

CHAPTER XLI

EDEN

IT was nearly a week before at last a letter came from Willard Abbey to explain that Lady Kent, having come to New York with authentic news of the death of Barbara's uncle, plus inside knowledge of Henry "Lee's" history and family affairs, had hoped to turn it to her personal account.

She had done no more than take advantage of Barbara's fear of her father's past affairs and present her to Sir Hugh Pearson as Lady Constance Drew, which name would be hers, in addition to others, on succession to the titles and estates.

This letter had purposely been delayed while Abbey raised funds to escape from the land and return to European fields.

A month from the day Vail saw him last, by a queer, if unimportant coincidence, two related events transpired.

Julian and Barbara were married and the New York Evening *Star* contained the following bit of telegraphic news: