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**"Flatterers"**

—OR—  
**The Shadow of  
the Future.**

CHAPTER X.  
**BRINGS A WOODS TO ST. CLAIR'S.**

"We shall be very happy," was delivered with the best assumption of just moderate gratification Mrs. Alwyn could muster. "Nothing at least," she amended her acceptance, "to deter my elder daughter and myself. Miss Alwyn must remain at home, unfortunately. We positively—with an expressive glance at Leonora—"could not take Sydney away. Rupert would think it strange—a son. Mr. Duvesne, of the Major Villiers who was at Oakleigh with us. By marriage my nephew, but no relation to my younger daughter—at present. Lady Comyngham will kindly excuse her, I am sure."

And as the young lady was not there to speak for herself, being upstairs constructing Caesar for her classmate's edification, that was the reply Mr. Duvesne bore away some half hour later, bearing also, as Phillips opening the hall door observed with a secret snigger, a "Madame d'Arblay" carnation worn by Miss Leonora at luncheon. ("Hadn't the countess that shade? Then would he take it to her?") And Mrs. Alwyn announced to Sydney, "Leonora and I go to Oakleigh Place on Saturday, so I must deputize you to receive Mr. Villiers. He writes asking for a peep of the country. I don't fancy he is very robust, so I hope he may enjoy the change, poor fellow."

Accordingly, on the day fixed, Mrs. Alwyn drove off with her elder daughter, Leonora, a most artistic study in cool draperies, a bunch of innocent-eyed jessamine on her bosom; and Sydney, the road paved to possible liking by presecured pity, was left to meet the guest whose coming concerned her so much more closely than she had divined.

Highly contented as the major had

gone back to town, he had wisely restrained from overpraise of Sydney in any form. A hint or two that might come in useful as to her disposition he had given—"Oocle in reality, I'm positive, but not commonplace 'yes, nay,' you know. Drive her with the snaffle and not with the curb, my lady her mother uses that too much—but her personal charms he passed over with 'you'll see her soon, and I needn't describe her:' so the appearance of his young hostess took Mr. Rupert as an agreeable surprise.

As the Hedyngham cab turned in at the leafy sweep of the Dale grounds, she came to meet him from under the drooping lime-boughs, the gracefulness of ready greeting in her slender summer-clad figure, the slight embarrassment that flushed her cheeks and darkened her serious eyes melting quickly as she fancied she detected in the new-comer that delicacy which her mother had foreshadowed.

Handsome after the type of his cousin Leonora, whom he immensely admired, he might not be, but well-learned to the most careless observer, with 'points that gain upon a fellow every time he looks at her, you know.' Ah! it took very few seconds for Mr. Rupert to decide this quarry was worth pursuit, and with the pleasant pendant of "six thousand," should be his in due time.

So he made the most of the mood in which she met him. "Was awfully tired. Town with the thermometer at ninety was slow suicide, but laborers couldn't choose localities!" And after he had disposed of traveling-dust he re-appeared under the lime and took his tea with a wearied-out sort of enjoyment in the restful hour that gave no hint of others neither so early nor so healthy that had emptied his pockets and paled his complexion of late.

Apologies for Mrs. Alwyn's absence were received with great equanimity. "It's best to take one's pleasures by degrees," said Mr. Villiers, "and one's relations, too, though I'm not clear if I may claim you in that list. What is the etiquette of step-cousinship? Does it allow me to say 'Sydney,' for instance?"

"I don't think you called me 'Miss Alwyn' four years ago," she answered, amused at this point of ceremony. "Speak to me as you do to Leonora. Treat us alike."

"Then it will be 'Sydney.' Thank you. I can treat you both alike, so far. But as to four years ago being any precedent, why, four years are a gulf at your age. You have grown out of knowledge since then."

"In the same time most girls would have done the same thing," she answered, calmly, letting a rather fervid glance shoot harmless by as she gave him another cup of tea.

