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Lord Cecil's Dilemma

—OR—

The Picnic

—in—

Woodall Forest

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Mr. Herbert Gardner did not leave for town until the next day, and he was sorry that he had to go away so soon.

"I am satisfied that my chum will soon be all right with his splendid constitution," he told Lady Hastings. "And I shall spend Christmas with you at all events. Do you know I fancy that Miss Craythorne knows more of this trouble than she cares to admit, and I am curious about Sir Charles' visitor on the evening he was shot."

"Miss Craythorne is in love with my son," whispered her ladyship, "and I believe that, if he were free, he would ask her to marry him."

The barrister looked up quickly and smiled. So Sir Charles had not told his mother anything about his passion for Lady Gladys Howard.

"She is a dear girl—so fond, so affectionate," continued Lady Hastings. "It would be the happiest moment of my life if I could call her daughter. My son has confided everything to Ada, and has not liked her to be out of his sight for weeks."

Herbert Gardner was a little surprised to hear this, but he did not attach much importance to the utterances of Lady Hastings, as she was a woman ruled with passing emotions.

"Miss Craythorne is a very handsome girl," was all that he said, but a peculiar smile played about his mouth. He had evidently formed some opinion of his own.

"It is not often that the most favored among the gentlemen at the bar are busy just before and just after Christmas; and now, after two months of idleness—indeed, I have hardly held a brief since the long vacation—I am called upon by a fellow I knew at college and disliked, to give an opinion upon some matter which is as foreign to me as Adam. However, as beggars can't be choosers, I am glad to accept of any kind of work that will put a few pennies into my pocket. This is why I am forced to take myself off in such a hurry, Lady Hastings. I am heartily sorry that Charlie could not have heard the news, for he knows my new patron very well—a little too well, I fancy."

"Then I must know him, also!"

"You may have heard his name—Lord Cecil Stanhope." The young barrister appeared to regret that he had mentioned any name the moment that it was uttered, for he added, quickly: "Pray do not repeat what I have told you, Lady Hastings, as Lord Cecil has requested that his business be kept a profound secret."

"Certainly," her ladyship replied. "Miss Craythorne is upon very friendly terms with Lord Stanhope. I believe that Lady Craythorne's estate adjoins Stanhope Park."

"Then I am glad that I asked you not to betray the confidence I have reposed in you. I would not have one word repeated to Miss Craythorne for worlds."

"Your wishes shall be respected," Lady Hastings told him.

Before leaving, he paid a final visit to the sick-chamber, and was again struck by the strange, nay, eccentric, conduct of the professional nurse. She deliberately turned her back to him, and hurried out of the room, a scared look in her eyes; but he attributed her conduct to annoyance that her domain should be subject to the intrusion of strangers like himself.

As usual, Miss Craythorne was at her post, and smiled in a forced manner at the nurse's hasty retreat.

"She imagines that too many visitors retard the patient's recovery," she observed, "and I have to be upon my best behavior to be permitted here at all."

This satisfied the barrister, but he thought of it all again long afer.

"How is Sir Charles to-day?" he asked.

"The doctor says that the fever is increasing, but in a few days the crisis will be passed, and then we may hope for consciousness and daily increasing strength. The wound itself is rapidly healing."

Herbert Gardner left Miss Craythorne in anything but a happy frame of mind. He had a knack of fixing his keen, dark eyes upon her in a way that was most uncomfortable. And there seemed something in them that she could not comprehend—half-mocking, half-accusing. She felt that she feared and hated him.

As he walked through the corridor he saw something white lying on the carpet and mechanically picked it up. An empty envelope, perhaps dropped by a careless servant. He had partially crushed it in his hand, when he saw the emblazoned crest of the Howards on the back. He turned it over, and saw that the name on the face was that of Sir Charles. He looked at the date. It had only been recently received. Sir Charles had never seen it—was unable to read it. The letter had been stolen. By whom?

Miss Ada Craythorne!

