The Price of Liberty

MIDNIGHT CALL

CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

As to the lady, who was tall and handsome, with dark eyes and features contrasting strangely with hair as white as the frost on a winter's landscape, there was a far-away, strained look in the dark eyes, as if they were ever night and day looking for something, something that would never be found. In herself the lady was clean and wholesome enough, but her evening dress of black silk and lace was dropping into fragments, the lace was in rags upon her bosom, though there were diamonds of great value in her white hair.

And here, strangely allied, were wealth and direct poverty: the whole place was filled with rare and costly things, pictures, statuary, china; the floors were covered with thick carpets, and yet everything was absolutely smothered in dust. A.thick, Such a sad, pathetic, pitiable figure, white, blankety cloud of it lay everywhere. It obszured the china. dimmed the glasses of the pictures, it piled in little drifts on the heads and arms of the dingy statues there. Many years must have passed since a housemaid's brush or duster had anything in Longdean It was like a palace of the Sleeping Beauty, wherein people walked as in a waking dream.

The lady of the house made her way slowly to the dining-room. Here dinner was laid out daintily and ar-1 him as she disappeared into the tiscally enough—a gaurmet would have drawn up to the table with a was literally dropping to pieces.

yet the same sense of dust and de window, the dust stifles me." dinner looked bright and modern.

ing by the table, one a girl with a his thoughts were by no means pleasthe big fair man known to the vil- passed with the tray. ing eyes.

"We may be seated now that ma- job."

rest?" Henson suggested. our anxious euriosity."

Henson might have been of stone for ing. all the notice she took. The fargrace in a high, clear voice.

thankful. And may + He, when it it seems hard to bear."

his broad shoulders. In his imma- right hand man. severe as the garb of a charity girl. smoke, having first carefully extin- cerned, for she could see the red glow

looking, into the dark future. The In the midst of the drawing-room themselves.

"Some day I shall poison all those aunt's side. hounds," he said.

Enid looked up at him swiftly.

were poisoned or shot it would be a have had a message!" good place to live in," she said.

er moments. some day."

ed so, and thus the strange meal proceeded with smiles and gentle words from Henson, and a wild outburst of bitterness from the girl. So far as she was concerned the servants might have been mere automatons. The dust rose in clouds as the latter moved silently. It was not in there, and gradually the brown powder grimed like a film over Henson's oily skin. At the head of the table Margaret Henson sat like a woman in a dream. Ever, ever her dark eyes seemed to be looking eagerly around. Thirsty men seeking precious water in a desert might have looked like her. Even and anon her lips moved, but no sound came from them casionally she spoke to one or other of her guests, but she never followed her words with her eyes.

Enid replied that she fervently hop-

snowy hair. The meal came to an end at length and Mrs. Henson rose suddenly There was a grotesque suggestion of the marionette in the movement. She bowed as if to some imaginary personage and moved with dignity to-Reginald Henson wards the door. stood aside and opened it for her She passed into the dim hall as if ab-'solutely unconscious of his presence. Enid flashed a look of defiance at gloom and floating dust.

such a grey sorrow in her rags and

Henson's face changed instantly, as feeling of satisfaction. Flowers were if a mask had fallen from his snug dreadful has happened. Can you "That's all right, dear. But why Doukhobors altogether, settled on a there, and silver and cut-glass, china features. He became alert and vig- sing?" with a history of its own, and the orous. He was no longer patron of whole set out on a table cloth that the arts, a wide-minded philanthro- a dirge for the dead." pist, the man who devotes himself to It was a beautiful room in itself, the good of humanity. The blue lofty, oak panelled from floor to eyes were cold and cruel, there was a roof, with a few pictures of price on hungry look about the loose mouth. the walls. There was plenty of "Take a bottle of clout and the gleaming silver glowing like an ar- cigars into the small library, Wilgent moon against a purple sky, and liams," he said. "And open the

solation was everywhere. Only the The dignified butler bowed respect-There were two other people stand- butler of fiction in no respect, but Heaven, help me.' handsome, intellectual face full of ant as he hastened to obey. Enid passion but ill repressed; the other was loitering in the hall as Williams