"Ah! but you've done more than grow. May I, without hopelessly putting my foot in it, say how you've improved?"

"No, you may not," said Sydney, "for you haven't been here long enough to know whether I deserve the compliment. Please make something besides



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personal remarks, or else perhaps we shall quarrel."

"Which fate forbid!" returned the gentleman; "the last thing on earth I want is either to begin with a quarrel, or," very pointedly, "to end with one."

But that shaft, too, glanced unnoted by its aim, and Mr. Villiers was driven to make himself agreeable for the next hour on entirely new lines, with a companion not to be "fetched" by any art of flirtation—a baby at coquetry, though out of her teens, the like of whom in all his London life he had never encountered before.

Determined on approval, however, he found no fault with this specimen of a new class. On the contrary, he liked the change from every-day woman-kind, and flattered himself that, keeping well in sight a certain girlish dignity which Sydney, at her frankest, always wore, he made capital "running" in the time that elapsed between their meeting and Mrs. Alwyn's return.

From Oakleigh Place the ladies came back in a state of honored sweetness. The countess had been charming. Leonora had sung to her. Mr. Edward Duvesne had turned the pages. Some one had compared her voice to Patti's. And now here, at home, Rupert and Sydney were getting on admirably. Every plan seemed prosperous. For a whole evening Mrs. Alwyn was superbly serene; and only once, when she was showing her nephew the little conservatory where he might be permitted a cigar, was the express object of his visit touched upon.

"Leonora is handsomer than ever, Aunt Helen," said Mr. Villiers, "and little Sydney," as we used to call her—"Yes, Rupert. About her—what do you think—altogether?"

"That she's quite delightful. Developed every way—beautifully amazingly!"

This was warmer praise than Leonora's—more than Mrs. Alwyn could stand.

"I am relieved that you like her—at first," she said, her mouth drooping ominously at the corners, you will find out her best and worst characteristics by degrees. You may have to be careful, Sydney is so decided—what some would call willful."

"So much the better," laughed Mr. Villiers, "if she takes willfully in my favor. I must try and make her."

Then they said good-night, and no more conversation on the subject was exchanged for long.

But given a mother and a suitor playing judiciously into each other's hands, the game went on with every prospect of success. Though Leonora and her mother performed their devotions at Oakleigh church next day, Mr. Villiers elected to walk with Sydney to St. Clair's, gravely informing his son-in-law that he thought people should always attend their parish church, though he would have been sorely puzzled to tell where or what his was! And, coached by the cunning major, he fearlessly attacked his aunt's prejudices on feminine occupations, pronounced gardening a most invigorating exercise, and only wished he could shake off office drudgery any day and come and help his "cousins" at the work.

"But I shall be down again soon," he informed Sydney on the Monday morning when his first visit ended, and she, at the request of her mother, whose head did so ache if she rose too early, attended their guest's seven o'clock breakfast. "I feel no end better for this splendid air. I shall soon repeat the dose if I don't outstep my welcome."

"There is no risk of that," returned Sydney, pleased at this tribute to St. Clair's curative powers; "as mamma said last night, you must come soon and come often if it does you good." And of this invitation the young man took full advantage.

The Comynghams had all left Oakleigh in September. A scare as to the water supply at the House dispersed them till the spring.

"It's awfully provoking, especially for me," said the Honorable Edward quite sentimentally, taking leave at the Dale, "for I wanted to hurry on those builders at my new rectory. The place ought to be done by the spring. I hope Miss Villiers will show an interest in it then, and tell me how it ought to be arranged."

That speech was food for hope through long winter weeks, when Oakleigh church was supplied by a loom

and saw little of Mrs. Alwyn or his daughter. It might be well, too, the older lady considered herself with thinking, that this break had occurred. Sydney's affair could now be adjusted at reasonable leisure. Her marriage-day might be decided on by when the Comyngham's came back; and they would be without her through the next summer's campaign, destined, the mother fondly hoped, to bring the bridegroom of her desire to Leonora's feet.