He did not hesitate one moment in his judgment—he was sure that Miss Craythorne was the thief, and while he condemned, he pitied her.

He regretted that he had pledged himself to return to town. He did not think that it was safe to leave his friend to the mercies of this strong-willed, unscrupulous woman. In her hands the weak-minded Lady Hastings would be as pliable as wax.

But his honor was at stake; he had received half a confidence; he had contracted to study an intricate case; he had received his retainer, and perhaps further particulars were even now awaiting him. He must return to London forthwith. In his pocket-book he inclosed the envelope he had picked up, and half-an-hour later was being driven to the railway station.

It was a relief to Miss Craythorne to know that he had gone; but when she discovered the loss of the envelope belonging to the letter she had intercepted, her agony of mind was great indeed. She could not think how she had been so careless. She remembered having it half-an-hour before Herbert Gardner's visit to the sickroom. She had taken the letter from her bosom to see that it was safe, and must have dropped the envelope, upon hearing the approach of a servant. This was bad enough, but how much worse would it have been had she dropped the letter instead!

It may have been picked up by one of the servants, and thrown into the wastebasket, but she did not dare to ask any questions. She could only hope, most frevently, that it would never again come to light.

Several days passed, and at last Sir Charles gazed about him with the light of reason in his eyes. He was dreadfully thin and weak, but the doctor spoke cheerfully.

"He will be as well and as strong as even within a month!"

Sir Charles heard the words, and at first was surprised. What had been the matter with him? He could not remember. He closed his eyes, and the jibing face of Spier crossed his mental vision; the threats and the shot! Yes, he must have been badly hurt, for he felt miserably weak and helpless.

"So we've dragged you through at last," said the physician, cheerily. "You have had a very close call, Sir Charles. Loss of blood, and other complications owing to delay, and the bungling of your local man. But honor to whom honor is due! You owe your life to Miss Craythorne!"

Sir Charles smiled faintly. He could see that she was standing in the background, her luminous eyes fixed upon him.

"No talking, please," concluded the the physician. "And I leave you in the hands of your nurse!"

He looked slyly at Ada's telltale face; he thought of the hints of Lady Hastings—and almost felt inclined to congratulate the happy couple! Being an old man, he was privileged to jest, and make sly jokes, and the love affairs of young people are always subjects for amusement among their elder friends.

The physician left them in an embarrassing situation, until it was broken by Sir Charles.

"Miss Craythorne," he said, "how can I ever thank you for your goodness to me? I have had dreams of a ministering angel ever being near me, ever hovering about my pillow, and I wake to find that it was no dream—but a sweet reality!"

(To be continued.)

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Accept only an "unbroken package" of "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin," which contains directions and dose worked out by physicians during 22 years and proved safe by millions for

Colds	Headache	Rheumatism
Toothache	Neuralgia	Neuritis
Earache	Lumbago	Pain, Pain

Handy "Bayer" boxes of 12 tablets—Also bottles of 24 and 100—Druggists.

Aspirin is the trade mark (registered in Canada) of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid. While it is well known that Aspirin means Bayer manufacture, to assist the public against imitations, the Tablets of Bayer Company will be stamped with their general trade mark, the "Bayer Cross."

Pro-phy-lac-tic Tooth Brush

THIS brush cleans more thoroughly because the tufted bristles reach between the teeth.

It is easier to manage because of the curved handle.

It is more sanitary because it always comes in the yellow box.

It wears longer because of the quality of the bristles.

Four visits a year to your dentist and daily use of the Pro-phy-lac-tic Tooth Brush insure good teeth for a lifetime.

Look for the name on the handle. Adult's, youth's, and child's sizes. For sale at leading druggists.

