

angel,—I don't think I am quite—but I can't stand by and see you drag down with you an innocent and helpless girl to the pit of destruction and infamy. So, being informed of the circumstances by this gentleman, I just dropped over to warn you and her."

At the commencement of this speech Fanny had risen, and, overcome by her emotions, leant weeping against a pillar. The lieutenant raised her in his arms and tenderly supported her, trembling in every limb, and looking on with wide open eyes at the drama which was being enacted before her. A considerable crowd had collected, and Roman knights, Moorish ladies, Fiji islanders, and flower girls were pressing in to gaze at the scene.

It was getting exciting and those who had heard the woman's harangue waited interestedly for an outbreak on the part of the baronet.

"So it's you who have been prying into my affairs, and trumping up villainous charges against me, is it? You villain—you—," howled Sir James, looking as though he would have liked had he dared, to lay violent hands on the stalwart young officer."

"In the first place, Sir James, I beg you to observe that I have made no charges against you whatever, and in the second, we hope, in regard to this lady's statements, to prove their truth to the satisfaction, if not of yourself, at least of certain other persons intimately concerned in this matter."

"You're an infernal intriguer, sir! What do you mean, I should like to know, by coming here with your disreputable hirelings, and making vile insinuations against my name and honour? What the dev—" but here the noble and honourable baronet stopped. The ex-Mother Hubbard had produced a faded document which he seemed to recognize.

"James, take care. Don't go too far. Remember those affectionate letters," she remarked with a sneer.

The baronet saw that protestations were useless, and would only make matters worse if possible in the end. He therefore cast one look of mingled terror and hate on his discomfited, and pressing in silence through the crowd left the house amid intense excitement, just as his host, who did not see him leave, came up to the group

and demanded the cause of the disturbance. The party, consisting of Major and Mrs. Dunscombe, the lieutenant and Miss Dunscombe, and Lady Ashley, now withdrew to privacy, and a full explanation was entered into, while the ball, its hosts and chief visitor having retired, broke up in confusion.

The explanation was brief and sufficient. The baronet was already married. He had fallen in love with the present Lady Ashley, then Mlle. Vallance, ballet-girl at one of the Paris Operahouses, had married her, got tired of her, and was under the impression that she was safely provided for in Paris, without the remotest chance of her turning up in the midst of his carryings-on. The lieutenant, learning this fact from the baronet's old servant, had run over to Paris and brought the unfortunate woman just in time to prevent any final steps in the alliance.

The joy of the parents at finding their daughter had been saved from such an awful fate may be imagined. Mrs. Dunscombe, to the great delight of the Major and the young people, was now fully reconciled to the union of her daughter and the young lieutenant.

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Some months later a wedding took place in the pretty little ivy-covered church, in which for years the family of Dunscombe had been wont to worship, and the reader will have divined the contracting parties were Lieut. Percival Fairbank and Miss Fanny Clavering Dunscombe. The ceremony over, Mr. and Mrs. Fairbank left for a wedding tour on the Continent, and on their return took up their abode near the Major's residence, where they were frequent and welcome guests.

And here let us draw the curtain over the scene and leave them to themselves. The strife had been between Love and Baronet and Love had conquered.

B. K. SANDWELL  
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A Maine man will send to Chicago a fir spar sixty feet in length and without a bend or crook in it. It would make a fir straight flagstaff.

It is a little discouraging to a man to carry a yowling, squalling baby around for half a night then sit down and reflect that "of such is the kingdom of heaven."