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WHOLE NO. 439.

LITERATURE.

THE HAUNTED HOTEL.

Wilkie Collins's New Story.

CONTINUED.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Before the end of the week the manager found himself in relations with the family more intimate. A telegram from Milan announced that Mr. Francis Westwick would arrive in Venice on the next day, and would be obliged if Number Fourteen on the first floor, could be reserved for him, in the event of its being vacant at the time.

The manager paused to consider before he issued his directions.

The numbered room had been last let to a French gentleman. It would be occupied on the day of Mr. Francis Westwick's arrival, but it would be empty again on the day after. Would it be well to reserve the room for the special occupation of Mr. Francis, and when he had passed the night unsuspectingly and comfortably in "No. 13 A," to ask him in the presence of witnesses how he liked his bedchamber? In this case, if the reputation of the room happened to be called in question again, the answer would vindicate it, on the evidence of a member of the very family which had first given Number Fourteen a bad name.

After a little reflection the manager decided on trying the experiment, and directed that "13 A" should be reserved accordingly.

On the next day Francis Westwick arrived, in excellent spirits. He had signed agreements with the most popular dancer in Italy; he had transferred the charge of Mrs. Norbury to his brother Henry, who had joined him in Milan, and he was now at full liberty to amuse himself by testing in every possible way the extraordinary influence exercised over his relatives by the new hotel. When his brother and sister first told him what their experience had been, he instantly declared he would go to Venice in the interest of the theatre. The circumstances related to him contained valuable hints for a ghost drama. The title occurred to him in the railway. "The Haunted Hotel," that is, in red letters six feet high, on a black ground, all over London and trust the excitable public to crowd into the theatre!

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and unpleasantly aromatic, mixed with another underlying smell, so unutterably sickening that he threw open the window and put his head out into the fresh air, unable to endure the horribly infected atmosphere for a moment longer.

The French proprietor joined his English friend with his eager already. He started back in dismay at a sight terrible to his countrymen in general—the sight of an open window. "You English people are perfectly mad on the subject of fresh air!" he exclaimed. "We shall catch our death of cold."

Francis turned and looked at him in astonishment. "Are you really not aware of the smell there is in the room?" he asked.

"Smell!" repeated his brother manager. "I smell my own good cigar. Try one yourself. And for heaven's sake shut the window!"

Francis declined the cigar by a sign. "Forgive me," he said. "I will leave you to close the window. I feel faint and giddy—I had better go out." He put his handkerchief over his nose and mouth and crossed the room to the door.

The Frenchman followed the movements of Francis in such a state of bewilderment that he actually forgot to seize the opportunity of shutting out the fresh air. "Is it so nasty as that?" he asked, with a broad stare of amazement.

"Horrible!" Francis muttered behind his handkerchief. "I never smell anything like it in my life!"

"There was a knock at the door. The scene-painter appeared. His employer instantly asked him if he smelt anything.

"I smell your cigar. Delicious! Give me one directly!"

"Wait a minute. Besides my cigar, do you smell anything else—vinegar, abominable, never-never-smelt before?"

The scene-painter appeared to be puzzled by the vehement energy of the language addressed to him.

"The room is as fresh and sweet as a room can be," he answered. As he spoke he looked back with astonishment at Francis Westwick, standing outside in the corridor and eyeing the interior of the bed-chamber with an expression of undiminished disgust.

The Parisian director approached his English colleague, and looked at him with grave and anxious scrutiny.

"You see, my friend, here are two of us, with as good noses as yours, who smell nothing. If you want to know more noses, look there!" He pointed to two little English girls, at play in the corridor.

"The door of my room is wide open—and you know how fast a smell can travel. Now listen, while I appeal to these innocent noses, in the language of their own dim island. My little loves, do you sniff a nasty smell here—ha?" The children burst out laughing, and answered emphatically, "No."

"My good Westwick," the Frenchman resumed, in his own language, "the conclusion is surely plain? There is something wrong, very wrong, with your own nose. I recommend you to see a medical man."

