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**The Mystery of Rutledge Hall**

— OR —

**"The Cloud With a Silver Lining"**

CHAPTER I.

"No, she is a sensible girl," rejoined Lady Eva. "Handsome as she is, she could not have expected such good fortune. Men do not generally care to marry girls who have no antecedents, neither family, nor position, nor money."

"But Sibyl is so beautiful, mamma."

"Yes; but that alone is not sufficient," Lady Eva answered. "She is too silent on the subject of her family not to wish to hide something."

"But one does not marry a woman's family—one marries herself," remarked Stephen, coolly, from the depths of his arm-chair.

"But one likes to know whom one is marrying," Lady Eva returned quickly. "Mr. Rutledge is so hopelessly in love that he does not consider the matter sufficiently, perhaps, and Miss Nell is a very lucky girl."

"How lucky, indeed?"

"To marry so well," Lady Eva answered, relapsing into her usual languor, but glancing keenly at her son nevertheless.

"To marry a man she dislikes," Stephen said contemptuously.

"Why should she dislike him?" Lady Eva said, plaintively, fushing a little.

"I know no reason; but that she does so is almost evident," Stephen replied calmly. "Dolly, some more sugar, if you please."

"I have seen nothing to make me suppose she dislikes him," his mother rejoined.

"Have you not, madre? Where have your eyes been?"

"I saw that she was flirting with Frank Greville," Lady Eva said, putting down her empty cup. "But that, of course, would be absurd. He is some years her junior. Mr. Greville would not hear of it, and Frank could not marry without his father's consent. Besides, Mr. Greville has other views for his son."

"Frank is hardly likely to let those views prevent him from falling in love," Stephen replied.

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her's cigar was burning redly in the twilight, when Dolly suddenly quickened her pace.

"There is Sibyl on the second seat," she said, hurriedly. "She is resting. I suppose."

"Yes, that is Miss Nell," Stephen responded, hastening also; while Dolly raised her voice and called out gaily: "Sibyl, Sibyl!"

"There was no answer, and the lady on the seat did not turn her head toward them.

"She has gone to sleep," Dolly said, laughing, as they hurried on; but the next moment, when they reached the seat, they found that she was not asleep; but evidently a prey to some overwhelming fear or agitation, which made Dolly run to her pityingly and put her arms round her.

"Why, Sibyl, what is it, dear?" she asked, gently; and Miss Nell rose, looking around her with wild terrified eyes.

Even her intense pallor and convulsive agitation could not conceal the wonderful beauty of Dolly Daunt's governess. Her features were perfectly regular and purely Greek in outline; her eyes, now wide and wild and fearful, were "darkly, deeply, beautifully blue;" in stature she was tall and queenly, and the graceful form which stood swaying to and fro was clad in soft dark robes which fitted it to perfection.

"What is it, Sibyl?" Dolly repeated. "Are you ill, Oh, Stephen, she will fall!" the girl cried, in distress.

"She has been frightened," said Stephen, in a low voice, giving the falling form the support it needed. "There is nothing to fear now, Sibyl," he added gently.

At first the gentle words seemed to have no significance, for the girl stared at him wildly; but the next moment she murmured something unintelligible with pallid lips, the convulsive movements of her hands ceased, and her head fell back on Stephen's shoulder as she fainted away.

CHAPTER II.

One of the largest houses in the High Street of Ashford was a substantial gray-stone building situated midway up the street and divided from it only by a tall iron railing and a narrow strip of grass. This residence, known by the name of the Gray House, was occupied by Dr. Arnold, who was, as his father had been before him, the principal medical man in the town, the increase in the size and importance of which made the present physician's position a far more important and remunerative one than his father's had been.

The Gray House stood in the heart of the town, and it was a large, roomy old-fashioned house, extremely comfortable, and not without a certain picturesque quality of its own. The hall door, approached by broad stone steps, was in the centre of the building, and opened into a wide flagged hall, on either side of which were the sitting-rooms, while a glass door at the other end opened into a charming old-fashioned garden, which led into some fields beyond. The surgery and consulting-rooms had been built at the side of the house, and were approached by another entrance.

