

A Stirring Story of Love and Adventure The Wreckings of the Morning

BY LOUIS TRACY



Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada in the year 1904, by Melrose & Allen, at the Department of Agriculture.

The Wreck of the Sirdar.
LADY TOZER adjusted her gold-rimmed eye-glasses with an air of dignified aggressiveness. She had lived too many years in the Far East. In Hong Kong she was known as the "Mandarin." Her powers of mental investigation suggested towards long drawn out. The commander of the Sirdar, homeward bound from Shanghai, knew that he was about to be stretched on the rack when he took his seat at the saloon table.

"Is it true, Captain, that we are running into a typhoon?" demanded her ladyship.

"From whom did you learn that, Lady Tozer?" Captain Ross was wary, though somewhat surprised.

"From Miss Deane. I understood her a moment ago to say that you had told her."

"Didn't you? Some one told me this morning. I couldn't have been so sure. Miss Deane is a very clever woman. Her eyes surveyed him with penetrating intelligence to strict accuracy. Undoubtedly she had obtained the intelligence from her maid, a nose-tipped creature, who extracted ship's secrets from a youthful quartermaster.

"You had forgotten," explained the tactful sailor.

"Is it true?"

Lady Tozer was unusually abrupt today. But she was annoyed by the assumption that the captain took a mere girl into his confidence and passed over the wife of the ex-Chief Justice of Hong Kong.

"Yes, it is," said Captain Ross, equally curt, and silently thanking the fates that her ladyship was going home for the last time.

"How horrible!" she gasped, in unfeigned alarm. This returned to femininity could not be denied.

"Sir John, my husband, frowned judicially. That frown constituted his legal stock-in-trade, yet it passed current for wisdom with the Hong Kong bar.

"What evidence have you?" he asked.

"Do tell us," chimed in Iris, delightfully unconscious of her own beauty.

"Did you see it when you were out at the sun?"

"The captain smiled. "You are more than mark than possibly you imagine, Miss Deane," he said. "When we took our observations yesterday there was a grey wind-looking halo around the sun. This morning you may have noticed several light squalls and a smooth sea marked occasionally by strong ripples. The barometer is falling rapidly, and I expect that as the day wears on we will encounter a heavy swell. If the sky looks will to-night, and especially if we observe a heavy bank of cloud approaching from the northwest, you will see the crockery dancing about the table at dinner."

"I am afraid you are not a good sailor, Lady Tozer. Are you, Miss Deane?"

"Central! I should just love to see

a vast storm. Now promise me solemnly that you will take me up into the cabin when this typhoon is simply tearing things to pieces."

"Oh, dear! I do hope it will not be very bad. Is there no way in which you can avoid it, captain? Will it last long?"

The polite skipper for once preferred to answer Lady Tozer. "There is no cause for uneasiness," he said. "Of course, typhoons in the China Sea are nasty things while they last, but a ship like the Sirdar is not troubled by them. She will drive through the worst gale she is likely to meet here in less than twelve hours. Besides, I alter the course some what so soon as I discover our position with regard to its centre."

"But sea, Miss Deane."

And Captain Ross forthwith illustrated on the deck of a man and the girl who had been mistress of her father's house since her return from Dresden three years ago— young, beautiful, rich— here was a combination for which men thanked a judicious Heaven whilst women sniffed anxiously.

Business detained Sir Arthur. A war cloud overshadowed the two great divisions of the yellow race. He must wait to see how matters developed, but he would not expose Iris to the indignities of a Chinese spring. So, with a personal charge of Captain Ross. At each point of call the company's agents would be solicitous for her welfare. The cable's telegraphic eye would watch her progress as that of some princely maiden sailing in royal caravel. This fair, slender, well-formed girl—delightfully English in face and figure—with her fresh, clear complexion, limpid blue eyes, and shining brown hair, was a personage of some importance.

Lady Tozer knew these things and sighed complacently.

"Ah, well," she resumed. "Parents had different views when I was a girl. But I assume Sir Arthur thinks you should become used to being your own mistress in view of your approaching marriage."

"My—approaching—marriage?" said Iris, now generally amused.

"Yes. Is it not true that you are going to marry Lord Ventnor?"

A passing steward heard the polite lady's question. He had a serious effect upon him. He gazed with barely eager eyes at Miss Deane, and so far forgot himself as to permit a dash of water to rest against Sir John Tozer's bald head. This was the first angry resentment at Lady Tozer's interjection.

"That may be my happy fate," she answered gaily. "Lord Ventnor has asked me."

"Every one says so in Hong Kong," began her ladyship.

"Confound you, what are you doing?" shouted Sir John. His feeble nerves at last conveyed the information that something more pronounced than a sudden draught affected his scalp; the sea was melting.

The incident amused those passengers who sat near enough to observe it. But the chief steward, hovering watchful near the captain's table, darted forward. Pale with anger he hissed—

"Report yourself for duty in the second saloon to-night!" and he hustled his subordinates away from the judge's chair.

