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The Heir to Beecham Park

CHAPTER XXIII.

"Spasms at the heart, my lord; his heart is very weak."
"Don't be alarmed, my darling," whispered the earl to Margery. Then he put his arm round the sick man, and raised him easily into a sitting posture.
Sir Douglas tried to murmur thanks, but for a few seconds his weakness was too great. Then, as his strength came back, he stretched out a thin, white hand to the girl sitting in the shadow.
"Come into the light," he whispered, "that I might see your face."
Margery slipped her hand into the speaker's weak, trembling one, and bent toward him as the earl stirred the fire into a blaze.
The girl's eyes met the sick man's hollow, dark ones, which were full of strange eagerness and excitement, and again she seemed to remember them.
Sir Douglas closed his long fingers over hers, and drew her nearer and nearer, till she bent over him.
"Closer," he murmured. "Yes—I can see—it is! Heaven is good! You are—"
His strength seemed to fall entirely. Margery bent still nearer as he sunk back upon the cushion, and her heart-shaped locket escaped and dangled against his withered hand.
"He is fainting!" she said, hurriedly.
"Look how pale he is!"
His eyes opened as he spoke, and wandered from her face to the little gold locket. A spasm of pain caused his mouth to twitch; his breath came in gasps; he tried to open the locket, and his eyes spoke words that his lips refused to utter. Then as the earl drew Margery back, the lids closed over them, and the race became calm.
"It is only a faint. Come away, my darling. I wish I had not brought you; but he was almost well this morning."
Margery suffered her husband to lead her into the other room and place her in a chair. Her nerves were unstrung, and she was full of vague, incomprehensible excitement.
"Go back to him," she murmured.
"I am quite well. I cannot leave till I know that he is better. Poor man! How strange he looked!"
The earl obeyed her; and, when she was alone, Margery put her hands over her eyes and tried to think what the memory was the sick man had brought back to her.
"Is he better?" asked Lord Court, on his return to Sir Douglas's side. "It was only a faint, Murray?"
The man looked up from his prostrate master, and shook his head sadly.
"It is the end, I fear. May I make so bold as to ask you, my lord, to ring that bell? I shall send to his cousin immediately. Mr. Stuart should come at once. I hope her ladyship is not frightened? Sir Douglas always seemed strange when he heard the name of Margery."

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and the sick man's eyes, as they wandered with a restless eagerness round the room, struck the earl with sudden sadness.
"I've sent down to the castle," said Murray, who was watching his beloved master; "and I've also sent to Mr. Stuart's club. He may be in London; if so, he'll come as quickly as he can. I hope he is, for Sir Douglas would like to see him, I know. Many and many a time I've wanted to let Mr. Stuart know, but he wouldn't let me; he was always thinking he'd be better in a day or two, and was longing to be off. He has fretted, so through his illness, my lord, it has quite worn him out."

"Have you sent for the doctors?" asked the earl.
"They've just gone, my lord. They didn't say much. Give him a teaspoonful of brandy every half hour," they said; and I know what that means, my lord."
"How wasted he is," thought the earl—"how changed! I wish he could speak; he looks as if he wished to say something."
He bent and asked Sir Douglas if there was anything he specially wanted; but the rigid lips did not move—only the eyes seemed to plead more than before. The earl's presence appeared to give him pleasure, for, if Lord Court moved, the thin, trembling hand went out toward him, and Murray construed this into a wish for his friend to remain.

An hour passed without change, and the earl was thinking of sending a message to Margery, explanatory of his long absence, when the door opened, and the sick man's face suddenly altered. He made a feeble attempt to rise, his hands moved restlessly to and fro, and his lips parted to speak, as a young man bent over his couch. It was Stuart Crosbie.
"Cousin," he said, hurriedly, with real pain on his face and in his voice, "my dear cousin, oh, why did you not send for me before?" Then, turning to the servant, he added: "Murray, you should have let me know! Six weeks ill, and I thought him in Australia! It has distressed me more than I can say."
"Sir Douglas would not let me write, sir," replied Murray, as he put the brandy to the invalid's lips. "Lord Court came in to-day, and he's the first person as has been."

"It was a shock to me, too, Mr. Crosbie," remarked the earl. "Gerant and I have been old friends for years. I am heartily glad you have come."
"You are very kind," said Stuart, putting out his hand; "but cannot he have something to give him strength?" Then, turning to the invalid, he added: "You want to speak to me, cousin?"
He knelt down by the bedside as he spoke, and looked eagerly into the sick man's face.
"Sir Douglas has tried to speak, but he cannot, Mr. Stuart—yet."
"Hush!" interrupted Stuart, putting up his hand—the pale lips were moving.
"You will—not forget—"
"My promise?" finished Stuart, gently. "No; everything you wish shall be done."
Sir Douglas fixed his eyes on Lord Court, and a faint sound came from his lips. The earl bent his head the better to hear.
"I cannot hear," he murmured sadly to Stuart.
"Give me the brandy, Murray," said Stuart. "Come, that is right; we shall have you well and hearty soon, cousin," he added to the sick man. "Do not distress yourself; I will do all I promised."
Sir Douglas looked at him earnestly, as if his dark eyes would read his inmost heart. Then a change came over his face, and he smiled faintly. His head was raised for a minute from the pillow, and a whisper fell on their anxious ears:
"Gladly—wife—it has come to—Margery—little—Margery—thank—Heaven!"
The voice died away, a convulsive tremor seized the heavy eyelids, which closed slowly over the dark eyes, glazed with a film now, the head sank back, and with a sigh the spirit of Douglas Gerant fled from its earthly abode.
(To be continued.)

