

Under False Colors

OR
Lord Somerton's Ally.

CHAPTER XXXV.

"Two whole days and I have not seen you, Noel," she said. "And you know that I had an 'at home' this evening!"

"I had forgotten it, mother," he replied, calmly. "I am very busy, you know, and really I am in no humor to listen to the insane laughter and rapid remarks of the people you usually get about you."

"Noel, it is disgraceful of you to speak in that way of my friends. Poor boy! I know that you are busy, and that we shall soon be enjoying what is ours by right. Oh, Lawyer Grant is certain of your success! He says that there need be little or no exposure if the young man who calls himself Miss Sterne does not make trouble, because Sir John is as good as dead. In one way, it is a very good thing; we must consider the family name, though my wicked brother deserves all that he may get!"

"Mother," said Noel, "I shall retire to my room at once. I have dined at the club."

"But, my dear, Adeline is here, and she is sure to—"

"I am going to my room," he interrupted, firmly.

His face was very pale, and he took a couple of turns across the room.

"I have much to say to you in the morning, mother," he pursued. "For the present I wish to be alone."

She glanced at him half doubtfully, but dare not say more. She felt ill at ease.

"There are letters in your private drawer," she said. "Good-night, Noel. I must not neglect my guests. I do hope that Adeline will not suspect that you have returned."

He kissed her cheek almost coldly, and when she was gone he opened the drawer where his letters were usually placed when he was away. There were half a dozen, and all except one were tradesmen's bills—bills that were much overdue, amounting in the aggregate to a large sum.

He sighed and locked them away. The other letter was from Lawyer Grant, and marked "Personal" in the left-hand corner.

He opened it, and half anticipated the contents, which ran as follows:

My Dear Campbell:—I must express my surprise and disapproval at the cavalier way in which you are treating me. Are you blind to your own interests? There are matters of the most imperative importance that must be discussed between us at once. I have labored unceasingly on your behalf for months, and expended large sums of money. What are you doing beyond waiting for the inheritance? I lost sight of you for days altogether, and get no word of explanation. Do you call this businesslike or gentlemanly, considering what you owe to me—and, excuse me, to my dear daughter? I



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may as well be plain with you. I am deeply concerned by reports of a silly flirtation between you and your low-born cousin. I really cannot countenance it, and you must cease such dishonorable conduct—dishonorable to that girl and to my daughter. I have yet to learn why you honor Blairwood at all with your presence. I am sure that the time is hardly ripe unless you are planning immediate improvements. Let me have the favor of an interview without delay. I sent a letter to your club two days ago, and have had no reply. Yours respectfully,
JAMES GRANT.

Campbell's eyes flamed with anger, and tearing the letter into a hundred fragments, he tossed them into the fire.

"Confound his insolence," he muttered; "he shall have the desired interview in the morning, and then—"

He covered his eyes with his hands and bent his head over the table.

"And then I shall be worse than a pauper! Dare I tell him all? But for my mother's sake, I would unmask the villain; his schemes should be flaunted in his face; only for her I know that it would mean social ruin—it would be worse than death, for the serpent would be sure to sting! Twenty thousand pounds, and not one shilling with which to pay! I have the talents which God has given me! Oh,

for freedom, with my darling's face to inspire me—to nerve me to work-work!"

He shook his fists savagely in the air.

"I will see you to-morrow, Mr. Grant, and play you with your own weapons, though I am lashed with self-contempt the while. You have trapped me in every way so far, but the mine will be sprung when you least expect it! Oh, it will be pleasant to see you writhe, a victim to your own cunning! and for every word that you have dared to utter against my sweet Elsie, I will give you a hundred blows!"

He heard Miss Cleveland's voice in the drawing-room—sordid and resonant. She was singing a hunting song, and he shuddered.

"I liked her once," he thought. "But I fear her now. She will make an implacable foe. To-morrow, or the next day, I shall hear from my darling—my inspiration—my delight! And when she knows all—when I stand before her as I am—just Heaven teach her to forgive!" At that moment there was a tap at the door, and a servant delivered a telegram which read in this way:

Sensible at last. I think that it is safe for you to see him. He is very weak.

It was signed simply by the letter "M."

"Good," murmured Noel; "I will go after my visit to Grant."

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Noel was an early riser, and had been in his studio a couple of hours when the breakfast-bell rang. A bulky brief had been forwarded by a brother barrister for his opinion, and he had just completed his pencil notes, when his mother appeared in the doorway.

