

The Snake Scotched Justice Done.

CHAPTER II.
(Continued.)

"Go to my head keeper; tell him I sent you. If you know your work and possess a good character—Where do you come from? What is your name?"

"Australia. My name is Ralph Farrington," was the reply.

The earl's brows grew straight—Veronica's had been straight all through the scene: the two looked singularly alike at that moment—and he scanned the sunburnt face with another flash of his black eyes.

"Go to the keeper," he said, and signed to Mathews to drive on.

The young man raised his hat.

"Thank you, my lord," he said, gravely.

Then he looked up at Veronica with a swift and eloquent glance of gratitude; but Veronica, sitting bolt upright on her horse, gazed straight before her and made no acknowledgment; perhaps she thought that there had been quite enough fuss over the man, prompt and plucky though he had proved himself to be.

As she gathered up the reins she saw a spot of red on her left gauntlet. It was blood. For a moment she thought that, after all the puppy had been hurt; then the truth flashed upon her: she remembered that she had felt one of the mare's forefeet strike something as the young fellow had darted for the puppy. He had been hurt in body, perhaps badly, in his humane and successful attempt to save the dog, and had been hurt in spirit, still more badly, by the earl's offer of money.

She looked at the red spot and then at the tall, graceful figure striding across the moor with the puppy still in his arms and the dog barking in friendly, foolish fashion at his heels; the colour came and went in her face, and her under lips were caught by the white teeth, as if she longed to ride after him and make some amends. But pride held her back, and with a shrug of her shoulders she rode on.

How should she know that the shadow of her fate was riding behind her, that the curtain of her life's drama was up and the tragedy had begun?

CHAPTER III.

The young fellow who had given his name as Ralph Farrington strode to the cottage. The door was open, and he looked into the neat little sitting-room, in which a young girl was seated with her back to the window reading a novelette. She was a pretty girl with a mass of fair hair and soft, brown eyes, and a small mouth drooping at the corners; this droop and something about the chin, while charming in their way, hinted at weakness of character.

She started as she heard his footsteps, and slipping the novelette in her pocket, looked quickly into the kitchen beyond, where a woman was ironing. Then she rose and stood eyeing him with a faint blush.

"I beg your pardon," said Ralph. "I've brought your puppy; it is yours, isn't it?"

"Oh, yes; thank you!" she said.

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coming forward to take it from him; then she shrank back.
"Oh, it is hurt—is bleeding!"
"No, no; it is all right," he assured her, with a smile. "It nearly got run over, but I managed to pick it up in time. In doing so the young lady's horse must have struck me. Oh, I'm not hurt!" he added, promptly, at her glance of alarm and pity; "not in the east; a mere scratch."

The woman in the kitchen, hearing voices, came forward with the iron in her hand.
"Mother, this gentleman has saved 'olly's puppy, and has got hurt," explained the girl.
"Dear, dear!" responded the mother. "Here, Fanny, take the iron and go on with those collars. I hope you're not much hurt, sir!" She added he "sir" after a doubtful glance at his clothes.

"Not at all," said Ralph. "I'll show you."

He drew back the sleeve of his coat and shirt and bared his muscular arm. There was a nasty gash just below the elbow, and it was still bleeding. The woman uttered a cry of distress and called out:
"Bring in a basin of warm water and a towel—quick, Fanny!"

"Pon my word, I'm very sorry to trouble you," Ralph said in his pleasant voice; "you'll find there's nothing the matter when it's washed, and he laughed as he held his arm over the basin.

"It's a nasty cut," she said, as she washed it. "A horse, you said; a young lady riding it?"
"It must be Miss Veronica," murmured the girl who stood by her eyes fixed on Ralph's face with an intent expression. "I saw her ride across the moor."

"I daresay," said Ralph. "A very beautiful girl with grey eyes and dark hair."

The woman nodded, but looked up at him with a little surprise. He looked like a working-man; but the working-man of the place did not speak of Miss Veronica as a "girl," but as a "young lady."

