

THE PANGS OF REMORSE —OR— A COMPLICATED TANGLE.

CHAPTER XVI.

She sprang to her feet and looked down on him.

He burst into his malicious laugh.

"I thought I should rouse you, my dear Leonora; do not fear, I value my own life too much to risk it so vilely. Come, we will cry a truce to this mutual pangs and proceed to business. But, first, let us not forget the hospitalities. I thank you, Lady Melville, I will have a glass of wine."

She rang the bell and the butler brought a bottle from the old cellars, and poured out some wine in one of the old cut glasses for his lord.

While the man was in the room, Lord Harcourt conversed in a conventional but friendly way with her ladyship about the weather and the country, but directly the butler had gone he caught up the glass and drained it, then filled and drained it again.

Lady Melville watched him with a vast scorn.

"You drink now?" she said, with cruel satisfaction.

"No," he said, smiling; "no, only a glass or two. Your delight is premature, and you will not have to mourn me cut off in the prime of my manhood by delirium tremens. But now to business; the six months were up three weeks ago. I have given you three weeks grace in the generosity of my heart. I come now for the fulfillment of your bond."

She took a costly screen from the mantel and held it between the fire and her face.

"You wish me to marry the Baron de Montpierre?" she asked.

He looked up but could not see her face; he could glean nothing from her voice, which she had schooled to a regular monotony.

"No," he said, with a scornful laugh, "I would not be so hard upon the baron. Not now, decidedly not now. You may marry whom you please so that you cannot our sweet agreement with fifty thousand pounds!"

"You ask me—you wish to extort fifty thousand pounds from me!" she said, "Is not that it?"

"So clearly, so beautifully put; it is," he retorted.

"You shall not have fifty thousand farthings," she said, quietly.

He looked at her—the screen was before her face.

"Ah! I expected as much," he said. "I thought your folly would cling to you. You want a scene, and this is the commencement; I shall not gratify you. I have come here, my dear Leonora, for a small check for that amount, and I shall remain at Rivershall, your guest, until I get it!"

"You will remain at Rivershall until I pay you fifty thousand pounds?"

"I will. Rivershall is a pretty place. You are a most charming lady. I shall be most happy to become your guest."

She lowered the screen suddenly and showed him her resolute face.

"Then I am resolved. Lord Harcourt, the tables are turned. It is I who hold the winning cards. You say you will stay here and outrage me and my house until I give you the money you demand. I say that you shall leave this room within an hour in the hands of a police officer."

He stared, then laughed.

"Well played, but farces are not in my way."

"No, but murder is," retorted Lady Melville, flashing her eyes upon him. "Murder is, Lord Harcourt. Sit still, I say; you have driven the stag a little too far and have brought it to bay. It shall gore you now—to death."

She rang the bell as she spoke and a footman answered it.

"Request Miss Lucas to step this way," said Lady Melville.

Miss Lucas entered immediately,

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and stood waiting with her hands folded before her and her face serenely demure.

"Miss Lucas, can you tell me if the detective whom I employed to investigate that affair of the duel is in the village at the present moment?"

"Yes, my lady," said Miss Lucas, taking the cue at once. "He is at the Arms. Shall I send for him?"

"Well, not this moment. Lord Harcourt may wish to see him. If he should I will ring. You will know what the bell is for and send one of the maids to bring him here instantly."

"Yes, my lady," said Miss Lucas, and with respectful composure glided out again.

Lord Harcourt stood stroking his mustache, his keen, restless eyes glancing from one to the other.

When the quiet figure had gone he turned to Lady Melville.

"The program is not quite clear yet," he said. "What do you mean, my dear Leonora? I am not frightened at bugbears."

"This is a bugbear in the shape of a galloway," retorted Lady Melville. "Stand back! You are coward enough to strike me; you nearly struck me once and murdered the man who saved me from your violence."

"Ah!" he said, with a short laugh of contempt. "I see where you would have your clumsy arms strike. You mean the silly lad I winged on Calais Sands. Poor boy! he fought well; it's almost a pity he had not been a better shot. Murder is a woman's name for an affair of honor."