lage as "Mr. Charles." As a mat- "Small study and the window her eyes. ter of fact, his name was Reginald open, miss," he whispered. "You are a dear girl," she said, Steel returned home from his visit Henson, and he was distantly relate some game on-oh, yes, there is some ed to Mrs. Henson, the strange chat- blessed game on again to-night. And elaine of the House of the Silent him so anxious to know how Miss Sorrow. He was smiling blandly Christiana is. Says she ought to now at Enid Henson, the wonderfully call him in professionally. Personalbeautiful girl with the defiant, shin- ly I'd rather call in an undertaker who was desperately hard up for a

dam is arrived," Henson said, grave- "All right, Williams," Enid re- ed slightly as she followed the direcplied. "My sister is worse to-night. tion of the extended forefinger. He spoke with a mocking humility And unless she gets better I shall and a queer wry smile on his broad, insist upon her seeing a doctor. And loose mouth that filled Enid with a I am obliged for the hint about Mr. | ily, for the recovery of the secret. speechless fury. The girl was hot- Henson. The little study commands Reginald Henson is sly and cruel and

the garden," Wiliams said, drily. "Madam has had a refreshing "Yes, yes. Now go. You are a may be lost for ever. Come!" "Pardon real friend, Williams, and I will nev-

er forget your goodness. Run along soft minor. At first the chords were Again Enid raged, but Margaret -I can actually feel that man com-

As a matter of fact, Henson was away look was still in her eyes as approaching noiselessly. Despite his singer's eyes; there was a flush on she felt her way to the table like great bulk he had the clean, dainty her cheeks that rendered her years one in a dream. Then she dropped step of a cat; his big, rolling ears suddenly into a chair and begun were those of a hare. Henson was always listening. He would have lis-"And the Lord make us truly tened behind a kitchen door to a pair How wicked I have been to neglect chattering scullery-maids. He liked this balm that God sent me all these seemeth good to Him, remove the to find other people out, though as curse from this house and in due yet he had not been found out himseason free the innocent and punish self. He stood before the world as the guilty. For the burden is sore a social missioner; he made speeches upon us, and there are times when at religious gatherings and affected are to sing till I return. You are to the women to tears. He was known leave Henson to imagine that I am The big man played with his knife to devote a considerable fortune to singing. He will never guess. Now and fork, smilingly. An acute ob- doing good; he had been asked to then. server might have imagined that the stand for Parliament, where his real passionate plaint was directed at ambition lay. Gilead Gates had aling the door softly behind her. She him. If so it passed harmlessly over luded to Reginald Henson as his made her way noiselessly from the

culate evening dress he looked stran- He crept along to the study, where son slipped through the open window gely out of place there. Enid had the lamps were lighted and the silver into the garden Enid darted behind escaped the prevailing dilapidation, claret-jug set out. He carefully a bush. Evidently Henson suspectbut her gown of grey homespun was dusted a big arm-chair and began to ed nothing so far as she was con-"Madam is so poetical," Henson guished the lamps and seen that the of the cigar between his lips. "And charmingly san- window leading to the garden was faint sweetness of distant music fill-"Williams," Mrs. Henson said, for something. In his feline nature tinued Henson would relax his vigi- there was Christiana's friend, who quite stoically, "my visitor will have he had the full gift of feline patience. lance. To serve his own ends he would have He was pacing down the garden in try further assistance in the case of She seemed to have dropped once sat there watching all night if neces- the direction of the drive. Did the Mr. Steel, and he stands face to face be a machination of the devil. again into the commonplace, painful- sary. He heard an occasional whim- man know anything? Enid wonder- with a terrible charge. And he has ly exact as a hostess of breeding per, a howl from one of the dogs; ed. He had so diabolically cunning found us out." must be to an unwelcome guest. And he heard Enid's voice singing in the a brain. He seemed to find out "He has found us out? What do Jones-"I notice that your uncle yet she never seemed to see him : drawing-room. The rest of the house everything, and to read others before you mean?" those dark eyes were looking, ever was quite funereal enough for him. they had made up their minds for "Well, he called to see me. He Brown-"It was not his fault that he

There was an eager them. gleaming like frosty stars.

