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The Imprisoned Heiress
 —OR—
The Spectre of Egremont.

CHAPTER XXV

"I really must go now, Gosman," she said, at length, resolutely. "I will meet you to-night, but do not tap on my window, lest father should hear you."

She had taken but one step toward the door, when a sound as of horses' hoofs upon the path startled her.

With a look of alarm she flew to the window, peering cautiously out.

The cause of her fright was merely the passing of a party of riders, at the head of whom rode Lord Egremont.

The path was so narrow that two could scarcely ride abreast, so directly behind the earl came the Lady Lorain Ashcroft. Then followed the Lady Egremont and Lord Ashcroft, and Lyle Indor, in the order named.

A party of grooms succeeded.

"The Lady Alexina is not among them," said Jessy, when they had not hidden over," said Kepp. "Besides, there is a splendid view from the knoll, half a mile farther, and Lord Egremont always takes visitors there."

"I think I'll hurry on," said the girl, thoughtfully. "The sooner I get away from here the safer you'll be."

She kissed him a good-by, and then hastened out of doors.

She had scarcely reached the little gate, when she saw, coming up the forest path the Lady Alexina, attended by a groom.

The handsome, imperious face of the heiress had a frightened look, as well as an ill-natured one, and her palefrey limped painfully.

The truth was, the Lady Alexina had chosen willfully to ride through a cross-path, attended only by her groom. The reason for this act had been her annoyance at the silence and uncommunicativeness of Lord Ashcroft, whom she was resolved to pique into a display of devotion to her. He had not followed her as she had expected, and, to crown her discomfiture, her horse had stumbled and fallen upon one knee, laming himself and thoroughly frightening her.

She caught sight of Jessy the moment the girl saw her, and no retreat was possible for the forester's daughter.

"Has my party just passed here?" asked the heiress, imperiously, her eyes scanning Jessy's discomfited features.

"Yes, my lady. They have gone on."

Alexina turned and waved a minute's interview with Jessy.

The servant obeyed.

"What are you doing here?" asked the heiress, abruptly, her gaze wandering to the windows of the cottage and back again to the pale, perturbed face beside her. "Is Gosman Kepp hiding here?"

"Oh, no, indeed, my lady," cried poor Jessy, have wild with fright. "I—I was taking a walk."

"With a dinner-pail on your arm," said the Lady Alexina. "You cannot deceive me, girl. I saw Kepp's face this very moment peering out at me. Tell him to come out here. I want to see him."

Jessy poured forth protestations and denials, but the heiress only smiled, and answered:

"Hush, girl! I told you that you could not deceive me, and you ought not to attempt it. I am your lover's friend, and will assist him if he will come out. If he won't, I will call my servant and have Kepp taken into custody."

These words, uttered in a loud tone reached the ears of the fugitive, and he put an end to the colloquy by coming to the gate.

He was pale, but there was a look of courage in his face that stilled Jessy's lamentations and beseechings.

"Your ladyship wished to see me," he said.

"I do. Send the girl into the cottage. I won't detain you long."

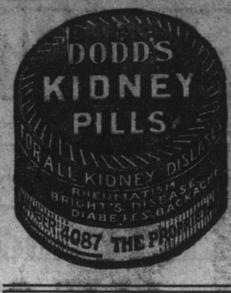
Jessy was inclined to rebel at this command, but a whispered entreaty from her lover caused her to obey.

On being left alone with the under-forester, the heiress betrayed a singular embarrassment and agitation. She played with the embroidered reins she held, toyed with her jeweled whip, and finally plunged into the subject that rankled at her heart.

"Gosman Kepp," she said, "you have proved yourself a man of strong will and some resources. You have shown how dearly you love money, how much you desire it. I think I can throw open a way to you by which you can gain more than you have ever dreamed of. I could promise you safety, too, and my protection."

"I do not understand your ladyship," said the under-forester, looking at her in surprise.

"I wish I could trust you."
 "You can, my lady. I will not betray your confidence."
 "Will you swear that, come what may, you will never betray, even to Jessy, yonder, what I shall tell you?"
 "I do swear, my lady," declared the wondering forester.
 "I believe I can rely upon you," said the Lady Alexina. "Because, if you were to break your oath, who would believe the assertion of a man like you against the simplest denial of the Lady of Egremont?"
 "Who, indeed?" ejaculated Kepp, uneasily.



Vessels' Family Names

HOW STEAMSHIP COMPANIES DISTINGUISH THEIR FLEETS.