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Curious Clocks

From early days there seems to have been a demand for curious time-measuring machines, particularly so in the seventeenth century. The various and ingenious clocks made have portrayed the inventive ability of our ancestors.
In the famous Cathedral clock of Strasbourg the four quarters of the hour were struck by four figures, each of them representing a certain period of human life. A child with an apple struck the first quarter, a youth with an arrow followed, a man with a staff performed the third, while the fourth was announced by an aged man with a crutch. The hour was struck by Death himself. Another curious clock was worked

by balls which rolled down inclined planes, finally being swallowed up by brass serpents, whose bodies the balls traversed before being thrown up again by means of Archimedean screws. A plate filled with water in which a tortoise swam, turning and indicating each hour, was yet another marvellous method of time-keeping. The brim of the plate constituted the dial.
We have records of very old clocks which faithfully exhibited processions of saints whose manifestations of obedience to the Virgin and Child revealed not only the religious views of the inventor, but also his aptitude for novelty. Other ancient time-keepers, ingenious but less fanciful, perhaps, displayed the motions of the sun and moon and the ebb and flow of the tide.

George the Third invented a clock which, it is said, was capable of recording daily the rise and fall of the barometer. The registration was performed by the aid of a pencil floating on the surface of the mercury—which travelled a circular card divided into 365 parts by radiating lines.
It is more than a hundred years since the illumination of the dials of public clocks was first introduced, Glasgow being the first city to adopt the idea. At the present day we have the electro-magnetic regulation of clocks, which is by no means new to us, and also the electric clock which goes for three years; one recently invented is guaranteed to keep good time for ten years without attention.

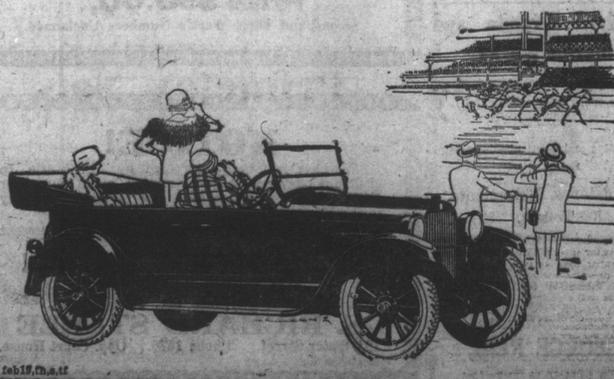
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Current Radio

Short Wave Broadcasting
EDITED BY JOHN M. CLAYTON.

For the past year stations KDKA and WGY have been carrying on a tremendous amount of experimental work in broadcasting on the short wavelengths. KDKA used a main short wave of 97 meters and WGY 107 meters. Broadcasts on these waves are, of course, totally inaudible on the average broadcast receiver.
KDKA's primary interest in short wave broadcasts was for the purpose of transmitting programs to KPRX at Hastings, Nebraska, where they were rebroadcast on a higher wavelength after being picked up on a standard receiver. WGY, the General Electric station at Schenectady had for its short wave station a different purpose. At WGY the G. E. Engineers were interested in the carrying qualities on short waves primarily, and secondarily in rebroadcasting.
A number of more or less revolutionary things were discovered when these stations commenced to broadcast their regular programs on the short wavelengths. For one thing, the short wave transmissions carried in daytime much further than did the "main" highpower stations on higher waves. It was unusual to be able to pick up KDKA several hundred miles away on 97 meters when his 326-meter station using three or four times the power was totally unheard. During the late Democratic Convention, KDKA applied more power to the short-wave transmitter and the broadcasting of the proceedings of the convention was picked up with good regularity in South America.
On numerous occasions KDKA signals have been picked up in England. All of the English broadcasting stations have been tied to KDKA's signals have been heard into the English broadcasting band. Result: the whole of England heard KDKA on a crystal set. The reception of WGY's signals on short wavelengths in England became so common that it has become a cause for comment.
One is led to wonder, then, all stations do not use these wavelengths in broadcasting at great ranges can be obtained, this wonder would be perfectly futile were the above the story.
Due to a variety of causes it is known as "audio frequency" has been found to be very bad on the shorter wavelengths while broadcast reception is on. This simply means that the signal fade and swing in and out of the frequency of the signal is an audible one. The result is that many times the broadcast, chopped up; that quite often matter how low the signal it is impossible to understand any broadcasting, and that often the main swing in with great irregularity that way for awhile suddenly fade completely out, only to turn with the original strength a brief period. This effect is in certain localities but these are many that until some method of minimizing the audio frequency has been devised short-wave broadcasting will be only a thing to contemplate.
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Daughters of the Empire Ward Contribution

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 28.—The Mail pays tribute to the Imperial order of Daughters of the Empire as a National organization on the occasion of its Silver Anniversary to be celebrated this month. It reviews the splendid work done. Over \$5,000,000 having been raised by the order for war purposes.

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