

## CHILDREN CRY FOR



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## The Mystery of Rutledge Hall

—OR—

### "The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER XXVII.

As he uncovered his face and turned to her, it was bloodless as her own, and the anguish in his eyes almost equaled the agony of hers. His hands shook as he tried to raise her. He would have willingly forgotten all hope of his innocence being proved, he would have met death gladly to spare her this knowledge; but, looking at her as she knelt there, his lips refused to utter the lie which would have asserted his belief in Stephen Daunt's innocence. His silence answered her as plainly as any words could have done.

Her clinging hands loosed their hold upon his arm, the upturned face drooped; she sank as "a dying star falls beneath the least death-shot," stunned, crushed, and stricken, with blind eyes, and a dumb, breathless terror on her face—the ghastly face on which the fire-light fell.

A terrible silence followed—a silence as of death itself; then Frank stooped over Sidney, and, lifting her from the ground, put her gently into a chair. She was perfectly passive in his hands; she made no opposition, nor uttered a word, although she was still conscious; the blessing of insensibility was denied her.

"Sidney," the young man said, very gently and sadly, "the sacrifice of my life could undo this night's work. It is no idle speech to say that it would be willingly, ay, gladly made! Forget the words you overheard, dear—forget them. As you say, there has been some terrible mistake—a mistake which perhaps some day will be cleared up, and all will be well. Try to forget them, my poor child."

"To forget them," she repeated, with a harsh laugh—"to forget that you have said that my husband—a my husband is a murderer!"

"The innocent have suffered long enough for the guilty," Christine said, bitterly. "Sidney, the thought of Stephen Daunt's villainess must be sufficient to destroy every atom of your regard for him. How can you love a man so base, so despicable, so cowardly? Knowing that he committed the deed, he let an innocent man suffer without a word in his defense—nay, avowing a belief in his guilt. You yourself have told me how sternly he forbade you to make any effort to prove Frank's innocence. No wonder he feared the result of an inquiry into the matter!" she added, with a harsh, sneering laugh, which stung Sidney more even than the cruel words, and gave her strength to struggle against a darkness which seemed to be closing in upon her, the numb, dead sensation creeping over her limbs.

## Byno's Hypophosphites

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ty must be considered, and, until his to meet?"

She was clinging to him wildly, both her arms clasping him with all her little strength, uttering faint hysterical sobs. Sidney stood aloof. Much as she pitted the miserable girl, she could not force herself to soothe one who had spoken with such concentrated bitterness of Stephen.

"Let me go, let me go!" Frank urged, struggling to release himself, but unwilling to use force; while she clung to him wildly still, until her strength suddenly gave way, her slight arms relaxed their feeble clasp and fell powerless by her side, her form swayed backward, and would have fallen, but that he caught her as she swooned away.

"It is better so," he said, huskily, bending over her and leaving a light kiss on the death-like face as he laid her down. "Sidney, Heaven bless you, dear! Forgive me, if you can—Heaven knows I would have willingly spared you this!"

"I know, too," she answered, giving him her hand, with a faint, forced, pitiful smile which brought tears to the eyes which had remained dry all through Christine's wild entreaties. "You will let me hear from you, Frank?"

"Yes; Heaven bless and help you, dear!"

She went with him to the door. Beside him was standing in the gallery outside waiting to conduct "the doctor" down stairs. Sidney drew back slightly under the shadow of the curtain-drapery. "Good-night, Dr. Anderson," she said, mastering her emotion, to let no suspicion arise in the old servant's mind. "I am much obliged for such a long visit; but I am sorry we cannot prevail upon you to remain the night at Easthorpe. It is inclement weather for night-travelling."

Frank made some inarticulate reply, and hastened down-stairs with Bessie. Sidney returned slowly and with a strange reluctance to the boudoir, pushing her soft hair back from her forehead with restless unsteady fingers.

