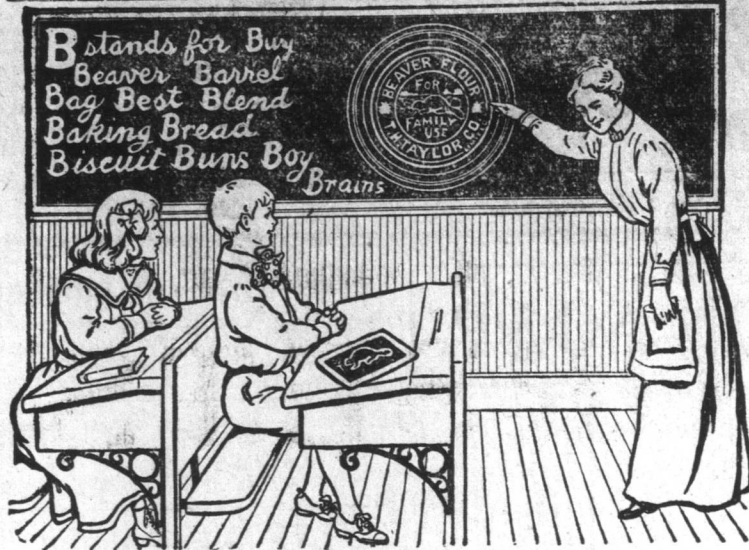




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Tale of Mystery

CHAPTER VIII.

AN OMINOUS MEETING.

"You mean that I was engaged to be married to her?"

"What else should I mean?" answered De Montalt, with a shrug of the shoulders. But he had only made a shot on the strength of an entry or two in an old diary he had seen.

"And you know why it was broken off?" said the other eagerly.

"I have heard but for the moment I forget. It left you very low down in her esteem, as you can imagine." This was another shot founded on a reference to the baronet which he had discovered.

"Do you mean she is still bitter?" "What else would she be? You know her?" was the answer spoken with a very expressive and significant laugh.

"You are really her intimate friend, and I can speak openly to you?" asked Landale, after a moment's pause.

"You must please yourself about that. I seek no man's confidence against his will. You and I are strangers personally; I don't know what you motive may be. You may have a motive that in my opinion is altogether bad. I think I'd rather not hear anything. Of course I know you by name, and anything might be excused to give you a lift in any particular. I know Miss Merriam's affairs pretty intimately, as I told you; but what she would wish me to tell you is another matter."

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Another Grateful Woman

London, Ont.—"I feel as if I could not tell others enough about the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I was so weak and tired that I could not rest nights. A friend recommended your Compound and I soon gained health and strength and could not wish to sleep better. I know other women who have taken it for the same purpose and they join me in praising it.—Mrs. Wm. A. BERRY, 905 Dame St., London, Ont."

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has surely cured many cases of female ills, such as inflammation, ulceration, displacements, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, and nervous prostration.

leaving the sentence unfinished, save for a look.

A child could have seen that the blow struck hard.

"Are you—?" began Sir Edmund, hesitating.

"I am engaged to marry Miss Merriam's best friend, Mrs. Markham, of Edgecombe Square, where Miss Merriam is now stopping. If I can help you in any way, I will, and I think I can; but—"

"But what?" "Is this much to you?" "I have been looking for Dessie Merriam for over a year simply to get her to marry me."

"Well the way I have in my thoughts is not a pleasant way, and you might shy at it. But I don't think this fellow Cheriton means well by her, and I would do anything to stop the match."

"What is it?" asked Landale.

"Well, it's pretty much on the lines of what you did before, but a bit different, of course. Naturally nothing but a very strong desire to promote her real good would justify a step of the kind. But I'm bound to say that I'm one of those men who look to the end to be achieved. I want to save Miss Merriam from a man whom I know to be unworthy of her, and in such a case I don't stick at the means. But you may be different and, of course, I wouldn't for the world drag you in against your will."

The baronet was silent, and saw chewing the ends of his moustache which he thrust between his lips with white taper fingers that trembled.

"You say they mean to be married soon?" he asked, weakly, trifling with the temptation.

"Yes, of course, that's just the device of it. If there was plenty of time, one might open her eyes to some other way to the man's real character. But as it is, before one can do anything, she'll be his wife."

The other man winced at this word.