There was an anxious expression in her eyes which she vainly endeavored to hide.

"Breakfast in waiting, Noel," she said.

"Thank you, mother; I will come at once. Half-past eight. H'm. I have no time to lose; my cab will be here at ten. I am glad that I have gone through these papers. Martin has taken an entirely erroneous view of the case, and his line of argument would have prejudiced the judge."

"I don't see why you should devote hours of precious time to Mr. Martin," his mother remarked, complainingly. "The law has never been of much financial value to you, indeed, taking into consideration the cost of—"

"My dear mother," he responded, "had I chosen to follow the law, I might have made a respectable income by it. But I have elected otherwise, and do not regret it. Martin is taking on those patrons who are satisfied with my substitute. He is a worthy fellow, whom it is a pleasure to help. I intend vacating my chambers in his favor next quarter day and settling down to work in real earnest. I have three portraits to paint—a cabinet minister, an earl's daughter, and a successful pork butcher, and my patrons will grow tired of waiting—particularly the pork butcher," he added, with a laugh.

"Let them wait," his mother replied. "You can afford to do so."

"I do not think that I can, considering our expenses," he said, lightly. "Well, this is not the place to discuss ways and means, mother. What a glorious morning!"

She took his arm, and they left the studio, which was isolated from the house, being connected by a conservatory of unusual length.

The breakfast was eaten almost in silence; but the moment they were alone in Mrs. Campbell's bright little morning-room, she returned to the question of expenses in her peevish, complaining way.

"Is it this that you wished to speak to me about?" she said. "I think that it is very unkind of you to worry me about such trifling things, when we shall soon be rich. I am sure that if I were Adeline, I should grow tired of your inattention. She must be awfully fond of you. Independent of Blairwood, you will have a big fortune with her, and it will be your duty to set aside at least half of the revenue of the Blairwood estate for my life. Not that I shall live very long. I have told Adeline that the dowry house will be quite satisfactory to me. Of course, I must live near to you, and she thinks that it is a splendid arrangement."

"My dear mother," replied Noel, "we are not in possession of Blairwood Park yet, and I do not think that we ever shall be.

(To be continued.)

Rheumatism Gone, Claims Mr. Merlinger

Rheumatism is said to be due to acid in the blood. Whatever its cause, only those who have it know the suffering it produces. While Carnol is not claimed as a specific for rheumatism, it did wonders for Mr. Merlinger. Sufferers from rheumatism may profit from his experience which follows:

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A Visit to the Fleet

(Canada.)

Last Saturday the Dominion Premiers and other Conference delegates were invited by the First Lord of the Admiralty to visit the British Fleet at Spithead. Contrasting this review with that held in 1914, it was, for various reasons, a less splendid pageant not only from a numerical number of capital ships assembled, but the absence of sunshine greatly reduced the visibility and marred the impressiveness of the spectacle.

It was a new fleet that was in review, and though reduced in numbers, as fighting machines they had increased in efficiency and also in cost. The Hood, the greatest of our battle-cruisers, is said to have cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000. The Princess Margaret, which carried the Admiralty guests, had been a C.P.R. boat, and is now a thoroughly equipped mine-layer. The new submarines, with a 12-inch gun, and the Argus, resembling a Noah's Ark, with its great deck for seaplanes, were among the most noticeable innovations caused by the war.

The impressiveness of this proof of British sea-power must have helped the Dominion Premiers and others to grasp more fully the importance of this first line of defence, so vital to the safety, not only of the Mother Country, but of the whole Empire, and no doubt the thought was present in the minds of many that eventually, and perhaps in the not distant future, the great burden of this defence will be more equally shared by all the nations who benefit from its benefit. Great as have been the reductions as a result of the Washington Conference, the naval expenditure, though at the minimum compatible with reverence, is a heavy drain on the revenue of Great Britain which there can be no hope of decreasing until a wiser policy prevails in international affairs.

