The Price of Liberty

MIDNIGHT CALL

CHAPTER XLIX.—(Continued.)

But Chris was in no way cast lown. She had carefully planned but her line of action, and the more the thought over it the more sure passing in Chris's mind. pf success she felt. A few hours more and-but she didn't care to dwell loo closely on that.

It was after luncheon that Chris's ppportunity came. Lord Littimer and Grace Rawlins had gone off to inspect something especially beautiful in the way of a waterfall, leaving presses women." Chris and Rawlins alone. The latter was talking brilliantly over his rigarette.

"Is Lord Littimer any relation of yours?" he asked. "Well, yes," Chris admitted. hope he will be a nearer relation be-

fore long." "Oh, you mean to say-may I ven-

ture to congratulate--' "It isn't quite that," Chris laughed, with a little rising in color. "I am not thinking of Lord Littimer, but of his son. Yes, I see you raise your eyebrows-probably you are aware of the story, as most people And you are wondering why I am on such friendly terms with Lord Littimer under the circumstances. And I am wondering why you should call yourself John Smith. The listener coolly flicked the ash from his cigarette. His face was like a mask.

"John Smith is a good name," he said. "Can you suggest a better?" "If you ask me to do so I can. should call myself John Rawlins." There was just the ghost of a

smile on Rawlin's lips.

"There is a man of that name," he said, slowly, "who attained considerable notoriety in the States. People said that he was the derniere cri of refined rascality. He was supposed to be without feeling of any kind; his villainies were the theme of admiration amongst financial magnates. There were brokers who piously thanked Providence because Rawlins had never thought of going on the Stock Exchange, where he could have robbed and plundered with impunity. And this Rawlins always baffles the police. If he baffles them a little longer they won't be able to touch him at all. At present, despite his outward show, he has hardly a dollar to call his own. But he is on to a great coup now, and, strange to say, an honest one. Do you know the man, Miss Lee?" Chris met the speaker's eyes firm-

"I met him last night for the first

time," she said.

"In that case you can hardly be said to know him," Rawlins mur- gets the ace of trumps. And I an- with the ring, and her stubborn remured. "If you drive him into a corner he will do desperate things. If you tried that game on with him you would regret it for the rest of said Chris. your life. Good heavens, you are like a child playing about amidst a of rascal, I am to 'round on my lot of unguarded machinery, Why do pal'?" you do it?" "That I will tell you presently.

Mr. Rawlins, you have a daughter. The hard look died out of the lis-

tener's eyes.

"Whom I love better than my life" he said. "There are two John Rawlins's-the one you know; and, well, the other one. I should be sorry to show you the other one." "For the sake of your daughter I

don't want to see the other one." "Then why do you pit yourself!

against me like this?"

"I don't think you are displaying | your usual lucidity," Chris said, coolly. Her heart was beating fast, but she did not show it. "Just reflect for a moment. I have found you out. I know pretty well what you are. I need not have told you anything of this. I need have done no more than gone to the police and told them where to find you. But I don't want to do that; I hate to do comes off I am going to settle in it after what I saw last night. You have your child, and she loves you. Could I unmask you before her eyes?"

"You would kill her," Rawlins said, a little unsteadily; "and you But to return to our subject. Are would kill me, I verily believe. That you asking me to betray Henson to child is all the world to me. I com- the police?' mitted my first theft so that she "Nothing of the kind," Chris cried, could have the change the doctors hastily. "I-I would do anything to I ask a question or two before you he would return at six in the morn- disquieting symptom. He refused to declared to be absolutely necessary. avoid a family scandal. All I want proceed. Is Mr. David Steel the ing. I intended to repay the money-the is a controlling power over the man. old, old story. And I was found out by my employer and discharged. Thank goodness, my wife was dead. has wrecked the lives of five of us-Since then I have preyed on society. three women. He has parted hus-But I need not go into that sordid band and wife, he has driven the story. You are not going to betray man I love into exile. And the poor me?"

nothing of the kind."

that you have discovered my identi- we have suffered at the hands of the

"Because I want you to help me. I fancy you respect my sex Mr. Raw-

man."

