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## LADY IRIS' MISTAKE;

### Hero of 'Surata'

#### CHAPTER VII

"Yes," she answered slowly, with some hesitation, beginning to think that perhaps she had been unwise in being too kind. "They rode on slowly together, he speaking with great earnestness, she listening with some anxiety."

"You will let me sometimes have the happiness of seeing you, Lady Iris? When a man has lived in the sunlight, it is cruel to condemn him to utter darkness."

Still perplexed, and desirous not to wound him, she tried to answer carefully—

"I am sure that both my father and myself will be pleased to see you at Payne House." Again his face brightened.

"Thank you," he said gratefully. "I am not what the world calls a religious man, but I must devoutly thank Heaven that I came hither this morning. My life is all changed by your words. I will carve out for myself a career that shall not only interest you, but shall compel your admiration!"

"Whatever career you may choose, I wish you all success in it," she answered. She looked at him intently, for she could not help feeling interested in him, and then added suddenly, and without reflecting, "I should imagine, Mr. Barton, that you will be either a very good man or the opposite. All will depend on the direction in which your energies are turned."

He looked at her with a startled glance. "You say that I shall be a good man or the opposite. Well I think you are



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not think that I am going to grieve you, papa—that my mother had been with me. I looked at all the ladies who had their daughters with them, and amongst them there was not one with a face so noble or so beautiful as my mother's."

"I should imagine not," replied her father, briefly. Lady Iris went on:

"I saw some ladies who had known mamma. Think—who had really known her!"

"My dearest child, what is there unusual in that?" asked the earl.

"It seems unusual to me," she answered. "My dear mother, to like a dream-mother to me; her face in the picture is not familiar to me. No one speaks to me of her, or talks of her life; and to meet those who knew her was perhaps as young as I am now seems strange to me. While I was with the duchess, waiting our turn, a beautiful lady, with a sweet sad face, came to me, and the duchess introduced her to me as Lady Stonelea."

"She heard my name, she took both my hands in hers. 'Is it possible,' she said, 'that you are the daughter of my dear friend Guinevere, Countess of Caledon?' 'It is quite true,' I answered. She kissed me, papa, and I saw tears in her eyes; then she looked at me with a smile. 'You are not in the least like your mother,' she said. 'She was dark, and you are very fair. How strange it is!'"

"The Faynes are a fair race," she interrupted the earl; "there is nothing strange in it."

"Papa," continued Lady Iris, "I have an old experience to relate; may I recount it to you?"

"Certainly, my dear; but there was a look of anxiety in his face."

"I cannot help thinking that while I was watching the brilliant scene and admiring it I heard Lady Stonelea whisper to the duchess something about a romantic story which she had only half believed. 'Was there any foundation for it?' she asked; and the duchess said, quite angrily, 'I am sure there was not. I have known the earl all my life. And then I heard the word 'mother.' Could it be that they were speaking of us? Were they referring to a romantic story in which we were concerned? Was it of you, or of my mother, that they were speaking?'"

right. It will depend upon how I am influenced, and there is only one human being who can influence me."

Just at that moment they came to a bend in the road; and Lady Iris, anxious to avoid hearing any more, said almost abruptly—

"I must say 'Good-morning' now, Mr. Barton. I am not going to King's Forest."

"You have given me happiness enough for many days!" he answered. "I must bid you farewell then until we meet in town."

She bowed with a kind smile, relieved that the interview was ended, hoping that she had not been too kind or too abrupt, but had preserved a happy medium, and wondering if she had done a wise or a foolish thing in asking him to Payne House. "She could not help feeling impressed by John Barton. She knew that he admired her; but she never dreamed that he would have the presumption to love her. She would as soon have thought of marrying one of the men working in the fields near her as of marrying John Barton. He was not of her class, not of her world, and she had little toleration for the nouveaux riches to which he belonged. Still she thought more for the moment of this lowly-born stalwart man than she did of handsome fair-haired Sir Fulke. But, when the day came for her to leave Chandos, she had almost forgotten the existence of both, and thought only of the triumphs which awaited her in the fashionable world."

