

THE MYSTERY CLEARED UP;

OR, THE HERITAGE OF MADAME YALTA.

CHAPTER VIII.—(Cont'd)

"Your friend! He has, then, taken refuge with her?"

"Where else would he go after the events of last night? Justine carried him to her protectress, and he has remained with her."

"That is natural enough; but the asylum is ill chosen for a man who claims to vindicate himself of the charge with which he is accused, for the person who receives him has attempted to open the safe, and one of her accomplices has succeeded. It will not fail to be said that these people all understand each other."

"My friend will request M. Dorgeres to examine all those who took part in the affair of the cassette. They will declare unanimously that M. de Carnoel knew nothing about it, and as they will be compelled to accuse themselves their testimony need not be suspected."

"Well, let him appear and plead his own cause if he has nothing to reproach himself with. I do not say that he will win, but in any event he has little to lose."

"And had he everything to lose he would not hesitate."

"You have, then, seen him?"

"Yes."

"Will he go alone?"

"No. In all probability he would not be received."

"Will it be more likely if he goes with your friend?"

"I shall go with him, and I count on your assistance. Your presence would be indispensable to me."

"I am at your service, but my situation is a difficult one. I have just sworn to my cousin, sworn on my honor, that Robert de Carnoel was unworthy of her."

"You spoke according to your conscience. You will speak differently now that you have more light. And your cousin will believe you now that you have proved to her that you have never disguised your opinion."

"Perhaps. But I doubt whether my uncle will let us see her."

"I have foreseen that, and made arrangements for an interview with your cousin. I have written her that I was in possession of the entire proof of M. de Carnoel's innocence, and begged her to come immediately by the little door on the Avenue de Friedland. After a brief interview, I will return with her myself to her father, and he must receive us."

Maxime would have had more than one objection to urge, but it was now too late. He knew Alice; he knew that she would catch at this last hope, would find means of escape and hasten to the stranger who promised to restore to her the betrothed of her heart. He was roused from these reflections by the sound of a light step approaching through the shrubbery. Madame Yalta, absorbed in her reflections, seemed to hear nothing. Soon a white hand put aside the leaves, a head appeared between two camellia bushes, and Maxime rose, uttering a cry of surprise. He had recognized a face which shone an instant like a ray of sunlight, to be eclipsed almost immediately.

"She!" he exclaimed.

"What do you mean?" asked the countess, raising her head.

"The woman of the Rink—the woman who delivered Carnoel!"

Madame Yalta started. Evidently she was not expecting this visit, and found it inopportune. But she soon recovered herself, and called:

"Justine!"

The branches were put aside again, and the brunette with the golden complexion reappeared. She was beautiful as ever but had changed her toilette. The skater of the Rink, the elegant lady of the opera was modestly clad as became a lady-in-waiting. The butterfly had returned to a chrysalis.

This enigmatical creature came forward deliberately and appeared not at all surprised at seeing Maxime, who, on his part, looked at her in stupefaction.

"What is the matter?" inquired Madame Yalta.

"The person whom Madame the Countess was expecting has just arrived."

"Where have you taken her?"

"Into Madame the Countess' boudoir."

"Villagos has not yet arrived?"

"Not yet; but a box has been brought from him. Madame the Countess will find it on the lacquer table in her sleeping chamber."

"Very well. Leave us."

Justine bowed and went out quickly.

"This girl has just informed me that Mlle. Dorgeres is here," said the countess. "Do you wish to see her?"

"But—I do not know whether I ought," stammered the cousin.

"Yes. Better that you should be present at our interview. Come."

"But—"

"What?"

"The brunette—the accomplice of the thieves—she whom you call Justine—"

"Is my femme de chambre," replied the countess, quietly. "Come, the moments are precious."

As cutting short any further explanations, she rose to leave the conservatory. Maxime followed without a word. He was in a state of extreme agitation.

"Her femme de chambre," he thought.

