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A MYSTERIOUS QUEST.

CHAPTER XXVI. THE QUEST.

From her, then, I soon turned, whatever evidence you may adduce to the contrary. If a card bearing my name was found in a letter received by her, that card was either stolen from my pocket or forged by some person anxious to get me into trouble. I was seeking a noble, self-sacrificing woman, not a silly and romantic school-girl. Nor do I understand or seek to explain the violent death of that other poor girl, toward whom I finally turned in sheer perplexity and despair. I bought the bonbon that were found in her room, because I had seen her stand, one night, with wistful eyes before a famous confectioner's; but I certainly did not poison them, or, indeed, tamper with them in any way. I did not open the box, if I remember rightly. What the result of my acquaintanceship with her might have been, I cannot tell. She seemed to be a good girl, but she was an illiterate one, and only passably pretty. However, I might have found worth in her if the opportunity had been mine of sounding her nature; but I was prevented doing this by her sudden death. "I am told—and this is another mystery which I cannot explain—that she received a letter of warning against me; warning, when I only meant her good! As to who was the writer of this anonymous note, I cannot even hazard a guess. The police must determine that. I can only repeat what I said before, that my conduct toward her was without any show of disrespect, and that neither to the poorest of these young girls nor to the best endowed did I ever show attention which was not in perfect accord with the purpose for which I sought them. "And now I come to the experience which brings me here, and explains why I continue to obtrude myself in Miss Aspinwall's parlors, notwithstanding the fact that my presence there is not wholly wel-

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come to some, at least, of the persons I meet there. Miss Rogers' name is 'Jenny'; she is beautiful as are few of any name or circumstance, and—his voice showed feeling here—she has mind and soul which acquaintanceship proves to be not only gifted but elevated. I cannot turn my back upon such a perfect embodiment of all I have been told to seek for. Her very disappointment—we know she has had them—make her cause sacred in my eyes. I made up my mind at my second interview that the girl I had so long sought for was found, and having come to this conclusion, considered it only proper that she should learn to know me well, so that when the moment came for me to reveal my intentions, she should not be surprised by any secret doubts or suspicions from accepting a gift that is almost equivalent to a small kingdom. Do I make myself understood, Mr. Degraw? "The artist, who had passed through an infinite number of emotions and phases of feeling during this long recital, rose with a start at this sudden appeal, and enthusiastically held out his hand. "Perfectly, perfectly," he exclaimed. "How can I thank you enough for your kindness in letting me be present at these explanations. I assure you that I feel the coal of fire burning on my head, and I only hope that you will relieve me of them by abusing me roundly for the various discourtesies I have shown you." "Don't speak of it," rejoined the other, waving his hand toward the table, on which lay the many documents of which I have before spoken. "Yonder," continued he, "are the papers upon which I reply for the substantiation of my assertions. There you will see a copy of Mr. Delaney's will, the bank-books and other papers proving me to be in possession of the money I have stated, and, lastly, a letter or statement drawn up by myself, and duly attested by witnesses, in which the story related to me by Mr. Delaney on his deathbed is given, together with my acceptance of the strange but unnatural conditions under which he, a stranger, left me this enormous fortune. I intended them for the lawyer who should draw me up a deed of gift in Miss Rogers' favor; but I found them very useful when Mr. Gryce showed me the warrant of arrest which had been made out in my name, and I shall be much obliged if you will also cast your eye over them, that nothing like the shadow of a doubt may ever again lie between me and a gentleman whom I feel bound not only to respect but admire." The artist, overwhelmed, and in a condition of great excitement, took the papers and glanced at them; while the detective, rubbing his hands together, consulted each finger separately, as if in search of an answer to a problem that yet possessed features sufficiently unaccountable to puzzle him. "Who wrote the letter to Miss Rogers in Miss Hadden's school?" he asked, musingly. "Who sent the note of warning that sent the other poor girl into a flight which ended in her death in the blind alley? And who put poison into the box of bon-bons which you bought and sent in good faith to this girl? These are three very serious questions." "You are right," assented Mr. Degraw; "very serious questions, in-