The dining-room at the Gray House was on the left-hand side of the hall, and faced the High Street. It was a large low-ceiled room, with three long narrow windows overlooking the patch of grass before the house, a sunshiny, melancholy room, a charm about it notwithstanding, or perhaps because of its melancholy. The furniture was old-fashioned, but extremely handsome; there was quaint old silver and china, and a few pictures of the school of the day.

Dolly's blue eyes opened to their widest extent, Stephen was in general so calm and languid and even-tempered that his irritability rather surprised her; and she held her tongue discreetly, wondering what had annoyed him. They strolled on in silence under the clustering foliage.

"Was not that some one like Frank Greville?" Stephen said, breaking the silence at last, and removing his cigar from his lips as he looked after a man's figure hurriedly disappearing in the direction of the lodge.

"I did not notice," Dolly answered. "It would not be Frank though, Stephen, because he has not been here this afternoon."

"He may have met Miss Nell in the grounds, and remained with her."

"Shall we go down the covered walk, then?" Dolly suggested. "We shall meet Sibyl, if she is still out."

They turned into a walk leading from the avenue to a more retired part of the grounds, which was so favorable a walk of Lady Eva's when she was able to be out that it was generally called "My Lady's Walk," and one or two pretty garden-seats had been placed there for her convenience. The young people were walking slowly, still arm in arm, and the tip of Stephen's

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Drastic naval economies are being ordered by the Admiralty to meet the cost of the new cruisers and other boats.

This is revealed by a remarkable official letter made public by the Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth. It says: "The rebuilding of the Fleet which has become necessary is throwing a very serious burden upon the financial resources of the country, and it is incumbent upon the Admiralty to scrutinize with the utmost severity every detail of its expenditure and contribute in every possible way to the restoration of the economic position of the country."

"The strength of the Empire depends not only upon its armed forces, but upon its general prosperity. Collapse of world power and prestige would follow as rapidly upon bankruptcy as upon loss of military power."

"Every effort will also be made to effect economies in the administration of the Admiralty establishments, dockyards, etc. ashore and in the Fleet itself."

"The Admiralty realizes that the measures in contemplation may militate against the comfort of the Fleet personnel."

"They trust therefore, that the officers and men of the Fleet will realize the circumstances which make the changes necessary, and will do their utmost to minimize any reduction of efficiency that may ensue and cheerfully accept any inconvenience or discomfort which may accompany them."

**Education and Citizenship**

It is necessary that education should be the handmaid of citizenship. Our institutions are constantly, very properly, the subject of critical enquiry. Unless their nature is comprehended, unless their value is properly assessed, the citizen falls ready prey to those selfish agitators who would exploit his prejudices to promote their own advantage.

Another element must be secured in the training of citizenship, or all else will be in vain. All of our learning and science, our culture and our arts, will be of little avail, unless they are supported by high character, unless there be honor, truth, and justice; unless our material resources are supported by moral and spiritual resources, there is no foundation for progress. A trained intelligence can do much, but there is no substitute for morality, character and religious convictions.—President Coolidge, quoted in The Christian Sun.

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**Fighting the Death-Watch Beetle**

**OUR TIMBER-EATING PESTS.**

In an unusually interesting article in the August "Pearson's Magazine," Professor Maxwell-Lefroy, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, tells of a body of entomologists who are constantly fighting insect menaces.

Regarding the death-watch beetle, which attacks the wooden beams of cathedrals and churches, and which has already cost this country many hundreds of thousands of pounds for renovations, Professor Maxwell-Lefroy writes:—

"The egg of the beetle is laid on the surface of the wood or in cracks in the wood; the grub, on hatching out, tunnels into the wood for nearly three years, after which it bores its way to the surface, leaving but a thin layer of wood between itself and the outside of the beam. It then changes to the chrysalis, and a few weeks later becomes the adult beetle, which comes out of the wood in the following spring for the purpose of mating."

"From the above it will be seen that out of the four stages of its life-history the beetle is fairly easy to get at in three, viz. the egg, the chrysalis, and the adult."