"The creature who pilfered me of the bracelet is in her service—like the gardener—like the fencing-master—and she has given me to understand that all this pretty set of people took part in the theft of the safe. Am I to suppose that the orders came from her?"

They crossed, without exchanging a word, a corner of the park, meeting with no one, and arrived before a door of the cottage that was unfamiliar to Maxime. The Countess conducted him through corridors and stairways to the large apartments on the first floor. Neither Justine nor the duenna who had twice introduced Maxime, were there to receive them.

Preceded by Madame Yalta, he reached the room in which he had seen her the day before in the great bedstead with pillars and canopies.

"Mlle. Dorgeres is there," she said, pointing to the doorway of Gobelin tapestry, which concealed the entrance to the boudoir. "Do you not think you would do well to speak to her first, and prepare her for what I have to say?"

"No," replied Maxime. "She thinks I have taken sides against Robert de Carnoel, and would not listen to me. She now believes only in you, and is distrustful of me."

He was still speaking when his eyes fell upon an object upon a Chinese lacquer table. It was a box of peculiar shape, widened at the top and closed with a lid.

"There, no doubt, is what Dr. Villagos has sent you," he said.

Madame Yalta opened the strange coffer which was of fir wood, quite rough, and drew from it a bouquet of immortelles.

"A singular gallantry," said Maxime.

The countess did not reply. She let fall the mournful flowers, and he saw that she turned pale.

"I expected it," she said.

"What does M. Villagos mean by this ridiculous present?"

"It signifies my sentence of death."

"Your sentence of death!" exclaimed Maxime.

"Yes; I am condemned."

"Condemned by this miserable Villagos!"

"By the Nihilists, of whom he is the chief. They accuse me of having betrayed them."

"You!"

"I have been allied to them. I deserve my fate."

Maxime was about to cry out, at the duenna whom he had seen before, entered suddenly, and spoke straight to her mistress, and spoke to her in a language he did not understand. The conversation was very short, and the duenna went out on a motion from the countess. Turning toward Maxime, she said shortly:

"Do not ask for explanations. The conversation you are about to hear will tell you all. Go into the boudoir where Mlle. Dorgeres is awaiting me, and beg her to listen with you. In a few moments she

will have the proof that M. de Carnoel is innocent."

"Who is it you are about to receive?"

"You will see—not a word more. Go in; it is better we should not be surprised together."

"Swear to me that you are exposing yourself to no danger."

"None at this moment. You need not close the door, and by hiding behind the tapestry, may hear all that is said."

"And if you should have need of assistance, I would be there," murmured Maxime.

He felt that he loved, in spite of all, this strange woman who now rose against the Nihilists after having co-operated with their dark dealings. It was time for him to disappear. The tapestry had no sooner closed on him that M. Villagos entered.

The doctor of medicine and conspiracies was grave as a justice, and his eyes shone with a deadly light.

The countess was calm, and she advanced deliberately toward him.

"What do you want with me?" she asked. "You have announced the sentence of death that has been passed upon me."

"I wish to question you."

"To what purpose, since I am already condemned?"

"You have accomplices. I wish to know them. Traitors must be punished."

"When I know of what I am accused, I will see whether it suits me to reply to you."

"You are accused of having compromised the success of our plans."

"This vague reply will not answer. Be precise."

"So be it. In the name of the Central Committee, I have forbidden you to interest yourself in a Frenchman suspected of a theft on the banker Dorgeres. You paid no heed to this order. Not only have you charged another Frenchman with the recovery of M. de Carnoel, but have enlisted persons engaged in your service in this work,—subalterns whom we had initiated into all our secrets and who have long worked for us. Your fencing-master, Kardiki, and your femme de chambre, Justine, have taken part in an intrigue, the object of which was to deliver a stranger who, to prove his own innocence, would not fail to designate the guilty party."

"He does not know them."

