

# A True Diamond

CHAPTER XX.  
Late for Luncheon.

(Continued.)  
"Really, Lewis, I do think this extraordinary girl and Lady Dove's companion might manage to be in time when you are good-natured enough to ask them to lunch," said Miss Honoria, sitting down the pretty dining-room of Wavcott Hall. "I consider it very rude of them."

"You should not have asked them, Lewis," said Mrs. Hamilton softly. "What are we to do with them after lunch?" said Jeanie.

"Silvia Hales says she quite dreads Antonia's arrival in the morning," added Maud.

The two empty seats certainly looked reproachfully at Lewis Wavcott, but he found an excuse for Toney.

"I expect Lady Dove interfered and prevented their coming."

"I am truly sorry," said Mrs. Hamilton. "I don't think she is a sympathetic person, but she must be extremely annoyed by the care of such a very undisciplined girl. She is nearly seventeen, too, I hear. She ought to be sensible by this time."

"Mrs. Hales likes her, so she told me," said Lewis, "and she is a sight on horseback. She has the best seat I ever saw for a woman."

"That isn't exactly a feminine accomplishment," said Miss Honoria.

There was the sound of hasty steps, and when the footman flung open the door, Toney ran in quite out of breath.

"I am so sorry, so very sorry for being late, but it was quite an accident, and I'm afraid Miss Crump won't come at all. It really is provoking, just her first invitation too."

"How do you do, Miss Whitburn?" said Miss Wavcott, coming forward rather stiffly.

"Oh, thank you, please don't get up for me; I'm quite well; I'm never ill, Mr. Wavcott, will you forgive me?"

Toney's chair was placed next to that of the Squire, and he smiled his forgiveness as he shook hands with her.

"I am sure your reason is excellent besides no one minds being late for luncheon."

The other ladies gave Toney still bows, which made her sink into her chair feeling rather shy, or to speak more truly, she experienced a sensation which in Toney's nature answered to the word shy.

"Miss Crump is engaged, that is why she can't come," said Toney, suddenly recovering her high spirits and laughing happily.

"I'm very sorry," said Lewis.

"No, you mustn't be sorry, but glad of course. Isn't it a great piece of news? I knew you would be delighted."

"She is generally a good deal engaged, isn't she?" said Miss Honoria still rather stiffly, though Toney's radiant face was certainly a pleasant picture to look upon.

"Oh no, indeed she isn't! This is the very first time. Quite by chance they met in the road, and then I knew it was coming! I felt quite puzzled."

"Good gracious! Miss Whitburn"

"Yes, I did, when we had a house-keep. Our humpy was just a small bed in the bush, and the difficulty was getting in and out. I had to make her butter in a wash-hand basin here."

Mrs. Hamilton groaned in a lady-like manner; the others laughed.

"How dreadful!" said the widow.

"No, it was not bad at all. You had to make shift."

When Miss Honoria led the way into the drawing-room Toney looked rather miserable. She could not think what to say to the young ladies, and she was beside all eagerness to get some, and to hear about Miss Crump's walk. It would take her some time to go round by Winchley, so she knew that she must not stay very long. Besides, she read disapproval of herself in Mrs. Hamilton's stiff outline, and Toney wondered why it was that English young ladies did not like her. Even Silvia, whom Toney daily beheld

with admiration, would not be friendly; what could it be? From this serious puzzle Lewis Wavcott came to deliver her, by proposing a game of tennis. Toney brightened up, and the two young ladies, after a few demurs, went to fetch their rackets.

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means that Miss Crump is matrimonially engaged," exclaimed Lewis. "No wonder you were late if this happened on the road."

"There," said Toney relieved, "I thought you would understand and see how difficult it was to help it. I meant them to—you know—in our sitting-room, but this was an accident."

Lewis was convulsed with laughter; only Mrs. Hamilton kept her countenance and looked rather shocked.

"What did you do, Miss Whitburn? I suppose you did not assist?"

"No, I jumped over a gate and went to the end of the field, then, thinking of your luncheon, I came back again."

"I am sure we wish her joy," said Miss Honoria; "I now quite understand your delay."

"And who is the gentleman?" said Lewis, trying not to laugh.

