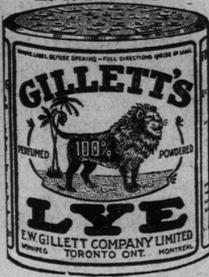


GILLETT'S LYE EATS DIRT



A Great Intrigue,

Mistress of Darracourt.

CHAPTER XXIX.

The "yard" showed the greatest concern over the accident and illness. The men gathered in an anxious group to hear the doctor's daily bulletin, and Mr. Doyle wandered up and down disconsolate, begging that he might be allowed to do something for the young fellow, of whom he knew nothing excepting that "he was the finest and straightest man in the world." The only thing he could do was to lay down tan all over the yard to dull the noise of the horses' feet, and he did that, wandering up and down it, and cying the window of the sick room wistfully.

Day followed day, and the self-elected nurse grew in the estimation of the doctor. She was self-possession and quietness itself, and exhibited a devotion to the patient which made the doctor enthusiastic.

One evening, a fortnight after the accident, Harry fell into a sleep, not the fitful sleep of fever, but a calm, long slumber, from which he awoke conscious and intelligent, but as weak as a new-born babe.

The doctor had gone, and Marie Verner sat beside the bed alone.

Harry turned his great eyes upon her in silence for a moment, then spoke her name.

"The moment had come, but she was prepared for it."

"Yes, it is I," she said, gently.

"You, Miss Verner," he said; then his eyes grew anxious. "Then where is she?"

And he looked beyond her with a wild gaze of hope.

Marie hung her head.

"She?"

"Yes, she," he repeated. "Where is Lucille?"

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Creston, Iowa.—"I suffered with female troubles from the time I came into womanhood until I had taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I would have paid anything to have been able to do anything heavy, and I would be so weak and nervous and in so much misery that I would be prostrated. A friend told me what your medicine had done for her and I tried it. It made me strong and healthy and our home is now happy with a baby boy. I am very glad that I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and do all I can to recommend it."—Mrs. A. B. BOGART, 504 E. Howard Street, Creston, Iowa.

Tons of Boots and Herbs are used annually in the manufacture of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which is known from ocean to ocean as the standard remedy for female ills.

For forty years this famous root and herb medicine has been pre-eminently successful in controlling the diseases of women. Merit alone could have stood this test of time.

If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (Confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.

"She is not here. Hush! you must not talk. She is not here."

A sigh broke from his lips, and he turned his head away slightly.

"No," she answered, gently, soothingly; "no, Harry."

"No. Then—it was only fancy! I could have sworn. Not here! How long have I been here?"

She told him.

"And, Lucille—Miss Darracourt?" he asked. "Tell me about her, Quick! I saw her—I saw her in the park. Miss Verner, for Heaven's sake, don't keep me in suspense! Tell me—where is she? I must send to her—I must go—"

"Hush!" she whispered. "I will tell you nothing now—I will tell you all in the morning, and not then—I dare not!—unless you sleep."

He looked at her for a moment or two, as if he would wring the words from her; then, with a long sigh, he closed his eyes and fell off again.

In the morning he woke, and his first question was:

"Where is she?"

Marie Verner whispered to the doctor.

"Will you leave him alone with me?" she said, plaintively, and he withdrew.

"Now, then," said poor Harry. "Quick, Miss Verner! You know my secret?"

"Yes," she said.

"I—I love her!" he breathed. "I have been trying to play the part of a hero, but I am beaten. I must see her! Tell me where she is?"

"She is in London," she answered.

His face lit up.

"So near!—so near! Will you send for her? Tell her—ah, you can tell her nothing of all I want to say!—tell her to come to me, Miss Verner."

She bent over him, and gave him a draught, which he took, impatiently; then she said, almost in a whisper:

"It would be no use."

"No use?" he repeated, with a mocking smile.

"No," she said; "she would not—could not come—"

"Ah!" he cried, and tried to rise.

"She is ill—dead!"

"No; she is neither ill nor dead. Are you strong enough to hear the truth? Can you be a man?"

She shook her head, watching him closely, watchfully.

His thin face whitened, and he panted:

"What is it you are going to tell me?" he breathed. "Stop!" and he pondered for a moment. "Let me think! What was it I dreamed? They said I dreamed it! But was it true?"

"What was it you dreamed?" she asked, her hand upon his arm.

"I—I dreamed that she had married him!" he replied, eying her with a fast growing horror. "That—that she was the Marchioness of Merle!"

She kept silent; the horror grew in his eyes.

"Was it true?" he demanded, hoarsely.

"My poor Harry!" she murmured. "Be brave, be strong; it was true!"

For a full minute there was no sound in the quiet room; then his lips moved, and the words came out like the last cry of the dying soul.

"Married! To him! Oh, Lucille, Lucille! Lost to me now forever!"

Marie Verner set her lips hard, and said not a word. She had dealt the blow, and waited for the result.

Presently she looked down at him. He had covered his face with his thin hands, and the tears were welling through, for he was as weak as a child.

Then she was nurse enough to know that the blow would not be fatal. She still held the winning cards.

