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THE QUEEN OF THE SEASON

"My dear Lady Vivien, what have I to forgive? It was Lord Mandeville upon whom you poured the vials of your wrath. I did not know whether to laugh or be sorry when you reigned yourself on him by consigning the trowel to the waters of the fountain."

Vivien bit her lip. It was not the marquis she had been thinking of when she committed that impulsive act; but with ready tact she forced a smile.

"It was very absurd of me. I do not wonder at your laughing at my folly, and we shall want the trowel when we botanize again. It is a lovely moonlight evening, why should we not go and fish it out of its watery bed before either of the gardeners espies it?"

"If you really wish to have your trowel again, I will send my man to the fountain tomorrow morning," answered Sir Innis quietly. "I should not advise you to run the risk of catching a cold by going out of doors at this hour."

"I never catch cold," said Vivien; "but I do not intend to do so when I proposed it; the moonlight makes everything so ghostly."

She went back to the piano, but could scarcely steady her voice to join in the part song Cressida suggested. What an insensible, cold-hearted block Sir Innis was! Would any other man—

young and intelligent like himself—have behaved thus, when a lady proposed to steal away with him into the soft beauty of a clouded night, to pace with him on the soft turf of the lawn, her skirts sweeping over the clusters of March violets that bordered the parterre, and awakening their sweet colors; to lean with him over the marble basin of the fountain, and linger yet a little longer to stroll down some snifter path, talking the while in that half-whispered strain so sentimental and so alluring?

"Shall I ask Sir Innis to come and join us in 'La Canto'?" Cressida whispered in her ear; but Vivien's "No!" was so sharp and so emphatic that it made her jump and utter a long-drawn "Lor!"

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Again a coolness sprang up between the Lady Vivien and Sir Innis, and for two or three days she was always to be found walking or driving with Lord Mandeville; and while treating the baronet with such excessive courtesy that not even Aymer—jealous for his friend—could find anything to complain of, she contrived to make him feel that she was not in her good graces.

Still she gained no satisfaction by it. Sir Innis seemed as untroubled by her indifference as he had been by her blandishments. It invited to take part in her pursuits he cheerfully consented; but if, as was more frequently the case, he found himself studiously excluded, he did not testify any annoyance, and appeared as happy in Cressida's or the countess's society as in hers. Vivien was beginning to admit that her fascinations were not as all-powerful as she had hitherto found them, when a circumstance occurred that gave her an advantage of which she was not slow to avail herself.

Sir Innis, at the request of the earl, had been one morning as far as an outlying farm on the estate to decide a disputed point in some repairs, and was taking a short-cut back to the Manor House across some fields, when he was startled by the screams of a woman.

The shrieks were so loud and piercing that he hurried in the direction from which they seemed to proceed, but had scarcely reached a five-barred gate leading to one of the adjacent pastures when Miss Cressida Smith tumbled over it in such a headlong fashion that but for his prompt interference she would have had a serious fall.

As it was she slipped from his supporting arms on to the grass, where she sat staring around her wildly and parting for breath; at the same time clutching both the baronet's hands in her own and shaking them again and again.

"So much obliged, you know," she gasped as soon as she had recovered herself sufficiently to speak. "Oh! dear, I ought to be very thankful that I am alive, and so I will be when I have breath enough! The narrowest escape I ever had. Oh! it was awful!"

"What has happened? Are you hurt?" he kindly asked; then added, as she gave a convulsive start and glanced

fearfully over her shoulder, "or have you been frightened, and by whom?"

"Only my elbow," said Cressida, releasing him that she might rub the bruised joint. "I'm sure I've knocked the elbow off, or it couldn't smart so much, desperately, Sir Innis; who wouldn't be frightened? I mean—when attacked in that way? And I never could run in my life and my dress torn out of the garters and getting under my feet, and tripping me up at every step as dresses always do at such times, don't they? Mad bulls ought not to be allowed any more than mad dogs."

"Do you mean to say that you have been pursued by one? Good heavens! how could you venture in the way of such a creature?"

"Don't ask me to explain anything," answered Cressida, rocking herself to and fro, "for my mind's all in confusion. I only know that I felt as if I were going to die and screamed out very loudly at every step I took, and that horrid brute raging and tearing after me. And I must have died if it hadn't been for the gate and you."

"But, my dear Miss Smith," observed the baronet, approaching the gate, and looking over it, "there is no bull in sight now, whatever there may have been. Are you sure the animal was mad?"

