

A Lover's Triumph.

CHAPTER XL.

"My dear boy," cried Mr. Huntress, under his breath, as he stepped out into the hall beside Geoffrey, cautiously closing the door after him, and then seizing him by the shoulders, "where on earth have you been, and what has happened to you?"

"The most mysterious and villainous thing that could happen," replied Geoffrey, with a gloomy face. "I have been kidnapped—carried miles and miles away—and it has taken me hours to return."

"I suspected as much," said Mr. Huntress, sternly. "Then you haven't attributed my absence to any fault of mine, Uncle August?"

"No, indeed, my boy. I knew better." "What made you suspect foul play? But first tell me about Gladys. How has she borne it?" Geoffrey asked, with a wistful glance at the door beyond which his darling lay.

Mr. Huntress shot an anxious look at him. "Clearly he had no suspicion of what had occurred during his absence."

ished, notwithstanding—Gladys Huntress was married to me tonight, and it is simply useless to contest the fact."

"You may have gone through the marriage service with her, but you personated me, and it was only a mock ceremony. Besides, there were certain preliminaries to be attended to—your intentions made known—your certificate to be properly filled, without these there could have been no legal marriage," Geoffrey returned, sternly.

"Everest Mapleson smiled superciliously. "All that you mention was most carefully attended to, sir," he said, with an air of triumph that was simply maddening to his listeners. "The clergyman was duly apprised of my intentions and received a handsome fee, fifteen minutes before the arrival of the bridal party at the church; the ring had been purchased and carefully marked, and now adorns the hand of the bride. Not a single detail has been omitted, I assure you, to mark my position and my claim secure."

"But your audacity is astounding," said Geoffrey, contemptuously. "It was a barefaced fraud, and the marriage will never stand in law," persisted Geoffrey, firmly, but, oh! with such a stinging agony at his heart, "Prove it if you can," retorted Mapleson, arrogantly. "You will not find it an easy thing to do, however, for I shall make a desperate fight to thwart you."

"Wretch! how dare you attempt such a diabolical plot?" Mr. Huntress demanded. "I was desperate enough to dare anything, sir," Everest replied, addressing him with more respect than he had yet shown. "With the love I bear your daughter I could not brook defeat. I vowed that I would win her at any cost, and but for my own indiscretion all this fuss might have been avoided. I was so elated by my success in having the marriage performed that I could not resist taking advantage of my position, and, in attempting to salute my bride after our return to the house, she recognized me. If I had done nothing to attract her especial attention to me, the next two hours might have been tied over well enough, and, once on the way to Boston, en route for Europe, I could have laughed at any outside interference."

Geoffrey shivered. It was dreadful to have to listen to these revelations and to realize what a narrow escape Gladys had had, for he knew that if Everest had succeeded in deceiving her, the steamer sailed, the shock of her discovery, when alone, and in the power of the audacious scoundrel, might have resulted in her death. Even now they might not be able to secure her release, and she would still have to remain his wife in the sight of the world, but no moral obligation bound her to him, and no power could ever compel her to live with him.

"Could you ever hope to gain any satisfaction in the presence of a wife who would loathe the very sight of you, and whom you knew would never cease to love another?" Mr. Huntress demanded, with curling lips. "Love begets love," you know, and I imagine it would not have been such a hopeless task, after all, to win the heart of my wife, with such devotion as I have to offer her," Everest Mapleson defiantly replied.

Geoffrey's blood boiled as much at his confident, arrogant tone as at his words, and almost before he had concluded, he walked straight up to him, seized him by the coat collar, wheeled him about, and marching him to the head of the stairs, pointed below, and said, in a stern, authoritative tone, as he released his hold of him: "Go!"

Out of Plumb.

Chicago's Tall Masonic Temple Has a Slant.

Leaning Nearly Nine Inches Toward the East.

Said to be Perfectly Secure—Description of the Foundation.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—From the upper floors of the Columbus Memorial building at State and Washington streets, looking north, the huge pile of the Masonic Temple at State and Randolph streets is visible, leaning eastward at a distinct angle. Centered between the broad window frames in the Memorial building lines of the Temple, one block away, are at visible variance from the perpendicular.

It is no optical illusion. The magnificent building in Chicago, and one of the mightiest in the world, leans to the east. The top of the east wall, 268 feet above the pavement, leans lakeward nearly nine inches beyond the east line of the foundation.

