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THE QUEEN OF THE SEASON

"Dear Aymer, I find that my presence here is not as imperative as I had at first believed. I will therefore be with you soon after you receive this. I. H."

"And who is I. H.?" asked Vivien. "Lillian Hatherfield, of course. Where are your brains, child? I'm very glad he is coming to us, aren't you?"

"Glad! Did I ever like a paragon? Haven't you dined that man's perfection in my ears till I detest the sound of his name? Glad! Oh, you stupid, stupid boy, hadn't we better enough in the house without your insisting on another upon us?"

"And, without waiting for a reply, Vivien St. Orme swept away, determined to make Eselynn Manor so disagreeable to her brother's priggish friend that he would not honor it with his presence again."

In her hasty departure from the breakfast-room, Lady Vivien left the half-dressed man who had gathered into her lap to read in the intervals of playing with the little Maltese dog frisking about her. These Lord Eselynn espied as he started from his chair, incesed at his sister's disparaging remarks, and in his first paroxysm of anger, he gave them such a vicious kick that they were scattered in all directions.

"I'm afraid my dear ma is right, and I'm a boy still," he murmured, as his in-humor partially evaporated in the effort, and he stood, with his back against the mantelpiece, surveying the scattered letters. "But Vivien is awfully provoking. I feel under immense obligations to her brother; I feel that he ought to be received here as the most honored guest who ever came under my roof. I have pressed him to come with such warmth that it will be a positive insult if he is not well-received, and yet here is this capricious girl steadfastly setting her face against him, and evidently intent upon making him so uncomfortable that he will be glad to get away again. By the way, I remember that she suddenly vociferated, as the Maltese dog, hearing his voice, came capering towards him. 'Hence! away! you are more the master of this house than I am, if you were big enough to frown on me, I would kick you.'"

Deeper settled the frown on Aymer's forehead, as, with his hands thrust into his pockets, he brooded over his injuries.

"Of course, the countess will be on the opposition. If I say to her, 'Hatherfield is my friend,' she will turn up her sea-green eyes and piously wish she could approve my choice of companions; if I say he is a man of good family, she will remind me that he is only a baronet; and if I expatiate on his many excellent qualities, she will give me an exasperating little giggle, and say it is so extraordinary that no one else is even able to admire the person in whom I find such perfections. If I could have won Vivien over to my side, we could have defied the ma, and kept her at bay; but if the pair of them are ranged against me, Hatherfield will be affronted, and I shall have a nice—a very nice time of it."

He broke off in his musings to flip a piece of crust at an aged and snappish parrot—Lady Eselynn's—that was swinging itself in the window, and the bird resented it by screaming "You're a fool!" at the top of her dissonant voice.

"Thanks, Polly, for the information; but it's nothing more than I knew already. If I were not what you so politely call me, I should have the ladies of my household under better control, and be able to invite my best friend without a dread of his being driven away again disgusted. This would be a very pleasant world, and I should be one of the happiest fellows in it, if nature hadn't invented women, to be continual thorns in one's side. If ever I marry, which goodness forbid, my wife shall—hem! who's this coming? My dear ma's maid, the East Indian, I suppose. Miss Cressida Smith, whom she is flinging at my head for the twofold reason that she sees I don't like the girl, and that she considers it her duty to find me a wealthy bride."

By the time the door had swung open, and the trim little figure that appeared was wholly unlike the short, stout form of his stepmother's maid. It was that of Mary Deille. She wore an exquisitely-fitting black dress of some soft material falling in graceful folds around her petite form; a frill of cream-lisse around her throat, an apron of velvet and point lace, and a scrap of the latter pinned upon the

coils of her dark hair, and called, by courtesy, a cap, completed a costume so simple and elegant that the highest lady in the land might have worn it, although it was perfectly appropriate to my new lady's maid."

Without seeing, or, at all events, appearing to see, the figure lounging by the fire, Marie crossed the room, collected the letters she had been sent to fetch, and, still avoiding a glance towards Lord Eselynn, was, in the same sedate fashion, retreating, when a couple of strides placed Aymer betwixt her and the door, and she was compelled to raise her eyes.

"With his own full of fun, yet his demeanor respectful, though cordial, he accosted her:

"Aren't you going to shake hands, Mademoiselle Marie, and let me congratulate you on your recovery, and safe arrival at Eselynn?"

"To whom am I speaking?" queried the girl, surveying him coldly. "The gentleman who traveled with me, and did not hesitate to let me disclose the characters of the residents of this house without a warning that I spoke too rashly, has been pointed out to me as the Earl of Eselynn. Can it be so?"

There was a sharp rebuke conveyed by her looks as much as her words, sharper than the young earl felt conscious of deserving, for he had not been guilty of any deliberate intention of duping her.

"Which part of your speech am I to answer first?" asked Aymer, reddening slightly. "It is quite true that I am Lady Vivien St. Orme's brother."

