

Don't Go By-



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CHAPTER XXV.
Kittie's Flight.

Lashmore counted the days before it would be possible for him to get a letter in answer to the one he had written telling his wife of the change that had come over their lives; but he tried to possess his soul in patience. Naturally enough, now that it belonged to him, he was consumed by a desire to look upon the old place where he had been born and which, until his father's death he had regarded as his heritage. He fought with the desire, but it was irresistible, and one day he jumped into the train, after hesitating on the platform till the last moment, and was carried down to Herondyke. He approached it cautiously, and tried to brace his nerves; but his first glimpse of his old home nearly unmanned him. The vast stately building, surrounded by its glorious park, the great, winding avenue of beeches, all the familiar sights and sounds made him shake and thrill. He sat on a stile and gazed through misty eyes at the place, his ancestral home, which was now his again; not only his, but Eva's. He sat and glowed with anticipatory delight and joy, as he pictured the day he would bring her there, would wander with her hand in hand over the huge, beautiful place, and would say, as he held her in his arms: "This is your home, dearest!" He waited until dusk, and then ventured to go still nearer to the house. And it was not with unalloyed pleasure that he saw certain changes in it. It was now well kept up, the grounds in perfect order, the facade repaired, the gardens resplendent. He could almost have wished to find the old place as he had left it, ill kept, if not neglected.

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just disgorging, and there was certainly mob enough to please even Osborne. They went with the crowd for a time, sometimes pulling up on the oasts of a friendly doorway to look on at the stream which surged by them.

"Funny to think that every man and woman, yes, and child, too, of this crowd is a little cosmos, a little world in himself and herself! They all look alike, and it would be difficult to pick out the sheep from the goats, and yet, some of them are no doubt great villains and some are saints."

"They all seem happy enough," said Lashmore, as a group, talking eagerly and laughing, jostled past them. "Oh, yes," assented Osborne. "Nowhere in the world can you find a happier, better-humored crowd than in England. Down south they are more light-hearted, but I doubt whether it goes far below the surface. There seems to me to be always the echo of a sob in their laughter, and a glimmer of a tear behind the flash of their eyes. George! that sounds like poetry, doesn't it? Yes, these people on the pavement are happy enough; and, judging by appearances, much more happy than some of the carriage folks."

Naturally enough, Lashmore's eyes wandered from the people on the pavement to some of the carriages as they slowly made their way along the road.

"Yes; you're right—" he began. Then suddenly he uttered an exclamation, and made as if to start forward; then he checked himself and unconsciously gripped Osborne's arm.

Osborne looked down at Lashmore's hand, then up at his face with speechless amazement, for Lashmore's face was white; there was a startled expression in his eyes, and his lips were apart, as if he were breathing painfully.

"What on earth's the matter, Lashmore?" demanded Osborne. "Are you ill—what is it?"

Lashmore was still staring at the roadway, his eyes apparently following one of the carriages. He did not appear to have heard Osborne, seemed to have been suddenly stricken deaf and dumb, turned to stone.

"Here, what is it, Lashmore?" said Osborne anxiously.

Lashmore heard him now, and slowly dragging his eyes away from the object on which they had been fixed, he drew a long breath and passed his hand across his forehead, as if trying to recover from some shock.

"It's—nothing," he said, with a forced laugh, his voice husky and unsteady. "I thought I saw— He pulled up short. He had not told Osborne that he was married.

Osborne was a man of the world, and discreet. He asked no further questions, and at once ignored Lashmore's strange behaviour.

"Let us go over to Romano's and get a drink. This mob always makes me thirsty."

They went across, and as soon as Lashmore had got his drink, he drank it at a draft. The color crept back to his face, but there was still a haunted look in his eyes.

And little wonder. For if he had not known that his dearly beloved wife was thousands of miles away, there at Quirapata, he could have sworn that he had seen her seated in one of the carriages which had passed them as they stood in the doorway.

CHAPTER XXV.
Back With the "Boys."

