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**The Web;**  
 OR,  
**TRUE LOVE'S PASSION.**

CHAPTER XXVI  
 A Crime-Stained Soul.

Hartman was more than grateful when Norah went upstairs to put on her opera cloak, and told the poor woman the news Guildford Berton had brought.

"I can never thank him enough, my lady," she said, her eyes full of tears. "Mr. Guildford must have a kind heart to take so much trouble and thought on my account, and me only a servant. I didn't think, begging your ladyship's pardon, that he was that sort of gentleman; but it only shows how one can misjudge, my lady."

The simple speech clung to Norah as she wrapped the cloak round her. She had always disliked Guildford Berton, and treated him coldly; whereas she had loved Cyril Burne. And the one had taken pains and trouble to relieve the mind of a servant, while the other had proved base and false. Had she, too, not been guilty of an error in judgment?

When she reached the hall, the carriage was waiting, and beside it stood Guildford Berton with a wrap of soft fur.

"The nights are chillier here than they are at Santeleigh," he said. "You will let me put this round you, Lady Norah?" and he did so slowly and carefully.

Notwithstanding its being the off season, the dance was a big one, and Guildford Berton soon found that the Morning Post, though a little extravagant, did not exaggerate over much. There was a decided sensation when Lady Norah entered the ballroom, and he saw the men draw toward her as if magnetized. He was far too wise to hover about her, and betook himself to a distant part of the room; but there he heard her name quite frequently, and soon gathered that others beside himself were alive to her beauty, and the indescribable charm which she wrought.

His own clean-cut face, with its self-contained and somewhat sombre expression, attracted some attention, and he had the questionable satisfaction of hearing one lady ask another who and what he was.

"I am only a steward's son," he thought to himself; "but I shall soon be the husband of Lady Norah, and an earl's son-in-law, and then there will be no need to ask," and he encouraged himself with this while he looked on at Norah surrounded by her "throng of courtiers," as the Morning Post had it.

He did not dance. He did not ask Norah for even a square dance, though he would have been keenly warranted in doing so. He knew instinctively that she disliked and distrusted him, and that he must, if he

**Child Was Nervous, Irritable, Tired Out.**

She Had No Appetite, and Her Complexion Was Pale and Sallow.

How many parents realize the strain which going to school means to the child who is naturally nervous and of delicate health?

You see them come from the schools daily with pale faces, many wearing glasses, and looking tired and worn. At home they are irritable, do not sleep well at nights, and are upset by a little extra excitement.

If they are to grow to healthy manhood and womanhood their systems must have attention now. Such treatment as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food does wonders for children in this condition. We are constantly receiving letters from grateful parents telling what the Nerve Food has done for their children. This one is a fair sample:

Mrs. Stephen Hartman, Italy Cross, Lunenburg Co., N.S., writes: "My little sister at eleven years of age became nervous, irritable and seemed all tired out. She had no appetite, was

yet Norah had been too listless about everything to fall in with the suggestion. If she could have had Cyril to ride with, it would have been a different matter. But Guildford Berton, without saying anything to worry her, went out and chose a quiet horse for her, and then told the earl what he had done.

"The Park is quiet now," he said, "and I know a capital riding master. As Lady Ferndale says, it will do Lady Norah more good than anything else."

The earl signified his approval. "Very kind, very thoughtful of you," he said. "But I am not over fond of riding masters; and it is, alas! some years since I rode."

"If Lady Norah will permit me, I will go with them," said Guildford Berton, with simple politeness. "I shall be able to help her, perhaps."

At first Norah shook her head, and said that she did not care about it; but the earl made a point of it, and she got a habit, and the lessons commenced.

She would have infinitely preferred to have ridden with the master alone, and but it seemed ungenerous, after all the trouble Guildford Berton had taken, to object to his company, and so he rode with them; and it was really he, and not the master, who did the instructing.

"These men are mere machines," he said, as he rode beside her, keeping a careful eye upon the horse, and allowing himself to glance only now and then at the beautiful rider.

"They have a method which they apply to all; it never varies, though the pupil may be as nervous as a reed or as full of courage as you are, Lady Norah."

Norah smiled. "I don't feel very courageous," she said, "but I don't think I shall fall off."

And, indeed, she had no such fears, and in a few times sat the animal as if she had been riding since childhood.

These morning rides undoubtedly did her good, and after a fashion she enjoyed them; though all the time she was conscious of a feeling that her enjoyment would have been greater if Guildford Berton had not been present.