"Quite; its eyes were frightful to behold, and you see, I was taken unawares, being on my knees, plucking a bunch of daffodils, and no idea of danger until the following thing, and—oh, gracious!" she suddenly clasped her hands. "Oh! poor dear Vivien, how could I forget her? What a heartless thing I have been not to recollect that I left her at the mercy of the hideous beast. Oh, fly to save her!"

Sir Innis no sooner heard the name of Vivien than he leaped the gate and dashed across the field to seek and assist her, his heart throbbing madly with terror lest he should be too late. It was inexpressible relief to discover that Cressida's raging bull was only a cow; but the poor creature had just been deprived of her calf, and was restless and wild enough to be troublesome though not actually dangerous.

When the baronet drew near she was bellowing piteously, and roaming to and fro, always returning to one corner, from which, with some difficulty, he succeeded in chasing her.

There, on top of a high bank, to which she had contrived to climb, stood Vivien, helplessly clinging to the branches of a tree that prevented her from making her way into the next field. She began to laugh at her ridiculous position, as soon as she saw Sir Innis, and encouraged by his assurances that the creature which had driven her there was really harmless, consented to let him assist her in her descent.

"Cressida!" she cried, agitatedly, as soon as she found herself once more on the sward. "Is she unhurt? I don't think I should have felt so terrified if she had not screamed so dreadfully!" and then Vivien laughed again. "How silly, how childish, you will think both of us to be frightened nearly into hysterics by a poor cow!"

But the laugh ended in a burst of tears; and these were wept in the arms of Sir Innis, who suddenly enfolding and sustained her until she blushing released herself.

"I was very thankful when I saw you coming," she murmured, as they slowly followed Cressida, who had rushed on to alarm the household with a frantic tale that Vivien had been gored, and that Sir Innis was doing battle with the bull. "Did Cressida send you to my aid?"

"I did not wait to be sent. She told me—"

and then the baronet stopped and drew a long breath, and Vivien saw he was white with suppressed emotion. "Ah! I do not know what she told me! I only comprehend that you were in danger. Don't question me—don't ask me to describe what I felt, for I cannot. Heaven be praised for your safety!"

Vivien was awed by the burst of deep feeling, and neither of them spoke again until they came in sight of a posse of servants, headed by Aymer, hurrying to their aid. Then the ridiculous became once more in the ascendant, and the young couple, having atoned to himself for the fright he had undergone by teasing his sister unmercifully, if Sir Innis had not interfered to prevent it.

(To be continued.)

Three residences were ransacked by burglars in Guelph on Monday night. A considerable amount of booty was secured.

Mr. E. A. Burgess, of Sparta, was badly burned about the hands and face, while showing the workings of his acetylene light to a friend. The gas was ignited by the lamp causing a slight explosion.

New companies were granted incorporation last week including the J. R. Stouffer Manufacturing Company, limited, of Berlin, which, with a capital stock of \$40,000, will manufacture buttons and suspenders. The Guelph Cashmere Mills Company, with a capital stock of \$40,000, will manufacture carpets, furniture coverings and curtains.

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PROSPECTS LOOK BRIGHTER

For a Reciprocity Treaty Between Canada and the States.

An Adjournment Until Friday—Americans Will Formulate Plans.

Washington, Dec. 14.—(Globe Special.)—The joint high commission held a brief but important session yesterday, during the course of which the situation was considered and the difficulties standing in the way of the preparation of a treaty canvassed. An adjournment was then taken till Friday, on the understanding that the American commissioners will on that day formulate certain proposals of importance that will be considered after the Christmas recess.

A TREATY ALMOST CERTAIN.

Making due allowances, it seems certain that a treaty will be made, and that it will contain a reciprocity schedule. Statements going further than this may for the present be taken with more than the customary grain of salt. The sub-committee will continue their work on the smaller unsettled questions, but they are not likely to delay the commissioners long after reciprocity is out of the way.

A final attempt is to be made to secure a settlement of the Atlantic fisheries question so that it may be inserted in the treaty.

The British commissioners will give a dinner to the Americans on Dec. 19 and will leave for home on Dec. 20.

HAPPENINGS OF THE HOUR

Admiral Dewey has been ordered home from the Philippines for physical reasons.

The government inspector reports that Montreal civic hospital is uninhabitable.

Mayor Andrews and G. F. Carruthers were nominated for the Winnipeg mayoralty on Tuesday.