In addition to the Canadian and Newfoundland delegates and the members of their staffs, those present included Sir Joseph Briston, Mrs. Brotherton, Lady Cashin, Mr. G. Hambleton, Mrs. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. John

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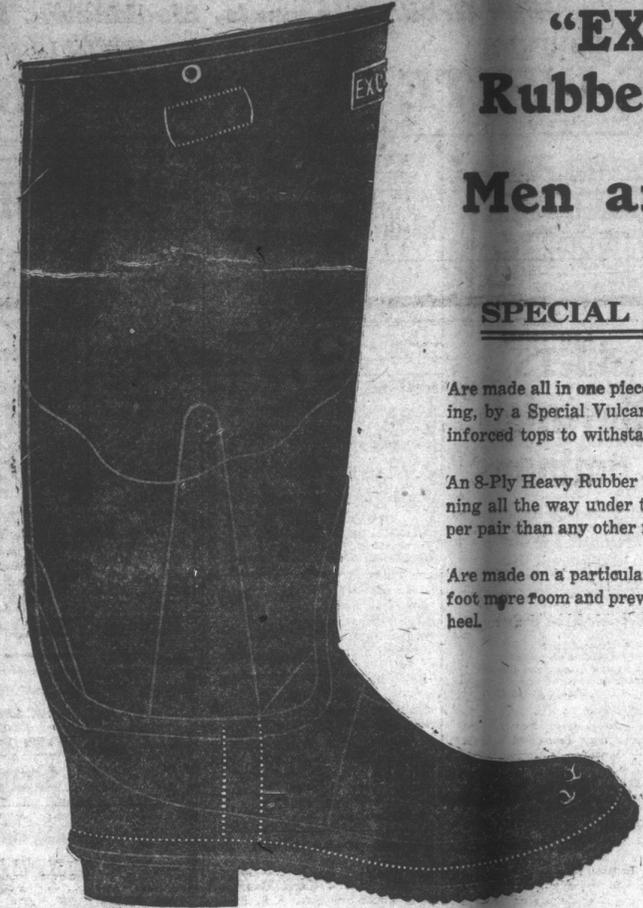
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Eve And The Apple

A London doctor has thrown a cloak of doubt around the apple tree which we have been led to believe grew in the Garden of Eden. This medical man, tracing diet through the ages, asserts that it is a mistake to think of early man surrounded by luscious fruits and abundance of delicate food to be had for the trouble of gathering it. But the apple theory will not be discarded lightly. Throughout the ages it has been related that Eve tempted Adam with an apple, and the old gentleman fell. Feminists may assert that the man always sees to put the blame on the woman and there is some ground for this statement. Man seldom flies from temptation, often he seeks it, and no doubt this will be the will of the world so long as we are male and female. But if woman is the weaker vessel as alleged, then man is a miserable scoundrel to place the blame on her because she accedes to his wishes. Happily all men are not so weak-kneed as Adam, and if taken to task they do not blame the woman. If a woman charms and captivates a man she is bombarded with congratulations and wedding presents and the hussy at the church door, walks boldly up to the altar as if he likes it, which he probably does.

Bernard Shaw maintains that wo-

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The Prince's Message

From his very exceptional knowledge of the Empire, gained through his extensive travels, the Prince of Wales was able to give special weight to the useful advice he proffered in his speech at the Overseas League banquet on Tuesday night. He took advantage of the occasion of this banquet to the Dominion Premiers to speak of the importance of first-hand knowledge of the Empire which he was anxious to encourage "in statesmen, in journalists, in writers, in teachers, and in all who are distributors of ideas and information to the public of Great Britain." This advice is especially valuable at the present time, when the appreciation of the magnitude of the Empire and its potentialities as an arbitrator for world-peace and the great exemplar of tolerance, justice, and freedom is every day becoming more widely understood and appreciated.

Nothing could have been happier than the references to the esteem in which the Prince is held, made by the Premiers of Canada and Australia and the Maharajah of Alwar.

In replying to the words of welcome by the Prince of Wales, Mr. Mackenzie King made a speech on the constitutional growth and possibilities of the Empire which can only increase the prestige which he has gained by his thoughtful and statesmanlike speeches during the last few weeks. A full report of his speech appears on another page, which may be read with advantage by all who are sympathetically following the constitutional development of the Dominions in their relation to the Mother Country and the Empire as a whole.—Canada.

Shocked the Bishop

LITTLE GIRL SAID: "OH! DAMN IT, I'M ONLY SEVEN."

Lord Riddell, speaking at a dinner in London recently, said that the guests which he had been called on to fulfil rather reminded him of the story of the bishop who was staying at a country house where there was a little girl who took a great deal of interest in his lordship's clothing and gaiters. Anxious to lead the child's mind to higher things, he asked her she knew the Lord's Prayer. She replied that she did. "And the Ten Commandments?" asked the bishop. "Yes," replied the little girl. "And the Catechism?" inquired the bishop. "Oh, damn it, I'm only seven."

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