deed, for in letter and poison we can discern the evidences of malicious feeling against the girls possessing this one name, which may not yet have expended itself, and which, if we cannot trace its source, may extend itself to the Miss Rogers now staying with Miss Aspinwall, with we do not know what fatal results." "Do you fear that?" cried the artist, coming hurriedly forward. "I have feared it for weeks, and that is why I have kept such a jealous watch over her." "How did you know of this Miss Rogers' existence," queried the detective. "Her name was not in the directory, nor could you have heard of her in the schools." "No, I heard of her in another way," declared the stranger; "I was standing one day on the steps of my hotel, when two young fellows of fashionable appearance came out and passed near me, talking. The one was saying: 'Well, if you want to see a pretty girl, get an invitation to visit Miss Aspinwall in Great Barrington. She has a friend with her who is a beauty. I assure you, 'Bath' was the other's neighborly reply, 'some stupid blue-stocking or demure Vassar miss. Excuse me.' But the other answered in these to me most startling words: 'No, unless you call the Signorina Vali a blue-stocking. That is the name, or rather, that is not the name of this young beauty I mention. Her real name is Jenny Rogers; but she is lovely.' I heard no more. The coincidence was startling, but the impetus it gave me came in good time. I made inquiries concerning the prettiest girl I had seen in the city, and, satisfied that she possessed the necessary qualifications of being a New York girl, telegraphed at once to Cleveland for the introductions I needed, and as soon as I received them, came here." "A strange coincidence, as you say, repeated Mr. Gryce; "but it gives me no clue to the puzzle we are studying. Then with more earnestness he inquired: "Where did you get the valet whom you now employ?" A look of surprise passed over Mr. Degraw's face, but he responded promptly: "In New York. He answered an advertisement which I put in the Tribune, and, as his letters were excellent, I hired him." "Do you like him?" "Why, yes, as a valet. He is useful and exact in his duties, and I have no reason to find fault with him. But the man himself is not very agreeable. May I inquire—" "In a moment," interrupted Mr. Gryce. "I would first like to ask whether you consider him honest?" "Honest? O, yes; I have never found a pin lacking." "That is not an absolute proof of honesty. A man who will not steal will sometimes abuse his master's confidence in other ways. Are you sure of this fellow's discretion? Have you never seen him tampering with your papers, or peering into places where he had no business to look?" While Mr. Degraw was considering his reply, the artist drew near to Mr. Gryce and excitedly inquired if these questions referred to his fellow detective. Mr. Gryce smiled. "The name of your fellow-detective is Byrd, and you say this valet is not Byrd?" "But you mislaid—" "Oh, never mind what I insisted," was the quick reply; "I talk sometimes to valet my thoughts. I knew that the valet was no officer of ours." The artist stared in amazement, confused by a revelation whose full consequences he could not in that one moment measure. Turning anxiously toward his namesake, he waited for his answer to the question which Mr. Gryce had put to him, and did not know whether to be relieved or not, when the gentleman finally remarked: "I do not know to what you refer, Mr. Gryce, but I have only good to say of Barton. Never to my knowledge has he gone a step beyond his duty in regard to any of my effects. As for my papers, they are always kept about my person. By day I carry them in an inner pocket, and at night

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MAGAZINES

For the Month. The Red Magazine, Munsey's Magazine, The Popular Magazine, Physical Culture Magazine, The Grand Magazine, Fry's Magazine, The Scrap Book, Metropolitan Magazine, Everybody's Magazine, American Magazine, T. P.'s Magazine, Scribner's Magazine, Cosmopolitan Magazine, The Red Book Magazine.

NEW BOOKS

The Following of the Star, by Mrs. Barclay; Under Western Eyes, Joseph Conrad; The Queen's Fleet, Rev. P. A. Sheehan; A Giver in Secret, Thos. G. bb; Flemington, Violet Jacob; The Prodigal Judge, Vaughan Kester; Other Sheep, Hugh Eggle; The Case of Richard Magneil, Mrs. Humphrey Ward; In a Cottage Hospital, Geo. Trevelyan; The Garden of Reparation, E. Temple Thurston.

Garrett Byrne, Bookseller & Stationer.

Per S.S. "Stephano."

