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## The Countess of Landon.

CHAPTER XV.

He held her hand and stared at her, as if too astounded by her presumption in refusing him—the earl—to be angry.

"I don't think you know what you say, Irene," he said, at last. "You have not considered, I have taken you by surprise. I will give you time—"

"No, no, no!" she broke in. "I do not want time; I do not want to think. It can not be. Let me go, Seymour, please, I—I am tired and—"

The tears rose to her eyes.

His face reddened.

"You desire that I should let you go, as you put it?" he said in a low voice. "Do you mean to tell me that you did not know I loved you—that I meant to propose to you?"

"No, no; I did not know. Indeed, indeed I did not!" she breathed.

"It is not true!" he said, almost loudly. "You have played the coquette and led me on—yes, even to the last. Do you say that you did not guess just now what I was going to say to you?"

"I did not," she said, indignantly. "I—I thought you were going to speak of Royce."

At the mention of his name the red died away from Seymour's face and left it pale almost to lividity.

"Royce!" he hissed—"Royce! That is the key to the business. You are foolish!"—he nearly said "fool!"—"enough to love him, that vagabond and scamp!"

For a moment Irene staggered under his open brutality as if he had dealt her an actual physical blow. Her eyes closed and her lips quivered; then she drew herself up and seemed to look down at him.

"How dare you!" she panted. "How dare—" then her voice broke, and she hid her face in her hands. It was as if he had torn the veil from her heart and shown it to her in all its nakedness. Then she looked up.

"Royce is not a vagabond or a scamp, and none know it better than yourself. Do not speak—do not touch me!" for he had stretched out his hand. "You had no right to say what you have said, even—even if it were true."

She turned from him, but he fol-

hesitating, he said: "Bey your pardon, my lord, but—but I was coming up to the house to see your lordship in the morning—"

"Yes," said Seymour, blandly. "Are you in any trouble? If so, you are quite right to come to me, Giles. I am always ready to assist or—I—at least sympathize with those who are consigned by Providence to my care."

"Yes, my lord," said Giles, falteringly. "But it isn't that, my lord. I ain't in no particular trouble as I know of. It's Master Royce, my lord."

Seymour started. It seemed as if he were doomed to be haunted by his brother to-night.

"Well!" he said, harshly. "What of him?"

"I've seen him, my lord," said the man, lowering his voice to a whisper. "Yes, worse luck, I've found him, my lord."

CHAPTER XVI.

Irene went upstairs slowly until she had gained the corridor, then she ran as if she almost feared that Seymour was pursuing her. Trembling, she stood in the center of the room, her hand pressed to her bosom, her eyes dilated as if with fear. She could not think of the scene that had passed in the drawing-room without a shudder.

Few women are really offended by a man proposing to them. An offer of marriage is, after all, the greatest compliment a man can pay a woman; but there was something in Seymour's proposal which stirred her pure, innocent soul with horror. She told herself that she was unjust, that she had been unduly scornful; but it was of no use, she could not get rid of the mixture of repugnance and dread which swept over her when she recalled Seymour's words, the tone of his soft, supple voice, and the expression of his pale face as he had caught a glimpse of it with his mask off.

And what was it he had said about Royce? What was it she had almost promised? That if Royce should prove unworthy of her, then—

She broke down at the thought—fell, shuddering, on her knees, and hid her face on the bed.

While she knelt thus a strange sound reached her. It was like a sob or moan. She raised her head and listened, and heard it again. It seemed to come from the countess's room. Could she be ill?

Notwithstanding her dread of meeting Seymour again that night, she went to the door, and, unlocking it, listened. All was silent; but she could not rest under the fear that the countess was ill and alone, and very softly, yet quickly, she went to the door and knocked.

A minute elapsed before any response came; then the countess's voice said:

"Who is there?"

"It is I, Irene, madame," said Irene.

The door opened, and the countess stood with her hand-lamp raised above her head. She was still dressed; but in that instant Irene saw the Landon diamonds lying in a glittering heap on the floor, as if the countess had torn them off and flung them from her.

"What is the matter?" she asked, looking down at Irene's pale, troubled face.

"I—I thought I heard something. Let me come in, madame."

(To be continued.)