Having given that advice, he re-entered his room, and shut out the horrid fresh air with a loud exclamation of relief. Francis left the hotel by the lanes that led to the square of St. Mark. The night breeze soon revived him. He was able to light a cigar, and to think quietly over what had happened.

CHAPTER XIX.

Avoiding the crowd under the colonnades, Francis walked slowly up and down the noble open space of the square, bathed in the light of the rising moon.

Without being aware of it himself, he was a thorough materialist. The strange effect produced on him by the room—following on the other brother. Address me, if you please, as Countess Narona."

"Countess Narona," Francis resumed, "if your object in claiming my acquaintances is to mistify me you have come to the wrong man. Speak plainly or permit me to wish you good evening."

"If your object is to keep Miss Lockwood's arrival in Venice a secret, too," she retorted, "speak plainly, Mr. Westwick, on your side, and tell me so."

His intention was evidently to irritate his sister, and she succeeded. "Nonsense," he broke out, petulantly. "My brother's travelling arrangements are secrets to nobody. He brings Miss Lockwood here with Lady Montbarry and the children. As you seem so well informed perhaps you know why she is coming to Venice?"

His experience on the stage, gathered at innumerable rehearsals with many actresses who had sorely tried his temper, had accustomed him to speak roughly to women who were distasteful to him. "I remember you," he answered. "I thought you were in America!"

"She took no notice of his ungracious tone and manner; she simply stopped him when he lifted his hat and turned to go.

"Let us walk with you, for a few minutes," she quietly replied. "I have something to say."

He showed her his cigar. "I am smoking," he said.

"I don't mind smoking."

"After that there was nothing to be done (short of downright brutality) but to yield. He did it with the worst possible grace. "Well," he resumed, "what do you want with me?"

"You shall hear directly, Mr. Westwick. Let me first tell you my position. I am alone in the world. To the loss of my husband has now been added another bereavement, the loss of my companion in America, my brother, Baron Riva."

The reputation of the Baron and the doubt which scandal had thrown on his assumed relationship to the Countess were well known to Francis.

"Shot in a gambling saloon?" he asked, brutally.

"The question is a natural one on your part," she said, with the impetuously ironical manner which she could assume on certain occasions; "as a native of horse-racing England, you belong to a nation of gamblers. My brother died no extraordinary death, Mr. Westwick. He sank, with many other unfortunate people, under a fever prevalent in a Western city which we intended to visit. The calamity of his loss made the United States unbearable to me. I left by the first steamer that sailed from New York, a French vessel which brought me to Havre. I continued my lonely journey to the south of France. And then I went on to Vienna."

"What does all this matter to me," Francis thought to himself. She paused, evidently expecting him to say something. "So, you have come to Venice," he said, carelessly.

"Why?"

"Because I couldn't help it," she answered.

Francis looked at her with cynical curiosity. "That sounds odd," he remarked. "Why couldn't you help it?"

"Women are accustomed to act on impulse," she explained. "Suppose we say that an impulse has directed my journey? And yet, this is the last place in the world that I wish to find myself in. Associations that I detest are connected with it in my mind. If I had a will of my own I would never see it again. I hate Venice. As you see, however, I am here. When did you meet with such an unreasonable woman before?"

"She drank the strange mixture round his neck? Cold and faint, too, I should think. Excuse my grim face. You see destiny has got the rope round my neck—and I feel it!"

She looked about her. They were at that moment close to the famous café known as "Florian's." "Take me in there," she said. "I must have something to revive me. You had better not hesitate. You are interested in reviving me, have you not?"

"It's business and it's connected with your theatre."

Wondering inwardly what she could possibly want with his theatre, Francis reluctantly yielded to the necessity of the situation and took her into the café. He found a quiet corner in which they could take their places without attracting notice.

"What will you have?" he inquired, resignedly. She gave her own orders to the waiter, without troubling him to open for her.