"It's Mr. Faber. He had been here, think; at least we saw him coming out of this gate."

"Henry Faber!" Lewis looked really pleased. He saw by Toney's face that she was delighted, and he was ready to share her enthusiasm.

"You said, Lewis, that he has no hope of getting a living," said Miss Honoria. "I fear it means a long waiting time for them."

"She mustn't wait any longer, because you see Miss Crump has already waited fifteen years! She was just venturing herself out. Oh, I am so much excited about it."

"I wish you could do something for him," said Miss Honoria. "He never would accept any favours. Poor fellow!"

"I have, unfortunately no living to give away. This morning he said that most likely he should offer his services to a Colonial Bishop."

"They mustn't go away," said Toney, "because I shall want to go and see them. Do you know, Mr. Wavcott, that I am going to succeed to Miss Crump's situation?"

Maud giggled audibly.

"You are hardly old enough," said Miss Honoria, smiling.

"I have been learning the duties, and they are quite easy. You must read a good deal, and sit still a good deal, and talk very little, and arrange the flowers, and scold the servants, and—"

"And exercise the horses in the park?" said Lewis, and Toney and he laughed together.

"Well, at home, you know, everybody tears along the road on horseback or in buggies, as if they couldn't waste a minute. Everything goes very slowly here, and everybody is slow."

"Did you keep house in Australia?" asked Maud.

"Yes, I did, when we had a house-keep. Our humpy was just a small bed in the bush, and the difficulty was getting in and out. I had to make her butter in a wash-hand basin here."

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"Did you play in Australia?" said Maud.

"Yes, Pups and I played for exercise, but I never could beat him."

Maud looked resigned at this, but when Toney became her partner, her opinion changed. Lewis and Jeanie found that they had to work hard to keep their heads above water. The Squire had thought himself a good player, but Toney was evidently able to cope with any one. It was a beautiful sight to see her movements, and the two elder ladies, who came to look on, gradually became interested in the game.

"You ought to be champion player, Miss Whitburn," said Lewis, when Toney had won the set in spite of Maud's failures. "You never told us that you played very well. We must have many games this summer."

Toney was not at all vain and hardly noticed the compliment.

"At home people play a great deal, but lately Pups only let me play very occasionally. He said too much of it was waste of time, but he was very particular that one should play well."

The Miss Hamiltons were secretly jealous of Toney, but comforted themselves with the knowledge that she did not know one note of music from another. They said that tennis was only a game, and that Lewis looked as if he had never before seen a good lady player, whereas Miss Hobbs was

very superior to this girl, at least she was always dressed beautifully!

"I must go, please," said Toney, starting up. "It has been real nice, and I feel quite stretched."

"Ahem!" said Mrs. Hamilton softly. "You must teach Sir Evas," remarked Miss Honoria.

"Oh no! You see I mustn't get fond of playing here, because I'm sure a companion will never have time to play. I am doing all my exercise beforehand," and Toney's merry laughter won Miss Honoria's heart.

"My dear child, you cannot be any one's companion. You are too—"

"But indeed, you don't know what I can do. There, good-bye, I must go. I wonder if Miss Crump has said all she wants to say to her young man! Aunt Dove thinks she is here! Gracious stars! we shall have to confess."

"Ahem!" said Mrs. Hamilton again. "Jeanie dear, wish Miss Whitburn

good-bye, and get ready to go out in the carriage with me."

The two Miss Hamiltons disappeared, and Lewis came back bringing a terrier with him.

"I will take you to the gate, Miss Whitburn. By the way, I meant Trick to come."

"Did you? That was kind. I'll tell him, but thought it was better not, because of all your ladies, and also I really was afraid about Mr. Faber's heels. I half thought we might meet him coming back, and it would be so difficult to make love if Trick was gnawing your heels! Now, wouldn't it, Mr. Wavcott?"

"It might help one to get it over quickly," said Lewis gravely.

"You are like General Stone. He makes a little fun over it just because Miss Crump isn't very, very young and beautiful."

"How is her riding getting on?" asked Lewis. Both laughed at the remembrance of the memorable ride.