Henson smiled caressingly, like Pe- Margaret Henson cried. "Tribula- that she was safe. Enid slipped about 218?" truchic might have done in his mild- tion and sorrow on this wretched past him into the bushes and gave a "My dear, he found it out. At least am I. I was ushered into her room house. For seven years the hand of faint click of her lips. Something Hatherly Bell did for him. Hatherly just as the doctor put the thermome-"My dear Enid, you misjudge me," the Lord has lain heavily upon us." moved and whined, and two dark ob- Bell happened to be staying down ter under her tongue and so for five he said. "But I shall get justice She spoke like one who was far jects bounded towards her. She with us, and Hatherly Bell, who full minutes I talked away at her

a proud, passionate spirit, crushed on Henson's tracks. down by some bitter humiliation. He was walking on ahead of her He-'' Enid's eyes flashed.

you again," she said. "Two thousand pounds," came the the sweep of the red circle. mechanical reply, "to endow a bed in some hospital. And there is no "Watch, Prance; watch, boy." will be penniless."

But we have a plan, dear aunt; we he made a bolt for it. deriul story."

beed. It seemed almost impossible him in pieces. to make her understand. She babupon it at all.

day of the month." no ordinary person could make any- out of the darkness. thing of. Pages here and there were signed and decorated with pink re- you?" Enid cried. ceipt stamps. Enid glanced down little paler.

"Ah, yes; a song of lamentation- ful happened?"

pleasure it was to me as a child; and life." they used to say that my voice was | "Don't tell me that our scheme has very like yours, only not so sweet or failed!"

The girl spoke with a fervency and tempted murder and robbery." passion that seemed to waken a responsive chord in Margaret Henson's in the dark." breast. A brighter gleam crept into

dreamily: "yes, a dear girl. And I loved singing; it was a great grief to me that they would not let me go upon the stage. But I haven't sung since-since that---'

She pointed to the huddled heap of china and glass and dried, dusty flowers in one corner. Enid shudder-

"But you must try," she whisper-"It is for the good of the famnow who is far more clever. And, her life was hatred of Reginald Hen- "And the open window commands unless I can get away tonight without that man knowing, the chance

> Margaret commenced to sing in a thin and dry, but gradually they increased in sweetness and power. The hopeless, distant look died from the

> younger. "Another one," she said, when the song was finished, "and yet another years. If you only knew what the sound of my own voice means to me! Another one, Enid."

"Yes, yes," Enid whispered. "You

Enid crept away into the hall, closhouse and across the lawn. As Henwide open. Henson was watching ed the air. So long as the song con-

oily sarcasm from Henson. In the tue. The distant, weary expression mocking sprite into the bushes. Us- that I am afraid I betrayed myself. with hir: if he could." dense stillness the occasional howl of never left her eyes for a moment. As ually the man avoided those bushes. Such a nice, kind handsome man, "Fankly, madam," said the honest a dog could be heard. A slight the stable clock, the only one going If Reginald Henson was afraid of one Enid; so manly and good over it all. outfitter, "I wouldn't advise you flush of annoyance crossed Henson's on the premises, struck ten Enid thing it was of the dogs. And in Of course, he declared that he had to take that dress." "Why not?" crossed over from the piano to her return they hated him as he hated been at 219 before, and I could only asked the woman. "It doesn't match

"If all the hounds round Longdean "Aunt," she whispered; "dear, I only cease for a moment she was fore." away from her surroundings. And caught them together by their col- knows Mr. Steel, promptly solved, or and she couldn't say a word."