"Not so," said Lady Melville, with a burst of passion. "Murder is the name of the coward who takes his opponent's life by firing before the word is given."

Lord Harcourt's hat dropped from his hand, and when he raised his face from recovering it Lady Melville saw that it was as white as her own.

"Now," said she, fanning herself with her screen, "will you stay here until I pay you fifty thousand pounds, or will you go?"

He thought a moment.

"I'll stay," he said, defiantly. "You were mistaken. The world has only a foolish woman's word for it. I shall stay. Who will believe it? Better give me the check, my dear Leonora; better give me the check."

"That is your decision," she said. "Well, so be it. I shall see you driven from the country—hanged, perhaps. Please Heaven, the latter!"

She walked to the bell and laid her hand upon it, then said, as if to herself:

"There can be no escape for him. The two boatmen heard the report of the pistol, Dalton saw him fall, and I can confirm them."

He started.

"Boatmen!" he said, unguardedly.

"Yes," she said, "two. Oh, murder will out, my lord, even when done so cleverly. If you want more evidence, I have it. Look!"—and she walked to the bureau and unlocked it—here is the pistol with which you shot him. Here is the pistol bullet extracted from his wound. Ah!"

She uttered a scream, for with a noiseless spring Lord Harcourt had reached her side and snatched the pistol.

She clasped it tightly then, and shot back a defiant glare.

"Stand back! Would you murder me, also?"

"Ay, that I would," he ground out between his teeth. "Give me that pistol, or, by Heaven! I'll—"

"Did you ring, my lady?"

Both started; Lord Harcourt fell back, staring at the quiet face and gray eyes of Miss Lucas, who had entered unperceived.

"No—yes!" said Lady Melville. "Send for—"

"Oh, don't trouble, Lady Melville," drawled Lord Harcourt, in his most languid tones. "I am going through the village and will look him up myself. Good-night, good-night."

And, with his high-bred bow, he left the room.

Lady Melville stood in the same attitude, with the pistol in her grasp, until the great hall door had clanged to behind him. Then her face turned gray and her eyes seemed to lose all their fire.

"He is gone," said Miss Lucas, with a triumphant smile.

"Ay, for the present," said Lady Melville, with slow weariness. "But not for long. I have said good-by to peace forever—forever!"

(To be continued.)



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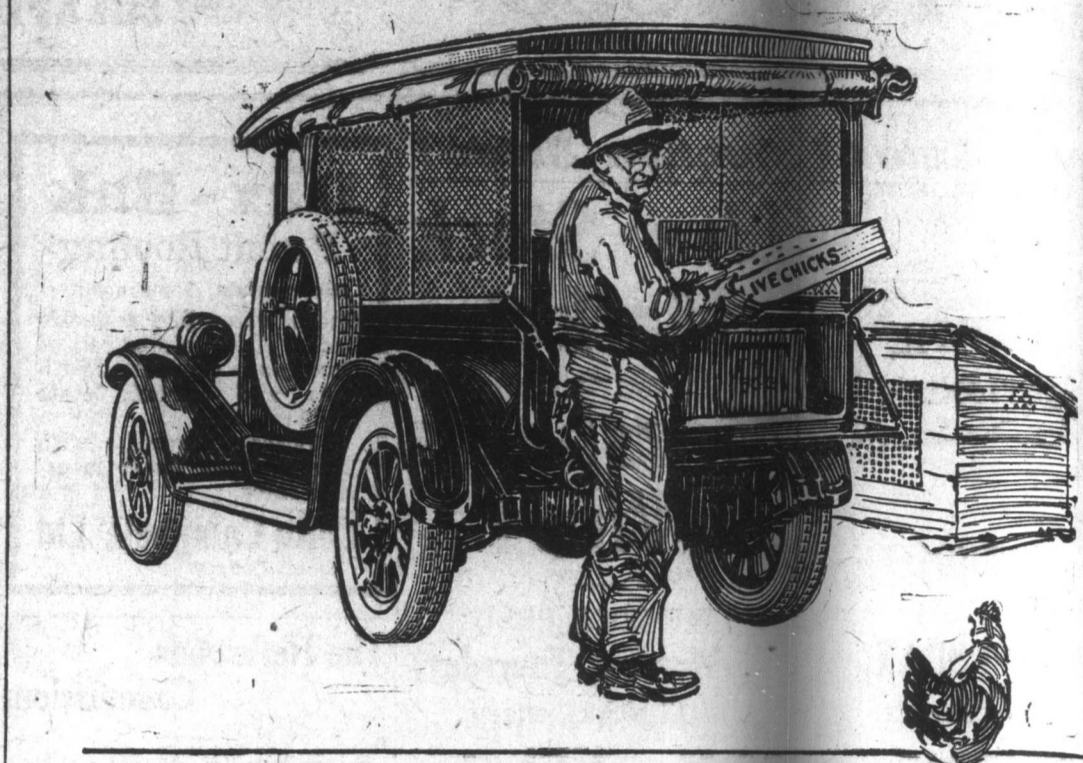
ON PENSIONS FOR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS.
Parliament is now discussing the proposed new pension scheme for mothers and widows, and Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, explains in the Yorkshire Evening News how he was responsible for this reform in the United States. He was impressed with the case of a mother who came before him who was unable to support her children, and he writes—