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Borden's St. Charles Milk is pure, rich, fresh, country milk from which more than half the natural water has been removed. Its creamy richness makes it ideal and economical milk for every recipe. Order from your grocer. Four sizes.

He started and stepped off the road on to the grass, and looked in the direction of the sound, and in a minute or two a man came up riding a horse and leading another.

He pulled up short at sight of the tall figure in evening-dress, and uttered an exclamation; and he touched his cap.

"Beg pardon, my lord, but you gave me rather a fright."

Seymour came forward, with something approaching his bland smile on his pale face.

"Let me see who you are."

"Giles, second groom, my lord," said the man, with a kind of suppressed eagerness, and he got off the horse and touched his cap again. "I've been to Markham Fair to buy a horse for the farm, my lord."

"Ah, yes," said Seymour. "I hope you have bought a useful one. Good-night."

"Yes, my lord," said the man; then,

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## The Mirror Most Ancient Decoration

Its Origin Goes Back to the Dawn of Civilization.

Most ancient of all accessories is the mirror, that reflecting bit of vanity which means so much in our daily life, as well as in our scheme of decoration. Its origin is shrouded in the twilight of mythology and our only real clues are the fragments which mother earth and the tombs have rendered back to us, sometimes in a fair state of preservation.

We know that glass was made by the Egyptians, yet the only mirrors that have come down to us from them, as well as from all other ancient sources, are of metal, very highly polished, and often containing silver and gold. The first form of the mirror was the hand-glass, and it is the fragments of this that remains to us. We know, however, that metal mirrors were made in sections so arranged in grooves in the wall that they could slide up and down to show the figure at full length. Cleopatra is supposed to have possessed such a mirror, but its magnificence can only be imagined, as no authentic description of it is available.

Glass mirrors coated with tin have been found in Italy that were used in the days of Pompey, but just when and where silver-backed glass was first employed has never been definitely established. As early as 1873 the Germans had acquired a knowledge of glass mirror work, and in the 15th century they invented a curious form of mirror construction called the "bull's eye."

In the 16th century the Venetians did much business in the manufacture and exporting of glasses with quicksilver backs, and in 1665 the French Government induced 20 of these glass-workers to come to Paris, where in the year 1691 a method of making plate glass was perfected which made France thereafter the mirror market of the world.

The history of mirror-making in England might be said to date from 1670. From this time on, rapid strides were made in the manufacture of looking-glasses, those of the Queen Anne and Georgian periods being particularly notable.

Mirror glass in its early stages was "blown," and beyond the length of three and one-half feet was too thin to serve as mirrors. In case a greater length was desired, it was necessary to add a second piece, and thus the longer glasses of the early eighteenth century were made in two pieces, one overlapping the other or finished with a moulding to hide the intersection.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century Chippendale-made mirrors of great charm were made, and it was during this time that Chinese designs became popular. Later, Hepplewhite and the Brothers Adam designed mirrors of real worth, the former in shield and oval shapes, usually in pairs.

During the earlier part of the Georgian period the revival of the Queen Anne mirror began, and by 1800 the lines of this model were much in evidence. Previous to this, looking-glasses were manufactured in large numbers in this country, and from 1760 to 1780 the famous "Constitution" glasses were made. This period also marked the vogue of the quaint Grandioles and Bull's Eyes.

Mantel glasses were in great demand throughout the eighteenth century, but more especially after 1760, when both oval and oblong shapes began to be popular. The cheval-glass, never at any time a common piece of furniture, enjoyed its greatest favor about 1820. Some excellent designs of this type had

been previously fashioned by the great English cabinetmakers, notably Sheraton, but comparatively few have survived in this country.—Mary Harrod Northend in July Arts and Decoration.

## Report of Enquiry

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT!

The report of Mr. T. Hollis Walker, the gentleman who conducted the public Enquiry recently, was read by all classes of our citizens with mingled feelings of regret that public men and officials occupying the most responsible positions of trust in the land should lend themselves to such acts as were committed, no matter how great the temptation; and also with a determination that something must be done, and that quickly, to make it absolutely impossible for such a thing to occur again. Mr. Warren made a start. Let it be continued.

