

The Earl's Mistake

CHAPTER XXI

"What did it mean?" Carrie asked herself. Was it possible that the sight of the famous princess, this woman with the most beautiful face and form Carrie had ever seen, could have affected Lord Cecil? A strange pang smote her heart for a moment, but she thrust it resolutely away. The idea was absurd, childish! Why, he had said himself that he had never met her; and Lord Cecil was not one to forget such a pearl of womanhood.

She looked up at him, as he stood with his arm round her waist, anxiously and lovingly. "Are you ill, Cecil?" she asked. "Ill?" he said, looking down at her with a strange, forced smile on his lips, his eyes grave and troubled. "No! But the room is hot."

"You are ill!" she said. "We will not dance. Let us go somewhere into the air, 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 Cecil led her to a retired room, behind a fernery, and in silence sat down beside her. Then he drew a long breath, as if 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 cast 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 prepared; but how was it possible for him to identify Princess Florenza, whom Kenworth had spoken of as famous? The Princess Florenza had 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 the ball, past 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!" he said, tenderly, all his heart going out toward her. "My enjoyment," said Carrie, nestling against him. "This 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 Tagliani? 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 famous doctor 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 tasseled pavement gravely. "In what way do you mean?" "Did you think she was as beautiful as Lord Kenworth inferred?" said Carrie, 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 factious 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 possesses 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 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 relieved him—the confession was put off. "What is the matter, Ken?" he asked, 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. "Great heavens!" he exclaimed; "can you demand an answer? Will you force me to recall your treachery and falsehood?" "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 Florenza. Did you—is it possible that you dilating eyes—"then 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 other deeds."

"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 exacted the penalty." (To be Continued.)

UNREST IN INDIA

Largely Due to "Unrest of the Stomach."

Address by Sir Andrew Fraser to 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 stamp out anarchy wherever it shows itself," were the significant words used by Sir Andrew Fraser, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, at the Canadian Club luncheon today.

"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 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 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, named by ill-advice, who represented merely a mad anarchist, 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 unrest, 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. 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. 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 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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CHEAP FARES.

Grand Trunk Railway Begins 2 Cent Rate To-morrow.

Montreal, March 30.—On Thursday morning to the Grand Trunk train leaving Montreal at 9:45 and Toronto at 7:30, and every day subsequently, including Sundays, a car will be attached which will carry third-class passengers between Montreal and Toronto at a reduced rate of 2 cents a mile, thus bringing into practical effect the recent decree of the judicial committee of His Britannic Majesty's Privy Council.

SENT TO REFORMATORY.

Young Lad Told a Groundless Story of Having Been Put in Oven.

Cobourg, March 29.—A young lad named Baker, who 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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Big Purchase of American Dress Muslins, Worth Reg. 39c, 25c Thursday Sale Price, Yd.

Our buyer when in New York made a big and lucky purchase of 50 pieces of the very latest Muslins for summer dresses, consisting of most beautiful floral designs in the prettiest combination color effects ever shown by this store. Visit this section of the store to-morrow and view the Dress Muslins offer of the whole season. At per yard 25c.

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Here's a Thursday sale that will appeal to the lovers of pretty material for our best trade. On sale at a mere fraction of real worth, 62 inches wide and a good weight for two-piece suits. Shop early in the day for this big special at per yard 59c.

Regular 65c Shadow Stripe Dress Goods 39c Yd. For Thursday

Another decided bargain in new style shadow stripes on sale in navy, brown, green, cream and black; will make up very effective suits. A limited quantity, so would advise early shopping; at per yard 39c.

19c Women's Hose---Big Snap 19c

Manufacturer's Stock of Spring and Summer Hosiery, Worth up to 35c, Sale Price Thursday 19c Pair

Take advantage of the big purchase and sale of Women's Hosiery and Cotton Hose, 200 dozen in the lot, a big purchase by our buyer; will reap the benefits by taking advantage of the great sale to-morrow. Extra fine finished perfect fitting hose, in plain, ribbed, drop stitch, seamless, extra splined sole and heel, all sizes, from children's to ladies. Cut they go to-morrow, all one price 19c.

Charming Easter Millinery

We are doing the Millinery business again this season. Correct styles and moderate prices go hand in hand here, and nowhere in Hamilton will you witness such a beautiful display of women's chic headgear as here. Order your Easter hat to-morrow. See our grand Thursday special at \$6.00 and \$8.50.

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A new and perfectly beautiful semi-fitting model, 36 and 38 inches long, beautifully braided and silk trimmed, one of the best values in Hamilton, at \$12.50.

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Made of fancy chiffon Panama and serges in tailored and dressy effects. Coats cut in 30 to 34 inches long, fancy collar and cuffs of inlaid silk and braid trimmed. Full graded Skirt, also tailored model. Coat cut in the newest straight front effect. Regular value \$22.50, very specially priced at \$18.50.

Thursday Curtain & Housefurnishing Snaps

\$1.75 Lace Curtains at \$1.18 pair

Eligant strong Double Thread Curtains, very durable, neat and attractive appearance, 3 1/2 yards long, 50 pairs only at this price.

English Chintz Bed Spreads \$2.50

Here's the latest full size Spreads in beautiful chintz, border and centre designs, positively fast colors, very attractive. See them.

Elegant Cushion Tops 58c each

Made from expensive high class English and French cretonnes, fast colors, exquisite designs, all ready to put cushions into; frilled.

Striking Bargains in Moirette Underskirts

—THIRD FLOOR—
\$1.50 Moirette Underskirts for 79c

Superior quality of Moirette Underskirts, made with deep accordion pleated flounce and finished with frill, in navy, brown and green; worth regular \$1.49. Thursday's sale price 79c. Only one allowed to each customer.

Interesting Prices; Careful Housekeepers

Visit Our Big Staple Section and Share in the Bargains
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Slightly imperfect Cloths, bordered all around, all pure linen, at special reductions.

2x2 yards, regular \$1.50, for .98c
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