Vessels can be classed more or less quite accurately by their names, and in many cases more easily than by the colour of the funnel or the flag flying at the masthead.

Canada Line steamers engaged in Atlantic trade, for instance, can invariably be identified by the final letters "ia" in their names, as in Aquitania and Berengaria. The White Star steamers, too, are equally easy to determine by the ending "ic" to their names. Examples of this can be found in Olympic and Majestic.

Both the Cunard and White Star Lines have only one real method of identification, but the Royal Mail Packet and Canadian Pacific Lines have quite a number. The latter company, for instance, have the Empress class liners, of which the Empress of France and Empress of Scotland are types; the "M" cabin class vessels such as the Melita and Minnedosa, and the "B" class, which are freighters.

The Royal Mail Company's ships are classed in even more categories, there being no fewer than five groups. First is the "O" class, or cabin ships, of which the Orduna and Orbita are representatives; the second, the "A" class, embracing the Almazora and Avon; the third, the "D" class, or intermediate vessels, in which the names of the Demerara and Desha figure, while in addition there are the "Shire" and "S"—cargo—classes.

Distinctive to the United States Lines is the "President" class, from which come the President Arthur and President Roosevelt, while the Union-Castle have their own "water mark" in the families "Castles" type, of which are the Arundel Castle, and Winglor Castle are examples.

The popular vessels of the Red Star Line can be quite easily recognized by the termination "land," as in Lapland and Belgeland, while the fine liners of the Holland-America fleet can be identified by the suffix "dam."

Vessels owned by the various coasting and general trading concerns can also be identified in a like manner. The General Steam Navigation Company, for instance, are the possessors of a fleet of ships all named after birds.

"Say no more," he said, hoarsely. "I hope I have misunderstood your ladyship. You surely could not mean to bribe me to murder that handsome, brave young gentleman. I assure your ladyship I am innocent. I never sought to harm one hair of his head. Oh, my lady, tell me you were not in earnest."

Looking into his honest face, Alexina experienced a conviction that he spoke truthfully.

She almost reeled from the saddle as she realized her mistake.

With an effort she soon commanded her voice sufficiently to say, with pretended carelessness:

"I am satisfied, Kepp I wanted to try you and see whether you were really guilty. As I think you are not I will use every effort in your behalf."

Kepp poured forth his thanks, and was still thus engaged when the party of riders, with their grooms, suddenly appeared from the nearest cross-path, and came upon them before Kepp could make his escape.

Lady Alexina's groom had reported her accident, and her friends had returned to keep her company and learn if she were injured.

Lord Egremont uttered a cry on beholding Kepp, and his first idea was that the under-forester had waylaid his ward and had been about to rob her.

Alexina did not undecieve him. "Settle the fellow and carry him up to Egremont," said the earl, to his grooms. "Put him in the strong-room, and don't let him escape for your lives!"

There was a struggle between Kepp and the servants of the earl, and shrieks from poor Jessy, who came rushing from the cottage, but the fugitive was overpowered and soon upon his way to the mansion, closely guarded.

(To be continued.)

Big Depot of Machine-Gun Barrels

FOUND IN BERLIN BY ALLIED OFFICERS.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Officers from the Inter-Allied Control Commission have discovered in Berlin a depot of rifle and machine gun barrels, the Echo de Paris learns from "an incontrovertible informant" in Germany. An inventory now being taken has accounted for 40,000 barrels and it is expected that the total will reach 100,000. The depot was found in a cunningly devised hiding place.

