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The Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1906. THE BELLE OF MULKAPORE.

A STORY OF MILITARY LIFE IN INDIA.

By the Author of "The Tiger's Den." "We meet all fellow when Fate puts from the shore."—BYRON.

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER XXVII. I AM ADVISED TO LOCK THE STABLE DOOR.

"I am sure I don't know on what grounds we should have the fowls surveyed in this veranda—why not have the chickens here at once?" exclaimed Mrs. Vane, pettishly.

"I suddenly uprooting herself from a deeply comfortable chair, and surveying Maurice and his young companion (and the latter they were making) with an air of marked deference.

"Rose, why do you tease Captain Borsford?" she exclaimed. "You will threaten him before long, and you are really too big a girl to be teased."

"Oh, but I'm so dreadfully comfortable," rejoined Rose, with a toss of her golden mane; "and besides he does not mind, do you?"

"By the way," I observed, walking down the veranda with my letter in my pocket, "does any one know of a really good hair-wash?"

"Hair-wash!" echoed Mrs. Vane; "why, what do you want with one? You hair is already below your knees."

"Not for myself," I answered; "but for a friend."

"Ah, yes! I can understand you. For an elderly friend, the rejected, with a look of unappealing significance.

"I have some stuff that the swears by," said Maurice, glancing up, "but I don't want to try it myself; but he declares it would make the hair grow on an old bulldozer's trunk."

"Well, that certainly sounds promising. I shall take an early opportunity of looking at Mr. Jarvis' locks," said Mrs. Vane. "He is a most singularly wooden-headed young man."

"He went to England the day before yesterday; so I am afraid you must postpone your inspection," replied Maurice, gravely.

"To England again? Why, he is always on leave—sick furloughs, urgent private affairs, every dodge."

"Well, you see, he looks upon Asia as a country to be avoided, and as he has hope of one day perhaps he is right. Captain Robinson has come back; so you see the void is filled."

"I'm delighted to hear it. He brings me a parcel from his sister. How is he looking?"

"Oh, awfully fit."

"I thought you were talking of taking a run home this year?" said Mrs. Vane, puckering her eyebrows.

"So I was, but I have changed my mind," replied Maurice, setting down Rose and picking up his hat and whip; "I shall put it off till next year."

"One wants a lot of money for a trip home these times," said Maurice, reflectively; "you young fellows are so dependently extravagant, and send your money flying in all directions."

"Dear me! think that all your friends will expect handsome presents," observed Mrs. Vane, impressively; "really valuable presents, jewels and Indian curiosities. That will be on a little item; you cannot return empty-handed."

"But I shan't," replied Maurice, with decision; "I assure you that the only curiosity I mean to take home is myself."

"Who knows but you may take a wife as well?" said Mrs. Vane, with a smile.

"Who knows?" returned Maurice, adding nothing. Then suddenly looking at his watch, he exclaimed, "By Jove, I had no idea it was so late; I must be off. Here, my dear, be on your guard; come on, come on, of course you are all coming to our sports this evening; addressing every one is general, but looking at me, 'I'm one of the performers, but I'll keep you good places in the front row, where you will see the best of the performance, and the lemon-culturing to the greatest advantage. Good-by; and with a wave of his hat he galloped off, followed by Tuppence."

"By the way, Puss," said Maurice, as she turned back into the veranda, "I think you had better tell your cousin of your engagement. You need not keep him in the dark—I'm sure he will be delighted."

"I'm not quite so sure of that," remarked Mrs. Vane, pointedly; "but I quite agree with you that he ought to be told, and at once."

"Shall I break it to him secretly, Nora?" said Maurice, with a smile.

"No, do not," replied Mrs. Vane; "I would much rather tell him myself. Leave it to me, please—all of you—will you promise looking anxiously around."

"Of course we will, my dear, if you wish it," said Maurice, with a nod.

"Well, mind you do tell him—and soon," said Mrs. Vane; "or it will be a case of locking the stable door when the steed is stolen."

"My dear Violet," exclaimed Maurice, in a checked voice, "you don't know what you are saying. Maurice and Nora have been brought up together, and are just like brother and sister."

"A little prudential, not to let on to me, was Mrs. Vane's only reply, as she turned away and began picking up the whole party."

"Oh, Puss," said Maurice, suddenly springing up, "I have just seen a letter from your cousin of yours in a letter box. This cousin of yours is just a fellow after my own heart. Now I could easily understand a girl falling in love with him; he is a good fellow, with an open heart, and means company to Major Fenwick."

"I don't know, my dear, you really must not say such a thing," said Mrs. Vane, severely. "You can hardly expect Nora to marry to please

you to order to have two illustrations in the paper."

"I think the old gentleman was not so far wrong after all, provided you are prepared to pay for them. And now, what have you done for me?"

"I have done nothing," said Dicky, looking at the letter in his hand. "I have only written a few lines, but I don't know if they are satisfactory or not."

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"Did you not recently visited him?"

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