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"The Man Who Disappeared."

CHAPTER XI.
Florence Declares Her Allegiance.
(Continued.)

"Neither do I, but for the sake of your society—"

"All right, I'll get the Kenbys first, and pick you up here on the way to the park. You can take Mr. Kenby off our hands, and leave me free to cheer up Florence."

This assignment regarding Mr. Kenby had a moderating effect on Larcher's pleasure, both at that moment and during the drive itself. But he gave himself up heroically to starting the elder man on favorite topics, and listening to his discourse thereon. He was rewarded by seeing that Edna was indeed successful in bringing a smile to her friend's face now and then. Florence was drawn out of her abstracted air; she began to have eyes for the scenes around her. It was a clear, cool, exhilarating afternoon. In the winding drive ways of the park, there seemed to be more than the usual number of fine horses and pretty women, the latter in handsome wraps and with cheeks radiant from the frosty air. Edna was adroit enough not to prolong the drive to the stage of numbness and melancholy. She had just ordered the coachman to drive home, when the rear of the carriage suddenly sank a little and a wheel ground against the side. Edna screamed, and the driver stopped the horses. People came running up from the walks, and the words "broken axle" went round.

"We shall have to get out," said Larcher, holding the way. He instantly helped Florence to alight, then Edna and Mr. Kenby.

"Oh, what a nuisance!" cried Edna. "We can't go home in this carriage of course."

"No, miss," said the driver, who had resigned his horses to a park policeman, and was examining the break. "But you'll be able to pick up a cab in the avenue yonder. I'll send for one if you say so."

"What a bore!" said Edna, vexatiously.

Several conveyances had halted, for the occupants to see what the trouble was. From one of them—an automobile—a large, well-dressed man strode over and greeted Larcher with the words:

"How are you? Had an accident?"

It was Mr. Bagley. Larcher briefly answered, "Broken axle."

"Well," said Edna, annoyed at being the centre of a crowd, "I suppose we'd better walk over to Fifth Ave. and take a cab."

"You're quite welcome to the use of my automobile for your party," having swiftly inspected the members of that party.

As Edna, hearing this, glanced at Bagley with interest, and Larcher with inquiry, Larcher felt it was his cue to introduce the newcomer. He did so with no very good grace. At the name of Bagley, the girls exchanged a look. Mr. Kenby's manner was gracious, as was natural toward a man who owned an automobile and had an air of money.

"I'm sorry you've had this breakdown," said Bagley, addressing the party collectively. "Won't you do me the honour of using my car? You're not likely to find an open carriage in this neighbourhood."

"Thank you," said Edna, chillyly. "We can't think of putting you out."

"Oh, you won't put me out. There's nobody but me, and the chauffeur. My car holds six people. I can't allow you to go for a carriage when mine's here waiting. It wouldn't be right if I can set you all down at your homes without any trouble."

During this speech, Bagley's eyes had rested first on Edna, then on Mr. Kenby, and finally for a longer time on Florence. At the end, they went back to Mr. Kenby, as if putting the office of reply on him.

"Your kindness is most opportune," said Mr. Kenby, mistaking cordiality enough to make up for the coldness of the others. "I'm not at my best to-day, and if I had to walk any distance, or wait here in the cold, I don't know what would happen."

He started at once for the automobile, and there was nothing for the girls to do, to short of prudery or haughtiness, but to follow him; nor for Larcher to do but follow the girls.

Bagley sat in front with the chauffeur, but, as the car few along, he turned half around to keep up a shouting conversation with Mr. Kenby. His glance went far enough to take in Florence, who shared the rear seat with Edna. The spirits of the girls rose in response to the swift motion, and Edna had so far recovered her merit by the time her house was reached, as to be sorry to get down. The party was to have had tea in her flat; but Mr. Kenby decided he would rather go directly home, by automobile than wait and proceed otherwise. So he left Florence to the escort of Larcher, and remained as Mr. Bagley's sole passenger.

"That was the Mr. Bagley, was it?" asked Florence, as the three young people turned into the house.

"Yes," said Larcher. "I ought to

"Well, what? What do you remember?"

"Oh, nothing—only that appearances are sometimes deceptive, and that sort of thing."

"In assuming that Bagley's advent on the scene would make Florence more appreciative of Turf's society, Edna was right. Such, indeed, was the immediate effect. Mr. Kenby himself, though his first impression that Turf was a young man of assured fortune had been removed by the young man's own story, still encouraged his visits on the brilliant theory that Bagley, if he had intentions, would be stimulated by the presence of a rival. As Bagley's visits continued, it fell out that he and Turf eventually met in the drawing-room of the Kenby's some days after Turf's last recorded talk with Larcher. But, though they met, few words were wasted between them. Bagley, after a searching stare dismissed the younger man as of no consequence, because lacking the signs of money-grubber; and the younger man, having shown a moment's curiosity, dropped Bagley as beneath interest for possessing those signs. Bagley tried to outstay Turf; but Turf had the advantage of later arrival and of perfect control of temper. Bagley took his departure, therefore, with the dry voice and set face of one who has difficulty in holding his wrath! Perceiving that something was amiss Mr. Kenby made a pretext to accompany Bagley a part of his way, with the design of leaving him in a ray Davenport of absconding with his newly discovered Bagley. Mr. Kenby committed the blunder of taking too little account of Turf; and thus Turf found himself suddenly alone with Florence.

To be continued.

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The Evening

By RUTHERFORD



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In New York the Hotel Savoy received a hundred Bibles, the Plaza Hotel, and the Hotel Astor 500.

Now, when they get all the hotels in the country supplied, I have no other objection to the crusade than that is that they start a crusade to place Bibles in our homes.

I really think that everyone would be astonished if a census could be taken showing how many homes, houses I would say—are absolutely without a Bible.

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