

## The Broad Highway

"Which We Call Life"

(Continued from Saturday.)

"What might you be wanting with a peaceable, civil-spoken cove like me?" he inquired.

"Where is your chain?"

"Up in the lase, over a yond'er," answered he, with a vague jerk of his thumb over his shoulder.

"Then, if you will take this gentleman's hat, we can carry it well enough between us—it's no great distance."

"Easy!" said the Postilion, backing away a tail, "easy, now—what might be the matter with him, if I might make so bold—ah! dead he be!"

"Dead—no, fool!" I rejoined angrily.

"Voice like his, too!" muttered the Postilion, backing away still farther.

"Yes, contrast!" the word-stricken man said, "but—ah! dead he be!"

"Come, will you do as I ask, or must I make you?"

"Why, I ain't got no objection to taking the gentleman's hat, if that's all you ask, though I mind ye, if ever I see such damned onner'ness as this 'ere in all my days, why—drowned me!"

So after some delay, I found the overcoat and purse (which latter I thrust into the pocket) were wrapped in the garment about him), and lifting my still unconscious antagonist between us, we started for the lane: which we eventually reached, with no little labor and difficulty. Here, more by good fortune than anything else, we presently stumbled upon a chaise and horses, drawn up in the gloom of sheltering trees, in which we deposited our limp burden as comfortably as might be, and where I made some shift to tie up the gash in his brow.

"It would be a fine thing," said the Postilion moodily, as I, at length, closed the chaise door, "it would be a nice thing if 'e was to go a-dying."

"By the looks of him," said I, "he will be swearing your head off in the next ten minutes or so."

Without another word the Postilion set the lantern back in its socket, and swung himself into the saddle.

"Your best course would be to make for Tonbridge, bearing to the right when you strike the high road."

The Postilion nodded, and, gathering up the reins, turned to stare at me once more, while I stood in the gleam of the lantern.

"Well," I inquired.

"Eyes," said he, rubbing his chin very hard, as one at a loss, "eyes, identical—same, same—mouth, when not bloody, same—hair, same—everything, same—Lord love me!"

"Pembury would be nearer," said I, "and the sooner he is between the sheets the better."

"Ah!" exclaimed the Postilion with a slow nod, and drawing out the word unduly, "and talking o' sheets and beds—what about my second passenger? I started w' two, and 'ere 's only one—what about Number Two—what about—er?"

"Her!" I repeated.

"Er was with 'im—Number One—er what was a quarrelling w' Number One all the way from London—er as run away from Number One into the wood yonder, what about Number Two—er?"

"Why, to be sure—I had forgotten her!"

"Forgotten?" repeated the Postilion, "Oh, Lord, yes!" and leaning over, he winked one eye, very deliberately, "forgotten—er—ah! to be sure—of course!" and he winked again.

"What do you mean?" I demanded, nettled by the fellow's manner.

"Mean?" said he, "I mean as of all the damned onner'ness a cove can be on a honest, well-meaning, civil-spoken cove—why, I'm that there cove, so 'elp me!" Saying which, he cracked his whip, the horses plunged forward, and, almost immediately, as it seemed, horses, chaise and Postilion had lurched into the black muck of the night and vanished.

### CHAPTER III

Which Bears Ample Testimony to the Strength of the Gentleman's Fists.

Considering all that had befallen

during the last half-hour or so, it was not very surprising, I think, that I should have forgotten the very existence of this woman Charman, even though she had been chiefly instrumental in bringing it all about, and to have her recalled to my recollection thus suddenly (and, moreover, the possibility that I must meet with and talk to her) perturbed me greatly, and I remained, for some time, quite oblivious to wind and rain, all engrossed by the thought of this woman.

"A dark, fierce, Amazonian creature!" I told myself, who had (absolutely) already attempted one man's life tonight; furthermore, a tall woman, and strong (therefore unmanly), with eyes that gleamed with the shadow of her hair. And yet any thorny arose not so much from any of these as from the fact that she was a woman, and, consequently, beyond my ken.

Hitherto I had regarded the sex very much from a distance, and a little as a creature naturally illogical, and given to unreasonable impulse; delicate, ethereal beings whose lives were made up of petty trifles and vanities, who were sent into this gross world to be admired, petted, occasionally worshipped, and frequently married.

Indeed, my education, in this direction, had been shockingly neglected; thus far, not so much from lack of inclination (for who can deny the fascination of the sex?) as for lack of time and opportunity; for when, as a young gentleman of means and great expectations, I should have been writing sonnets to the eyebrow of some "lady faire," or surreptitiously wooing some farmer's daughter, in common with my kind, I was hearkening to the plaint of some Greek or Roman lover, or chuckling over old Brantome.

