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American Plan, \$3.00 per day and up. All rooms with running hot and cold water, also telephones. Grill room open from 8 to 12 p.m.
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is not a coward, an idler, a sot like—

"Like whom?"

"Like someone I met not very long ago."

Mrs. Perowne asked no further questions.

Between mother and daughter there existed strong affection, but no confidences. Phoebe was a girl who, since she was seventeen, had lived in a world by herself, and so far no one had been permitted to enter it.

After dinner they put on their furs and passed through the hall on their way to the entrance doors. The foyer was fuller even than usual, and the people who filled it seemed to be under the influence of considerable agitation and excitement. A crowd pressed round the green baize board over the mantelpiece, whereon the "tape" was conveying type-written intelligence to all and sundry. Mrs. Perowne and her daughter made no attempt to read the messages, but the exclamations of those who did read made it plain enough that something had happened to move profoundly the minds of the citizens.

The hall-porter put them into a covered sleigh and directed the driver to the north entrance of the Strafeburg.

The excitement that had manifested itself in the hall of the Concordia was reflected in the streets. Despite the intense cold of nightfall the thoroughfares were full of well-wrapped mortals scanning the latest editions of the Abendpost, whose vendors rushed shrilling and raucous through the trampled snows of the Bahnhofstrasse. "Something had evidently happened," said Mrs. Perowne.

Phoebe was silent. She had a terrible dread lest something evil might have befallen her unknown hero, who was also the hero of the people of Weidenbruck.

The sleigh pulled up at the north entrance of the Neptunburg, a very ordinary portal situated in a very ordinary side street. An official with one arm and a grotesque tendency to embonpoint conducted them to Saunders' apartments on the first floor.

Saunders himself was taking coffee with his wife in a moderate-sized room garnished with antique Grimland furniture and modern English draperies—the latter from the house of James Saunders & Co. of Oxford Street.

"I am so glad you decided to come," said Mrs. Saunders, rising. "Let me introduce my husband. He will accompany us to-night."

"We are honoured in having so distinguished a cicerone," said Mrs. Perowne. "When I told the hall-porter of the Concordia whom we were visiting to-night, he asked if I meant 'the redoubtable Herr Saunders.' Of course I said 'Yes.'"

"I like the epithet 'redoubtable,'" said Saunders, smiling. "It is so delightfully indefinite. It does not imply courage, or brains, or even common honesty. It merely denotes a 'personage,' as distinct from a 'person.' However, I am content. A hall-porter has called me 'redoubtable,' and History will accord me the traditional half-page of condensed inaccuracy."

Phoebe was studying Saunders with the intense and perspicacious scrutiny she sometimes bestowed on her fellow-creatures. She admired his strong profile, his easy manners, his imposing demeanour, and his complacent calm. Slumming in a turbulent city is rather an exciting pastime, and it was comforting to have such a monument of British reliability at their side.

"Where are you going to take us?" she asked.

"To the Morast," he replied. "That is where the murderers come from."

"Real murderers?"

"Real enough to kill poor, honest, timid citizens with gold watches in their fobs. Don't be alarmed. They are afraid of me. In their crazy, starved brains there is one instinct that flourishes abundantly—the instinct of fear. You will be as safe with me to-night as with a policeman crossing the streets of London."

Phoebe nodded approvingly. She liked courage, even when it displayed itself in aggressive self-confidence.

At this juncture the butler entered



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(7)



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