"Maraschino. And a pot of tea. The waiter stared; Francis stared; the tea was a novelty (in connection with maraschino) to both of them. Careless whether she surprised him or not, she ordered the waiter, when her directions had been complied with, to pour a large wineglassful of the liquor into a tumbler and fill it up from the tap.

"I can't do it for myself," she remarked, "my hand trembles so."

"I'll do it for you," she said, "and I'll inherit the discovery of this drink. When your English Queen Caroline was on the Continent my mother was attached to court. That much-hungry royal person invented in her happier hours maraschino punch. Fondly attached to her gracious mistress, my mother shared her tastes. And I, in my turn, learnt from my mother. Now, Mr. Westwick, suppose I tell you of what my business is. You are manager of a theatre. Do you want a new play?"

"I always want a new play—provided it's a good one."

"And you pay if it's a good one?"

"I'll write the play, will you read it?"

Francis hesitated. "What has put writing a play into your head?" he asked.

"Mere accident," she answered. "I had once occasion to tell my late brother of a visit I paid to Miss Lockwood when I was last in England. He took so interest in what I had to say, that I thought I might as well write a play. You might make money. That put it into my head."

These last words seemed to startle Francis. "Surely you don't want money?" he exclaimed.

"I always want money. My tastes are expensive. I have nothing but my poor little four hundred a year—and the wreck that is left of the other money. About two hundred pounds in circular notes, no more."

Francis knew that she was referring to the £10,000 paid by the insurance office. "All those thousands gone already?" he exclaimed.

"She blew a little puff of air over her fingers. "Gone like that!" she answered, coolly.

"Baron Riva?"

She looked at him with a flash of anger in her hard black eyes.

"My affairs are my own secret, Mr. Westwick. I have made you a proposal—and you have not answered me yet. Don't say 'No' without thinking first. Remember what a life mine has been. I have seen more of the world than most people, play wrights included. I have had strange adventures; I have heard remarkable stories; I have observed; I have remembered. Are there no materials here in my head for writing a play—if the opportunity is granted to me?"

She waited a moment and suddenly repeated her strange question about Agnes.

"When Miss Lockwood expected to be in Venice?"

"What has that to do with your new play, Countess?"

The Countess appeared to feel some difficulty in giving that question its fit reply. She mixed another tumbler of the maraschino punch and drank one good half of it before she spoke again.

"It has everything to do with my new play," was all she said. "Answer me," Francis answered her.

"Miss Lockwood may be here in a week. Or, for all I know to the contrary, sooner than that."

"Very well. If I am a living woman and a free woman in a week's time—or if I am in possession of my senses in a week's time (don't interrupt me; I know what I am talking about)—I shall go to England, and I shall write a sketch or synopsis of my play as a specimen of what I can do. Once again, will you read it?"

"I will certainly read it. But, Countess, I don't understand."

She held up her hand for silence, and finished the second tumbler of maraschino punch.

"I am a living organism—and you want to know the right reading of me," she said. "Here is the reading as your English phrase goes, in a nutshell. There is a foolish idea in the mind of many persons that the natives of warm climates are imaginative people. There never was a greater mistake. You will find no such unimaginative people anywhere as you find in Italy, Spain, Greece and the other southern countries. To anything fancy, to anything spiritual, their minds are deaf and shut by nature. Now and then in the course of centuries a great genius springs up amongst them, and he is the exception which proves the rule. Now and then, too, a native of warm climate is imaginative. There never was a greater mistake. You will find no such unimaginative people anywhere as you find in Italy, Spain, Greece and the other southern countries. To anything fancy, to anything spiritual, their minds are deaf and shut by nature. 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Chignecto Post.

Sackville, N. B., October 10, 1878.

The Liberal Conservative Cause in Westmorland.

The Chapman Dinner.