"Of course, you understand I shouldn't let your hand really appear in it at all, at first," continued De Montalt. "I shouldn't think that good tactics. She'd be suspicious of me, and everything might be spoiled."

The bait was taken, with that addition.

"You haven't told me yet what it is you propose."

"It's simply a judicious use of that past of hers. I can use the knowledge in such a way as to put an end to this; but, of course, to do this one must have all the details pat, and some of them have slipped from my memory, while others I don't know."

You would not appear until later, and then I promise you I can so use the facts that she will be glad to welcome you as a friend, knowing all and ready to take her as she really is. She loved you dearly in the past, and her love would live again, if only this Cheriton entanglement were out of the way."

"What do you want me to do, then?" said the baronet, quickly.

"Nothing more than just fill in the gaps, and cross the t's, and dot the i's of the knowledge I already have of that—that Marlow business. Then you can leave me to do the rest, and stand aside till I give you the cue. The girl will thank us all her life long when once her first tenor is over."

Then the Count drew his chair closer to the other man, and listened to what he had thus schemed so dextrously and cleverly to learn. And as he listened he saw, in his thoughts, the web that he could weave mesh by mesh, round the girl who had tried to thwart him.

CHAPTER IX.

"I Know Your Whole Story."

As soon as the story was finished, and it did not take long in the telling, the Count sent Sir Edmund Landale away with a promise to communicate with him the moment there was anything to tell; and as the latter went down the stairway, his companion looked after him with a leer on his face that was a mixture of

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One of the first danger signals that announce something wrong with the heart is the irregular or violent throb. Often there is only a fluttering sensation, or an "all gone" sinking feeling; or, again, there may be a most violent beating, with flushings of the skin, and visible pulsations of the arteries.

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triumph for the success that he had gained, and contempt for the man whom he had outwitted in the effort.

Then he returned to the room, and took great pains to replace everything in the position in which he had found it, so far as his memory served him. The safe alone baffled him, as he could not re-lock it.

He had now been so long in the rooms that he was convinced there was no fear of Dessie's returning to disturb him; and he, therefore, drew his chair to the table to make a few rapid notes of the conversation with the baronet. When completed, he compared them with the papers he had taken from the safe, and sat thinking out the best plan of procedure.

He was in high spirits. The luck was with him indeed, and as an old gambler his maxim was to back it for all he was worth. This was just such a position as seemed to justify him piling on every stake he could command.

"I don't see how I can lose," he thought, as he leant back in his chair. "If I know anything of human nature, that girl's as staunch and true as a girl can be; and she'll go through fire and water rather than betray anyone. Gad, what a blessed thing it is some people are so infernally good that a pledge once given they'll keep it at any sacrifice. But now, there's one thing absolutely critical, and only one thing—she mustn't see Cheriton till my cards are tabled. Then perhaps she won't want to. I wish I knew what she'd wire him this morning. Wonder if I dare wire him. No, by heaven, I have it!"—and he dashed his fist violently down on the table—"I'll get away to South Kensington, and find out whether he's coming up, and if so, I'll slip out and send a bogus telegram to her in a name that will make her jump out of her skin, and then deal with the man. By jove, he game's getting worse playing for itself, to say nothing of the stakes—and they're heavy enough to boot."

He smiled more than once as he thought of his latest device, and made ready to go.

To be continued.