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Ladies' White Organdie Blouses. With Sailor and Roll collars. Each, 79c.	Boys' Raglans. A great reduction in Boys' Raglans: to fit up to 14 years; worth \$10.00. Now \$2.98	Watches. Open face, Nickel case, small model, plain back, stem wind and set. Each, \$1.98
Ladies' Fleece Over Pants. All sizes, in Brown, Navy, Cream and Grey. Each, \$1.25, \$1.35	Ladies' Wool Gloves. Made of Pure Wool, in Grey and Brown. Per Pair, 79c.	Ladies' Wrist Watches. Her most treasured possession. That's what a woman feels about a watch. These new Wrist Watches will fulfil her every desire. Absolutely reliable movements, set in cases of exquisite beauty. Each \$9.98
Ladies' Flannelette Nightgowns. In stripe and White, in 7 and round neck, some with collars. Each, \$1.79, \$1.98	Children's Mitts. Pure Wool, in Grey, Brown and Fawn. Per Pair, 40c., 45c., 49c.	Palmolive Shampoo. The Olive Oil Shampoo will transform the appearance of your hair, making it soft and silky. You will be delighted with that all-admired well-groomed glossy appearance. Each, 75c.
Flannelette Undershirts. Stripe and plain. Each, 98c.	Ladies' Pullover Sweaters. All Wool, in Emerald and Camel, Peach and Black, American Beauty and Black. Each, \$2.98	Ladies' Silk Scarfs. Extra large, in many pretty shades. Each \$2.98
Men's Winter Caps. Heavy all Wool Cheviots, latest make and lined inside. Each, \$1.69, \$1.98, \$2.25	Children's Pantilets. Heavy fleece lining, in White and Grey. Each, \$1.29	Pound Quilt Cotton. Good large pieces. Per Pound, 59c.
Men's Wool Mufflers. Very heavy Wool, in beautiful shades of Brown with Fawn and Green stripes. Each, \$1.98	Ladies' Jacquettes. Made of the finest Canadian Brushed Wool, in Grey and Fawn, Fawn and Green, Fawn and Blue. Each, \$4.98	Pound Flannelette. In White and stripe, extra large pieces. Per Pound \$1.25
Men's Winter Overcoats. Lined throughout; worth \$15.00. Our price— Each, \$10.00	Bed Ticking. Made of the strongest material only. Per Yard, 49c.	Ladies' and Children's Wool Scarfs. In Pink, Blue and Green; worth \$1.50— Now 98c.
Men's Sleeveless Sweaters. Here are garments that are particularly serviceable now, useful all the year round. If you haven't one, this is the time to get it. Each, \$2.98	White Camisoles. Did any woman or girl ever have too many Camisoles. These are special values. Each, 49c.	Galvanized Wash Tubs. Best grade Galvanized Rolled Steel Tubs, with strong rimmed edges and raised feet. You will find many special values besides this one. Price our line before buying. Each— \$1.25, \$1.59, \$1.79, \$1.98
Men's Work Pants. Strongly made throughout, even the buttons are carefully sewn on. Our selection includes wanted patterns and fabrics. Each, \$2.98, \$3.98	Red Rose Wool. Full stock of all shades. Per Ball, 19c.	Suit Cases. 24 in., brass corners, lock and key, wonderful value. Each, \$1.98
Red Rose Wool. Full stock of all shades. Per Ball, 19c.	Ladies' Wool Gauntlet Gloves. In White. Per Pair, 98c.	Men's Blue Pullovers. Made of Pure Canadian Wool. Each, \$2.98
Children's Pullover Sweaters. Made of Pure Wool, in Fawn and Blue; to fit up to 11 years. Each, \$1.49 to \$1.98	Boys' Pullover Sweaters. In Brown, Blue, Fawn and Grey; to fit up to 13 years. Each, \$1.49 to \$1.98	Men's Suits. A great reduction in Men's Suits, in Grey and Brown; worth \$19.00 per suit. Now \$10.00
Men's Winter Overcoats. Lined throughout; worth \$15.00. Our price— Each, \$10.00	Men's Sleeveless Sweaters. Here are garments that are particularly serviceable now, useful all the year round. If you haven't one, this is the time to get it. Each, \$2.98	Wood Trunks. Strongly made. Each, \$1.49 to \$2.98

Pictures on Playing Cards

Your pack of cards carries you right back to the days of the Crusaders by whom they were first introduced into Europe. In those days a pack consisted of seventy-eight cards—four suits of fourteen cards, and twenty-two picture cards or trumps. The designs of these early cards were copied from chessmen.

The pack of cards as we know it was the invention of a French knight named La Hire.

Many French packs of cards have been produced at various times. The French Revolution set up figures of Moliere, La Fontaine, Voltaire and Rousseau as "Kiné," and Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude as "Queens."

In Frankfurt a pack was made in 1815 in which the great Duke of Wellington appeared as the Knave of Diamonds, and General Blucher as the Knave of Clubs.

In the United States packs have been printed with Washington, Adams Franklin and Lafayette as "Kings."

One firm of card makers actually tried the experiment of printing green clubs and blue diamonds for the benefit of short-sighted players of card games.

For hundreds of years a pack of cards has been presented annually to every member present at the Master's Inaugural Banquet of the Card Maker's Company. On the backs of these are pictured some outstanding event of the year.

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