

# Elaine the Fair

A New Serial Story of Absorbing Interest.

"We weren't looking at jewels—I believe I hate them!" Lisabel said, linking her arm in Elaine's. "Come along if you are going out. That is much more to my taste!"

"Come, Gracilia!" cried Elaine. "We want everybody!"

Gracilia thrust the box back into the press. She was glad she had told Lisabel. Her heart felt lighter. She wondered as she hastily fastened on her hat and prepared to go downstairs if Elaine had been long in the room and how much she had heard.

## CHAPTER VIII.

Gracilia Latimer felt happier that evening as she dressed for dinner than she had done since her aunt's death. When she reached the drawing-room she thought at first that she was the only person there, but she had taken but a few steps when Colin Grantly came out from a window where he had been standing, and at once joined her. She could not avoid seeing the flash of admiration in his eyes, and it confused her.

"You are not tired after your walk?" he asked.

"After a stroll of at least half a mile? No, I do not feel particularly fatigued, thank you!"

"I was foolish to ask that. I remember better things of you, in the old times we used to go miles and never remember how far we were from home."

"I am so anxious to hear Miss Verinder sing. Why, where is the piano?"

"The footmen have just removed it to the little inner room."

"Elaine does not like an audience, she says. I suppose she prefers to sing where she cannot be seen."

"I should deduce as much from the removal of that piano," said Miss Latimer, there was a time when your conversation was not as colourless as at present. I always considered you an exceptionally good talker, but now I might as well have Lady Annandale for my companion."

"You have a great spite against Lady Annandale. To me she appears amiable and charming."

"I agree to the 'amiable', but you know that she is not charming. You take precisely the same view of her as I do. It is strange in how many points we agree."

"What points? Mind, I do not at all allow that you are right."

"I am right. As to the points, in the first place we agree as to Lady Annandale."

"Do leave her out of your conversation. Your petty shafts are contemptible."

"In the next place, we both like Miss Beresford."

"Every one must, so that proves nothing."

"And we both wonder if we like Miss Verinder."

"How can you say such a thing?" Gracilia cried indignantly. "Where should I be now but for her kindness? She had my rooms prepared for me in the most beautiful way, and when she saw I was in black she insisted on supplying me with everything a girl could wish for in the shape of wearing apparel. You really go beyond the bounds of what is allowed to an acquaintance in your statements, which are entirely without foundation."

His smile enraged her, for it told that he persevered in his opinion, but she was unable to say any more, for the mistress of the house entered at that moment, smiling and gracious, looking more than ever like "the lily-maid."

Mrs. Beresford and Lisabel were with her, and Lord Brixton followed them. Every one looked in admiration at the beautiful vision before them.

She wore a white silk gauze dress, exquisitely fitting, which set off her slender figure to the best advantage. A small tiara of gold and large pearls crowned her pale-gold hair, and a necklace to match clasped her slender throat. There was a delicate flush on her cheeks, and her blue eyes looked round with a certain shyness, like a child appealing for approbation and encouragement. Gracilia thought she had never seen anything more lovely. She instantly repressed the feeling that Lisabel's simple pink frock was more suitable to such a small gathering. Nothing, no nothing should induce her to give any colour, even in her thoughts, to Colin Grantly's insinuation.

Miss Verinder was a charming hostess, and dinner passed off delightfully. Every one was impatient to hear the wonderful voice which Herr Eberhardt had praised so highly, and no one cared to linger in the dining-room. Gracilia threw even more eagerness than she felt into her manner as she sat down beside Lisabel in a nook which she was sure Colin Grantly could not invade. She did not look towards him or appear conscious of his presence.

"Now, good people," Elaine said gaily, when all were gathered, "you must remember that you have promised to let me take my own way about this singing. I must explain to you first that my maid is also my foster sister and that she was trained to accompany me when I sing. I don't believe that I could form a note if any one else sat at the piano, so I have told her to be ready."

"Is she in the inside room?" asked Mrs. Beresford. All these preliminaries bored her, particularly in the provoking circumstance that Lisabel could not sing a note, and that Lord Brixton, whom she wished her to marry, was decidedly musical.

"She is coming," Elaine answered. "There is a door at the back of the room, and she need not pass through here. She plays well, but she is very shy."

"Are lamps to be lighted?" Lord Brixton asked, peering into the shadowy inner room. "I begin to feel queer. If I were near Miss Beresford I should ask her to hold my hand."

"You are not near me. I am thankful to say," Lisabel answered calmly. "Miss Latimer and I managed that."