"But he would know them if I let you live. You have sworn to restore him what he has lost, and you cannot reinstate him without denouncing us."

"Without denouncing myself you mean. You have rightly guessed. I propose to recount to M. Dorgeres, to his daughter, the true history of the theft. I shall tell them by whom it was committed and with what object. He will believe me,

IS THINNESS

EMBARASSING?

Undoubtedly It is to Many a Maiden and Youth—While Even Those Well Along in Years Prefer Well Rounded Figures.

Prescription Increases Weight.

A scrawny, gangling youth or maiden is almost invariably slighted, overlooked or ridiculed in any social gathering. There is something about a plump or well proportioned figure which attracts not only friendship, but love and adulation as well.

People with a proper amount of flesh are favored in all walks of life, while the thin are unblessed, unwelcome and frequently miserable for life. The difference lies in the power of the digestive functions and the ability of the blood and nerves to absorb and distribute over the body the nutrition extracted from the food eaten.

The thin person is abnormal and lacks the power to absorb and retain the flesh and fat elements which the gastric juices in the stomach and intestines should extract or separate from all kinds of food and drink.

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Get in a half pint bottle, three ounces of essence of pepsin and three ounces of syrup of rhubarb; then add one ounce compound essence cardiol; shake and let stand two hours; then add one ounce tincture cadomene compound (not cardamon). Shake well and take a teaspoonful before and after meals, drinking plenty of water between meals and when retiring.

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WHEAT

For I shall bring him an unanswerable proof. I think fit to add that I shall not mention the names of any of those who urged me to it."

"I have no longer faith in your discretion; but I may ask why it is that you turn against us after having so well served us."

"Because I choose to have no dealings with the murderers who have just blown up the Winter Palace," replied the countess, looking fixedly at Villagos.

"Your scruples come rather late. When you took the vow to contend with us against tyranny, you were not ignorant that fire and sword would be employed to destroy it."

(To be continued.)

MISUNDERSTOOD.

"Don't worry; you will get your money, but I can't pay you this month."

"That's what you told me last month."

"Well, haven't I kept my word?"

Ch. merchant, in thin hour of eee, If on this paper you should eee, Take our advice, and now be yyy, Go straightway out and advertiii. You'll find the project of some uuu. Neglect can offer no exqqq. Be wise at once, prolong your daaa. A silent business soon dkkk.

McKenzie Mining and Exploration Company, Limited

(No personal liability. Not subject to call) Incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act.

Head Office: Room 405, Crown Life Building, Toronto

Authorized Capital, \$2,500,000

Divided into 2,500,000 Shares of the par value of \$1.00 each

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The McKenzie mine at Elk Lake has started bagging ore, successful operations at the mine which makes the property a coming shipper. Since the opening of navigation the Elk Lake district is now in full swing and the greatest activity prevails at the various mines and prospects in that vicinity. In the midst of the mines of the district is the McKenzie group of five properties on which work was begun last January. They have been fortunate from the start and soon hope to rank with the shippers.

The "World's" correspondent, Mr. J. B. Spurr, writes on June 6th:

"I visited the McKenzie mine on Saturday and found them opening up one of their new veins by an open cut along a bluff. This vein is about nine inches in width, of which six inches are apite and three inches are calcite. Four shots were put in whilst I was there, and some of the vein was fully nine inches in width showing a strong mineralization of nickel, chalcopyrite and cobalt. The vein matter is similar to that in the main shaft which carries 1,500 oz. of silver to the ton, and from which it is distant about 50 feet. Like the main vein, there is no silver visible near the surface and the open cut will be continued until silver comes in in visible quantity. Then a drift will be run from the main shaft.