The contract has been awarded to Mr. M. Connolly for the St. John harbor improvement. The price is \$320,000.

It is said that fully 200 families will move to the Northwest from Minnesota and Wisconsin next spring, and locate near Edmonton.

Terronage, the missing French balloonist, has been located, with all his party, in the Atlin gold country, British Columbia.

Andrew Walsh, from Fairmont, Antigonish county, Nova Scotia, dropped dead in his boarding-house at Rat Portage on Sunday.

Rev. James Murray, B.D., has been unanimously called to fill the vacant pastorate of Erskine Church, Toronto—succeeding Rev. Dr. Hunter.

J. D. McNaughton and Patrick Ready, while stopping a leak in a pipe, were almost instantly killed by a natural gas explosion at Connorsville, Ind.

By a deal at Philadelphia, the Union Tobacco Company has secured control of the Blackwell-Durham Company's capital stock and plant, by paying \$2,500,000.

It is very probable that United States Secretary Bliss will tender his resignation within a short time to President McKinley, for purely private personal reasons.

Mrs. Agnes T. Gosnell, wife of Provincial Librarian Gosnell, of Winnipeg, died from the effects of an operation on Monday. She was well known in Eastern Canada.

The trial of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin, alleged to have murdered Mrs. J. F. Dwyer, of San Francisco, Cal., by poisoning candy, sent by mail, is in progress in San Francisco, Cal.

Smallpox is epidemic in Nebraska City, Neb. Dr. F. B. Crummer, representative of the state board of health, says 200 cases have developed since the beginning of the epidemic.

Nelson Priest, the Toronto motor-car charged with stealing gold watch-chain from a couple of women, was convicted on the charge on Tuesday and sentenced to three months in the Central Prison.

Relatives in Brockville have just been notified by letter of the death in Central Africa, on Sept. 13, of a popular young Brockvillean, named John Unsuth, aged 30. Six years ago he left for British Columbia, whence he went to South America, and from there to Africa.

Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, has introduced a bill in congress appropriating \$140,000,000, and giving the president authority to purchase full ownership and sovereignty of such land in Costa Rica and Nicaragua as may be necessary for a ship canal, to be maintained and defended by the United States.

Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, has desired the governor-general to express his gratification at the offer of 1,000 Vancouver Scotsmen to raise a regiment, and to inform them that their proposal will be borne in mind should future events demand the adoption of special measures for the defense of the empire.

BELMONT

Belmont, Dec. 13.—Mrs. M. McGregor, relict of the late Dr. McGregor, bought a farm of 50 acres from Shipley Appleford, of South Dorchester, for \$3,200.

Messrs. D. F. Thompson and J. Daddson are aspirants for the reeveship of Yarmouth.

Shipley Appleford has purchased 30 acres of land from George Learn, of Yarmouth, for \$2,800.

Messrs. E. Yerwood, V. B. Cole and W. Pollock are contesting the municipality of Yarmouth for the honors of the county council of Elgin.

Messrs. Neal and John McKellar have bought two exceptionally fine ewe Shropshire lambs from Hon. John Dryden.

A grand ball was given in the Odd-fellows' Hall, Harriestown, on Friday night last, when about 90 couples participated in Scotch reel galore. The delectable menu was provided by Mrs. J. J. Jelly. The Currie brothers furnished the music.

Government Detective Murray on Wednesday last entered upon his work of ferreting out the perpetrators of the swine-robbery outrage, in which Alfred Stewart, of South Dorchester, was such a heavy loser.

Messrs. Burch, Murray and Piper are candidates for the county council of Westminister.

Wm. Fitzpatrick shipped 552 boxes of cheese on Friday, consigned to John

W. Cook, of London. The price obtained was 9½ cents. Mr. Fitzpatrick is manufacturing 40 boxes of cheese per week, and will continue to make cheese during the winter months.

Miss Elsie Tooley was stricken with paralysis at the ball at Harriestown on Friday night. She was subsequently removed to the residence of W. S. York. Her condition is critical.

The thoroughfares north and south of town are blocked by snowdrifts.

A bad accident happened to a young man named Thos. Currier, of Staples, while at work a few days ago. He was taking some bolts out of a steam vat, when the top fell in and he went through and got badly scalded from his knees down.

NEW ERA FOR MEN.

Happy Marriage, Health, Energy and Long Life.

A magically effective appliance and a month's course of restorative remedies sent on trial and approval, without expense. Not a dollar need be paid until results are known to the patient.