vet no one could look in her eyes lars and cuffed them soundly. Then half sofved, that side of the proand say that she was mad. It was she led the way back so as to get blem. And Hatherly Bell is coming

now, beating time softly to the mus-

escape, no hope unless we drag the There was a low growl as the and Reginald Henson master here. shameful secret from him. Bit ly bounds found the scent and dashed You must--" bit and drop by drop, and than I forward. Henson came up all stand- In the distance came the rattle of shall die and you and Christiana ing and sweating in every pore. It harness bells and the trot of a horse. was not the first time he had been 'I'm afraid it's too late," Ruth "I dare say Chris and myself will held up by the dogs, and he knew Gates said, sadly. "I am afraid survive that," Enid said, cheerfully. by hard experience what to expect if that they are here already. Oh, if

have thought it out carefully. Regin- Two grim muzzles were pressed cigar-case!' ald Henson has hidden the secret against his trembling knees; he saw somewhere and we are going to find four rows of ivory flashing in the it. The secret is hidden not far off, dim light. Then the dogs crouched because our cousin has occasion to at his feet, watching him with eyes require it frequently. It is like the as red and lurid as the point of his purloined letter in Edgar Poe's won- own cigar. Had he attempted to move, had he tried coercion, they Margaret Henson nodded and mum- would have fallen upon him and torn

"Confusion to the creatures!" he bled of strange things, with her dark cried, passionately. "I'll get a re- Taking to Modern Ways-Transeyes ever fixed on the future. Enid volver; I'll buy some prussic acid turned away almost despairingly. At and poison the lot. And here I'll the same time the stable clock struck have to stay till Williams locks up the half-hour after ten. Williams the stables. Wouldn't that little A special from Winnipeg to the slipped in with a tray of glasses, Jezebel laugh at me if she could see Globe draws attention to the pronoislessly. On the tray lay a small me now? She would enjoy it better gress and prosperity of the Doukhopile of tradesmen's books. The top than singing songs in the drawing- bors settled in the North-west. Their one was of dull red with no lettering room to our sainted Margaret. Stea- crops are better and further advancdy, you brutes! I didn't move."

"The housekeeper's respectful com- He stood there rigidly, almost are buying the most improved imoliments, Miss, and would you go afraid to take the cigar from his lips plements and machinery. They now through them to-morrow?" Williams whilst Enid sped without further need own a 25 horse-power steam plough, said. He tapped the top book sig- for caution down the drive. The six engines, two traction and four nificantly. "To-morrow is the last lodge-gates were closed and the deaf porter's house in darkness, so that less than four saw mills, all of which Enid picked up the top book with | Enid could unlock the wicket without strange eagerness. There were pages fear of detection. She rattled the of figures and cabalistic entries that key on the bars and a figure slipped

"Good heavens, Ruth, is it really

"Really me, Enid. I came over on the last column and her face grew a my bicycle. I am supposed to be out a system of communism. round at some friend's house in Brun-"Aunt," she whispered, "I've got swick Square, and one of the ser- There are 45 villages, each village to go out. At once; do you under- vants is sitting up for me. Is Regin- with a population of about 200 and stand? There is a message here; ald safe? He hasn't yet discovered and I am afraid that something the secret of the tradesman's book?" are you here? Has something dread-

"Well, I will try to tell you so in "No, no; seven years ago you had as few words as possible. I never a lovely voice. I recollect what a felt so ashamed of anything in my

so powerful. Aunt, I must go out; "Perhaps I need not go so far as and that man must know nothing that. The first part of it came off about it. He is by the window in all right, and then a very dreadful sires a pair of boots, he can get them the small library now, watching- thing happened. We have got Mr. fully. He resembled the typical bad watching. Help me, for the love of David Steel into frightful trouble.

"It was the night when-well, you know the night. It was after Mr. to 219, Brunswick Square-"

"You mean 218, Ruth." knows pretty well all about it we should have been all right."

about the cigar-case?"

him. And when he got home he where they came from. found a man nearly murdered lying in The success with which the system his conservatory. That man was is wrought is due to Peter Veregin, pital, where he still lies in an uncon- years in Siberia prisons. scious state. On the body was found a receipt for a gun-metal cigar case set with diamonds."

mean to say---'

000, and everything." was positively---'

"Yes, yes. But what has become The Doukhobors have no marriage was the change made? I tell you that the whole thing frightened me. We thought that we had hit upon a scheme to solve the problem and keep our friends out of danger. There was the American at Genoa who volunteered to assist us. A week later he was found dead in his bed. Then disappeared entirely. And now we

called at 219, of course. And direct- did." Jones-"What do you mean?" meal proceeded in silence save for an Margaret Henson sat still as a sta- The cigar seemed to dance like a ly I heard his name I was so startled Brown-"He would have taken it declare that he had done nothing of your complexion," he explained. look on her face, her eyes were Enid's mind was made up. If the the kind. Never never have I felt "Oh, well," she replied carelessly, sound of that distant voice should so ashamed of myself in my life be "I can change the complexion."

quite sure Henson would turn back. "It seems a pity," Enid said, "Message of woe and desolation." But he could hear it, and she knew thoughtfully. "You said nothing better, I hear. I'm glad you called

here to-night to see Aunt Margaret.