"That was her uncle with her, I suppose?" he said. "Lord—"

"Lord Lynborough; yes. You must be a stranger not to know his lordship."

"I am," he assented. "Just from Australia. I walked over from Halifax this morning."
"It's a long way. Perhaps you'd like something to eat and drink—you look a little pale," said the woman. "Fanny—"

The girl started as if she had been absorbed in her contemplation of the handsome young stranger, and going into the kitchen brought out some bread and cheese and a glass of milk.

"I'm very much obliged," said Ralph, accepting the hospitality without the least sign of embarrassment or shyness. "It was very nice, not to say kind of you, to guess that I was hungry, Mrs.—"

"Mason's our name," she said. "We do the laundry for the Court."
"I see," he said. "Well, I hope I shall be a fellow-labourer. I am going to apply for a berth as a game-keeper. His lordship sent me to the head keeper."

"Geoffrey Birchett," said Mrs. Mason, nodding. "Well—I hope you'll get it," she added, so doubtfully that Ralph looked up and smiled.
"That sounds as if you don't think I shall."
—She shook her head.

"Geoffrey Burchett," said Mrs. Ma- please—not that it's my place to speak against him; for he's an old friend. He lives all alone by himself in the hut and keeps himself to himself, as you may say. Fanny here goes over every morning and does for him, so to speak."

Ralph-nodded and smiled at the girl as if he thought Geoffrey Burchett highly favoured by such ministrations, and Fanny blushed and dropped her eyes before the frank, ready way of this amazingly good-looking young man, who leant back in his chair and

"So I observed," commented Ralph. "And his niece—what did you say her name was?"
"Miss Veronica Gresham."
"Evidently takes after him," Fanny nodded.
"Yes," she said, in her soft, hesitating voice. "She's as proud as Lucifer."
"But she's very kind," put in Mrs. Mason, simply, and with a reproving glance at her daughter. "There's no end to her kindness. The Court hasn't been the same since she came. She goes amongst the people and takes an interest in the estate, and—and looks after things as they wasn't looked after, before she came."
"I see: a kind of Lady Beautiful," said Ralph; but neither mother nor daughter seemed to understand the allusion, and stared at him vacantly. "And when he dies—I suppose even so great a man as his lordship must die some day, or do they live for ever—who succeeds him, who comes into his greatness?"
(To be continued.)

Helen Keller Spoke.
Cresson, Pa., July 18.—Miss Helen Keller, who after being deaf, dumb and blind since her birth, two weeks ago made a speech at Providence, R. I., has arrived here and will pass the summer with her teachers on the estate of Mrs. Mary Copely Thaw, mother of Harry K. Thaw. Miss Keller will complete her study of articulation and by fall is expected to be able to talk as clearly as any one. Miss Keller's teachers are Mrs. John Macey, her lifelong companion, and Prof. and Mrs. John W. White of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

REMEDY FOR LOCKJAW.
Baltimore, Md., July 17.—The survival of Bernard Myerly, a nine-year-old boy, from lockjaw resulting from a stone bruise and other injuries to his foot has increased interest in the method of treatment which was used in this case by Dr. Pierce Kintzing. This is the ninth of a series of lock-jaw cases in which Dr. Kintzing and his assistants at the Franklin Square Hospital have used what is a new plan of treatment with success. The remedy is a solution of phenol of 10 per cent. strength, diluted to suit the cases and administered by hypodermic injection deep into the muscles.
"It's kind of him to leave some part of England to other people," she said, "especially seeing that it's so small."
Mrs. Mason started at him.
"His lordship's a very strange man," she repeated, with the helplessness of her class when confronted by something original.
"Well, he doesn't look particularly happy," observed Ralph.
The boldness of the remark seemed to stagger Mrs. Mason; but, with the candour which was as characteristic as her dullness, she said:
"Well, now you mention it, he don't. No, his lordship isn't a happy man."
"Is he married?" asked Ralph, with just a trifle more than polite interest.
Mrs. Mason shook her head. "No, his lordship's never been married; and until Miss Veronica came he lived alone at the Court or one of his other places—"

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