Elaine, murmuring that she would go and see if Giulietta was ready,

glided from the room. In the inner room, which had not yet been lighted up, a screen could be dimly discerned, behind which the piano was placed. The guests were grouped at the end of the long drawing-room farthest from it, and this added to the darkness, gave rise to some good-humoured talk about the feeling of mystery which all declared they felt. Presently one of the electric lights was turned up, and Giulietta came out, or a door at the back and glided across the room until she disappeared behind the screen. She did not raise her eyes or glance towards her audience as she passed, and in an instant she was hidden from view. The next moment Elaine, shy and smiling, appeared. She bowed slightly to her guests, and then, moving back a little so that she should not stand in the full glare of the light, opened her music.

The Italian girl made it evident from the first note that she was an accomplished musician, but all thought of her was forgotten when Elaine's exquisite, perfectly-trained voice was heard. She was a singer of surpassing brilliance and sweetness. Every sound was hushed as she poured out her heart in the Italian song which told of her love for the land she had left. Gracilia had not studied the language deeply, but she could catch the meaning, and her eyes were wet with strange tears when the song was finished. The tense silence which followed told of the effect the singing had had on the rest. Then suddenly Elaine broke into a gay little French chansonnette, which relieved the sadness of her first song, and when it was finished, with a smile and a sweeping courtesy, she vanished through the door at the back.

At the same instant the lights in the inner room were lowered.

"Well, that was the most marvellous thing I ever heard," Lord Brixton said. "Herr Everhardt was certainly right, and we have a genius among us. And the girl plays magnificently. I never heard two people more perfectly attuned."

"It was marvellous, as you say—that is the only word for it," Colin Grantly said.

When Elaine returned they all crowded round her to express their admiration.

"Oh, please don't!" she cried. "If you say any more I shall be sorry I sang. It is really a great trial to me, and I want to ask you, if I ever sing any more, not to come into the room."

"I will do exactly whatever you wish," Lord Brixton said. "It would be very ungrateful of us to do anything else after the pleasure you have given us. Remember that we shall all want as much as we can get, and if we do not ask it is our own fault. We hope we shall be more successful by that plan. That maid of yours is a fine player."

"Yes, she was trained at the same time as I was," Elaine answered. "And now, please, don't say a word more about me. I want Gracilia to play."

"It is very good and humble of me to do it after what has gone before," Gracilia said, rising. "No, don't bother turning on the light. I play from memory. And please let everybody talk."

Gracilia was an excellent musician, and she received many thanks when she at length rejoined the others.

"That was good," Colin Grantly said, seating himself beside her, "and took me back to old times. Do you know I used often to sit and dream of your playing when I was at the other side of the world?"

"Had you time for dreams?"

"Yes, they never stopped." Their eyes met and hers dropped, and though she moved away, he did not look unhappy.

"Why do you snub Mr. Grantly so unmercifully?" Lisabel asked, as the two girls sat that night in Miss Beresford's room.

"Why do you snub Lord Brixton?"

"I don't. I like him well enough, but my stepmother's tactics are so very obvious that self-respect obliges me to do something. Now you are positively rude to Mr. Grantly. Your eyes flash and your nostrils dilate; you look haughty and forbidding."

"Do I intend to be civil?"

"Civil? Then I must be positively gushing to Lord Brixton! My dear Miss Latimer, you are like a frozen frog!"

"Call me Gracilia! I forgive you scolding; I have nobody else to do it now."

"You poor Gracilia. Well, I shall scold you and do everything disagreeable that is for your good. And I must be Lisabel. Do you know you are making up to me for Lucy Carden being carried away? Remember, Lucy was my particular friend, not Elaine, and I rather disliked coming here when she was gone. I knew I should feel lonely."

"Elaine was right about the kindred spirits. I felt dreadfully lonely too without exactly knowing why. I have nothing to do. You see, Elaine is so much attached to that maid of hers that she does not want me."

"I don't like that girl; I felt as if a serpent were sitting at the piano if such a thing could be."

"It couldn't," Gracilia said laughing. "Where is your home, Lisabel?"

"Near London. You must come to me there."

"I will, when you have a home of your own. That is not what I was thinking of. I was wondering if it was true that Lucy Carden is in Surrey, and if so, whether you could find her out."

"I intend to do so, And you, on your side, must write and tell me if you hear anything. Promise me, Gracilia, that you will write to me. Though my stepmother is so anxious to get rid of me, I am not too powerful stricken. My mother's fortune

became mine when I came of age, and I could always help Lucy"—she paused and then slightly pressed Gracilia's hand—"or you, if either of you wanted a friend."