Thus, through his flying visits Mr. Rupert's courtship was well seconded by his Aunt Helen, and—without much difficulty—the hours of his presence were made brighter to Sydney than those of his absence.

With some tact he watched her likings and turned them to his own use. A question of winter gifts was raised before him. Sydney, disappointed, had to give up most she desired to make. When Mr. Villiers next presented himself he was wrapped in blanket-wool, purchased, he declared, at Hedyngham, to protect him from the east wind driving to St. Clair's, but no use to him, so would Sydney dispose of them as she chose? Did he hear books mentioned, wished for, by some fortuitous chance he was sure either to have such "at home" (meaning at a particular book-shop off Oxford Street) or could borrow them for her easily; and as weeks slipped by this prudent step seemed likely to take effect.

(To be continued)

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**Why Baby Says "Ma."**

It is commonly believed that a baby when growing up and learning to talk, speaks the words "ma" and "da" through constantly hearing these uttered by others. This idea, however, is upset by certain students of languages, who advance a totally different theory.

In most languages, "ma" is generally the first syllable spoken by a child. It is the root of the word "mother." As a baby opens its mouth and then exhales breath it is quite possible that it makes this exclamation unconsciously.

Some people believe that there is no such thing as a "natural" tongue to the world; for, they say, if all babies over one year old were caused to become deaf and dumb, they would be obliged to go through the identical slow process of inventing and evolving a tongue as man was compelled to do in days gone by.

An ancient King of Egypt, Psammetichus, placed two children amongst a herd of goats on one occasion. They were never allowed to hear a human voice, yet, after two years, the children were able to say the word "bekos," which meant bread. The King's conclusion, naturally, was that his people were the first in the world and their tongue the only true one.

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W. A. TUCKER, Manager.  
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Notice is hereby given to the Public that applications for mineral areas may be received at this office on and after the first day of August, 1921, and licenses may be issued for such areas, reserving therefrom Coal, Petroleum Oil, Bitumen, Natural Gas and Bituminous Clays and Shales capable of yielding Petroleum Oil on distillation, and Coal.

**ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,**  
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We also carry stock of MOTOR OILS and GREASES of every description.

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We have just received a clearing line in Ladies' Straw Hats in newest American styles, and despite increased duties can offer you Hats

**At Half the Price**

at the opening of the season. All other Hats at present in stock are also reduced.

You can add greatly to your dress by having a greater variety of Hats. Our Hat Pricing now, and at other times, enables you to do so, for here you can always buy a good hat in the very latest style for very little money.

It is our opinion that many ladies expend too much money on Hats and get very little for their money.

They sometimes put too much money into one hat. We want to emphasize that they never do that in this store, though our Hats are of the finest quality and right-up-to-the-minute styles.

**Boys' Suits**

We have been fortunate in picking up a line of Boys' Suits much under manufacturer's costs. We are giving our customers the fullest advantage of this purchase by making

**Extra Special Prices During this Sale**

which can not be repeated later. We offer:

Boys' Norfolk (2-Piece) Tweed Suits, sizes 1 to 7, only \$4.95 for all sizes.

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**RIGA**

official demand by S. Hughes for the release of prisoners in Riga. He said, was entered in the Bolshevik Minister.

**DELAYED NEWS**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**—The Turkish Prime Minister, Ferial, has warned the Assembly that the Turks had been held ground in face of the enemy's superiority. The region between Eski Shehr, which was held by the Greeks, was thousands of bodies.

**LONDON.**—The Nationalist Government has issued a statement asserting that even had been taken to seal the continuation of the phase.

**ATHENS.**

**GREECE, ONCE**

formation from all a resistance of the Nationalist Government in the province of Connaught and Ireland. The Greek official in a statement issued at this morning, by says it has been found that there are four in Ireland, each with a satisfactory solution to a satisfactory solution. He had intimated that the campaign for and also that the war an army or navy into relations with

**BUY UP TO-DAY**

**FOOD**

**THE**

**304**