The Earl's Mistake

CHAPTER XXI.

"What did it mean?" Carrie asked herelf. Was it possible that the sight of
he famous princess, this woman with
he most beautiful face and form Carrie
ad ever seen, could have affected Lord
ceil? A strange pang smote her heart
or a moment, but she thrust it resoluteraway. The idea was absurd, childish!
by, he had said himself that he had
ever met her; and Lord Cecil was not
ne to forget such a pearl of womanood.

angly.

Are you ill, Cecil?" she asked.

Ill?" he said, looking down at her he a strange, forced smile on his lips, eyes grave and troubled. "No! But room is hot, and—"

You are ill!" she said. "We will not ce. Let us go somewhere into the the room is hot and enough to make feel faint."

dance. Let us go somewhere into the sir, the room is hot and enough to make one feel faint."

He drew her arm within his in silence; his brain was in a whirl, his heart beating wildly; and, like a ship tossed on a stormy sea, his mind wavered this way and that over a tempestuous wave of indecision. Should he tell her this beautiful, loving sweetheart of his, tell her the whole truth, and risk the consequences? But he felt he dared not. How could he own to this girl who loved him so deeply, so passionately, that the mere sight of another woman had struck him like a flash of lightning?

Not only the woman, but the man who hesitates is lost. In silence, Lord Ceeil led her to a retired nook, behind a fernery, and in silence sat down beside her. Then he drew a long breath. With an effort he tried to throw off the spell which the mere sight of the woman whom he had loved, and by whom he had been betrayed, had east over him. But he could not forget her, and even as he held Carrie's hand and responded when she spoke now and again, his thoughts were drawn toward the other. If he could but have known that she would have been there, he thought, regretfully, he would have avoided her, or at least have been prepared: but how was it possible for him to identify Zenobia de Norvan with the Princess Florenza, whom Kenworth had spoken of as famous? The Princess Florenza; had she assumed the name, he wondered? He felt that she was capable of even that, but then, again. Lord Kenworth had said she was received in the best society, and that her credentials were unexceptionable! She was a mystery, as was all connected with her, and the very mystery kept him thinking of her Amidst the plashing of the water amongst the ferns, with his sweetheart's voice in his ears, his mind went back to that nieth at Lucence to the hot nassion would have been there, he thought, regretfully, he would have avoided her, or at least have been prepared; but how was it possible for him to identify Zenobia de Novaran with the Princess Florenza; whom Kenworth had spoken of as famous? The Princess Florenza; had she assumed the name, he wondered? He felt that she was capable of even that, but then, again, Lord Kenworth had said she was received in the best society, and that her credentials were unexceptionable! She was a mystery, as was all connected with her, and the very mystery kept him thinking of her Amidst the plashing of the water amongst the ferns, with his sweetheart's voice in his ears, his mind went back to that night at Lucerne, to the hot, passion which had preluded it, to the agony and bitterness which had followed it.

A man less sensitive would have borne the shock of the sudden meeting better, a new hess finally strang avoid have one the shock of the sudden meeting better, a new hess finally strang avoid have borne the shock of the sudden meeting better,

which had preluded it, to the agony and bitterness which had followed it. A man less sensitive would have borne the shock of the sudden meeting better, a man less finely strung would have taken heart of grace and confided in the girl he loved; but Lord Cecil's keen imagination could realize exactly what Carrie would feel; could feel, by sympathy, the agony his confession would cause her, and he shrank from it. It was impossible to him; at this moment at any rate.

'I am 'spoiling your enjoyment, my darling!' re said, gently, tenderly, all his heart going out toward her.

"My enjoyment!' said Carrie, nestling against him. "Do you want me to make you vain, Cecil, by telling you, in as many words, that I would rather sit here with you than dance with even a male Taglioni? Besides, this is charming, and she looked round with infinite content and happiness. "It is very much to be preferred to the ball-room. And are you better, dear? Sometimes I am afraid you tax yourself too much, Cecil. I don't forget, if you do, that not so long ago you were an invalid, and came to a certain farmhouse to be nursed."

"And there found health and a happiness past counting!" he said, raising her hand to his lips and kissing it tenderly.

Carrie laughed, but her eyes glistened.

"That was said in the character of Sir Troubadour, I suppose," she said. "You are bound to be gallant to-night, are you not? By the way, what did you think of the great princess, Cecil?"

He did not start, but he looked down at the tesselated pavement gravely.