"She went, saw, and conquered" might well have been said of Lady Iris Payne. The duchess who presented her at court was delighted with her protegee. The royal lady who received her admired her fair fresh loveliness; and every one discerned in her a future queen of society.

Lord Caledon was highly pleased with the homage she received, and on all sides he heard the most lavish praises of his daughter. It was not only because she was so beautiful that people were anxious to know her; she was mistress of Payne House, one of the most magnificent and hospitable mansions in London. Before she had been in town many days Lady Iris Payne was one of the most popular and admired persons in the fashionable world.

The day of her presentation was one that would never be forgotten by her. The homage paid to her superb beauty, the magnificence and luxury that surrounded her, the glorious future all brilliant and bright stretching out before her, were almost enough to turn her head; but she accepted all praise and homage with the proud calm grace of one who thought it her due.

It was now midnight; and, tired out at last, her fair queenly head resting on her father's shoulder, she was thinking of the dead mother who would have enjoyed her triumph as no one else could.

"Papa," she said, with a sigh, half of happiness, half of fatigue. "I wonder if this will prove the most brilliant day of my life?"

Lord Caledon smiled.

"You will have one more brilliant still, I hope, Iris, and that will be your wedding-day."

"I could not help wishing—pray do

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Looking up into his face, she saw that it had grown very pale, and that his lips trembled. "Are you sure it was not all fancy?" he asked. "I am sure I heard the words," she replied. "They must have been talking about some other earl, then," he said, slowly; "there is no romantic story told of us."

Lady Stonelea asked me about Fenton when the season is over. I long to see our Northern home."

"I will see about it, my dear," he replied, with a shudder; but in his heart he had no intention of going.

After that the earl seemed thoughtful and tired; so Lady Iris left him to seek the rest she needed, but in reality to lie awake and wonder why her father showed so much emotion at the mention of her mother and of Fenton, and also whether there was "a romantic story" connected with his early life.

(to be continued.)

### Well Known in Nfld.

TWELVE YEARS GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

TORONTO, Sept.—Rev. Dr. Samuel Dwight Chown, of Toronto, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada, who will preside at the opening of the Methodist General Conference in this city on September 27, has been General Superintendent of the Church for twelve years, being associated with the late Rev. Dr. Carman for four years of that time, and being the sole occupant of the position for the last eight years. Dr. Chown has been an outstanding figure in Canadian Methodism for many years. His activities in religious, social and moral reform movements have extended far beyond the borders of the Dominion, and he has an international reputation. The General Conference of the Methodist Church is one of the great religious organizations of this country and this parliament of delegates is representative of every section of Canada, Newfoundland and Bermuda, and the great mission work in China and Japan. During its coming two weeks' session in this city it will plan for the general progress of the Church. Dr. Chown received his education at the Kingston Grammar School, and at Victoria University, Cobourg. The Honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, was conferred upon him by Victoria University in 1898, and he holds the same degree from Knox College; also the LL.D. degree from Mount Allison and Ohio Wesleyan Universities. He was ordained a minister in 1876, and for twenty years was in the active pastorate, during which he held important charges in the Toronto and Montreal Conferences. Among the official positions Dr. Chown has held in the Methodist denomination are the following:—Chairman of the Toronto West District, 1897-9; Chairman of the Toronto Central District, 1900-2; President of the Toronto Conference in 1906, and Secretary of the Social Service Department, 1902-10. Dr. Chown has been a member of the Joint Committee on the question of Church Union since the beginning of negotiations. He has been an ardent advocate of the union of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches of this country, and has frequently spoken in public in support of that proposal.

### Fads and Fashions.

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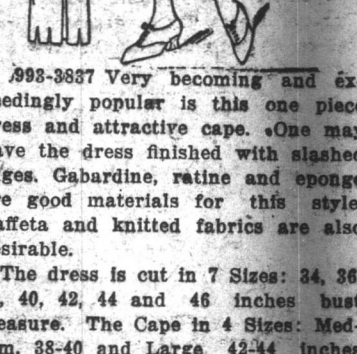


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