Gracilia was not in general inclined to show emotion, but as she offered Lisabel a silent kiss her eyes were full of tears.

## CHAPTER IX.

When Gracilia met Miss Verinder the next day she knew that something unusual had happened. Though Elaine's disposition was so sunny, Gracilia had begun to know the signs of disturbance, and she was sure, untroubled as she seemed, that they were there. Her guests were gathered around the luncheon table, and Gracilia, listening to her words, found the reason.

"I had a letter from Sir Everard Denham this morning," Miss Verinder remarked. "He says that he is coming for a few days and will be here this afternoon. I am so glad. We must try to persuade him to stay for my dance."

"I am delighted!" said Lisabel. Sir Everard was known to every member of the party except Colin Grantly and Gracilia, and all were pleased at the prospect of his coming. Gracilia studied him as he sat at tea that afternoon in the great hall. He looked about thirty, with a strong, rather worn face and deep, piercing eyes. His manner was kind but slightly pre-occupied. He roused himself after a while and began to talk.

"I met an old friend of yours, Elaine," he said, "as I was coming—a lady who had known you in Italy. I happened to mention the station to which I was bound, and she immediately asked if you lived here."

"Please hand me that screen," Elaine said, speaking to Colin Grantly, who was next to her. "The room is insufferably hot! Yes, you were telling us about the Italian lady, cousin Everard. Who was she?"

"She was Italian, but American. When once the flood-gates were open she poured out her whole history and a good part of yours. Her health was poor, and she was recommended to settle in Italy, which she did a few years ago, and while there got to know your father. I had no idea that you were brought up in such strict seclusion."

(To Be Continued)

# ROBBERS BOARDED T. & P. MAIL TRAIN

Entered Mail Car, Bound and Gagged Clerks, and Stole Registered Mail.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Shreveport, La., March 30.—Robbers boarded a Texas and Pacific mail train No. 23, at the depot here early this morning as the train was pulling out. They entered the mail car and bound and gagged two mail clerks, and took two pouches of registered mail. They left the train at Shreveport Junction about two miles from the depot.

An official of the road notified the police who immediately dispatched a squad of officers in high powered automobiles after the robbers. It was said that there were two of them. The value of the contents of the registered pouches is not known.

Number 23 is the fast mail train, running between New Orleans and Fort Worth, and left Shreveport at 11.55 p.m. last night. After the bandits left the train, the mail clerks worked their way loose from their bonds and gave the alarm.

The robbers are reported to be young men, but the mail clerks are unable to say whether they were white or negroes. Police think the men may have escaped on a north-bound train leaving here shortly after midnight.

# TWO SMALL BOYS DROWNED AT GALT

Were Playing on the Ice When It Floated Out With Them.

Galt, March 29.—A double drowning occurred yesterday afternoon, when Thomas Arthur and Alfred Dempsey, both six-year-old lads lost their lives, with a playmate, Arthur Campbell, who got on a piece of ice near the shore of Mill Creek and had been playing there for a short time when a floating ice struck it, and it too started down stream. Nine-year-old Ted Wilson succeeded in rescuing Campbell, but the other boys, after being carried some distance, fell into deep water and were washed beneath the ice.

The fire brigade was called out and an effort made to recover their bodies, but so far without success.

## Has Resigned.

Tokyo, March 30.—Lieut.-General Ichinosuke Oka, minister of war, has resigned owing to ill-health. He has been succeeded by Lieut.-General Ken-ichi Ohshima, who had held the post of vice-minister of war.

BRANTFORD ASTONISHED BY SIMPLE MIXTURE.

Brantford people are astonished at the INSTANT action of simple buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-ika. ONE SPOONFUL removes the most surprising foul matter it relieves almost ANY CASE of constipation, sour stomach or gas. Lower and upper bowels, a few doses often relieve or prevent appendicitis. A short treatment helps chronic stomach trouble. M. H. Robertson Limited.

# THE DEMANDS OF 400,000 ENGINEERS PRESENTED TO-DAY

Ask For an Eight-hour Day With Same Pay and Time-and-a-Half Overtime.

# HAVE A MONTH IN WHICH TO REPLY

Railroad Men Believe 100-Mile Day Can be Run in Eight Hours.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

New York, March 30.—The demands of nearly 400,000 engineers, firemen and trainmen will be presented to the general managers of the several railroad companies involved at their headquarters in different parts of the country to-day. The employees who belong to the so-called Big Four unions, asks for an eight hour day without reduction in pay and time and a half for overtime. The employees who belong to the so-called Big Four unions, asks for an eight hour day without reduction in pay and time and a half for overtime.