"I went to the Legislature of Illinois and said: 'Messrs. Legislators, I have been to your institutions; I know that you buy good food, that you provide warm clothing, that you build magnificent buildings on the hillside; but you can't buy mother love. That is not for sale at any price, and that is what these children are hungering for, and what they need if you expect them to become normal men and women and home-loving citizens, willing to fight for God and Home and Country.'

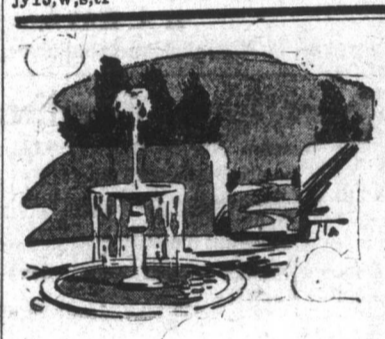
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COCOA-NUT FILLING
1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup water, 1 egg white, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 1 cup cocoanut. Beat sugar and water until it threads, pour onto stiffly beaten egg white, beating constantly. Add vanilla and one-third cup cocoanut. Beat until thick enough to spread. Sprinkle the remaining cocoanut over the cake when frosted.

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THURSDAY
AFTERNOON SESSION
(Continued)

Court having resumed the afternoon session continued: May 1919; the first point to deal with is the claim for a claim for under any of the contracts, as I stated in such matters as express agreement on sales, or in general word, "Res of services rendered, I shall deal more that point when I with your Lordship substituting authority on points of law the on with the differer draw attention to the general principle is nearly in that same vs. Isaacson. The immediate moment confine myself to a of the services of that have come of the various of and first of all that if your Lordship that there was a t as alleged mad plaintiffs and the Defendant, 1919—I contend have said repeatedly such agreement— should by any of there was an agreee agreement as alleged is so general in its terms to every single with the Trust particip general" I mean, the business of the Trust covered; and I want can by any chur by your Lordship submit that every different varieties of projects of the Royal company, with which thing to do is cover agreement for re commission basis, e with the principl from your Lordship any claim in the for services of the my Lord, I marred because I feel that the oral agreee be sustained for a my Lord, we com ment with regard covered by the case Nfld. Co., to the April, 1920, and the Trust on the after from the 14th, 1920, and I agree that in the Gander the remaine will be on a ten pe basis.

my Lord, the next age is the minute 1920; and that, m ally with the H and the mineral Newfoundland Coms however, and to wha ment or undertake 14th, 1920, may be Humber or the G lands and wha for commission or by have accrued de 1920, is satisfie and, if I may use rated in the ex of the 14th August, it refers to the of the mineral Newfoundland Coms ment or have to la ment or understand to these properties and we have to con discharged any li with agreements, on otherwise, in re me or services re me; and we begin 1920, so far as and the Gander

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