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Adams, Mrs. John, Cookstown Road	Dave, Miss W. S., DeGrish Sarah, Long's Hill	Kneub, Alfred, Knox, John C.	Rielly, Miss Maggie, late Grand Falls
Ayles, Miss Lizzie, Cookstown Road	Egan, Mrs. Catherine, Cornwall Avenue	LeMessurier, Mrs. Alex., care General P. Office	Ridout, Miss Mary, Circular Road
Aitken, Miss Lillie, Associated Mail Dealers, Blackwood Building	Elliott, S. G., Fewer, M., card	Martin, Miss Alice, Queen's Road	Ross, Mrs. M., Torring Road
Axford, Philip, Bannister, Miss Patience, Hospital, Kestel Road	French, Wm. of Wm., Brazil's Square	Marshall, Wm., Maher, Nellie, Flower Hill	Rogers, Mrs. Roland, New Gower Street
Barnes, Mrs. E. red, Basha, S., late Birch Cove	Fitzpatrick, Miss Minnie, card	Marshall, Mrs. card	Roache, Thomas, late Cobalt, Ont.
Bright, Wm. J., care G. P. O.	Fisher, Lizzie, ret'd., New Gower Street	Meade, Miss Louisa, P. O. Box 233	Rodgers, Enos, Rose, W. D., West End
Brown, Patrick, Gower Street	Fisher, Robert, Pope St.	Moore, Miss Annie, Bambrick or Barron St.	Ryan, Anthony, Plymouth Road
Butt, George, Forest Rd.	Fildian, Mrs. Wm., Water St.	Morris, Mrs. W., Cochrane Street	Smallpage, C., care Gen'l P. Office
Butt, Mrs. M. A., Duggan Street	Finney, Miss Kirrie, Military Road	Morgan, Wm., card, Barter's Hill	Sharpe, Miss Annie, Stewart, Mrs. D. J.
Butler, Wm., Flower Cove Road	Ford, Miss A., George's St.	Moor, W. H., care Gen'l Delivery	Simmons, Mrs. Ernest, Water Street
Bartlett, Robert, Bannerman St.	Flint, Mrs. M. H., Fitzpatrick's, ret'd.	Mullally, W. E., Malland, Miss Annie, card	Smith, Mrs. Isabella, Circular Road
Buckley, Mrs. Wm., New Gower Street	Garland, Kenneth, St. John's	McDonald, H., card	Shipman, Solomon, Sinclair, Miss Mary, Freshwater Road
Bursey, Mrs. Wm., card	Garland, Wm., card	McMillan, A. H., care Gen'l Delivery	Skiffington, John, or family, Sainsbury, Samuel
Burke, Miss May, care Jackman's	Graham, C. E., Graw, John J.	McGrath, Mrs. Mary, McWhite, E. J.	Smith, George, ret'd.
Burmester, Albert A., Gower Street	Gelling, L., care Post Office	Noonan, P. J., Nottell, Mrs. Joseph, Gower Street	Squires, Mrs. George, Squires, John S.
Crane, Roland, care Post Office	Goss, James, St. John's	Oakley, Miss Mary, late St. Pierre	Taylor Charles, Casey's St.
Carter, Capt. Alex., Duggan Street	Goodland, Agnes, care Gen'l Delivery	O'Neill, Miss P., card, Pope Street	Tracey, A., ret'd.
Carey, James, Duckworth Street	Gustafson, Mrs. Frank, Gronchy, M., ret'd.	O'Neill, Peter, Blackmarsh Road	Tilley, Miss L. M., card, Bond Street
Cameron, John, Plumber	Hawley, Arthur, card	Oliver, Mary, O'Reilly, Pauline, ret'd.	Tobin, John, slip Thompson, Rosetta
Carew, A., Mullock St.	Hamilton, John	O'Reilly, Pauline, ret'd.	Tolk, Noah, New Gower Street
Cooney, Mrs. James, card, Water Street	Harlan, Mrs. Mary, ret'd.	O'Neill, Peter, Blackmarsh Road	Tucker, Mrs. E. D., (of Halifax) City
Coombes, Nellie, card	Heffley, Ira L., card	Patey, Richard, care Gen'l P. Office	Tucker, Mrs. Wm. G., care Gen'l Delivery
Cozens, John, Hillier, Minnie, late St. Lawrence	Healey, F., Blackhead	Peddle, J. J., care W. C. Jones	Verge, Miss Mary, Water St.
Curtis, H. V., late Grand Falls	Hearn, Richard, ret'd.	Pearce, Mrs. Robert, Peyton, Geo., late Grand Falls	Walsh, John, Long Pond Rd.
Cannell, Bert, care Reid Nrd. Co.	Heffrin, Wm., card	Pennell, Miss Emily, Bell Street	Walters, James, card
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Carew, Miss Ellen, Duckworth Street	Houlihan, Mrs. Samuel, Graw, John J.	Power, Mrs. Wm., Carter's Hill	Westbrook, George, Walsh, Miss Kate, Wickem, May, ret'd.
Coff, Miss L., Jacobs, Miss R. Jane, LeMarchant Road	Hort, Mrs. Patrick, Graw, John J.	Prowse, Arthur, Power, Mrs. ret'd.	Winsor, Wm., White, Mrs. John, Bannerman St.
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Dicks, Mrs. Wm., late Grand Falls	Keough, Miss Ella, Sebastiane Street	Ryan, Mrs., Bannerman House	Woodlock, Mary, ret'd.
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