

FOR A MILLION ... OF MONEY

By Arthur W. Marchmont.

(Continued.)

CHAPTER V.
HOURS OF ANGUISH.

Dr. Gregory's examination of Mr. Parmenter was very brief; and when he rose it was first to whisper to the clergyman and then to sign to Jack to help him carry the millionaire into the vestry.

Jack, who had taken Olive's hand in the moment of crisis, immediately complied; and the millionaire was lifted by them gently and carried out, Olive following. She was pale, but quite self-collected.

"The restoratives are in the carriage, doctor," she whispered; but at the look which he gave her in reply, she caught her breath and clenched her hands, summoning all her strength and self-command. She read in it a verdict which confirmed all her worst fears.

As she reached the vestry a low moan escaped her tightly pressed lips, and for a moment she reeled unsteadily under the force of the blow. Mr. Casement was by her side, and he placed his hand under her arm. She turned and thanked him with a wan smile, and then, with a supreme effort, nerve herself for the coming ordeal.

Mr. Parmenter was laid on a bench in the vestry, and all save Olive, Jack, and Mr. Casement, were shut out, while Dr. Gregory made strenuous efforts to revive his patient. But he had passed beyond all human aid; and at length the doctor abandoned an attempt which he had known from the first would be fruitless.

Olive, white to the lips, sat with her hand in her lover's, waiting in tense misery and anxiety for the final verdict.

"I can do no more," declared the doctor. "Heaven give you strength to bear the blow, Miss Parmenter. Your father is dead."

For a moment of intensely painful silence for all, Olive closed her eyes and bowed her head; and then she said, "I will go home, doctor, you will see."

Her lips quivered, and she finished the broken sentence with a mute glance of anguish at the dead body.

"Oh, my dear," she cried, and falling on her knees, she bent over her father and kissed first the forehead and then the cold lips.

"I will bring a carriage to the vestry door," said Mr. Casement. He hurried out, and during his absence Olive remained kneeling by the dead.

She had heard what the lawyer said, and on his return she rose from her knees, took a last long look at the dead, and with a tremulous sigh of bitter anguish, turned away.

"I am ready," she said, and she took her hand, intending to lead her out to me later in the day, or tomorrow, I will send to you. But that scene in the church must be explained."

"It is nothing to you," she cried passionately.

"I know that, my dear. I know that. But I can't let you go like this," he declared. "My place is with you."

Olive turned and put both her hands on his shoulders and gazed into his eyes. "Ah, my dear, don't make it harder than it is," she cried, as she kissed him.

"He strained her to him tenderly. "You must let me come, Olive," he whispered.

"No, no," she said, shaking her head resolutely. "I know what is best. It must be good-bye for a while. Pray God it is not for always. And now, I must first know what that terrible woman meant by her story. Oh, dear! and this is my wedding day!"

Nothing more was spoken on the way to Silverbrook; and when they reached the house, Olive asked the lawyer to return at once to the church and ascertain what he could as to the meaning of the strange interruption to the marriage.

"I shall be better after I have had some hours to myself," she declared; and he quite able to talk to you this evening."

"I should like to say one thing," he answered. "Whether this woman may mean, it can make no difference to you in regard to your fortune. I prepared your father's will, and every thing is left secure to you. He has left a million of money."

"It does not seem to me that such matters just now, but I thank you all the same," replied Olive weakly, as she entered the house.

She went straight to her own room, and after she had laid aside her wedding dress she sent her maid away and remained alone, giving herself up at first unreservedly to grief, praying earnestly for resignation, striving to submit herself to the divine will, and seeking to find strength to bear the heavy burden of affliction.

She passed several hours in this solitude; and when in the evening she left her room, she had won her hard battle and regained her self-composure. Mr. Casement was waiting to see her and was surprised at her calmness and self-strength.

"Tell me all you know at once, please," she said. "I want something to think of, so that I may not brood. What does it all mean?"

"The woman maintains her claim to be Mr. Parmenter's wife. She says that twenty-three years ago they were married at Silverbrook, and that the marriage was kept a secret from her parents. She thus retained the name of her former husband, Gilbert Merridew."

"Ah!" cried Olive, interrupting. "Now I see."

"She has always called herself Gilbert Merridew, and I understand that Richard Merridew, who was recently in Silverbrook, is her son. Her story is that Mr. Parmenter deserted her and fled from the country, leaving her to support herself as best she could. She lost sight of him entirely, and had to resume her life on the stage. She went afterwards to America; and only recently heard from

her son that Mr. Parmenter was alive. She immediately called him from New York that she was coming over, and crossed by the first steamer."