"She would get on if I could teach her more, but life here is all very, very difficult."

(To be continued.)

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### What La Minis

Doubt that the stars are  
Doubt that the sun do  
Doubt truth to be a liar,  
But do not doubt that  
Law—Shakespeare  
(1616)

Editor Evening Telegram  
This astounding question  
ing the public mind to-  
while matter is of great  
est.

D. Morrison is Minister  
Two charges were made  
The one with which he was  
cerned is that in 1909, V-  
ter of Justice and Attor-  
and endeavouring to sell  
property situated on a riv-  
Bay, White Bay, of 80 a-  
he wrote a letter to St. V-  
quodam friend, who was  
ton, containing the follow-  
"The man who holds it  
"on a river can log and d-  
"ber the cheapest, and  
"other person locates  
"there is nothing to prevent  
"getting a good deal of  
"the adjoining Crown land  
"Mr. Morrison has since  
that "getting" means "con-  
"Since Morrison has no  
"plete vindication" (as it  
"puts it) the people are  
of it because the charge is  
and very serious. Most  
is only "I forgot"; and it  
(Sir Ralph Williams) via  
message to the world that  
of Justice should be "re-  
"quitted" and retained in  
he says he forgot the law  
leave him when he says  
if otherwise in the sense of  
a fool." Quod verum tamen  
If we always remember  
Morrison was Attorney  
Minister of Justice when  
that letter we can say  
serious is the charge, and  
ous the defence. The co-  
ras been published and  
Mr. Morrison makes a v-  
tation in his answer of  
1912, wherein he says:  
"letter to Mr. Strong, who  
"ister of Justice, and who  
ten by the Minister of Jus-  
course not; but he did not  
to keep his position and  
Morrison has lately read  
"robly" and Mr. Hildebr-  
leop the book to His Ex-  
As Minister of Justice  
General, whose duty it  
saves the name and the  
fraders, when necessary  
can Mr. Morrison be list-  
moment when he says "I  
law." Will he be satisfied  
a prisoner's word for it  
error took his, and let  
Suppose A. W. Bishop  
that he did not know or  
what the law was about  
schooners, would the Ho-  
Attorney General has  
Court that that was a  
and let him go free, if  
power?

There is a distinction,  
should be drawn in Jus-  
Morrison, namely, that  
force is punishable by  
whilst a Minister of  
writes such a letter is  
"implementation" and a  
of forgetfulness of the  
cepted he is subject to  
save public opinion. It  
should be subject to dis-  
Mr. Morrison must cer-  
ber that in or about the  
certain firm was charged  
purchased logs cut of  
Crown lands, and the  
formed that they were  
of \$20 a tree, although  
bought and actually paid  
Would the firm have got  
had pleaded like Morris-  
forgot or did not know  
Morrison says that he  
could be fined for pur-  
course paying the price  
apparently thought that  
cut logs without fine—  
without paying.

Now let us examine  
what law the Hon. D-  
ister of Justice, H. M-  
oral, ex-Judge, etc., etc.  
In his answer of April  
says he forgot in writ-  
the Crown Lands Act, 1-  
tion, put plainly, reads  
"The holder of a licence  
"signes, servants or ag-  
"cut timber on any  
"other than defined it  
"and shall not purchase  
"such lands under a li-  
"ery tree cut, to be rec-  
"before a Magistrate of  
It will be noted, of co-  
adjoining Crown land  
cluded in the license  
Buy area.

Mr. Morrison explains  
that "my remembrance  
"that the holder of a li-  
"cut logs on adjacent  
but could not purchase  
means that he forgot  
"prohibition," under a  
a tree, against the  
ungranted Crown land  
Orange Bay area (and  
"Local Option" district  
In justice to him we  
quote a little more of  
"I emphatically de-  
"Coker insinuated" the  
"ter of Justice intend-  
"signedly advised Mr.  
"person holding the li-  
"logs from adjacent  
"had no such idea in  
he might have added,  
of Justice's mind.

But we have an idea  
that the public would  
whether the Minister  
membered the rest of  
Crown Lands Act  
letter to Strong. For-  
is—

First (Section 22, s-  
of cutting timber shal-  
per square mile, to