

The Cost of His Head

By MRS. ALEXANDER.

"Afraid I cannot have the pleasure of dining with you today, but tomorrow I shall call. I suppose you will enter on your command the day after."

They parted cordially, Merrick walking with Capel beside away to his hotel, while the other went to the carriage.

Less than an hour after they stopped at the door of the renowned French milliner, and madame took quite an effusive farewell of her kind escort.

"I shall call and see how you are tomorrow," said Capel.

"Pray do! I'll send a line to that dear child, Grace, this evening and tell her what a delightful companion you are—what a companion for life you would make."

PAINT V.

Laughing, yet pained at the compliment, Capel drove away to his hotel, whence, after making his toilet, he went to call upon the invalid brigadier.

Still in a happy mood, he went early to inquire for Mme. de Suresne. Ah, yes; she had spoken of monsieur, but a messenger warned her that the vessel was ready to sail at the turn of the tide last night, so she hastened to depart, and must be nearly across the channel by this time.

"That is very extraordinary," exclaimed Capel. "Why, she was dead when she arrived. I am surprised that I was not informed of the Callopo's movements. I should certainly have sent a dispatch by her."

"Did the commander know that monsieur was coming?" asked mademoiselle.

"Well, perhaps not," returned Capel, rousing himself from a pained frame of mind. "Did madame send any letters to Athgarvan?"

"Yes, of course; the postilion called early this morning, soon after day-break, for a short billet which madame left for him to take back."

"Then I trust madame will have a pleasant voyage, and I need trespass no longer on your time."

Mademoiselle led him to the door with impressive civility, and Capel made his way to the quarters of the man he was to supersede.

After a long interview, in which the state of affairs in the district was fully explained to him, he took his way on foot to his hotel. Turning the corner of a street he found himself face to face with a young man in naval uniform.

"Hallo, Poyntz!" he exclaimed, recognizing a distant cousin. "What brings you here?"

"Oh, Col. Capel! Glad to see you. I am first 'tuff' of the Callopo."

"Didn't the Callopo sail last night?"

"No, certainly not; I am going aboard her now."

Capel felt profound surprise and some uneasiness. "Capt. Seton is your commander, eh?"

"Yes; do you know him?"

"No, but I would like to see and speak to him."

"He is ashore today, and dines at the Harp and Crown, as there is a big ball on."

"That's my hotel," said Capel. "I shall ask for an interview."

"He is a very good fellow—a little rough and ready."

"Come and dine with me tomorrow, Poyntz; I'll not delay you now."

So, getting handsomely rid of the young officer, Capel proceeded to his hotel, and established himself in the coffee room to watch the coming of Capt. Seton. The time passed very much earlier in those days, and before long Seton came in. A few words and several bows introduced the gentlemen to each other, and the naval officer accepted Capel's courteous invitation to dinner. It was half over, when the host started the topic of the disaffected state of the country, and expressed his annoyance at having to hunt down a young fellow like Costello.

"Oh, you'll get over all that after a few weeks in this queer country. As to Costello, I heard odd stories at lunch today at a house away near the coast. The gentleman had been out fishing, sea fishing, this morning, and one of the boatmen said he had had a queer job the night before. He and another had been engaged by a strange man to row an old lady out to a little bay not far beyond the harbor. This old lady was very finely dressed, and had a wail tied round her head and face. But they found a strange ship lying at anchor, and when they were alongside the old lady caught hold of a rope and climbed on board in a jiffy, like a regular sailor, showing some masculine undergarments as she did so, and a sturdy pair of legs, and the anchor was lifted, the ship swung round to the tide, and was off with a fair breeze. We sent for the young boatman, and I cross-examined him a bit. He could not make out the nationality of the man who hired the boat—he was not Irish nor English. He was small and dark and rather grumpy. I think it must have been the spy, Jefferys. It seems he has not been seen about anywhere for several days, and I fancy we will never see Costello again."

"I saw Jefferys, once," said Capel, feeling stunned. "He then said Costello was hiding in Glenariff."

"I don't believe he ever told anyone the truth, but I do know that a strange ship has been seen dodging about the coast, and I believe they have taken Costello off in disguise."

Capel was struck dumb. The whole plot flashed clearly before his mind, and he must be mute. If he confessed how bamboozled he had been, it would expose the Digbys to the anger of the ruling powers, and be acting a traitor's part. But he was deeply wounded and mortally offended. To be made a laughing stock by the woman he loved so fondly! It was unbearable. He could hardly command himself to carry on the conversation, and when alone he seized pen and paper, and wrote a stern, angry letter, which in due time produced the following reply:

"I have deserved all you say. I have deceived and betrayed you. You are right to say you will never see my face again. I can only urge that I did this to save a young life full of promise, which is most precious to my more than sister, Ellen O'Grady. Moreover, Val is completely cured of his mistaken enthusiasm. Do not think all the suffering is yours. You are wounded, insulted, disappointed, but you do not feel what do, the gnawing sting of remorse. Yet, Col. Capel, could I have done less for my old playfellow, for Ellen's cousin? God bless and keep you. We can never meet again."

Over and over did Capel read this brief epistle, and each time he felt his indignation fading away. He knew exactly how her voice would sound if she had spoken the words. Across all the cares of his command, across all the efforts at improvement, and reorganization, he caught her voice; and saw the last look he had caught from her lovely eyes.

"Roger," he said, to his soldier servant, one evening at dinner, "go round to Fogarty's stables, order a chest and four for 6 o'clock sharp tomorrow morning. I want to see Mr. Digby and return at night. I'll be back at 10 o'clock sharp."