Thus, women were to me practically an unknown quantity, as yet, and hence it was with no little trepidation that I now started out for the cottage, and, as I saw that it emanated from the window of the sex? as for lack of time and opportunity; for when, as a young gentleman of means and great expectations, I should have been writing sonnets to the eyebrow of some "lady faire," or surreptitiously wooing some farmer's daughter, in common with my kind, I was hearkening to the plaint of some Greek or Roman lover, or chuckling over old Brantome.

As I went, I became conscious that I was bleeding copiously above the brow, and that my throat was much swollen, and that the thumb of my right hand pained exceedingly at the least touch; added to which was a dizziness of the head, and a general soreness of body, that testified to the strength of my opponent's fists.

On I stumbled, my head bent low against the stinging rain, and with clumsy, unsteady feet, for reaction had come, and with it a deadly faintness.

## "Drink Beer"

Says French League Against Alcoholism

The French National League against Alcoholism has placarded many parts of France with posters warning people not to drink distilled liquors, etc., and urging them to drink Beer, Wine and Cider in moderation.

Swiss Government Favors Beer

Mr. Milliet, member of the Government in Switzerland, says: "The aim of the Swiss Government was, in substance, to improve the quality of Brandy, and at the same time to check its consumption by substituting for it the less harmful Wine and Beer."

Beer is today recognized by all governments and nations, as a beverage that tends to promote true independence. In New Brunswick, READY'S LAGER BEER is doing its share in this work. Thousands of people have given up the use of hard liquors and spirits for this harmless beverage. Brewed by READY'S BREWERIES, LTD., St. John. Shipped into Scott's Counties for family use.

Who wants to go to college for a year without a cent of expense?

your face—the Country Bumpkin has hurt you! Oh, I am glad, glad! glad! and I have laughed again. "I might have run away," she went on mockingly, "but you see—I was prepared for you," and she held up the knife, "prepared for you—and now—you are pale, and hurt, and faint—yes, you are faint—the Country Bumpkin has done his work well. I shall not need this, after all—see!" And she flung the knife upon the table.

"Yes—it is better—there," said I, "and I think—madam—is mistaken."

"Mistaken?" she cried, with a sudden catch in her voice, "what—what do you mean?"

"That I am—the Bumpkin!" said I. Now, as I spoke, a black mist enveloped all things, my knees loosened suddenly, and stumbling forward, I sank into a chair.

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## Classified Advertising

One cent per word each insertion. Discount of 33 1-3 per cent on advertisements running one week or longer if paid in advance. Minimum charge 25 cents.

### EUROPEAN AGENCY

Wholesale Indents promptly executed at lowest cash prices for all British and Continental goods, including Books and Stationery, Boots, Shoes and Leather, Chemicals and Druggists' Sundries, China, Motor Cars and Accessories, Drapery, Millinery and Piece Goods, Fancy Goods and Perfumery, Hardware, Machinery and Metals, Jewellery, Plate and Watches, Photographic and Optical Goods, Provisions and Oilmen's Stores, etc., etc.

Commission 2 1/2 p.c. to 3 p.c. Trade Discounts allowed.

Special Quotations on Demand. Sample Cases from £10 upwards.

Consignments of Produce Sold on Account.

WILLIAM WILSON & SONS

(Established 1814).

25 Abchurch Lane, London, E. C.

Cable Address: "Annupale, London."

PROBATE COURT.

City and County of Saint John.

To the devisees, legatees and creditors of Elizabeth McGoldrick, of the City of Saint John, in the City and County of Saint John, splinter, deceased, and to all others whom it may concern.

The Executor of the last will of the above named deceased having filed her accounts in this Court, and asked to have the same passed and allowed, you are hereby cited to attend, if you so desire, at the passing of same, at a Court of Probate, to be held in and for the City and County of Saint John, at the Probate Court room, in the Pugsley Building, in the City of Saint John, on Monday, the seventh day of April next, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when the said accounts will be passed upon.

Given under my hand this twelfth day of March, A. D. 1916.

(Sgd.) E. T. C. KNOWLES, Judge of Probate.

(Sgd.) H. O. McNEERNEY, Registrar of Probate.

STEPHEN B. BUSTIN, Proctor.

Royal Naval College of Canada.

The next examination for the entry of Naval Cadets will be held at the examination centres of the Civil Service Commission in May, 1916, successful candidates joining the College on or about the 15th of August.

Applications for entry will be received up to the 15th April by the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, from whom blank entry forms can now be obtained.

Candidates for the examination in May next must be between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the 1st July, 1916.

Further details can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS, Deputy Minister of the Naval Service, Department of the Naval Service, Ottawa, January 10th, 1916.

Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

—90793.

SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS.

Coal mining rights in the Dominion of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territories, and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of 21 years at an annual rental of \$1 an acre, or more than 2,500 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5 which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.