D. H. Burnham, architect of the building, and Edward C. Shankland, in charge of the construction work, admit that the east wall of the building lies out between eight and nine inches. "It has been out of a perpendicular almost from the beginning," said Mr. Burnham. "There are two buildings in Chicago which are not. There is no danger in the leaning of the temple. The top of the east wall is as solid as a rock. Four years ago it stood a north-east storm from the lake which attained a velocity of 100 miles, and inclined to the westward. The storm in St. Louis which worked such destruction did not attain a velocity to exceed 88 miles an hour. The temple is so situated that this northeaster struck it squarely, and yet no damage was done."

"The reasons for the present condition of the temple are these: The true surface level of Chicago is a stratum of hard pan, from nine to ten feet thick. It is a very hard, tough clay, and originally it was at the surface. Underneath this stratum of hard pan are from 30 to 60 feet of sandy formation, beneath which is another stratum of hard pan. This is the surface upon which the railroad tracks, crossed and laid in cement, made foundations, the building piles driven to the surface in regular order. These piles were so apportioned and adjusted that they should bear a weight of about 3,000 pounds to the square foot. The piles which marked the outer lines of the foundations, however, could not have the support of the earth which they were to support. To offset this yielding nature of the outside soil, these piles marking the base outlines of the building were made proportionately larger. In order to equalize the settling, in this calculation the piles at the northwest corner of the building settled more than others, owing to a difference in the earth formation, and it is this which has thrown the east wall slightly out of plumb. But the whole building has moved together. It is as compact and as solid as if it were perfectly upright, and so it will remain. If it leaned outward as many feet as it leans inward, it would not fall. For this reason anything which may be printed regarding the building's position must be misleading."

In December last a special committee was appointed to investigate the well-defined organization the committee was instructed to go ahead. In February, 1890, this committee purchased the northeast corner of State and Randolph streets, paying \$1,000,000 for it. Books were opened for stock, and on April 1st the Masonic Temple Association was chartered. The officers were: Norman T. Gassette, president; Amos Graniss, vice-president; E. R. Gray, secretary; Warren T. Purdy, treasurer. The company was capitalized at \$2,000,000.

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AS WELL AS EVER.

A Brickmaker Listened to Reason—Used Six Boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills

Brockville, Jan. 4.—Mr. W. H. Odell, perhaps one of the best known citizens of this town, has lately recovered from a long continued and painful kidney ailment. He tells the story of his experience to the correspondent as follows: "I have suffered for over a year from kidney disease, the pain in my back being so severe that I was unable to stand to my work."

"Noticing the published cures of what Dodd's Kidney Pills were doing for others I concluded to use them." "Having used only six boxes I can say that I am perfectly cured and well so that I can attend to business as well as ever I could."

His Big Trick.

Prof. Herrmann's Bullet-Catching Deception.

Before His Death He Explained It All—Easy Bit of Deception, but Some-what Dangerous.

Now that Herrmann the Great is gone, there can be no harm in explaining how his wonderful trick of catching the bullets fired at him by six national guardsmen was done. It will be remembered that Herrmann pointed a revolver at a platter of bullets built in the audience. On both occasions, Herrmann, pale of face and painfully shivering, caught the bullets, previously marked by a committee of noted army men, and handed them back, hot from the barrels, for identification.

Of course, it was a trick, but it was a dangerous trick, and one that Herrmann disliked to do. But even he was less nervous than the marksmen, who acting in perfect good faith, feared that they might kill the plucky magician.

Many have been the alleged explanations of this trick published in various newspapers. They have all been wrong. Herrmann himself told in private how it was done, and here it is: Of course, there was an accomplice, and this accomplice was not one of the marksmen, but the sergeant in charge of them. This sergeant took the regular army bullet cartridges on a silver platter to the committee.

were drawn out, quickly heated and carefully placed by an attendant on a table, where Herrmann, just before the firing, carefully picked them up and palmed them. Holding them in his hands during the firing he immediately produced them as the smoke cleared.

A simple trick, but a very dangerous one, for if the platter's mechanism failed to work completely, one or more of the genuine cartridges might have got into the rifles of the marksmen and thence into Herrmann's body.—New York Herald.

In Russia you must marry before 30, or not at all; and you may marry only five times.



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