"All right, sir."

Capel wrote out some instructions and addressed them to the next in command. Then he went to bed and tried to sleep in vain.

The next day was wet and thunderous. Unable to go out, Grace and her cousin were sitting listlessly in a sort of recess at the end of the big drawing room, from which it was divided by curtains. These the girls drew across the wide space to take off from the desolate size of the room.

"You know you have my everlasting gratitude, Grace," (Ellen O'Grady was speaking). "You have saved Val and me, for I could not have lived had he been taken; but I wish we had not brought you bad luck. Do give up hope, my dear, generous cousin. Do not regret what you have done."

"No," said Grace, slowly and very distinctly. "I do not though the cost of Val's head has been my broken heart," and covering her face with her hands, low sobs broke from her.

The curtains were pushed aside, and to their amazement Capel came quickly to her side.

"It must not break my love, my love," he said. "I was harsh and bitter, but I find that life without you is intolerable. If you can love me, I will forgive everything. Give me your heart, give me yourself, utterly and forever." He drew her to him in a passionate embrace, and as she whispered: "But I do. I have tried not to love you, and I cannot help it," his lips caught hers and clung there unrebuked. In the intense sweetness of this first kiss all indignation and bitterness were swept away forever.

Ellen O'Grady had slipped from the room at once, and going to the library encountered her uncle coming into the hall at a rapid pace.

"They tell me Col. Capel has arrived. Where is he?" exclaimed Mr. Digby, in some excitement.

"He'll be in a hurry, under I rather think he and Grace are settling that you shall see a good deal of each other in the future."

"Nelly, my heart! You don't say so?" (The End.)

FOR MCKINLEY.

Sacramento, Cal., May 7.—The Republican State convention platform declared for free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 and instructs the delegates to St. Louis to vote for McKinley.

Washington, May 7.—The trust fund account of F. J. Keckhofer, until recently disbursing officer of the State Department, is said to be short \$12,000. Mr. Keckhofer has held the position through several administrations, and was regarded as a faithful and competent official.

NO FRENCH DUEL.

Henrietta, Tex., May 7.—Hiram Curtis and Matt Bentley met at a dance at Charles Riley's near here, last night. To settle an old feud both began firing, and when the smoke cleared away both were found to be dead.

Ninety Per Cent.

Of all the people need to take a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla at this season to prevent that run-down and debilitated condition which invites disease. The money invested in half a dozen bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla will come back with large returns in the health and vigor of body and strength of nerves.

HOOD'S PILLS are easy to buy, easy to take, easy to operate. Cure all liver ills. 25c.

The Sultan's throne is of beaten gold encrusted with thousands of rubies, emeralds and pearls. According to an inscription on it the throne was taken by Sultan Selim from the Persians in 1514.

Mrs. Celeste Con, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "For years I could not eat many kinds of food without producing a burning, excruciating pain in my stomach. I took Parmenter's Pills according to directions under the head of 'Dyspepsia or Indigestion.' One box entirely cured me. I can now eat anything I choose without distressing me in the least." These pills do not cause pain or griping, and should be used when a cathartic is required.

The furnishings of the historic palace of Henry VIII. at Hampton Court are being taken away in lots by visitors from America and the continent. Beautiful tapestry chairs are destroyed, and even valuable tapestries are suffering in a like manner through lack of adequate attendance.

Piles! Piles! Itching Piles!

SYMPTOMS—Moisture, intense itching and stinging, mostly at night; worse by scratching. If allowed to continue, tumors form, which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. Swayne's Ointment stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in most cases removes the tumors. At drug stores, or by mail, 50 cents. Dr. Swayne & Son, Philadelphia. Lyman Sons & Co., Montreal, wholesale agents.

The beautiful castle of Vézille, in which the French revolution of 1788 was planned and where the conspirators met for a long time, is to be burned into a large brewery.

The use of Hall's Hair Renewer promotes the growth of the hair, and restores its natural color and beauty, frees the scalp of dandruff, tetter and all impurities.

LETTERS TO THE "ADVERTISER."

If you have a grievance to ventilate, information to give, a subject of public interest to discuss, or a service to acknowledge, we will print it in this column, provided the name of the writer is attached to his or her communication for publication. Make it as brief as possible.

VICTORIA PARK.

To the Editor of the "Advertiser": It is interesting to note the correspondence and editorial which has recently appeared in the Free Press, relative to the discussion and action taken at a meeting of the Horticultural Association, a full report of which was given in your issue of April 18.

"Citizen" is evidently laboring under an erroneous supposition that the membership of the Horticultural Association is made up wholly of commercial florists and seedsmen. In this he is much mistaken, as he is in supposing that boodle and commissioners are synonymous. While a large proportion of the members of the Horticultural Association are commercial florists and seedsmen, it is not true that the association is made up of such persons.

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Edward Blake's View.

What He Thinks of the Canadian High Tax Policy.

Some Canadian newspapers are to-day asserting that Hon. Edward Blake, now an honored representative in the British House of Commons, is a trustworthy political authority. Here is his latest statement regarding the N. P.:

"It has left us with a small population, a scanty immigration, and a Northwest empty still, with enormous additions to our public debt and yearly charge, an extravagant system of expenditure, and an unpopulated and unproductive territory, with restricted markets for our needs, whether to buy or to sell, and all the hosts of evils gravely intensified by our special conditions, these arising, with