Christie was still unconscious; her head had fallen back upon her chair, her hands hung nerveless and helpless at her side, her swoon was terribly akin to death. Sidney, who but a few hours before had held her friend so tenderly in her arms, had so patiently soothed her in her agony of terror and distress, now shrunk from the inanimate form with a horror she herself would have shuddered at at any other moment, her pity changed into resentment, her tenderness into agony. She could not forget the cruel words Christie had spoken, even though they had been wrung from her by a sense of wrong and injury. She could never forget that she had called Stephen—her husband—

Even in thought she could not apply to him the harsh, cruel epithet which the girl who lay insensible there had uttered; her heart sickened at the recollection, her whole frame trembled at the awful horror of it. She went over to the window and drew aside the curtain; the lamps on the fly which was taking Dr. Anderson back to the station were dimly visible as they went down the drive and then disappeared; and Sidney drew a breath of relief as she went to the door. Bessie was coming slowly up the stairs, and looked up as she heard the sound of the opening door.

"Bessie," her mistress said, in a low tone. "Miss Greville has fainted. Will you come to her, and do what you can for her this evening? Mason can help you. I shall not want you. I am tired, and am going to bed."

Without another look at the motionless figure by the fire, she left the room, and went swiftly along the gallery to her own apartment, where locking the door securely upon herself, she sunk down on a couch, her arms flung out before her, her head bowed upon them, motionless as if stricken by death itself, but consumed by the horror of the blow which had fallen upon her. In the intense self-absorption of her anguish she remembered nothing else—nothing but the one great horror which seemed to enshroud her. She had no memory for aught else but the husband whom she loved. Ay, although he had never loved her, she loved him with all the strength of her womanhood, all the passion of her nature, with a love which even the accusation against him had no power to shake.

(To be continued.)  
Glazed onions should not be forgotten on the holiday menus.



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### Chinese Vegetable Vendor in Advanced Stages of Leprosy

VANCOUVER, B.C., Oct. 20.—C.P.—A Chinese vegetable vendor afflicted with leprosy in advanced stages has been discovered at South Wellington, on Vancouver Island near Nanaimo, according to a despatch to the Evening Sun.

The case was discovered, says the despatch, when a boy about to purchase some vegetables from a Chinese dealer, was warned by another Chinese not to touch them as the dealer was a "sick man." The lad's mother reported the incident to the Provincial Police and the Chinese was taken to Dr. T. J. McPhee, Provincial medical officer, for examination. Dr. McPhee, in consultation with Dr. Pageat in Ottawa, and other physicians, pronounced the case to be one of leprosy in advanced stages and the victim has been placed in isolation. A survey of all Chinese in Vancouver Island lumber camps for traces of the malady is being undertaken.

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### Mutinous Ship's Guns Still Menace Tsingtao

White-Flaggers in Peril of Bombardment—Defense Forces in Readiness.

TSINGTAO, China, Oct. 17.—British and United States residents of Tsingtao were still in a state of alarm over the possibility of a bombardment by Chinese sailors of the city if reports in their wages are not paid. They are seeking safety in their respective consulates and in mission compounds, and at other places at considerable distance back from the waterfront.

In addition to the three Chinese warships already here, three others have come into port. It has not yet been determined whether they will join the mutinous sailors, and this fact increases the anxiety of the populace. Chinese artillery and infantry have been stationed at strategic points for action against the mutinous sailors in case of need.

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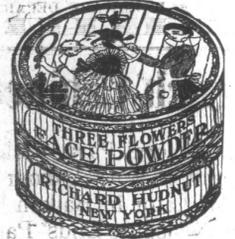


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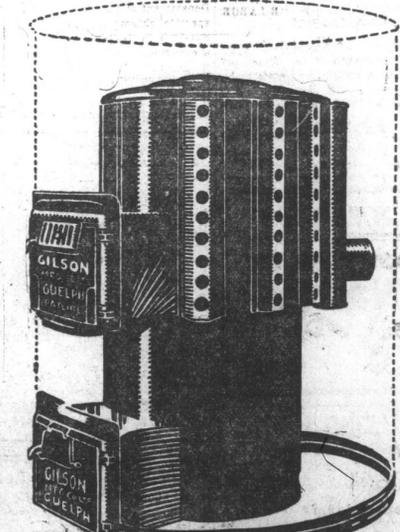


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