The Erie Medical Company's Appliance and Remedies have been talked of and written about all over the world and organ of the body.

The highest medical authorities in the world have lately commended them. They possess marvelous power to vitalize, develop, restore, and sustain. They create vigor, healthy tissue, new life. They stop drains that sap the energy. They cure all effects of early evil habits, excesses, overwork.

They give full strength, development, and tone to every portion and organ of the body. Failure impossible, age no barrier. No C. O. D. scheme, no deception; to exposure a clean business proposition by a company of high financial and professional standing. Write for sealed information.

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Hockey Skates, Spring Skates.

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In cases, pairs and sets, from \$1.00 per pair up.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

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TO UNITED STATES POINTS.

Round trip tickets will be sold Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 1898, and Jan. 1 and 2, 1899, good going only on date of sale, good returning from destination up to and including Jan. 3, 1899, over the Canadian Pacific, London and west to points in Central Passenger Association territory north of Ohio River, including Louisville; east of Lake Michigan; also east of and including Chicago, Peoria, Quincy, Keokuk, Hannibal and St. Louis, to Detroit.

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"The Niagara Falls Route."

Christmas and New Year's Excursions

Tickets will be issued to the GENERAL PUBLIC

At Single Fare for the Round Trip.

Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, good to return Dec. 27; also going Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 and 2, good to return Jan. 3, and at.

Fare and One-Third for Round Trip.

Going Dec. 23, 24, 25, good to return Dec. 28; also going Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, good to return Jan. 4, and all local stations.

WEST OF DETROIT

and to points on connecting lines, at fare and one-third, on Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 2, good to return leaving destination Jan. 3.

Teachers and Students.

on presentation of certificates signed by principal, tickets will be issued at fare and one-third for round trip, good going Dec. 10 to 31 and returning not later than Jan. 18.

Usual reduced fares to commercial travelers.

JOHN PAUL, City Passenger and Ticket Agent.

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WHITE STAR LINE

New York to Liverpool via Queenstown

S.S. GERMANIC, Dec. 21.

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FANCY BASKETS

An extraordinary exhibit of every imaginable shape and size in Fancy Baskets, ranging in price from the simple, inexpensive basket up to the most beautiful and costly.

TRINKET BASKET, silk lined, silk and ribbon trimmed, only 25c.

Photo Baskets, Hair Receivers, Card Baskets, Jewel Baskets, Work Baskets, Scrap Baskets, Baby Baskets, Glove Baskets, Handkerchief Baskets, Tie Baskets, etc., etc.

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Covered with fabrics of exclusive designs, for couches, cosy corners, etc., comprising Tapestries, Velvets, Cretonnes, Java Prints, French Agra Linens, Japanese Silks, Madagascar Cloths, etc.

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Handsomely embroidered in Japanese gold and silk. Table Covers, Piano Scarfs and Mantel Drapes, in pink, blue, cream, green, etc.

PINCUSHIONS

Satin Pincushions, square and long, sizes from 4 inches to 24. Pale pink, blue, yellow, green and all the delicate tints. No need of covering your own Pincushions; buy the satin-covered forms, all ready to trim.

COLLARS

Ladies' long fancy lace Fichus, full flounce, cream color; regular prices, 65c, 1.00 and 1.50; your choice while they last, only 25c.

LACE JACKETS

Heavy fancy cream Lace Jackets; former price, 75c to \$1.25; your choice, 25c.

CHILDREN'S COLLARS

Fancy Lace Collars, very full, deep points and scallops: 20c and 25c Collars for 10c; 10c and 15c Collars for 5c.

ROCKING HORSES...

All sizes Rocking Horses, natural color and

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*MONGOLIAN, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to Dec. 31.

*NUMIDIAN, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to Dec. 31.

From St. John, From Halifax, LAURENTIAN, Dec. 21, 1 p.m. to Dec. 22.

From New York, From New York, STATE OF NEBRASKA, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.

*Do not call at Moville.

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First cabin, Derry and Liverpool, \$55 and upwards; return, \$100 and upwards. Second cabin, Liverpool, Derry, \$35 and upwards.

\$50 and upwards, Liverpool, Derry, Belfast, Glasgow, London, everything found, \$22.50 and \$23.50.

Glasgow-New York service—Cabin—\$47.50 and upwards; return, \$87.50 and upwards; second cabin, \$32.50; return, \$61.75; steerage, \$35.00.

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