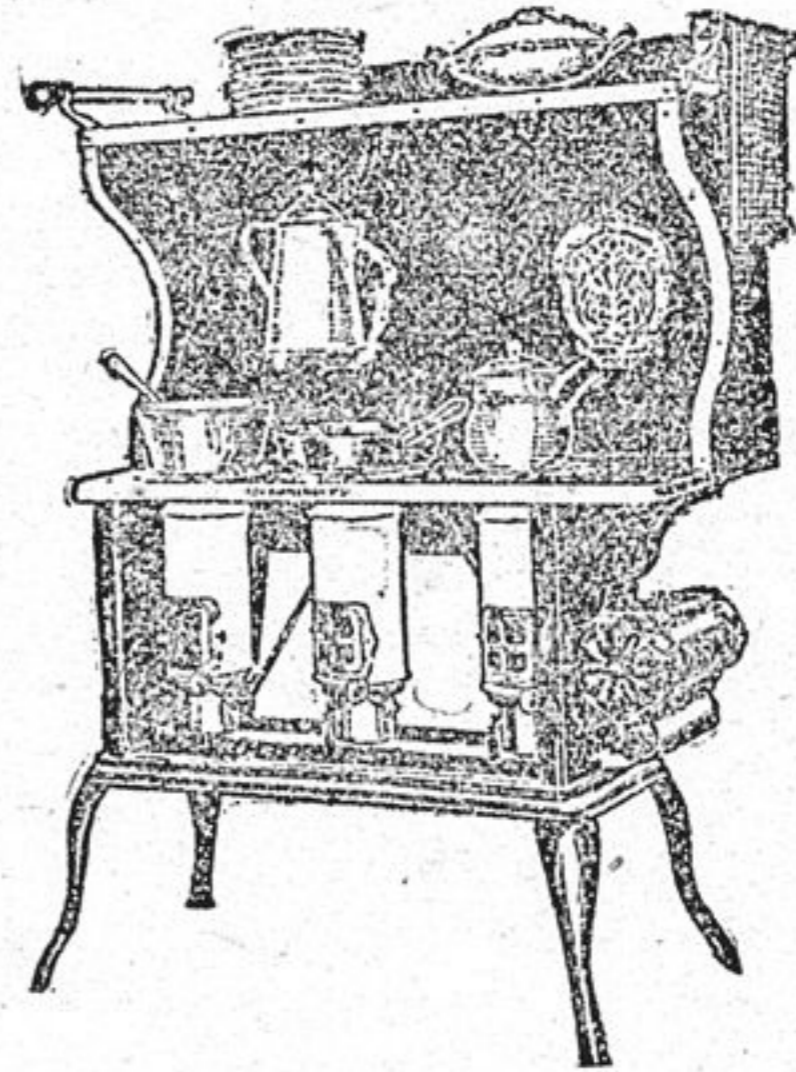
This vein has been traced for over 200 ft. and from it run several smaller veins or off shoots. It is a contact vein in the gabbro in contact with diabase and the rock in the vicinity is much shattered and fissured.

Crossing it is a small stream and indications are favorable to more veins being got in the cross cuts than on the surface, as trenches and pits soon fill with water.

Another vein was uncovered a few days ago close to the bank house about 112 inches in width. Two new veins were also got in the southwest of the property running from an inch to 1 1/2 inches. A derrick has been put up, also an engine house and blacksmith shop. The machinery is at Elk City and will soon be brought to the mine. Considerable work has been done and Mr. Rossiter, the manager, is very hopeful for the future, which, from the present indications, is bright. Should silver be encountered at 20 ft., which is expected, a trial shipment could be made in August.

The McKenzie Mining & Exploration Co.'s stock has been listed on the New York Curb, and the Transfer Agents are the Trusts & Guarantee Co., of Toronto, and the Guarantee Security and Transfer Co. of New York City. I am offering a small block of this stock at 25c. per share, subject to prior sale. I am making a special offer of this stock on installment plan. Write me for information.

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It has a Cabinet Top with shelf for keeping plates and hot. Drop shelves for the coffee pot or saucepans, and nicked towel racks.

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