"And yet your friend Reginald Henson is that sort."

Rawlins smiled again. He began to understand a little of what was

"Would you mind going a little more into details?" he suggested. "So Henson is that sort. Well, I didn't know, or he had never had my assistance in his little scheme. Oh, of course, I have known him for years as a scoundrel. So he op-

"He has done so for a long time; he is blighting my life and the life of my sister and another. And it seems to me that I have that rascal under my thumb at last. You cannot save him-you can do no more than place obstacles in my way; but even those I should overcome. And you admit that I am likely to be dangerous to you."

"You can kill my daughter. I am in your power to that extent." "As if I should," Chris said. "It is only Reginald Henson whom want to strike. I want you to answer a few questions; to tell me why you went to Walen's and induced them to procure a certain cigar-case for you, and why you subsequently went to Lockhart's at Brighton and bought a precisely similar one."

Rawlins looked in surprise at the

speaker. A tinge of admiration was on his face. There was a keenness and audacity after his own heart. "Go on," he said, slowly. "Tell me everything openly and freely, and when you have done so I will give you all the information that lies in my

CHAPTER L.

"So Reginald Henson bullies women," Rawlins said, after a long pause. There was a queer smile on his face; he appeared perfectly at his ease. He did not look in the least like a desperate criminal whom Chris could have driven out of the country by one word to the police. In his perfectly-fitting grey suit he seemed more like a lord of ancient acres than anything else. "It is not a nice thing to bully women."

"Reginald Henson finds it quite a congenial occupation," Chris said,

to be known that I am in England. How you have discovered me matters as little as how a card-player about Lady Littimer's adventure derstand that the price of your silence is the betrayal of Henson?"

"That is about what it comes to,"

"In the parlance of the lower type

Mr. Smith.

"I never did such a thing in my life before. And, at the same time, five pounds. Hence the fact that I ed Aunt Judith of the sleepy-looking I don't mind admitting that I was never so sorely tried. At the present | Wells." moment I am on the verge of a large fortune, and I am making my grand coup honestly. Would you deem it exaggeration on my part if I said that I was exceedingly glad of the

"Mr. Smith," Chris said, earnestly, "I have seen how fond you are

of your daughter."

"That is an exceedingly clever remark of yours, young lady," Rawlins smiled. "You know that you have found the soft spot in my nature, and you are going to hammer on it till you reduce me to submission. I am not a religious man, but my one prayer is that Grace shall never find me out. When my coup England and become intensely respectable."

"With Reginald Henson for your secretary, I suppose?"

"No, I am going to drop the past.

"The man who bullies women?" "The same. For seven years he wife is gradually going hopelessly blackmails us, he extorts large sums light. "Then why do you let me know of money from us. If you knew what rascal!"

Rawlins nodded in sympathy. "Of course, I have known for years We hit upon the idea of interviewing dripping, down the wall to the floor. "Call me Smith, please. I have that Henson was pretty bad. You him anonymously, so to speak, and "What a dreadful birthday!" sighed always respected your sex. All the may smile, but I have never had we were going to give him a gun- Mildred. kindness and sympathy of my life any sympathy with his methods and metal cigar-case mounted in dia- Just then s'e heard a noise at the have been from women. And I can hypocritical ways, perhaps because monds. A friend of mine purchased broken window and raised herself on lay my hand on my heart and de- I never did anything of the kind my- that cigarcase at Lockhart's. Mind her elbow to listen. What could it clare that I never yet wronged one self. Nobody can say that I ever you, Reginald Henson knew all about be? Was it a tramp? Was it a of them in thought or deed. The robbed anybody who was poor or this. The same day Henson's tool, burglar? Was it a bear?

my mark. Bit to injure and wound changed the cases." women and children!"