"And my master," she interposed, with a low curtsy that would have been reverential if her mocking air had not contradicted it.

"I claim no authority over my sister's attendant," said Aymer saucily. "But if you think proper to swear loyalty to me, I'm sure I have no objection."

"I will refer the subject to my lady," said Marie, looking very demure. "In the meantime, I am not bound to obey any orders from my lord? Then I may go?"

"Of course, you may; but I hope you will not until I have finished what I had to say. You implied just now that I took an unfair advantage, when I did not say to you in the railway carriage, 'I am the Earl of Eselynn.' Perhaps I ought to have done so; and it would have embarrassed you, and I was silent."

"It does not signify," answered Marie. "My lord has an undoubted right to amuse himself at the expense of the little lonely French girl. Fortunately for her, not having seen her new mistress, she had nothing to say, and of praise or blame, that can be repeated to her injury."

"I should be a mean hound indeed if I said or did anything to injure a friendless young creature like you," responded Aymer, warmly; "and as long as you reside in this house you shall not be exposed to annoyance or impertinence from anyone. But do you suppose I intend remaining here in the character of maid to my sister?"

"Most assuredly I do. Why not? The countess complains that I am too young; that my manner is not deferential enough; but Lady Vivien says I arrange her hair to her satisfaction, and that my taste in dress is good; therefore, she will keep me. Well, monsieur, it seems that you object; that you purpose to go to the countess and say, 'I would not employ this girl, Marie Deille, because she has some advantages of education, and so I believe her to be unfitted for the position she would hold in this house. She will not invent a romantic description of her birth and parentage for my edification; and this displeases me. Moreover, although, with true English obstinacy, I have determined that she shall be a princess in masquerade, she refuses to admit it; therefore, send her away. What matter if she grieves at the loss of her situation? What matter if she be seriously inconvenienced, and return to her own country disappointed? It is nothing; I—the earl—have said that I wish it, and I am the master of Eselynn Manor.'"

"Upon my word, if this is your notion of a manly Briton, the sooner your mind is disabused, the better," exclaimed Aymer, alternating between amusement and anger. "You are all wrong, for first, mademoiselle, I should as soon think of flying, as of interfering with my sister in her choice of a maid. Secondly, when you called yourself 'lonely and friendless,' you advanced a claim to my forbearance, which I shall never ignore."

Mary Deille compressed her lips. There was a generous frankness in his manner that impressed her more than she wished him to see.

[To be Continued.]

Three Years' Suffering!

**Mr. Alphons Herr, Foreman
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Catharines, Ont., Com-
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The sickness and suffering that those who are afflicted with any disease or degeneration of the kidneys are called upon to endure makes them welcome to the remedy that gives relief.

Doan's Kidney Pills have been doing more for kidney sufferers in St. Catharines and throughout Canada than all other remedies combined, and I had those who have found them a blessing in my dear ma's ward, the East Indian, I suppose. Miss Cressida Smith, whom she is flinging at my head for the twofold reason that she sees I don't like the girl, and that she considers it her duty to find me a wealthy bride."

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"With his own full of fun, yet his demeanor respectful, though cordial, he accosted her:

A Doctor's Remedy

Shiloh's Consumption Cure is the prescription of a skillful physician, and has been used in successful professional practice for nearly half a century. All doctors who know its merits endorse it in the strongest terms. Dr. A. E. Salter, one of the leading physicians of Buffalo, N. Y., writes to the S. C. Wells Co. of Le Roy, N. Y., as follows:



"I am glad to testify to the value of your Shiloh's Cure in all cases of throat and lung trouble. From my personal knowledge it is a specific for coughs of every form, and I am prepared to say that it is the most remarkable remedy that has ever been brought to my attention. Indeed, I believe that it is a cure for consumption in its first stages. 'It is, of course, out of the common run to give a testimonial of this sort, but the value of your remedy is so evident that I, for once, have waived professional considerations, and send this, hoping it may be received in the same spirit in which it is written.'"

Shiloh's Consumption Cure has effective tonic and expectorant powers. You can hasten and help its curative action by proper living, just as you can defeat it by injudicious living. By proper living is meant proper dressing, proper food, sufficient sleep, and having a pure atmosphere constantly about you, and this is written."

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ing the coming winter months, and a committee composed of a member from each union affiliated was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The first lecture will possibly be held on the 28th inst., when J. W. Martin, of the Fabian Society, London, England, will open the series by an address on "Municipalization of Monopolies." The printers reported that a firm of printers was using an imitation of their union label, and asked for the support of the council in putting down such contemptible conduct. It was decided to assist the printers and report the name of the firm to the different unions connected and to do everything possible to bring the guilty parties to justice. It was reported that orders for the special strike edition of the Industrial Banner were coming in rapidly, and it was probable that 100,000 copies would not fill the demand. A deputation from the Tailors' Union was present in reference to the street railway men's uniforms, but no action was taken.

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