The dinner given on Friday evening last by the Sackville supporters of Mr. R. A. CHAPMAN, to signalize their appreciation of his gallant fight in behalf of the Liberal Conservative cause, was a great success in respect to the attendance, the quality of the speaking, and the enthusiasm. The committee having in charge had invited some two hundred and fifty leading gentlemen from the different parishes, speculating on the probable attendance of a hundred, and tables were set only for that number, and when the whole two hundred and fifty poured into the Hall, some delay was necessarily occasioned before the table was cleared and speaking commenced. The dinner was provided from the cuisine of the Brunswick House, and did ample justice to the well-established reputation of that establishment. The chairman was Hon. Senator Botsford. J. L. Black, Esq., M. P., and C. Milner, Esq., acted as his reporters. He was supported on his right by the guests of the evening, Hon. P. A. Landry, C. J. Townshend, M. P., of Cumberland, and Hon. D. L. Hanington. On the left were Hon. Senator A. W. McLellan, A. E. Killam, Esq., M. P., and others. The Quintette Band of Amherst supplied the music. At eight o'clock the toast-making commenced with drinking the health of Her Majesty, followed by the President of the United States, which was responded to by...

HON. W. W. THOMAS, (Senator for Portland, Me.), in an eloquent and humorous speech that was throughout vociferously applauded. He said: "This occasion is a political banquet, given by one of the political parties of Canada, to celebrate the good fight it has made in Westmorland County, and the victory of the principles it represents throughout Canada. Yet even here, in the midst of your rejoicings over your own victories, you have not been unmindful of the great Republic over the border, but have taken the opportunity to do her honor by toasting her Chief Magistrate next after your own Queen, and by receiving this toast with three hearty Anglo-Saxon cheers (Hear, hear). This is the first time I have had the pleasure of addressing a Dominion audience, and it is a matter of peculiar gratification to me that my first words to any Dominion assembly should be spoken in acknowledgment of the generous and courteous mention of my country, the great Republic of the world. (Hear, hear.) Among the day-dreams of some of the wisest of our race, is the notion of an alliance between all the English speaking people of the globe. This may be but a dream, but it is a glorious one. What a grand Republic of nations it brings before us—England, America, Australia, Cape of Good Hope, India, the Isles of the Sea. Such a Republic would rule the world, and enforce peace over the entire globe. Towards such an alliance we have at least advanced one step, in the decision in that, demands have been made in America and Canada have been submitted to the peaceful arbitration of international tribunals. Difficulties between England and America, which a few years ago threatened the very gravest consequences, were amicably adjusted by the Alabama Arbitration. Demands between the United States and Canada have also been settled within a year by the Halifax Award. I must say one word of this extraordinary decision in the States we firmly believe we are the smartest people on God's green earth, and I shrewdly suspect that the other nations of the world more than half believe we are right. (Cheers.) The result of the Alabama Commission also strengthened our convictions in regard to ourselves. But when we came to contend with our younger brother—Canada—we found a vast difference between him and the old gentleman over the water, our common father—John Bull. (Applause.) You have succeeded in getting judgment against us at least one thousand times larger than it ought to be, and I believe one hundred times larger than you had any idea of yourselves. (Laughter.) Gentlemen, when we in America achieve victories, we like to shout over them, but when we experience defeat, we are willing to acknowledge it. And I am perfectly free to admit that in the matter of the Halifax Award, you have beaten the smartest nation on earth. (Hear, hear.) And further, I feel perfect confidence in saying that the United States will never repudiate any claim fairly adjudged against her, and if, notwithstanding our explanations and protest, you still persist in receiving this extraordinary Award, the United States will pay you every dollar of it. (Great applause.) The result of the Alabama Arbitration, reminds me of that of all nations who have ever indulged in an inflated or irredeemable currency. England is the only one that has returned to a sound metallic standard, except through repudiation and bankruptcy. All honor to sound hard money England. (Hear, hear.) But Great Britain is not clear to enjoy this enviable distinction alone. Notwithstanding the greenback craze, which is sweeping through America, and which has just defeated the election of Governor in my own State of Maine, the States will never repudiate any obligation, but on the first day of the new year will redeem all its promises to pay in coin, dollar for dollar. (Continued applause.) Mr. Chairman, it would be a pleasure and honor to me to respond to this toast anywhere, but this is more especially the case here in Sackville. This is the fourth annual pilgrimage of my friend, Mr. Hanson, and myself to your village, and everywhere and at all times we