CHAPTER XXX.

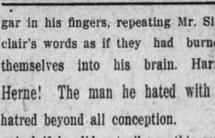
Five and twenty thousand pounds! It was a large sum even to one so rich as the Marchioness of Merle. How could he ask her for it? What excuse could he invent? He had already got four thousand pounds on the pretense of paying bills—it might be easy to get a thousand or two more—but, five and twenty?

As the marquis sat and pondered the question late into the night upon which Mr. Sinclair had made his demand, the pallor on his face grew deeper and grayer. Not the Marquis of Merle! He was a nameless nobody, the illegitimate son, and the real marquis was—Harry Herne!

For hours he sat with an unlit ci-



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gar in his fingers, repeating Mr. Sinclair's words as if they had burned themselves into his brain. Harry Herne! The man he hated with a hatred beyond all conception.

And if he did not silence this vulgar fellow—if he did not pay him the blackmail—he would find Harry Herne and tell him all! And Harry Herne would swoop down and seize the Hall, the title—

The cold sweat broke out upon the pale forehead, and the marquis's delicate hands clinched spasmodically as his eyes glanced round the room, with the expression of a tiger driven into a corner and desperate.

"If I could kill him!" he muttered.

"If I could kill him and Herne, too! He is the only one who knows the secret—the only one!"

He sat and mused until his brain swam, until the dawn crept coldly through the curtains, then went with stealthy tread to his room.

When he came down to breakfast it was past noon. He had slept for an hour at most, an awful hour, haunted by dreams, in which he saw Harry Herne surrounded by a crowd, shouting, "The Marquis of Merle!" and himself in rags, crawling, nameless and penniless, through some miserable foreign city, an outcast and wanderer for life!

To his relief he found that Lucille had breakfasted and gone out in the carriage. They had seen so little of each other of late that they might be said to have led separate existences; if they spoke, it was as mere acquaintances, and upon general subjects. Lucille never inquired how he spent his time, or expressed any desire for his society. She was living in the past, and the veil behind which she shrouded herself grew thicker and more impenetrable each day. The marquis breakfasted on a piece of toast and a cup of coffee fortified with brandy, and then went out.—The

How To Get Rid of a Bad Cough

A Home-Made Remedy that Will Do It Quickly, Cheap and Easily Made

If you have a bad cough or chest cold which refuses to yield to ordinary remedies, get from any druggist 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex (50 cents worth), pour into a 16-ounce bottle and fill the bottle with plain granulated sugar syrup. Start taking a teaspoonful every hour or two. In 24 hours your cough will be conquered or very nearly so. Even whooping cough is readily relieved in this way.

The above mixture makes 16 ounces—a family supply—of the finest cough syrup that money could buy—at a cost of only 64 cents. Easily prepared in 5 minutes. Full directions with Pinex.

This Pinex and Sugar Syrup preparation takes right hold of a cough and gives almost immediate relief. It loosens the dry, hoarse or tight cough in a way that is really remarkable. It also quickly heals the inflamed membranes which accompany a painful cough, and stops the formation of phlegm in the throat and bronchial tubes, thus ending the persistent loose cough. Excellent for bronchitis, spasmodic croup and winter coughs. Keeps perfectly and tastes good—children like it.

Pinex is a special and highly concentrated compound of genuine Norway pine extract, rich in ginsenoside, which is so healing to the membranes.

To avoid disappointment, ask your druggist for "2 1/2 ounces of Pinex"—do not accept anything else. A guarantee of absolute satisfaction, or money promptly refunded, goes with this preparation. The Pinex Co., Toronto, Ont.

Hazard was not yet open, and he wandered about the streets, with set face and vacant eyes.

Five and twenty thousand pounds to quiet this man! How was he to get it?

Late in the afternoon he got back to Merice's. For the first time since his arrival in London he had not played during the day; he knew that his hand would shake when he touched the cards, and that the words which rang through his brain, "You are not the Marquis of Merle!" would prevent him from exercising his usual skill.

As he entered the drawing room of his suite at the hotel, the first thing he saw was Mr. Sinclair. That gentleman, more elaborately got up if possible than ever, was lounging upon a couch, his patent leather boots and brass jewellery glittering in the sun.

"Good-morning, marquis," he said, nodding affably. "Been out for a stroll? I just looked in to see how you were and to know if you've managed that little matter."

The marquis stood and eyed him in silence for a moment, and, if a look could have killed him, Mr. Sinclair would have expired then and there.

"I have not got the money yet," he said. "There are arrangements to be made—"

"Just so, exactly," said Mr. Sinclair, flicking the dust from his boots with a crimson-bordered handkerchief. "It's a lot of money, ain't it? But don't make yourself uneasy; I'm not in a particular hurry; a day or two won't make any difference. I don't want to drive you hard, marquis; I only want to keep my hip on you. You see, I look upon myself as a sort of man in possession, and I mean to stick to you until we come to a settlement; and the sooner we do, the better I shall be pleased. Meanwhile, what I say is, let's enjoy ourselves!"

(To be Continued.)

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