As for him, the couple of hours he spent by her side were an intoxication and a delight, that soon wrought a change in him. His face lost something of its paleness, and all its hardness, and his passion for Norah growing upon this close companionship, assumed gigantic proportions.

But his ministrations did not end in getting her a horse and teaching her to ride.

Almost every hour of the day he found something he could do for her. He had rendered himself indispensable to the earl at Santeleigh, and he slipped into the life at Park lane as easily as he had done at the Court.

It was he who suggested visits to the theatres or concerts, and he who got the tickets and secured the seats; and if the earl did not care to go, as was often the case, Guildford Berton was there to play escort to Norah and Lady Ferndale.

He was always satisfied to remain in the background, to sit behind Norah's chair, to hold her programme or bouquet. He always got her opera cloak ready; his arm was always at her service.

"I wish I didn't dislike your Mr. Guildford Berton so much; or, rather, I wish I liked him better, Norah," said Lady Ferndale, one evening when Guildford Berton had been more than usually useful and unobtrusively attentive.

Norah gave a little start; she had been looking at the stage and watching the acting, but her thoughts were far away from the play, which was being admirably performed, and she replied, listlessly:

"Do you dislike him so much?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so. 'Pon my word I don't know why, for he has really vastly improved, and I'm constantly hearing from people that they consider him a remarkably nice man."

"Yes," said Norah, indifferently. "But why do you call him 'my' Mr. Berton?"

Lady Ferndale looked at her half curiously and smiled.

"Well, my dear, he really seems to belong to you as much as if he were

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collar with your name engraved upon it."

Norah's brows came together, and a look half impatient, half troubled, passed over her face.

"He is staying with papa," she said, quietly. "He is his friend more—rather than mine."

"He is a very useful friend, anyway," responded Lady Ferndale. "Here he comes with our cloaks; and I'm sure he'll have got the carriage close to the door, however great the crush may be. An extremely useful young man! We were just wondering how you contrived to manage things as you do, Mr. Berton," she said to him, as he entered the box, and announced, in quiet tones, that the carriage was waiting; and her tone was more gracious than it usually was when she addressed him.

He smiled and glanced at Norah, but her face was particularly cold and unresponsive; and he guessed that Lady Ferndale had been speaking of him.

"We never have to wait for anything when we have you to look after us. Now, I'll be bound you have bribed or bullied the policeman to let our carriage get to the front."

"I don't like ladies hanging about in the lobbies," he said, gravely. "They are always naughty. It would not do for you—or Lady Norah—to catch cold."

"Especially Lady Norah," said Lady Ferndale, archly, and smiling; but Norah looked colder and more unresponsive than before, and having put them into the carriage, he walked off to a club to which he belonged, and going to the smoking-room, sat himself down in a dim corner and reviewed the situation.

Was it time to strike yet? Did he dare to avow himself? His face grew hot and then cold as he pictured Norah's start of surprise, and perhaps contempt, and anger, and scorn when he told her that he loved her.

And the earl? What reception would he give the news?

It was late when he reached Park lane, and he got himself in by his latch key, and entered the house quietly.

He was going straight to his room, when he saw that the door of a small room was half open, which the earl used as his own, and noticing that there was a light burning, he thought that the servants had forgotten to put out the lamp.

(To be Continued.)

**Incandescent Gas Lighting.**

The remarkable economy of the incandescent gas lamp is by no means either its chief—or even an important—claim for popularity. It means better than any other source of artificial light the requirements of ideal light.

In the color of the light produced it is far superior to any other illuminant in general and universal use. The investigations of acknowledged authorities indicate that for the approximation of daylight the incandescent gas mantle has at least one and one-half times the value of the carbon-filament electric lamp.

This quality is highly desirable, indeed absolutely essential where the approximation of daylight color values is important. For lighting shops, displaying haberdashery, suitings, gowns, millinery, etc., the incandescent gas lamp is not even remotely approached by any other incandescent lamp.

Of all the manifold advantages of gas light, perhaps the most important is its favourable effect upon the eyes. The development of the incandescent electric lamp with its intense brilliant and glaring filament has been accompanied by hitherto unheard-of prevalence of eye troubles and diseases which are forcing themselves upon the attention of the medical fraternity. This is resulting in a greater appreciation of the soft mellow quality of gas light and is rapidly enlarging its field of use.—July 13, 1904

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**Telegram Fashion Plates.**

The Home Dressmaker should have a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Fashion Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.



