCE

LOS ANGELES

Bernice Day, the bride rejected of disfiguring with her husband, Darryl Day, a Chicago capitalist, was serve one to five years in a penitentiary prison yesterday.

FAVORITE BEAT

KENTUCKY

CHURCHILL DENNS,

May 18.—Flying Chony, Earl Sande, won the 500,000-erby yesterday, while eigh rain soaked spectators acclamation. Captain second and Son John t. 12.5. Flying Bony won the. The favorite, Quarter in the race from the lished last.

THE COST OF THE RUM

NEW YORK

A billion dollars rum run is being conducted by States coast guards with equipment, Government announced to-day, there are rum running, it is according to aut. Co. phan S. Yeand, aide to and commandant near Ad