Distributed in Nfld. by GERALD S. DOYLE, St. John's.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

WALT MASON

Disappointments bent me double, ere I long had played life's game; for I always looked for trouble, and the trouble seldom came. When I had a field of barley I would sadly gaze thereat, and remark, "So help me, Charley, hail will come and knock it flat. And if haply hail should dodge it, it will burn up in the sun, or a whirling wind will lodge it so the reaping can't be done. Or the locusts' wings will rattle as they mark it in their flight, or the neighbors' tinhorn cattle will devour it in the night. Something fierce will overtake it, or the thresher wield his flail." But the weather was propitious, no disasters came along; my forebodings, grim and vicious, turned out altogether wrong. Yet I hunted round to borrow something that would make me glum; it is hard to bank on sorrow and to find it doesn't come. I've been always prompt to wager that a woe is just ahead; "grief in minor key or major is our portion," I have said. But I'm sore and disappointed, all my theories seem to fail; grief avaunted and anointed just when I would grab its tail.

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Just Folks

By EDGAR A. GUEST.

THE GRIND.

Rough road,
Long road,
Tug and haul until you die!
Heavy load,
Weary load,
Mop your brow and heave a sigh.
Work, work,
Work, work,
All you meet from day to day;
No rest,
No rest,
"What's the use of it" you say.

Dull grind,
Dreary grind,
Same tomorrow as to-day;
"Hey you!
Say you!
Get to work and earn your pay!"
Sick heart,
Tired heart,
Weary mind and muscle sore,
Turning wheel,
Flying wheel,
What is all the sweating for?

Well child,
Sick child,
Mother with her eyes of blue,
Sad home
Glad home,
All of these depend on you,
Her smile
Their smile,
Ribbons blue and shoes to fit,
Stockings new,
Dresses new,
This is what you get from it.

Clang, clang,
Bang, clang!
Every blow a youngster's smile,
Dreary dirt,
Grimy dirt,
They will find it all worth while.
Stick fast,
Hold fast,
Here's a dress which she can wear,
Hard day,
Long day,
Here's a ribbon for her hair.

Fifty More U.S.S.B. Ships Being Made Ready for Sea.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—With the addition of thirty-fie vessels just brought out of laid up fleets the Shipping Board has about fifty steamers in various stages of preparation for active service. These are mainly intended to replace on sailing schedule ships regularly engaged in trans-Atlantic services that have been delayed or diverted by charters for coal shipments from Europe.

Fifty-six coal charters in all have been made by the Board and about seventy-five by private interests, so that, taking 7,000 tons of coal a ship as an average, the total movement currently indicated is nearly 1,000,000 tons. The Board is now ready to charter tonnage for late August and September loading, and the idicated rate is 12 shillings 6 pence. Although the demand has fallen off heavily there is still said to be plenty of inquiry in the market.

Of the fifty Shipping Board vessels referred to six are in the spot position, ready for instant allocation. Nineteen are undergoing repairs and the remainder are being made ready for reconditioning. The average cost for reconditioning one of the laid up boats is $10,000, so a total of $350,000 is involved in the preparations for service. About 1400 men will be employed on board the vessels when they go into active operation.

BEECHAM'S PILLS Safest and best family medicine

ST. JOHN'S GROCERY STORES.

Large Local Cabbage, 9c lb.

Carrots, 12c lb.

Beet, 9c lb.

Turnips, 6c lb.

Finest New American Potatoes, 25c gal.

J. J. ST. JOHN, DUCKWORTH STREET and LeMARCHANT ROAD.

Heaping Returns for Your Money

From

W. R. Goobie, Just Opp. Post Office

Faithful Alarm Clocks.

To be late is often very costly. Depend upon a reliable timepiece to wake you in time to begin the day right. Our prices: $1.39, $1.94, $2.25 each.

Turkish Towels.

There's a distinct pleasure in using Turkish Towels of this quality; only a small quantity left . . . .15c. each

Wire Broilers or Toasters.

In the kitchen or at the fireplace, this is a particularly popular heavy Wire Broiler. Our prices: 20, 25, 27, 29c. ea

Corsets.