"Which means that you are going to help me?" Chris asked, quietly. pecially as you are going to let came Mr. Steel's. Now note where doggy! O Aunt Judith, did you Henson down easily. Now please Henson's diabolical cunning comes ever, ever see such a cunning little ask me any questions that you

relations or friends?"

"Nobody beyond Lord Littimer. You see, Henson and I were extreme- lins said, thoughtfully. ly useful to one another once or for his methods."

purpose to help him?"

Brighton for some considerable time, get rid of him.' and my daughter was with me. When Metropole."

in Brighton and ask them to show you some gun-metal cigar-cases like the one in Lockhart's window?"

Lockhart's and purchase the cigar- oned Henson he would do." case I had previously seen. He wanted me to get the case so that ly. "Are you sure of this?" I could not be traced. Again I agreed. I was leaving the Metropole the next day, so the matter was easy. I called and purchased the cigar-case on approval, I forwarded dollar-notes in payment from the Metropole, and the next day I left." "And you did all that without a

single question?" "I did. It was only a little consideration for an old confederate." "And suppose that confederate had

played you false?" Two tiny points of flame danced

in Rawlins's eyes. "Henson would never have dared, he said. "My mind was quite easy

on that score." "I understand," Chris murmured. "And you kept the cigar-case?" "Yes, I rather liked it. And could afford a luxury of that kind just then."

"Then why did you dispose of i to Rutter's in Moreton Wells? And why Moreton Wells?"

Rawlins laughed as he lighted a fresh cigarette. "I came to Moreton Wells knowing

Rawlins pulled thoughtfully at his that Henson was at Littimer Castle," he explained. "I went there to "I am to a certain extent in your borrow £200 from Henson. Unforpower," he said. "You have dis- tunately I found him in great need covered my identity at a time when of money. Somebody who had pro-I could sacrifice thousands for it not | mised him a large sum of money had disappointed him.

Chris smiled. She had heard all fusal to give Henson any further sup-

appointed Henson," she said. "But Judith stood before the stove in fancy you being short of-" "Of ready money; I frequently am. British Columbia.

One of your great millionaires told The train had been three hours "If you like to put it in that way, me lately that he was frequently late. It was past eleven, and pour- that, neither," said the witness, pahard up for a thousand pounds cash. ing in torrents. I have frequently been hard-up for sold the cigar-case at Moreton station-master.

"Well, the ground is clear so far," said Chris. "Do you know Van Sneck?"

"I know Van Sneck very well," Rawlins said, without hesitation. "A wonderfully clever man." "And a great scoundrel, I pre-

sume?"

'Well, on the whole, I should say only keep away from the drink he culty. might make a fortune. But what

what I am going to say. A little be a roof over your head, and that's time ago we poor, persecuted women a great thing on a night like this." put our heads together to get free There were two rickety settees in from Reginald Henson. We agreed the room. Aunt Judith made a nest got up out of a warm bed at three to ask Mr. David Steel, the well- of shawls upon one of them for Mil- o'clock of a bitter morning to attend known novelist, to show us a way dred, and settled herself upon the a tiny boy in piteous plight from of escape. Unhappily for us, Henson other. Soon the south-bound train diphtheria. He performed the operagot to know of it.

gentleman who found a man half murdered in his house in Brighton?" | left us in the dark!" "The same. But don't you know |

who the injured man was?" "You don't mean to say it was ter." said Aunt Judith. Van Sneck?" Rawlins cried.

Chris nodded gravely. Rawlins door! He has locked us in?" cried looked like a man who was groping | Mildred, in dismay. "I said before that I should do mad under his cruelties. And he about in a sudden dazzle of blinding

"I begin to understand," he mut- early to-morrow morning." tered. "The scoundrel!"

am a more conest man than hun- from Walen's-a case really procured scratching, then a scrambling, and souvenirs.