has received with kindness, courtesy and hospitality. We have tramped your marshes far and wide, in pursuit of health, strength, and the wily snipe. We have hunted over the grounds of at least a hundred of your farmers, and I fear at times we have been of no benefit to either the grass or the fencibles; yet, in those four years, no farmer has set his dog on us; no one has turned us out of his field, or accosted us with a rude or sulky word; on the contrary the good people of this vicinity have suffered us to shoot over their ground as freely as if they were our own. For which great courtesy and forbearance, we desire to return our sincere thanks. Allow me also to declare in public what I have said a hundred times in private, that Sackville is a peculiarly prosperous town, and its inhabitants a very prosperous people. With the spruce of your neighboring forests, you build ships more cheaply than any other nation. These ships are largely owned here, and sailing every sea, are a constant source of wealth. The giant tides of Fundy, which throw along your shores, you restrain by dykes, and thus turn many thousands of acres of salt marsh into rich fields of grain and clover, without stump or stone, all levelled by nature for the moving machine, and stretching away as far as the eye can reach, like the great prairies of the West. The independent men and free colleges and Seminary of deservedly high repute adorn your hills, and confer the advantages of an advanced education upon the youth of both sexes. Your houses of worship are ample and commodious, your dwellings, many of them surrounded by trees and flowers, show that they are the abode of industry and refinement, and if anything could make a man forget his own fireside it is the hospitable welcome and constant attention he receives at your model home. Wealth seems to be very evenly distributed among you, so that, although you may have few rich men, all are comfortably off, and you have no poor, or at least there are any such you are very skillful in concealing them, for in four years I have been unable to find any one suffering from poverty. The fact is, the people of Sackville have only one fault—they do not know how to appreciate how well off they are. (Applause.) In closing, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, allow me again to thank you for your courtesy to my country and myself. The only drawback to the entire success of Senator Thomas' speech was that the audience could not claim him as a Bluecoat. The next toasts were the Prince of Wales, the Governor General and Sir John A. Macdonald, all of which were drunk with full honors.

HON. SENATOR BOTSFORD, in responding, referred to the Nanaimo and Esquimaux Railway, across Vancouver's Island which the Government wanted to build, but which the Senate rejected, because it formed no part of the Pacific Railway, because it would cost \$3,000,000, and because it was manifestly intended to provide places and jobs for the hungry supporters of the Government.

HON. SENATOR MOLELLAN said he had been twelve years in public, in the Assembly, Legislative Council and Senate, and he believed that no public man could feel a higher gratification than to know that he possessed the confidence of the people; and he ventured to say that Mr. Chapman looked upon this audience with a greater gratification than Sir Albert J. Smith did upon his victory. (Cheers.) As a Senator, he thanked them for the approbation of his acts. The aim of the Senate is not to be partisan, but to act in accord with the highest and best sentiments of the country, and if the Senate has become partisan, it is because it is not doing its duty. Mr. Mackenzie some time ago stated he was sorry to find the Senate had become partisan and no longer possessed the confidence of the country. He is to-day more pleased to find it does possess the confidence of the country. (Cheers.) When the new Government was formed the Senate decided to give it a fair trial. It got a fair trial. Sir John and Dr. Tupper gave Mackenzie every opportunity to conduct public affairs just as it suited him. If his policy has proved disastrous and confidently and buoyantly as if victory was always theirs. Nothing is gained without constant struggle and the local Legislature would learn hereof.

The Local Legislature was proposed by S. W. Palmer, Esq., in a few complimentary words, in which he said that the present local representation was composed of men who were not to be submitted to by a former representation could not sneer at it. It was replied to by J. L. BLACK, Esq., M. P., who trusted that the future labors of the local members would justify the high expectations formed of them. A. E. KILLAM, Esq., M. P., thanked the people for the expression of their good will and assured them that his best efforts would be exerted to promote their interests.