"In what way do you mean"

"Did you think she was as beautiful as Lord Kenworth inferred;" said Carrie. "Now I should have thought "How coldly you said that," laughed Carrie, "Now I should have thought"

"How coldly you said that," laughed Carrie, "Now I should have thought"

"How coldly you said that," laughed Carrie, "Now I should have thought"

lightly.

"Yes," he replied, in a low voice; "she is beautiful."

"How coldly you said that," laughed Carrie. "Now I should have thought that hers was just the style of beauty to suit your factidious taste, sir. I can understand," she went on, thoughtfully, "how men go mad and rave over such a perfect loveliness as hers; and I have a suspicion that she possesse that charm which goes even beyond beauty. Did you notice her voice, Cecil? It was like a bell, and yet so soft and low.

Surely you, with your keen ear, noticed and appreciated it?"

He inclined his head, and still stared lightly the inclined his head, and still stared weary sigh; there was a moment's sightly surely was a moment was a surely was a moment was a surely was a moment was a surely was a sur

"What is the matter, Ken?" he asked, swer it."
while Carrie looked up with an expectant "Why

while Carrie looked up with an expectant smile.

"Matter!" exclaimed Lord Kenworth—"a very serious matter! This is my dance, and I have been hunting for Miss Carrie everywhere. I was just about to make my way to the fish pond and drown my disappointment, when I caught sight of your parti-colored tunic, Sir Troubadour, and felt instinctively that the fair but false one would not be far off."

Carrie rose laughingly and gave him her arm.

"How surprised the fishes would have been, Lord Kenworth," she said. "Isn't it rather a pity to disappoint them?"
"Aren't you coming, Cedi?" said Lord Kenworth, looking back as they went tovard the ball-room.

Lord Cecil shook his head absently.

Lord Cecil shook his head absently.
"Til stay here," he said. "Bring Miss
Harrington back to me, will you!"
"Hem! I don't know! When one gets
a pearl of great price, one keeps it as
long as possible, Sir Troubadour!" he
answered, lightly, and the two disap-

long as possible. Sir Troubadour!" he answered, lightly, and the two disappeared.

Lord Cecil looked after them with an aching heart! How unsuspicious she had been! How little she guessed the torment which he endured! If he had but spoken that first night! It would have been easy then, but now—now that she had seen him utterly overborne by the sight of that woman, how could be expect her to believe that Zenobia—or the princes, call herself what she might—was nothing to him.

He sat, still staring at the pavement, listening to the music that floated out from the ball-room, catching now and again the flash of some bright dress as it passed the opening of the fernery, but his mind was elsewhere; he was once again outside the villa at Lucerne, once again listening to the false voice. Suddenly, he became conscious that someone had passed through the doorway, and was approaching where he sat half hidden by the fronds of the great fern, and he was about to rise and leave the place, for he shrank from meeting any one for the moment, when he saw that the some one was—Zenobia.

She stood, her hands clasped lightly in front of her, with a peculiar grace that had struck him often and often in that short dream-time of his passion, her large eyes fixed on him with a half-sad, half-reproachful expression; her exquisite figure erect and full of graceful repose.

Half unconsciously he rose and turned

repose.

Half unconsciously he rose and turned away, but a deep sigh from her stopped

"Why do you fly from me, Lord Ce

Surely you, with your keen ear, noticed and appreciated it?"

He inclined his head, and still stared at the pavement moodily. He was acting a lie, and it was torturing him.

"She has a good voice," he assented still more coldly.

Carrie looked at him with a sparkle of amazement in her eyes.

"Cecil, if I did not know that you were incapable of such a thing. I should say that you had taken a dislike to the princess at first sight."

He put his hand to his brow; he could bear this deception and concealment no longer.

"Carrie—" he said gravely, almost sternly.

"Miss Harrington, I give you fair warning that if you cause me such despair as I have suffered during the past quarter of an hour, that I will not be answerable for the consequences?" exclaimed Lord Kenworth, entering the fernery at the moment, and coming up to them with a mock-tragic stride.

Lord Cecil sighed and sank back. Chance had reprieved him—the confession was put off.

"What is the matter, Ken?" he asked, while Carrie looked up with an expectant of the pavement moodily. He was acting at the seat, sank into it with a little weary sigh; there was a moment so it ward the seat, sank into it with a little weary sigh; there was a moment sight weary sigh; there was a moment so it ward the seat, sank into it with the lattite weary sigh; there was a moment so it with the seat, sank into it with the samt the seat, sank into it with the samt was more sad than tears.

"Lord Cecil, sill you tell me why you—deserted me?"