"Here!" Enid cried. "To see Aunt. "That scoundrel has been robbing ic of the faintly distant song with Margaret? Then he found out about his cigar. Enid could distinctly see you. At all hazards Mr. Bell must not come here-he must not. I "Hold him, Dan," she whispered, would rather let everything go than that. I would rather see auntie dead

we had only left out that wretched

(To be Continued.)

communism in canada

PROSPERITY OF THE DOUKHO-BORS IN THE WEST.

act Business Without Money.

ed than any in the same region. They movable threshing machines, and no are run by Doukhobor engineers.

Their genius and energy is not static, but structural and inventive. Without any knowledge of political science whatever, and with nothing but their Bibles, they have worked

HOW THEY TRADE.

with 40 homesteads of land; that is, there are between 8,000 and 10,000 solid block of six townships. village is a perfect community by itself. It has its blacksmith, its carpenter, its stables, its hennery, its mill, etc. If a Doukhobor wishes to get some eggs he simply has to go to the woman whose duty it is to keep the chickens, and she will give him his eggs for nothing. If he defrom the "head man" of the village for nothing. If he wants a new He is going to be charged with at-house, he merely has to call in the village carpenters and they will build "Ruth! But, tell me. I am quite it for him free. Money has no value in the Doukhobor settlements.

A COMMON PURSE.

The profits from the year's crops, and even the individual earnings of Doukhobors working on the railways "It doesn't matter, because he and elsewhere, go into a common by purse, and with this money the supthis time. It would have been far plies for the whole community are better for us if we hadn't been quite bought wholesale. The Doukhobors so clever. It would have been far always buy wholesale at Winnipeg. wiser to have taken Mr. Steel entire- considering the middleman's profit ly into our confidence. Oh, oh, Enid, to be mere robbery. The oversight if we had only left out that little of the year's business is annually desentiment over the cigar-case! Then puted to four commissioners, who do all the buying and selling and organ-"Dearest girl, my time is limited, izing in accordance with the wishes I've got Reginald held up for the of the assembly. These commissionblooded-a good hater and a good the staircase leading to my sister's clever. But we have one on our side time, but at any moment he may ers are no higher than the ploughescape from his bondage. What boys or the blacksmiths. When their term of office ceases they return to "Well, Mr. Steel took it home with the plough or the carpenter's bench,

conveyed to the Sussex County Hos- the Doukhobor leader, who spent 15

NOT EAT FLESH.

The Doukhobors will not kill "Good gracious, Ruth, you don't eat any animal, believing that to be the teaching of the Bible: Thou shalt "Oh, I do. I can't quite make out not kill. Some of them have gone how it happened, but that same case so far as to preach that it is wrong that we—that Mr. Steel has—has been to use horses and cattle for labor, positively identified as one purchased or to shear sheep, or to wear boots from Walen by the injured man, made of leather. It was in pursu-There is no question about it. And ance of this belief that they turned they have found out about Mr. Steel their horses and cattle loose two being short of money, and the £1,- years ago and started on their naked pilgrimage. It was this belief that "But we know that that cigar- induced the women to harness themcase from Lockhart's in North Street selves to the plough and the men to draw waggons of flour by hand.

of that? And in what strange way laws, but marry and unmarry at pleasure, according to the agreeableness of the alliance. One is glad to say that this license is not abused and most of them live and die the husband of one wife. They will not register births, marriages or deaths considering that an unwarrantable interference with the Almighty. They will not "make soldier." as they say, believing war to

left an estate of half a million."

Mr. Goodley-"Mrs. Chatters is on her to-day." Mrs. Goodley-"Sol