Miss Deane, with fully radiant rose, "I'll not punish the man, Mr. Tozer, said absently. "It was a mistake. He was taken by surprise. I'll place I would have emptied my glass."

Deane—

"I am sure you will forgive him," she whispered. "I can't say why, but the fellow was looking so intently at me that he did not see what he was doing."

The ex-Chief Justice was instantly mollified. He did not mind the claim of Iris in that way—rather liked it in fact—probably he was susceptible to the fire in Miss Deane's eyes.

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The crew were busy too. Squads of men raced about industriously obedient to the short shrill whistling of "land" and "quartermasters." Boat lashings were tested and tightened, canvas awnings stretched across the deck

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Indications of Election

After Many Year's Liberal Government Grants Justice to Nanaimo.

Applied For Old Age Pension Resignation and Was Refused.

District Farmers to Open Market at the Coal City.

From Our Own Correspondent.
Nanaimo, July 16.—After many years of faithful service to the local franchise island as lightkeeper, Bob Gray, who is getting up in years, applied to the Dominion government superannuation. The reply to his quest was an astonishing one. It was creditable to the administration. A plea that he was no longer capable of performing the duties was accepted, and he was discharged. He was refused point blank. This was in 18 and in the meantime everybody but Gray and his neighbors on Gabriola Island, where he lives, had almost forgotten the wrong which had been done. Repeated requests for justice were made and even the local authorities hoped of ever obtaining redress. Circumstances, however, after a year to be the approach of a general election and the fact that there were nineteen votes on Gabriola Island were covered by Mr. Ralph Smith, Esq. So it has come about at this date that the claim for superannuation has at last been granted, and not of course the wrong which had been done. The sum accruing during the last seven years, something like \$1,000, is now on the way here. There is longer any doubt in Nanaimo that a general election is booked for the fall. The farmers in the district, outside Nanaimo are opening a market here Monday with the avowed object of putting the Chinese vegetable vendors out of business. To this end they obtained a promise from the city council to prohibit peddling four days a week. The market will be run by a company of farmers who will duly observe the Chinese vegetable vendors at a meeting of the Farmers' Association some months ago, and when the vendors were approached they said they would pass the by-law against peddling as soon as the farmers agreed that they had the vegetables to sell. Previous attempts to start a market failed and the outcome of the present market will be watched with interest.

CHASING TRAIN ROBBERIES.
Houston, Texas, July 16.—One arm has been made in connection with hold-up of the Great Northern train Sunday night. The man whose name is not known, declares he is a resident of Harris county, and a posse was sent out all day tracking the bandits. Bang Captain McElreath, of Houston, proceeded to the scene and arrived at 6 o'clock late today. It is officially reported that the bandits were shot and therefrom four packages, one containing \$21 and another containing \$10, are not known to contain money and another package of railroad tickets.

Will Hold Up The Province

Grand Trunk Pacific Will Not Apply to British Columbia For Subsidy.

Lord Dundonald's Reception in Toronto an Eye-Opener to Grits.

From Our Own Correspondent.
Ottawa, July 16.—The reception Lord Dundonald at Toronto last night was a very interesting one. The Grits, they cannot effectually minimize its significance. It was one of the most remarkable days in the history of recent years. Lord Dundonald returned to Canada today. He is the only one of the great lords who has been invited to address, but he declines. He will spend one day quietly at Glenora before leaving for London. He is the only public function he will attend here. A James Chisholm of the Canadian Society gathered in Montreal. It is stated on excellent authority that the Grand Trunk Pacific promoters will approach the British Columbia government for a subsidy.

Harry Sifton, third son of the minister, was accidentally shot in the arm while hunting yesterday. He suffered greatly from the great loss of blood, but will recover.

The royal assent will be given to several bills tomorrow. E. H. Lashinger, Sir Wm. Mulock secretary, has been promoted to be a permanent secretary of the post office department.

GERMAN SHIP SEIZED.

Russian Volunteer Fleet Said to Have Taken a Lloyd Steamer.
Berlin, July 16.—The foreign office confirms the report that the Russian Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich has been seized by Russian volunteers in the Red Sea, but declines to discuss the political features of the case at this stage and does not indicate what step it intends to take. The Tugela says: "I speedily explanation of the Russian action against the Emperor flag is imperatively necessary. Step must be taken that the Russian arbitrary acts are avoided in the future."

The Lokai Anusier thinks the seizure will be most hard to justify. It is found that the Russian action is contrary to the law of nations. The German government will not hesitate to find a remedy in the Russian action.

Berlin, July 16.—The National Zeitung this morning declares the construction of the Baltic sea-board the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich by the Russian volunteer fleet steamer Smolenski in the Red Sea Friday to be unjustifiable and in defiance of international law.

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