The question, so plainly, so uncompromising put, started him almost into a the beautiful face turned up to him with such meekness and reproach, he could have cursed her for a false-hearted traitress; but he mastered the fierce passion of indignation, and smiled down at her beautiful face turned up to him with such meekness and reproach, he could have cursed her for a false-hearted traitress; but he mastered the fierce passion of indignation, and smiled down at her seat, sank into it ward t

in her eyes and on her lips, and be the traitress he knew her to be! "Great heavens!" he exclaimed; "can you demand an answer? Will you force me to recall your treachery and false-

"Treachery!" she repeated, slowly;

mess?"

"Treachery!" she repeated, slowly; then her eyes seemed to flash as if with a sudden idea, and she made an eager movement of her hand.

"Ah! I was right to force this meeting! Go on, Lord Cecil. You accuse me of treachery, of falsehood. You have sat as accuser and judge in one, and have found me guilty and sentenced me, unheard till now! But now I demand a hearing. I plead—not guilty! Go on, my lord!"

She was the picture, the embodiment of injured innocence, of a beautiful woman misjudged and wronged.

Lord Cecil stood looking down at her, his brows knit, his lips tightly closed. "Princess Florenza," he said, "for I suppose I must call you so—""

"It is my right title," she said, quietly. "After you—deserted me"—his face flushed—"my father inherited through the death of his uncle the title and estates of Florenza. I am, therefore, Zenobia Princess Florenza. Did you—is it possible"—with dilating eyes—"that you thought the title an assumed one?"

"False in one thing is, with me, false in all," he said sternly. "The woman who was capable of betraying and deceiving the man who loved her, I deem capable of any smaller deceits."

eiving the man who loved her, I deem capable of any smaller deceits." "In what way did I deceive you?" she demanded. "You forget, Lord Cecil, that I am still ignorant of the crime of which you have found me guilty and ex-

acted the penalty."
(To be Continued.)



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A Conductor Killed.

Vancouver, March 30. — Conductor Rainey, in charge of a work train on the construction of the double-track electric railway from Vancouver to New Westminster, was caught between two cars and died in the Royal Columbian Hospital at New Westminster.

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UNREST IN INDIA

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Address by Sir Andrew Fraser te Montreal Canadian Club.

Montreal. March 30. - "I am far from being a pessimist in regard to India, but it is necessary for us to be alert and watchful, and ready to

alert and watchful, and ready to stamp out anarchy wherever it shows itself," were the significant words used by Sir Andrew Fraser, late Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, at the Canadian Club luncheon to-day.

"In some senses India is a powder magazine, and any fool can drop a match which will cause an explosion that will require a great man to stamp, out," were other words used by the ex-Governor.

A very great deal of mischief had

ex-Governor.

A very great deal of mischief had been done by misrepresentations in the press, particularly the English press, regarding the state of India and Indian affairs, and they had been very often surprised in India to learn from the English press what a terrible state India was in. He illustrated this point by dia was in. He illustrated this point by telling a story of the exaggerations as to the last attempt that was made upon his life, on Nov. 7, last year, at the university lecture delivered at Bengal. The attempt was made by a university student, maddened by ill-advice, who represented merely a few Anarchists, while the inhabitants of Bengal, like the people in the interior provinces of India, were absolutely loyal to the British Crown and Government. He gave the following as the reason of the present university of the state of the st Crown and Government. He gave the following as the reason of the present unrest: First, owing to the price of living having advanced in a remarkable manner. As one of the natives said: "The unrest is largely due to unrest of the stomach." Another cause was due to lack of employment, and the Government was earnestly doing its best to remedy this by establishing technical schools. Education was the third cause of the trouble, but the Government was not going to adapt its procedure to the unrest of the educated. He was confident that this trouble would be overcome. He pointed with pride to Queen Victoria's gracious promise, that no man is held pointed with pride to Queen Victoria's gracious promise, that no man is held to be unfit for any position for which he is qualified merely on account of his race or religion, and Lord Morley was following up this principle in excluding no one from the Legislative Councils on account of race or creed.

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time.

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rove their complexion is marvellous.
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up the constitution, that Dr. Hamilton's Pills accomplish so much in a
stery palid, murky complexion, and
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Cobourg, March 29.— A young lad named Baker, who resided at Warkworth, raised quite a sensation some little time ago by charging that some persons shoved him into a baker's oven to give him an idea of what future punishment was like. Crown Attorney W. F. Kerr investigated the charges, which proved to be groundless. On Monday last the boy was taken by a constable from a northern town to the Mimico Reformatory.

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