**1905—Dress for Misses and Small Women.**  
 Blue taffeta, with collar of black satin, was used to develop this chic creation. The model is especially suited to slender figures. The waist is full beneath the yoke sections which form part of the back. The sleeve is quaintly finished with a frill at the wrist edge. The full pockets on the fronts may be omitted. This model is also good for gabardine, serge, novelty, plaid and check suitings, for velvet, corduroy and broadcloth. The Pattern is cut in 3 sizes: 16, 18 and 20 years. It requires 5 3/4 yards of 44-inch material for a 16-year size. The Skirt measures about 3 yards at the foot.  
 A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cts. in silver or stamps.

A SMART DRESS FOR SCHOOL OR BEST WEAR.



**1904—Girls' Dress, with Shield.**  
 Plaid suiting in green and brown tones, with trimming of brown serge, was used for this style. The fronts are cut low and finished with a shield that is adjustable. The skirt is gathered at the sides and back and trimmed with deep box plaits that form points over the belt. This design is also good for serge, taffeta, gabardine, voile, corduroy and velvet. The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. It requires 3 3/4 yards of 44-inch material for an 8-year size.  
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We are meeting with great success with our new style two collar effect Overcoats.

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The "Evening Telegram" is read by over 40,000 People daily.

**TO-DAY Message**

10.30 A.M.

**BRITAIN AND THE NEUTRALS**  
 LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Commons to-day were put by Arthur Lynch, a Liberal, suggesting that in many particulars the policy of the British Government with regard to the neutrals has been of an irritating kind, and any compensation corresponding to the danger of producing a misunderstanding. Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, said, "Undoubtedly it is inevitable that our policy should inconvenience citizens of neutral countries, such as we are. I can only say that consistency of our paramount duty of using our legitimate rights we have and that all we can do to make their case little irksome to neutrals is to be able to appear in the Commons Tuesday as planned."

**MADE IN U.S.A.**  
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The embassies of the Entente here to-day reflected the view of Germany's peace proposals to be rejected without examination, that the Allies in reply will call for a statement. The President expresses the hope that he will be able to appear in the Commons Tuesday as planned.

**TWO BIG STEAMERS SUNK**  
 LONDON, Dec. 15.—Lloyd's Shipping Agency announced that the British steamer Stursula, of the Harlingen line, and the reported having struck a mine and Dec. 9th, as sunk. The crew picked up by the steamer was sunk later by a mine and lives. The Harlingen and Harlingen both British steamers, the latter 11,000 gross tons, the latter 11,000 gross tons. Lloyd's announced December 10th that both had damaged.

**GERMAN SUB CLAIMS**  
 AMSTERDAM, Dec. 15.—A Berlin dispatch says that German submarines between November 1st and Dec. 8th sank off the Atlantic coast among other vessels steamships carrying coal cargoes which were on the way to France also an English steamship with tons of war material which was proceeding from New York to France.

**RUSSIAN OPINION OF THE PEACE**  
 PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—From a highly authoritative source the Novoe Vremya says it has obtained the following expression with regard to the peace proposal of Central Powers: "The appeal of our enemies is a fresh attempt to upon France, Russia and British responsibility for the war and a trap for the public opinion of world. The Entente Powers are betting upon their shoulders a terrible responsibility before their people if they stopped the war, concluded a premature peace would nullify all their countless sacrifices. The firm resolve of France, Russia and Britain to carry this to a final triumph can be weakened by the proposed terms, so they not be placed in a position of qualifiedly rejecting peace."

**NO DETAILS YET.**  
 PARIS, Dec. 15.—The peace proposals of the Central Powers has been delivered to the Italian Government. No definite indications are given as to the conditions upon which peace negotiations might be attempted.

**ABOUT TIME.**  
 LONDON, Dec. 15.—In the Commons to-day, The McNamara, Financial Under Secretary to the Admiralty, announced the Admiralty had under consideration the matter of a merchant ships.

**LOTD GEORGE WORSE.**  
 LONDON, Dec. 15.—The condition of Premier George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from the severe chill contracted in the week and his physicians advised him to remain in bed a few more.

**McKENNA SUPPORTS BONAR**  
 LONDON, Dec. 15.—That the extent to which England is able to convert her Sterling into dollars is the real measure of her ability to continue to meet war's demands, was the gist of a briefly pointed speech in the Commons to-night by Reginald McKenna, Minister of Finance, in support of Law's present action in British financial position. McKenna