"Complex," Rawlins muttered. "But I begin to see what is coming. "The cases were changed, and the "As far as I can, certainly. Es- one from Walen's in due course bein. The same night Van Sneck is doggy?"

found half murdered in Mr. Steel's "This is very good of you," said house, and in his pocket is the re-Chris. "In the first place, did you ceipt for the very cigar-case that the dying coals." ever hear Mr. Henson speak of his Mr. Steel claimed as his own pro-

"Very awkward for Steel," Raw-

Mr. Steel from blame. We should his blue ribbon!" "Did you go to Brighton lately on have had to have told the whole story, and then Henson would have name upon the collar," said Aunt "Certainly not. I had business in learnt what steps we were taking to Judith. "Keep still, you mite, and

Rawlins was quiet for some time. she went away to stay with friends Admiration for the scheme was upfor a short time I moved to the permost in his mind, but there was "Then why did you go to Walen's glance curiously at Chris.

"And that is all you know?" he said she. "Not quite," Chris replied. "I

"Simply because Henson asked me know that on the day of the at- and then cuddled down in the shawls to. He came to me just before I tempted murder Van Sneck quarelled again with him clasped tightly in her went to the Metropole and told me with Reginald Henson, whom he said arms. "What a perfectly beautiful he had a big thing on. He didn't had treated him badly. Van Sneck birthday!" said she. give me the least idea what it was, had in some way found out that When the station-master returned nor did I ask him. He suggested the Reginald Henson meant mischief to in the morning he said that the idea of the cigar-case, and said that Mr. Steel. Also he couldn't get the Yorkshire must have belonged to I need not go near Walen's again, money he wanted. Probably he had some one on the south-bound train, and I didn't. I assure you I had no purchased that cigar-case at Walen's and that probably inquiries would curiosity on the matter. In any case and Henson could not repay him for be made for him. a little thing like that couldn't hurt the purchase of it. Then he went off me. Some days later Henson came and wrote to Mr. Steel, asking the to me again and asked me to go to latter to see him, as he had threat- Mildred. "Ah!" Rawlins exclaimed, sudden-

(To be Continued.)

YOUNG **FOLKS**

COOKIN' THINGS.

When my mother's cookin' things You bet I never wait To put away my ball er gun-I drop 'em where they are an' run

Fer fear I'll be too late. The most exciting kind o' game Er toy, er storybook. I let 'em go, an' never mind, The very minute that I find

My mother's goin' to cook.

When my mother's cookin' things, P'r'aps it's pies to bake, Er doughnuts bobbin' up an' down boilin' grease till they are

brown, Er p'r'aps it's Johnny cake. Whatever kind of thing it is, I always like to hook The biggest piece of dough I can An' bake it in a patty-pan,

When me an' mother cook. -Burges Johnson.

THE FINDING OF TIMOLEEN. "I am sure this is the most dreadful birthday any little girl ever "Presently I can tell you who dis- had!" said Mildred, as she and Aunt

"Can you get us a carriage?" ask-

"Not to-night, ma'am." "How far is it to the village?" "Nearly three miles, ma'am."

wind and Egyptian darkness! Not a is pleased to have done the right very pleasant prospect for a walk!' laughed Aunt Judith.

"O aunty, what ever in the world shall we do?" cried Mildred.

"Stay here all night, I suppose," not. Weak, rather than wicked. Van said Aunt Judith, who had travelled Sneck has been a tool and creature all over Europe and Asia, and was of Henson's for years. If he could never daunted by any ordinary diffi-

"Yes, ma'am," said the stationhas Van Sneck got to do with it?" | master, "that's just what you'll "A great deal," Chris said, drily, have to do. It is not very comfor-"And now, please, follow carefully table here, but at any rate there will

steamed noisily in, but left no pas- tion of tracheotomy and saved the Rawlins was really interested at sengers; and when it had gone, the child's life. station-master took his hat and coat | Time went on and his general con-

"O aunty," cried Mildred, "he has

"The light from the stove is enough. We shall sleep all the bet-"But, O aunty, he has locked the

"No matter," laughed Aunt Jud ith. "He will unlock us bright and

How the wind howled! How the "After that I will resume," Chris rain dashed against the windows! said. "You must understand that One window had a broken pane, and "I did not imagine that," he said. Mr. Steel was a stranger to us. they could hear the water dripping,

dreds of London and New York cap- for your approval-and later on in then something small and white italists. It is the hard rogues the day the case passed from Van bounded into the room, and jumped amongst us who have always been | Sneck to Henson, who dexterously up on Mildred, whining and licking her hands.