"Chemical means are used for its destruction in the application of a fluid which is sprayed on to the beams in the spring, killing the adults and eggs lying at the surface. The fluid used is of such a character that it penetrates the wood, depositing a poisonous substance capable of killing the grubs when they bore their way to the surface."

"Besides Westminster Hall, many other buildings, including St. Paul's Cathedral and Middle Temple Hall, have been successfully treated."

"In addition to chemical treatment, a beetle has been found whose business it is to feed upon the death-watch. This most welcome creature is at present rather scarce, and so attempts are to be made to breed it in numbers and to see how far it will go towards exterminating our timber-eating pests."

A chifon scarf in several shades of rose is a delightful evening accessory.

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A French oil for waterproofing tar, cloth, paper and other materials is a mixture of eight parts of asphalt and four of castor oil, with part of sulphur chloride stirred in. Though this forms a jelly, off hydrochloric acid, it liquefies being kept tightly covered a few days, and the acid being then neutralized with barium carbonate, gives a less solution on filtering. To make the liquid after the addition of benzene.

**Just Folks**  
By EDGAR GURNEY  
DARK DATA

Life has laughter in it. Smiles and songs of gladness. But the care-free minutes stay not constantly. Cares must come to vex us. Burdens we must bear. Problems grave and perplexing. As through life we fare.

Life has hours of duty, days of trial, too. Ugliness and beauty. Age has wandered through hills to climb and follow. Where our feet may rest. After pleasure, follows many a cruel test.

None forever dancing. None forever sad. Yesterday's romancing. Was a joy we had. Now our hearts are aching. With the hurt of grief. Shall we, God forsaking. Falter in belief?

God was in our pleasure. God was good to give. In the joy He measures. God is seen to live. Shall He then desert us in our time of fear. When our hearts are aching. Will not God draw near?

Pain and joy are blended. Ever through the years. Life, until it's ended. Runs through smiles and tears. And the God who gave us joys which slip away. Sends His love to save us. When we meet dismay.

**Gossip and Home**

**NEW COLOURS.**

Some new colours are in vogue in the season. The shades of coral are fast dying. A wonderful new red is coming. A new blue is being introduced. It is predicted that this, too, will run itself to the ground. It is policy to get it early. A dead rose that has much to commend it. Blue, of course, is with us. One firm is making speciality of a shade between sage and a royal; other firms periwinkle blue will hold their own.

**A New Decoration.**

The newest decoration in vogue is a coat of arms. It consists of a back jet, pierced by a silver arrow. This is quite a change from the single arrow which we have seen so long.

**Original Garments.**

Some of the new three-piece suits of to-day are quite original. Consisting of a cambric, lined and petticoat, they are often a combination of geometric and organic, the usual shape used with a pleated overcoat—all front—actually added on to a cambric-knicker. Such a garment should be in the same tone as dress with which it is worn. Certainly one dare not wear more with some of the newest.

**Cleaning White Shoes.**

If you mix blanco or white with milk in order to clean shoes it will not rub off in the war. This is a good plan to use with baby's white shoes, which are often responsible for spoiling suits.

**Drying Herbs.**

If you wish to dry your own pick them clean of decayed put into a sieve, cover with paper, and leave in the sun slow-oven, turning them often as quickly as possible, rub through the sieve, and put in paper or hermetically-sealed bottles.

**Apple Cooking.**

Apples frequently turn a dull unattractive colour in the oven. When this is the case, the juice of a fresh lemon will restore the colour but also the flavour of apples used in dings or pies or stewed by selves.

**Hiding a Dust Bin.**

Dustbins can never be decent and are generally very much reverse. The best way to hide is to put up trellis work round spot on which it stands and plant quickly-growing creeper to cover trellis. This will transform the while ugly corner of the garden to a picturesque miniature of a picturesque miniature of a picturesque miniature.

Zinc dustbin look better if the painted dark green all over avoid unpleasant smells from dustbin, rinse it frequently with pail full of water to which has added a little carbolic.

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