Kittie sat in her attic at work; the London sun flickered through the narrow window, the London sparrows chirped about the chimney-pots over which she looked, the hum and buzz of London rose faintly to her ears. It was difficult to believe that she had ever left it, that such a place as Quirapata existed. Immediately on her arrival she had sought for work, knowing full well that the money which Mr. Coke had given her, and which she had taken not only from sheer necessity but from a fear lest her refusal should rouse his suspicions, would soon be exhausted.

She had been fortunate enough to obtain some fine needlework from one of the high-class shops, so that her few wants were provided for, at any rate for the present. It is said that the period of solitary confinement which the convict has to undergo is

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the worst part of his sentence. Kittie was finding her solitary life, contrasting so vividly with the happy one which she had left, a terrible ordeal, for she could think as well as work, and it is not difficult to imagine the nature of her thoughts. In a word, she was suffering her punishment in all its bitter fulness; and her punishment was intensified by the knowledge that when Harry received her letter his period of suffering would commence. It was not only her own life that she had wrecked and ruined, but that of the man she loved.

She was tortured by the desire to hear of him, to know what he was doing; but though she scanned the paper with fearful eagerness every morning, she found no reference in it to his claim. Among the Fashionable Intelligence she once saw the names of Lord Herndale and Miss Eva Lyndhurst in the list of persons at a reception; and the sight of Eva Lyndhurst's name affected her so much that for hours she was unable to work. She rarely left her attic until dusk, and then wore a veil, for she was afraid of meeting one of the boys or—there was terror in the thought—Harry himself. But when she went out, her eyes were everywhere, especially when she was passing through some of the streets and squares of the West End.

One evening her fears were justified. She was leaving the shop to which she had taken her work, and had forgotten to lower her veil; a man was passing quickly, and he glanced at her and hesitated. She lowered her veil quickly and turned aside; but she could hear that he had followed her, and presently a voice—"Bickers"—said, close to her: "I beg your pardon!"

(To be Continued.)

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Henry Blair



Revolution "Rot" About Germany

A FEW FACERS.
By D. THOMAS CURTIN
Author of "The Land of the Deceitful Shadow."

You have seen pictures of the deportees bending beneath the man lash. If you have a mental picture of the masses of German deportees somewhat similar relative position to their authorities, get rid of it. It is not a real picture, it is a mirage. The idea that the German people are a down-trodden mass, oppressed against their wishes to take arms and continuing to use them simply because a few men known as the Government, will do as they shall do, is in direct contradiction to the facts of the case. I grant that the Germans are distressingly sick of the war. As a result of happy means of building up a Teutonic world-empire it has not lived up to expectations. The majority of Germans, however, are not dissatisfied with their Government because of "But what of those violent speeches in the Reichstag?" you may say. "Don't they show a dangerous content and prove that the German people are against their form of government?"

There are 387 deputies in the Reichstag. Of these only 18 (less than 5 per cent.) are openly ardent supporters of the war policy. They constitute the Social Democratic Minority; it is their speeches, together with an occasional one from the Social Democratic majority, which make such pleasant reading in certain sections of the United Press. More people read these speeches in England than in Germany where for the most part they are made to empty benches, printed or even there in unobtrusive parliamentary type without "feature" headlines since those must be reserved, as in all other papers, for German victories. Furthermore, they are read and read by soldiers, as the military officers are extremely sharp in detecting anything that may prove injurious to the helmeted mind.

The Social Democratic Majority, though keeping an eye on election reform, are solidly behind the war machine. In fact, were I not sure of their party affiliations I should have mistaken some of them for whom I talked for dyed-in-the-wool conservatives. Most of them display the customary German weakness of prostrating themselves at the feet of the men higher up if they show a little personal consideration. A few of them have been as willfully enthusiastic over a conquering France and as the most sabre-rattling of the war. One of them, who in person told me that he would open the Reichstag as long as he lived, continued to me after three months of war that his kind were wrong in using the military form of government. "Look at France," he said.

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