HON. SENATOR MOLELLAN replied to this toast in an able and witty speech, during the delivery of which he was constantly interrupted by storms of applause. He said the Senate did not submit to an opposition by the members of the Government's policy. The appointment to that body had been made by Sir John, one half from each party. Mr. Mackenzie had appointed fourteen of his own men, and yet the acts of the Government had been such that on a division the Government could not muster more than twenty votes! The course of the Government drove the great body of the Senate of every party into opposition and have made us for the time, party men. Great results are often achieved by party means. In Nova Scotia Howe led the great Liberal party and Johnston the great Conservative party. They were both men of great force and energy of character and of unsurpassed eloquence, and they both achieved great things for their Province. Their paths were diverse, but their patriotism led to the same result—the good of their country. Separated in life, they would that they had been buried in a common grave with the wild flowers of the country they loved so well blooming above them, while we, bowing before their dust and catching something of their inspiration, consecrate ourselves to the good of their country and our country in various important positions. As delegate to London, as Legislative Councilor, as member of the Executive, and as filling local offices, he always performed his duties with credit to himself, and acceptably to the people. Mr. Chandler was among the first to accept Responsible Government, and to conform to the subsequent constitutional changes, and his appointment to the Governoratorial seat was a fitting tribute to his long and honorable public career. Mr. Milner believed that the whole Province was pleased

at the appointment, and he was sure Westmorland rejoiced in it, if in the enthusiastic manner in which the entire Province had been so long and all parts of the County afforded any criterion. The Chairman proposed the Local Government, which was responded to by HON. P. A. LANDRY, who thanked them for the honors done. This evening they had been called together to celebrate a local defeat and a great general victory. The party ought to be proud of the unthought and unparaphrased vote of two thousand taken by Mr. Chapman. It is an evidence of the confidence of the people in the policy of our party and in our leaders. It was a free and spontaneous vote given against all the inducements and allurement a Government could exercise. The week before the election the County belonged to the Opposition, and had the vote been taken, before mysterious influences were at work, Mr. Chapman would have been elected by a very large majority. Perhaps the 17th was unfortunate. There were but few Grits before that day; there are but few after it. Some are dyed not so deeply but that they are ready to be taken into our ranks. A French nobleman was once travelling, and his servant was a negro. He gave his servant instructions that when enquiries were made as to who he was, he was to reply that he was an Irish gentleman travelling for pleasure. The negro got on so well lying for his master that he thought he would try it on his own account, and one day after the usual reply he said: "I am an Irishman also." (Laughter.) Some of the people now on our side may be Liberal Conservatives, but their ardor on 17th was mightily against them. He believed it was deplorable that New Brunswick had not gone to the support of Mr. Tilley. He felt gratified at the large number of French electors present. There had been in old times a sort of prejudice of race; the two people had not intermingled, and as they ought to have done, and he felt this was the dawn of a better era when the two people would come together, having common sympathies, common ambitions, and stand side by side in developing our common interests. He believed that the only way to get on in the world was to be good for good Government. (Cheers.)

HON. D. L. HANINGTON was gratified at the appreciation shown for the Local Government, and he thanked them heartily for their good feeling towards himself. Although the Local Government is neutral in Dominion politics, it is not in Dominion politics, it is in the Dominion of the people. He would not be prevented from expressing his own views on the subject of that department, the bones of these skeletons will rattle upon his walls. Every six months he will have to provide \$120,000 before the Steel Rails ghost will be allowed. The ghost of the St. Francis Locks, looks down in mockery upon him. The Neehing Hotel grins at him. The Fort Francis Lock, costing \$250,000, to stow them away in. (Cheers.) What an array of ghastly, grinning skeletons meet his eye! The steel rails skeleton, which cost the country three millions of dollars, looks down in mockery upon him. The Neehing Hotel grins at him. The Fort Francis Lock, costing \$250,000, to stow them away in. (Cheers.) 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