It is understood that the railroads already have made ready a tentative answer, which amounts to a conditional refusal that leaves the way open for further negotiations.

The position of the unions is explained in a statement by the executive committee of the adjustment boards, which has charge of the submission of the demands to-day. The committee's statement says:

"In making the demand for the eight hour day, the unions feel themselves justified, believing that trains can be so managed that the 100 miles required of a railroad man per day can be put inside of eight hours. As the train service is now, single crew engines in the switching service, on which only one crew works in the twenty-four are often compelled to work from ten to sixteen hours a day. It is injustice such as this as the railway unions want ended."

"We will submit our demands all over the United States. Then we will attend to our regular routine work until the end of thirty days given the railroads to consider our demands, when we will return to receive the reply of the railroad companies."

"Our desire is to open negotiations with railroads on our demands, and we have no intention of talking strike to the railroads or submitting an ultimatum."

Arrangements already have been made here for a meeting of representatives of the employees and managers of the Erie, New Jersey Central and New York Central Railroads to-day.

# Labor Party Will Meet

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 30.—The Labor party of the British parliament has held a meeting under the chairmanship of Arthur Henderson, president of the Board of Education, to consider a proposal which had been received from the international Socialist bureau. The proposal was to the effect that inasmuch as international gathering of Socialists is impossible under the present conditions, Socialist organizations in each country should undertake to consider, separately and without reference to the present war, the question of the conditions on which enduring peace could be made possible in Europe and the recurrence of a war such as the present be made impossible. The British Labor Party decided that any consideration by it of such questions was impossible and undesirable and that the only thing the Labor party could concern itself with was the prosecution of the present war to a victorious termination.

# All Satisfied With Conference

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, March 30.—"We are all of us without exception, satisfied with the resolutions which were taken at the conference of the allies," said Antonio Salandra, the Italian premier, to a representative of The Matin. "Our votes were unanimous and their subject matter represented concrete realities. We are particularly pleased at the importance given during our deliberations to the question of shipping and freights. We recognize that a state of war implies certain restrictions and privations, but these privations can be reduced to a minimum by the loyal co-operation of all. I believe that a judicious and equitable

Amoy, March 30.—Reports from Swatow, province of Kwang-Tung, say that fighting is in progress there and that foreigners have been warned not to enter the city. The United States gunboat Wilmington is in the harbor there.

Fighting in China.

Thousands Perished.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Berne, via Paris, March 29, 11 p.m.—Of 30,000 Serbian refugees who, following the invasion of their country by the Teutonic allies, headed southward, only 8,000 succeeded in reaching Saloniki all the others having perished of cold and hunger on the way according to a report just received from Mile. Comte de Geneva, representative at Saloniki of the Swiss Red Cross.

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system is about to be adopted, which will relieve the transport trouble from which both you and we have been suffering."

# Coalition Wins At the Polls

Candidate Victor by Big Majority in Bye-Election.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 30.—The coalition government has scored another victory at the polls, its candidate Owen Jacobsen, having been successful in a bye-election at Hyde with a majority of 84 over T. H. Davies, independent.

The bye-election was caused by the resignation of Francis Neilson who found he could not support the war policy of the government. Mr. Davies is a member of the election on the question of restriction of the liquor traffic which he opposed. Mr. Jacobsen received 4,989 votes and Mr. Davies 3,215.

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# THE STRIKE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Council of Engineers Orders Men in Glasgow District to Go to Work.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, March 30.—After an investigation of the grievances of the men who have quit work in the Glasgow district, the council of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers decided to-day that the strike in six Clyde shops was unconstitutional and called on the men to return to work.

The council points out that the strike is in contravention of the munitions of war act, and warns the men they are liable to fines which may be deducted from their earnings. The council states that the Clyde district is the only one affected.

# Cost of Marrying Increased to \$5

Toronto, March 30.—The Ontario Government has decided to increase the cost of marrying. At present the marriage license fee is \$2. It is to be raised to \$5. The change means that the government will get about \$45,000 more per annum from this source than it has been getting, the number of marriages in Ontario in normal years aggregating 15,000. Of the present fee twenty cents goes to the government and \$1.80 to the issuer of the license. Of the new fee \$3.20 will go to the government and \$1.80 to the issuer of the license.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has ordered 75,000 tons of steel rails for 1917 delivery.

# HERE'S A NEW PUZZLE! "POLLY AND HER PALS," AND GOOD PRIZES, TOO