"The latter part is about correct," said Olive, after a pause; and she told the lawyer what had occurred in regard to the telegram. "Do you believe her story?"

"I have no means of judging," was the cautious reply. "I know many details when I told her I was acting for you. She showed me a number of letters written to her in the old days, and she all go to show that her tale is correct. So far as I could judge they were, undoubtedly written by Mr. Parmenter; and she gave me every particular as to the time and place of the marriage; so that that part can be readily investigated."

"I don't believe it," said Olive, instantly and decidedly. "I know my dear father would have been the last man in the world to act as she says. A more honorable man, or one with a kinder heart, never breathed. He was incapable of such baseness as to desert her in such a way. Nothing will ever make me believe it. But what do you advise?"

"I propose to go at once to Sheffield—tonight, in fact. I have the facts and can hunt up the registers by which the alleged marriage was performed, and find the witnesses, if any of the parties are still alive. It will not take long, and I will wire you the results immediately."

"And then?"

"If the facts are as she asserts, you will probably wish to take some provision for her. I think that should be done."

But Olive's face hardened. "We will wait and see. Even if her tale be true, why should she ask to put that shame on me today, publicly, and stop the marriage? She killed my dear father by her violence, Mr. Casement. Why should I have more mercy upon her than she had on him? There is more in this than we can at present see. We will wait. And so it was left."

A night's long and bitterly painful reflection confirmed Olive in the verdict of her first judgment. Mr. Merridew's action, and she came near to a guess at the truth in regard to her and her son. If the woman had any real claim on her father, why had she not come first to Silverbrook with the girl falsehood that he was a rich American? Why had he sought to come between her and her lover? Why had she not made her claim at once instead of sending the man to say out the land first?

The son must have described her father's critical state of health, and have known that such a scene as that in the church was certain to have disastrous results. And Olive's brows knitted angrily, and her lips were pressed firmly together as she thought of all that this might mean.

In the morning Lady Belborough drove over from the Castle, ostensibly to console with Olive, but really to find out what she meant to do. She commenced with a few surface expressions of sympathy which Olive appreciated. "I am sorry to hear of your father's death," she said, and then she went on to say, "What a dreadful scandal!"

"In the first place, I shall wait to see if there is any scandal at all, Lady Belborough," answered Olive quietly. "Mr. Casement has gone to investigate the whole matter."

"The lady's story is very circumstantial," said Olive, coldly.

"Of course you listened to it," retorted Olive, coldly.

"I really could not help it. She forced it upon me; and, of course, I saw at once that the marriage could not take place until it had been settled."

"You may depend that it will be settled to the uttermost, Lady Belborough."

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SHORE LINE ORDERED OFF City Claims Land Now Occupied by Company.

Delegation Protests Against Smoke Nuisance From City Road Grist Mill—Other Matters Before Safety Board

The Safety Board met last evening. A considerable amount of routine business was done. Among other things, the complaint of certain citizens of the City Road concerning an alleged nuisance in connection with the grist mill of Riley & Maynes on City Road was considered and referred to a sub-committee for further investigation. The contract for the supplying of helmets for the police was awarded to J. B. Burdette. In connection with the matter of certain city lands on the West Side, that the New Brunswick Southern Railway are said to be occupying without permission from the corporation, the director was instructed to demand possession of the land in question. The recommendation of Director Wisely with regard to the placing of street lights was accepted with the addition of two new lights, one to be placed on March road and one at the corner of Peters and Waterloo streets.

Those present were Chairman Vanwart, Ald. Hamm, Ald. Sproule, Ald. Tilley, Ald. Baxter, Ald. Willet, Ald. Lewis, Ald. Pickett, Ald. Rowan, Ald. Bullock, Director Wisely, Chief Kerr and the Common Clerk.

Grist Mill Nuisance.

The first business before the board was the hearing of the petition signed by twenty-five residents of City Road and vicinity. The petition was presented by a delegation consisting of Joseph Fowler, Blanchard Fowler and M. F. Manks. The prayer of the petition was that steps be taken by the board to abate a nuisance caused by an exhaust fan in the grist mill of Riley & Maynes, City Road.

The petitioners explained that the grist mill mentioned used coal or an inferior class of fuel and to assist its combustion an exhaust fan was employed. This fan operated so as to blow into the air particles of coal, dust and other substances of greater or less size. These particles being heated, were apt to cause fire in adjoining properties and also did great damage to the clothing of persons passing in the street.

All the members of the delegation spoke concerning the matter. Joseph Fowler produced samples of the substances being blown into the street. After the withdrawal of the delegation the matter was discussed by the board.

Chief Kerr when asked by the chairman, explained that his attention had been called to the matter and he had spoken to these in charge of the mill. They had promised improvements, but he considered the latter to be practically useless.