For slender figures. True corset economy lies in buying the right corsets. Our Special, $1.39 pair

Children's Hose.

In Black and Cordovan. We have them in assorted sizes and prices range from 19c. to 63c. per pair

Ladies' Cotton Dresses

We are clearing up the balance of our Summer Dresses. Our prices: $1.50, $1.75, $2.50 and $3.85 each.

Ladies' Hose.

Unusually attractive is this offering of Hosiery values; presenting variety in weights and weaves and most interesting in the range of low prices. Our prices: 19, 25, 29, 35c. per pair.

Congoleum Mats.

Makes a nice Door Mat, 18 x 21; fancy assorted patterns, only 39c. each.

Enamelled Wash Basins.

Triple coated enamel, assuring you of longest wear. Our prices: 25, 29, 39, 45, 47, 49, 53c. each.

Men's Fancy Shirts.

In Soft Fancy Shirts with collars; a fine selection of Shirts for men and boys; all with collar.

Boys' . . . . . .75c.
Men's $1.35

Convex Saucepans.

There is a definite satisfaction in buying these good quality Enamelled Saucepans, because you can be sure they will last much longer than ordinary enamelled ware at this price; Covers fit tightly. Our prices: 49, 75, 89, 98c., $1.76 each.

Roller Toweling.

For Tea Towels or Kitchen Rollers; fine uniform huck weave with fast selvedges, only 15c. per yard

Enamelled Water Kettles.

The constant simmering on the stove demands a kettle of extra quality enamel. These are stamped from one piece of steel and heavily coated. Our prices: 89c., 99c.; and in all White, $1.25 each.

Ladies' Vests.

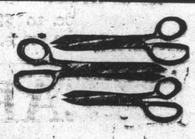
One of the best lots of Ladies' Wing Sleeve Vests shown this summer for 29 and 39c. each

Dust Pans.

We are offering these large Japanned Dust Pans at the low saving price of 19c. each

Infants' Rompers.

Made from a good strong linen; sizes 1 to 6. Our price $1.39 each



Scissors.

We have them all sizes and styles, from the pocket size in case to the large family size . . . .15c. to 65c. per pair

Men's Work Shirts.

Made from heavy American Khaki Drill. Our price $1.39 each

Cups and Saucers.

In this class of goods we are big, that is why we can give you such a fine price. We have in the building today about 500 dozen of this special White and Gold Cup and Saucer. If you buy one or 20 dozen our price is the same, 19c. for Cup & Saucer.

Boys' Blouses.

The all white with pearl buttons; very soft fine weaves. In quality and style here are most desirable values . . . . . .$1.25 each

Enamelled Dish Pans.

The deep Enamelled Dish Pans are the most used today, and the difference there may be in their original cost is more than offset by their many uses and long wearing qualities.

Our Special Price, 89c. ea.

Embroidery.

Very pretty, assorted patterns; 6 inches for 19c.; 9 inches, 25c.; 12 inches, 60c. per yard.

Lipped Saucepan.

We are quoting a special price on these good quality Lipped Saucepans. Look over your kitchen needs and take advantage of this opportunity to save. Our Prices: 19, 25, 39c. ea.

Crepe Bloomers.

A special offer while they last . . . . . .39c. per pair

Deep Milk Pans.

This is the time for you to secure your Milk Pan in a good block tin; all sizes. Our prices: 16, 23, 29c. ea.

Infants' Rubber Pants.

The Cutey brand. Our prices: 45, 65c. ea.

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A poor Whisk Broom is worse than none at all. This is a good one and well worth the money. Our price 25c. ea.

Clothes Lines.

We have a good assorted stock of this useful article. Prices 20c. to 50c. ea.

Fry Pans.

Stamped from one piece of good metal. Our prices: 39, 45, 49c. each

Neckwear.

Perhaps clothes don't make the man, but correct Neckwear certainly helps to create a good impression. Our Prices 50, 75, 95c., $1.35 each.