CALIFORNIA ORANGES, BANANAS, PEARS, GRAPES, TANGERINES, PINE APPLES, DESERT APPLES, CELERY, TOMATOES, NEW YORK CORNED BEEF, NEW YORK TURKEYS, NEW YORK CHICKEN. Per S.S. Mongolian: FINEST DESERT RAISINS, DATES, FIGS, CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, BON BONS, WALNUTS, JAS. STOTT

BOY SAVED FROM BEING A CRIPPLE

By Douglas' Egyptian Liniment

Mr. W. B. Perry, Tamworth, Ont., has a son who owes a good deal to Douglas' Egyptian Liniment, for without it he would certainly have been partially crippled for life. His father writes: "My son Marshall had his foot so badly frozen that the doctor said he would have to amputate the toe. The boy cried so much that we declined to allow the doctor to amputate. "A friend hearing of the case sent us a bottle of Egyptian Liniment and strongly advised us to try it before consenting to amputation. We washed it possible to save our son from being a cripple and used the Liniment. "Three days after the first application the frozen flesh dropped off and the boy's foot began to improve and was saved. "The way Egyptian Liniment removes unhealthy matter from frost bites, scalds, burns and festering wounds, and restores sound, healthy skin, was saved. "It is at all druggists. Free sample on request Douglas & Co., Nanapan, Ont.

I place them under my pillow. He can have had no opportunity of handling them." "And yet I most decidedly believe that he has not only handled them but consulted them, that, in short, he knows of their contents as well as you do, and that it is solely on account of this knowledge that he occupies his present position near your person." "Impossible! What makes you think this? You alarm me, Mr. Gryce." And mingled with this exclamation came that of the artist, who, if not so greatly astonished as the other, realized, perhaps, with even greater force, the complications and conjectures to which this suspicion pointed. "You do not know the man," resumed Mr. Degraw, with some energy; "when we came up here, there was a moment on the train when it looked as if we were on the verge of a collision. The cars shook and trembled with frightful suddenness, and while men started up and women shrieked, this valet of mine threw himself in front of me with an instinctive movement of protection that I shall never forget. I may not like him, but I refuse to consider him a blackguard without very good cause." To be continued.

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UNCLAIMED LETTERS, REMAINING IN G. P. to Jan. 1st, 1912.

Table with columns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Lists names and addresses of individuals with unclaimed letters.

SEAMEN'S LIST.

Table with columns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Lists names and details of seamen.

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Successful Nfld. Student

The young Newfoundlanders are studying at present at McGill College, Sackville, N.S., and have emerged with honours the recent examinations held there. The young men who have done well are: Pierson Curtis, son of the Rev. Curtis, led the Junior Mathematics Class; Wm. Hutchings, son of H. Hutchings, Deputy Minister of Education, this city, led in the Senior Organic Chemistry Class; Theological subjects the students in this country taking first place. J. Armitage, who led in Systematic Theology, Greek Testament and Testament Theology, and Norman Guy in Church History. Mr. Armitage is the Rhodes scholar for the season. We congratulate the students and their friends on their brilliant speaker their brilliant success in their careers in the future.

Special Tariff

In order to reduce our duty, when we finalize our law, we will give a special rate on goods, which we mention named, in which the reduction is one dollar, WE WILL TION on any article purchased between the dates of Jan. 1st and 31st, 1912. everything we handle.

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Misses' Fleece-lined Underwear, regular price 30c. Sale price 25c. Ladies' Cream Fleece-lined Underwear, regular price 35c. Sale price 30c. Ladies' White Fleece-lined Underwear, regular price 40c. Sale price 35c. Ladies' White Fleece-lined Corset, regular price 40c. Sale price 35c. Men's Fleece-lined Underwear, heavy garments, regular price 50c. Sale price 45c. Boys' Fleece-lined Underwear, regular price 24 to 34, reg. 35c. Sale price 20c.

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25 Only Ladies' Knitted Jersey, reg. \$1.00 and \$3.30 in Navy, Green, Cream. Sale prices \$1.20 and \$3.00. 12 Ladies' Tweed Coats, reg. price and \$7.50 all this season's styles. Sale prices \$3.20 and \$5.00.

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