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The Imprisoned Heiress

The Spectre of Egremont.

CHAPTER XVII.

The kitchen, the pantries, and Gosman's room underwent a thorough search, the most impossible places being investigated, but of course the person they sought was not to be found.

They were about to retire from the house when the ballist, who accompanied the party, and was one of the two officials mentioned, examined the bed and produced a great sensation by drawing from the straw mattress, in which it was hidden, the stolen watch of Lord Ashcroft.

This discovery was sufficient to render suspicion certainty in the minds of the observers.

Dame Kepp uttered a shriek and went into hysterics, but Jessy controlled her own suffering to minister to hers.

The intruders finished their search and left the women to their anguish, continuing their investigations throughout the forest, in some nook or dell of which they hoped to find the object of their suspicions.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The search for Gosman Kepp proved unsuccessful. Not a nook or recess of the forest escaped scrutiny, but he was not to be found. His pursuers returned to the cottage, where Jessy Kay still remained to soothe the bewildered and frightened dame, and interrogated both the women, but Mrs. Kepp could not answer their questions, and Jessy would not. The girl did not profess ignorance of the movements of her lover, but she preserved an obstinate silence, which equally enraged Lord Egremont and the head-forester.

Lord Ashcroft, however, showed himself her friend. His chivalrous instincts were aroused in her favor, and he used his influence to divert attention from her, urging upon his host the girl's claim to respect and sympathy.

The forest having been gone through, the foresters' cottages investigated, the ornamental structures scattered here and there throughout

served that they were all well thumbed.

"They might have been bought second-hand," suggested Lord Ashcroft.

"True, my lord," replied Indor; "but his own taste must have guided the selection. I observed that though there were a few general works in the collection, Kepp's library was principally made up of the lives of self-made men."

"Very excellent reading for an ambitious man of his rank, anxious to rise higher in the social scale," commented the Lady Alexina.

"But not good for him, I think," said Lyle Indor. "My theory is, that this under-forester had read so much of poor men rising to a high rank, that it has nearly overturned his mind, which could never have been well balanced or strong. And I think he is envious and jealous of those whom Providence has placed above him. There are plenty of such men. Discontented, envious, and narrow-minded, the intelligence of Lord Ashcroft's coming to Egremont was enough to quite overset his small amount of sense or discretion. He drew a contrast between the fortune of this honored guest and his own narrow lot, and developed a hatred against Lord Ashcroft. He could not bear that this more fortunate being should live in splendor, and be wedded to the heiress of Egremont, while he was obliged to toil for his daily bread, uncheered by the prospect of ever marrying the coquettish Jessy, whose father had refused her hand to him. In fact, I think that Kepp is a monomaniac. I do not doubt his sanity on all subjects but one; and I do not doubt there are moments when he deprecates his infatuation, and has not strength to resist it. There may even be times when he doubts the infatuation itself, and looks upon the assaults of which he is accused as too incredible, believing himself incapable of them."

"Your theory is very plausible, Mr. Indor," remarked Lord Ashcroft, thoughtfully, his mind going back to the scene in the chalet, when Kepp had accused the head-forester of borrowing the fatal gun, and the latter had denied the accusation in a manner to confirm it.

"It is doubtless true," declared Lord Egremont. "It supplies a reason for Kepp's infamous and murderous conduct, which was all that was required. After finding your lordship's watch concealed in his bed, no further evidence can be desired of his guilt. If the fellow is hanging about Egremont, he will soon be caught, and justice done to him. I shall have a strict lookout kept for him."

The Lady Lorean grew very pale at the thought that her brother, whom she loved so tenderly, should have incurred the hatred of a monomaniac, and she was tempted to express aloud the wish that filled her heart, and leave Egremont, and return, with Lionel, to their fair, pleasant country home, where the young lord was regarded by every one with the truest and sincerest affection.

A further discussion followed, from which it appeared that the carafe of water that had been tampered with in Lord Ashcroft's chamber the preceding evening, had been examined, and part of the contents administered to a house dog, which had died in great agony from its effects.

"But, my lord," said Lyle Indor, "how came you to suspect the existence of poison in the decanter? Was the water colored?"

"No. It was as colorless last night as when I exhibited it this morning to you. I cannot very well explain how I discovered it," said Lord Ashcroft turning his head to conceal the flush that arose to his cheeks at the remembrance of her to whom he owed the preservation of his life—the Lady Aimee. "I am only too glad that my suspicions were aroused before I had occasion to drink of the poison."

His lordship's confusion was unnoticed, and Indor did not press the question, saying, simply:

"I suppose your lordship remarked a difference in the position of the carafe. It is well to have such methodical habits—it was particularly well last evening."

Lord Ashcroft did not reply, and the subject was dropped.

Lady Egremont introduced a pleasant, though less absorbing topic, and the Lady Lorean and Lyle Indor joined with her with apparent spirit. Lord Egremont gazed thoughtfully into the fire.

(To be continued.)



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Six 'Phone Calls in One Minute

Time-Saving Automatic System—The Latest Model.

An unexpected result of an automatic telephone service was revealed at the opening of the York automatic exchange by Mr. T. B. Johnston, the superintending Post Office Engineer of the North Eastern District.

In Leeds, where an automatic system has been in successful operation since 1918, he said the biggest improvement in the service had been in the time taken by the called subscriber to answer the telephone.

Whereas in the old days of normal working a subscriber who did not answer the telephone until the caller had rung him up, no such inquiry was possible on the automatic system. The dilatory subscriber thus was left in curiosity and doubt as to what important message he had missed. Therefore in time he learned to answer the call as soon as the bell rang.

It was also emphasized that another time-saving device of this wonderful automatic system was that a simple act of hanging up the receiver instantaneously clears a line after a conversation is finished, the instrument being then ready at once for a fresh call.

On one instrument at Leeds, said the engineer, he had made six completed calls, including a reply from the called subscriber, in one minute.

York is the latest of 25 exchanges in Great Britain to be equipped with an automatic system. Now 1,500 subscribers in York know that all they have to do to complete a call is to rotate a small dial at the base of their instruments.

Recording the Calls. The new exchange is the most up-to-date in the country, working on the same system as that with which London is to be equipped.

At one end of the exchange room stand a number of meters, in appearance much like a motor-car mileage meter. These record the number of calls made by each subscriber, but do not operate until the called subscriber also takes up his receiver. "No replies," and "numbers engaged" are not therefore charged against the subscriber. "Wrong numbers," however, are entirely his own fault, and for these he must pay.

The Candy Table will be there, and the Pantry Table will be doing business at the old stand as usual, at the Ladies' Aid Sale, in the Presbyterian Hall, Wednesday afternoon.—dec13,31

Tut-Ankh-Amen

The Jewish World publishes an article dealing with the identity of Tut-Ankh-Amen, and quotes Professor Sellkowitz, the Egyptologist, who in the Jewish Forum of New York "provides a reasoned argument for the belief that he was Joseph of the Bible.

If the Professor's surmise is correct, says the Jewish World, it follows that when the sarcophagus of Tut-Ankh-Amen is opened it will be found to be empty because when the Children of Israel went up out of Egypt they took with them the bones of Joseph.

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(To be continued.)

Murder of 27 Men

WANTS TO BE DEAD BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

His Last Word Will be a Curse on his Father.

HANOVER, Germany, Dec. 5.—"I want to be dead before Christmas," is the insistent demand of Fritz Haarmann, the Hanover butcher, whose trial for the murder of 27 young men since 1918 opened here yesterday.

Haarmann, who at the time of his arrest gloated over the murders he had committed, now acts like a man violently insane, jumping about, excitedly tearing his hair and suddenly breaking off in the middle of sentences, apparently losing continuity of thought. He stubbornly declines suggestions from the court that he retire for a while and try to calm himself, however, insisting upon having the trial hurried along.

Haarmann confesses to the murder of fourteen of those he is accused of slaying, but agrees with suggestions that his victims may have exceeded this number. He admits cutting up the bodies and disposing of them, a task which he says usually took him two days, but denies selling the flesh as animal meat.

Reference to his late father invariably provokes outbursts from the prisoner. "My last words before being beheaded will be a curse upon my father," he cried on one occasion. Haarmann's alleged chief helper, Hans Grans, denies all the charges of complicity in the crimes. One hundred and ninety witnesses will be summoned in the course of the trial, it is forecast.

PEACE ONCE MORE.

Throughout the long and fierce campaign of d Cripes and Bungstead wrangled in u c h; a n d Cripes hit Bungstead with his plane, and Bungstead slammed him with his crutch. A stranger from a foreign shore, beholding these two in their fight, might say,

"The Peace Dove never more will hover round these warring wights. A feud like theirs must end in blood, in dagger's thrust or pistol's crack; no other end can stem the flood of insults banded forth and back." But strangers from a distant land don't know our cheerful little ways; it takes them years to understand the customs of our native jays. Before election day we scap and fill the air with fiery threats to wipe each other off the map, until the weary walkin' sweats. But when the boys have cast their votes and stood up for their chosen men, we fatten' in our straying goats, and settle down to peace again. Thus Cripes and Bungstead, arm in arm, go winking down the village street, no longer viewing with alarm, but lost in discourse calm and sweet. It is a trait we must admire, this trick of wrangling for a time, then slumping down from passion's fire, in one brief day, to peace sublime. We have our bitter old campaigns, we rant a while and paw the air, but when they're done we take great pains to spread good humor everywhere.

Brown & Polson's Cornflour for Xmas Puddings and Cakes. dec1,31

"Boys in Black Shirts"

Up to a certain moment the general public were fain to admit that the vast bulk of those who fought for Italy in the war were behind the Fascist and supported their political aims. Lately, however, there have been many secessions from the Fascist's Party precisely among those who were most distinguished for their services at the front. Italy's share of the great leader's enthusiasm is slackening. Some early supporters of Fascist methods are getting tired of seeing bands of youths, who are too young to have fought in the war, parading the streets and shouting their insolent battle-cry. These "boys in Black Shirts" are bringing discredit to the movement. Fascism is beginning to lose caste. As a correspondent wrote in the article that we published recently, it takes little to change the attitude of a Latin crowd from a cheer to a laugh, and still less to merge a laugh into a sneer; and Mussolini's popularity no longer counterbalances the unpopularity of his followers.—London Times.

Don't Squeal

I notice in certain quarters an attempt to detract from All Blacks' brilliant performance at Twickenham on the ground of their tactics with regard to obstruction and offside. This un-British habit of squealing after defeat is growing. After the South Africans beat us in the Rugby matches out there it was stated by some people that had retreating was the cause of our defeat. Our players soon contradicted this.

McMurdo's Christmas Store News!

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You will surely find a suitable Xmas Gift if you wish to say it with CHOCOLATES—Moirs' in beautiful Christmas Packages; Page & Shaw, in Holly and other Fancy Packages; Pascal's, in unique Gold Colour Boxes; Callars & Kohlers, the famous Swiss Chocolates, in Fancy Boxes.
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(To be continued.)



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