Mildred sprang up with a scream at

delight. "Oh, you darling, darling thing! Oh, you sweet, dear wee bit of a

They carried him to the stove and examined him by the faint light of

"A very valuable silver Yorkshire," said Aunt Judith.

"See his tiny black nose and his little pink tongue," said Mil-"Of course it was. And why was dred, "and just feel how soft twice, but he never trusted me, and it done? So that we should be forc- and silky he is. And oh, do I never trusted him. I never cared ed to come forward and exonerate look at his lovely silver collar and

> "Perhaps we shall find his owner's let me see."

> But the collar bore only the one word, "Timoleen."

Mildred was dancing with joy. "O another thought that caused him to Timoleen, darling, you must have come to be my birthday present!"

> She fed him with bits of chicken and cake from their lunch-basket,

"But O my darling Timoleen! I could never, never let him go!" cried "Are you going to be round here

long?" asked the station-master. "About a month," said Aunt Ju-"Well, then, missy, you had better

take the little dog along with you, and you can leave me your address in case any one inquires for him," said the station-master.

But no message ever came from the Yorkshire's cowner, and when Mildred went back to Boston little Timoleen went, too.

A CONSIDERATE JUDGE.

Rarely does a judge show hesitancy in the court-room, or a disposition to change his mind when he has onco publicly expressed it; but an nocount of a refreshing exception is furnished by Sir Henry Hawkins, Lord Brampton, the eminent English justice, in a recent book of reminis-

Baron Martin, whose native lentency and sense of fun often placed him at the mercy of the very men he was trying, was once about to sentence an old offender, charged with a petty theft.

"Look," said the baron, with an assumption of severity, "I hardly know what to do, but you can take six months."

"I can't take that, my lord; it's too much," said the prisoner, respectfully but firmly. "I can't take it. Your lordship sees I didn't steal very much, after all." The baron indulged in one of his

low, chuckling laughs before reply-"Well, that's vera true; ye didn't

steal much," he said. "Well, then, ye can tak' four months. Will that dingy little station far away in do-four months?" "Nay, my lord, but I can't take

"Then tak' three." "That's nearer the mark, my lord." the prisoner said, approvingly. "But I'd rather you made it two, if you will be so kind."

"Vera well, then, tak' two," said "Three miles from the village, rain, the judge, with the air of one who thing at last. "And, mind, don't come again: if you do I'll give yewell, it all depends!"

TERRIBLE TEMPTATION.

An eminent English surgeon, whose brusqueness with grown-ups recalls that of the famous Abernethy, is quite another person when children are his patients. Then he is as amiable as an angel or a big St. Bern-A short time ago, according to St.

James's Budget, this gentle giant

"Pardon me," he said, eagerly, "if and the lantern and went out, saying dition improved, but there was one use his voice. When he was questioned he nodded or shook his head, but would not speak. Finally the surgeon found a way. One morning he talked at his stubborn little pa-

"I'm sorry he can't speak to me, nurse," the surgeon said, "because I'm going up to London to-morrow, and sha'n't know whether to bring him a horse or a gun."

There was a brief silence. The surgeon and nurse waited breathlessly. Then a tiny finger stole up to a wounded throat, and the ghost of a baby boy's voice said:

"Please, doctor, bwing me a lickle

NOBODY WANTS THEM.

You can find lots of people willing to share your joys, but you cannot man who is cruel to women is no defenceless or fooliging By heavens, I Van Sneck, purchased a similar case Again came the noise. First a even give away your sorrows as