Ald. Pickett advised that an attempt be made to obtain an injunction to stop the nuisance.

After further discussion the matter was referred to a committee composed of the chairman, Ald. Pickett and the director.

New Helmets for Police.

Tenders for supplying blue and pearl colored helmets for the police were next opened. The tenders were: Thorpe Brothers, D. Mage's Sons and J. B. Burdette. The contract was awarded to the last named, whose tender, \$3.50 per helmet, was the lowest.

The director of the City Road was appointed a committee to look into the application of John O'Neill for a renewal of lease of property on Elliot road.

Harry Driscoll and F. E. Holman applied for the lease of two lots on the West Side. The applications were granted in both cases.

The trustees of St. David's church applied for a yearly allowance of \$20 for the use of the church bell as part of the maintenance of a gas light in front of the church, the light having become useless to the church.

After some discussion \$15 was voted to the church.

An application from A. Chipman Smith, who occupies a store in the Market Building, was received. It asked that the decayed plank flooring of the basement be replaced with concrete.

The director was given power to act in the matter.

Aaron Hastings, police sergeant, was granted half pay for five days during which he was sick.

Ask Shore Line to Vacate.

The occupation of certain city lands in the West End by the New Brunswick Southern Railway came up next. The turntable, sheds and other property of the railway are said to be situated

on land which belongs or once belonged to the city. About lots are occupied. Much doubt exists as to whether the property still belongs to St. John or has passed over to the company through squatter's rights.

Director Wisely was instructed to demand possession of the land and to record the company's reply.

A glass panel was ordered to be put in the door of the office of the mayor's clerk in order that the light existing in the office of the city police might extend to other parts.

A fourteen year lease of a lot near St. James street, West Side, not renewable, was granted to Byron J. Grant.

Street Lighting.

The director next introduced his recommendation regarding the electric light lamps. He explained that the expenditure fell about \$250 short of that estimated.

During the discussion that followed Ald. Bullock remarked that ex-Ald. Maxwell had stated in the council that St. John was one of the best lighted cities in America.

Ald. Pickett—"Do you believe everything he says?"

Chief Kerr—"I think he was in earnest when he said that."

Ald. Baxter—"He's always in earnest."

Ald. Willet applied for an additional light on Sandy Point Road. That district was a very popular resort and a light there would save police work.

Chief Kerr in answer to inquiry said that the alderman hoped it would receive consideration next year.

On Ald. Bullock's motion the recommendation was accepted with the addition of a light on the Marsh Road. At Ald. Pickett's suggestion, and one on the corner of Peters and Waterloo streets.

Ald. Baxter's Bad Plan.

Just previous to the motion Ald. Baxter moved that the board should be breaking the usual session of the board. "I hardly think," said he, "that the list of lamp positions is drawn up in spite of our director's name."

Fire department matters next took the attention of the board.

Chief Kerr in answer to inquiry said that a life-net would be useful if the men could be found to use it.

An additional alarm box was ordered to be installed on the Strait Shore Road.

After the passing of a number of small bills the meeting adjourned.

FOOD SHIPMENTS TO NEW YORK.

Early Morning Hours That Tax the Railroads.

Auctions at the Piers to Dispose of the Perishable Fruits and Vegetables—Berries First Disposed Of.

(N. Y. Sun.)

To realize how New York gets its food one must imagine not only thousands of men but thousands of tons of train loads in motion every hour of the day every day of the year from Florida, New Orleans, California, Seattle, St. Paul and Chicago. At Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Washington these trains enter the narrow end of the tunnel through which they converge at New York.

After the last through passenger train with their lines of gleaming windows have come and gone the railroad tracks on the Jersey side are alive with trains from which no light shines save of the signal lamps. Ferry-boats bring in the produce of the Manhattan, where hundreds and thousands of dockhands are waiting. Boxes and crates, barrels and bundles are wheeled to the gangways and piled high on the platforms. In the berry season the crates of berries are first taken to the front. At 1 o'clock long lines of men come from out of the darkness, where their wagons through the roadway, file in, inspect the crates of berries, bargain with the receivers, and then stand under the torchlike lights, and in two hours there is seldom a box of berries in sight.

At 3 o'clock other men file in, inspect the boxes and barrels and packages of fruit and of fresh vegetables, bargain with the receivers, and then stand under the torchlike lights, and in two hours there is seldom a box of berries in sight.

At 5 o'clock the men file in, inspect the boxes and barrels and packages of fruit and of fresh vegetables, bargain with the receivers, and then stand under the torchlike lights, and in two hours there is seldom a box of berries in sight.

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