We confess that to do this, in our opinion, Newfoundland must be "turned upside down." It is a stupendous task, and the men to do it must be men not only of ability but possessing strong moral character and the spirit of the wounded soldier who, when taken to a hospital in France said to the doctor treating him, "We did things out there that couldn't be done." The men required for the task must not be "namby-pamby" men. There are men in our midst still who can literally "laugh at impossibilities." They are men of vision, courage and determination, who are not entangled with anything having "gripes" on them, but who are perfectly free to take hold of public matters and clean things up without fearing anything that may be said against them.

It is up to the people to find them. But in the cleansing process the people themselves—every man of us—will have to play an important part. We are forced now to face a condition that we would not face four years ago.

The men elected to great positions of trust got out of hand. They were like runaway horses. Most of them considered no doubt that they were under no special obligation to their "masters," the people. The people had nothing to do with calling them to be candidates. They called themselves, or they were selected by the "machine." Why, Dr. Campbell, the man who had hundred of thousands of public money at his command, was not even elected. He was a defeated candidate. And yet he was given a place in the Legislative Council, placed in charge of the Agriculture and Mines Department and bought "spliffs" for the Public Works Department. He was practically running the whole show, and yet he was a defeated candidate.

As we see it, the chief reason why those occupying high political positions have committed so many breaches of trust as they have is because they have found the people such easy marks. Isn't it true that certain political leaders will not grant the people the right to select or nominate their own representatives because they (the leaders) want only men of a certain type or calibre associated with them—men who are pliable; men who are quiet and easy-going; men who will stand to see their constituents and the country wronged without entering a protest of any kind.

Jennings was the class of man who in one instance, at least, would not see his country wronged.

Millions of dollars collected from the people in taxes, and millions of dollars raised as loans were secured and spent during recent years. The burden of interest on these loans will remain with us probably for all time. We are still called upon to pay taxes amounting at least to \$9,000,000 annually to meet current expenditures, \$3,000,000 of which is for interest on loans amounting now to sixty million dollars.

The people, who are the masters, in the sense that they are like the shareholders of a company, are the ones who elect the Board of Directors, who are called the members of the Government. How important then it is for the people, the masters, to be well-informed regarding the qualifications of the men selected to conduct their country's business, not only as to ability but as to their moral character and courage and the principles for which they stand. When the selection of men is left entirely to a political leader he is concerned with the selection of men for this and other districts who will serve the best interests of the people or is he more concerned about selecting men who will serve himself and his chief political supporters and backers?

We have reached a crisis. The milk has been spilled. It won't hurt us to cry a little bit over it. After the crying must come action.

What shall we do? To whom shall we turn? It all depends on what we, the people, are prepared to do. Are we prepared to repent of our past wrongs? Are we going to try new methods? The old have failed. Are we prepared to turn over a new leaf? Are we going to drop a multitude of things which will continue to grow crops such as we are now reaping? Are we prepared to quit thinking in

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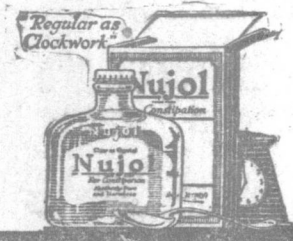
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terms of graft and bribery, sectarianism and denominationalism, self and self-interest alone and politics as a game? Are we prepared to select and elect qualified, strong and serious-minded men who are qualified to lead and blaze a trail for honesty and efficiency in public matters; men who will serve the general public—every citizen—all classes and creeds alike, and see that every section gets a square deal, and not confine their attention to a favored few; men who will court publicity, and who will be willing to take the people into their confidence from time to time and let

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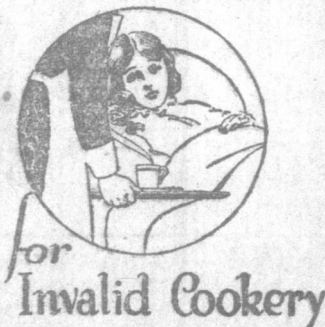
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Parrots are embroidered in gay colors on the cuffs of white silk gaudy-lets.

Red and white shawls fringed with black are worn with black bathing suits.

Gay scarfs of printed chiffon will be worn with white crepe frocks at the resorts.

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