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The Price of Dishonor ;

Or, The Lord of Verona's Disappointment

CHAPTER XI.

In the council chamber of the Este's summer palace at Ferrara were gathered the heads of the reigning families of Lombardy. At a long table, set across one end of the apartment, two men were seated talking to one another in low voices. They were Ippolito d'Este and Giacomo Carrara, Duke of Padua. D'Este, a stern, grey-haired man of fifty or so, with keen eyes and a hard mouth, was talking rapidly, tapping the white his fingers nervously upon the table.

Carrara, florid, pleasant-mannered, with brilliant black eyes, black hair, and a ready smile, leant forward and listened, observing him keenly. Opposite them, but the length of the table away, a lady with tired eyes and a patient mouth leant back in her chair, motionless, watching the trees seen through the window.

She was Julia Gonzaga, the representative in this gathering in the name of her infant nephew, of the city of Mantua and its domains, the head of the fourth and last great family of Lombardy who dared to raise a hand against the encroachments and the power of Visconti. But if at this council of the chamber the only sound was low converse, all subdued and quiet, at the farther end gay voices and bursts of laughter broke the stillness.

For seated in the broad window-seat, toying with a sprig of myrtle, was Count Conrad, brilliant and light-hearted, clad in the last extreme of fashion, resplendent in primrose velvet and mauve silk, with long scalloped sleeves that swept the ground.

Round his waist was a gold belt suspending, by a jewelled chain, an orange stuck with cloves and enclosed in a case of silver filigree.

Count Conrad also wore earrings, pearl drops that shimmered through his blonde curls, and on each wrist a bracelet; yet even this effeminate could not altogether destroy a certain manliness that was the Count's spite of an almost seeming wish to disglorify it.

Beside him, half leaning through the window, was a youth of twenty, of that brilliant beauty too bright to last.

He too was dressed more like an idle courtier of the Valois court than a fighting noble of the free cities of his lineage.

"Another war!" laughed Conrad. "I have done nought but fight since I left Germany. I am on the sick list."

"Not when the war is of thine own seeking," said Vincenzo. "Because thou needs must fall in love with the Visconti's sister—as if there were not others as fair and far-sister to woo."

Conrad crossed his legs and glanced critically at the taper points of his gold shoes.

"This not my wooing of Visconti's sister has caused war," he replied. "I beseech thee," cried Vincenzo petulantly, "leave me some little rest from mention of his name and wrongs." Ever since you rode into Ferrara, some six days ago, there has been naught else talked of but Masino, Masino's wrongs, what we must do for Masino—till I fair weary at the name."

"You would not risk your all to glut his vengeance?" remarked the Count. "None the less his wife is your sister, and a d'Este."

"No need for the heroics he makes over her, even so. Visconti will not hurt her, yet we must be hurried into war for it, forsooth!"

"I owe Della Scala my life," returned Conrad airily. "I should be the last to speak; still, my wrongs are as many and as deep. I love the Lady Valentine. I have lost my land and my jewels, my house and servants, yet I am quite ready to settle in some other part of Italy—and forget Visconti. I do not go about trying to entice other people into my quarrels."

He sniffed at his orange as he spoke, and breaking off the end of the myrtle, stuck it in his belt. Vincenzo's beautiful eyes flashed. "Art thou a petron of the Count?" cried scornfully. "Loved I a lady and she were kept from me, I would not rest while a stone of the palace that held her remained one on the other."

Ippolito frowned at Vincenzo's face. "You would spend all your time in idleness it seems," he said. "Have ye no interest then in our decision as to the aid Della Scala asks?"

Vincenzo dropped into his seat, seemingly rebuked. "Aid, my father?" he said, "I knew not it was aid Della Scala asked, methought 'twas all!"

"My proposal is an army," said Giacomo smoothly. "A small army, Let us see what success Della Scala has with a small army. Our all is much to ask."

"What say you to that?" asked Ippolito of his son. "With all my heart," returned Vincenzo. "An army small or large, so long as it rids as of my gloomy face about court."

"Thou art an insolent boy," interrupted his father sternly. "At thy sister's wedding thou wert proud that Masino della Scala stooped to pat thee on the head. The Duke of Verona was once as much greater than we are. Vincenzo, then we are higher than a footman. It goes not with nobility nor with honor to slight the fallen."

Vincenzo blushed under his father's rebuke and sat silent. But Giacomo, always ready to smooth things over, turned to the Duchess of Mantua.

"And you," he said, "you, lady, what think you of trusting Della Scala with an army?"

Julia Gonzaga smiled a little wearily. "Where is he, to speak for himself?" she asked. "We are waiting for him," Ippolito replied. "He said he would be with us. He is late," he added testily.

"Doubtless the hour has escaped him," put in Giacomo pleasantly. "The Duke of Verona will not fail us."

"He will disappoint us—if he turns up," said Vincenzo under his breath. But Conrad caught the whisper and choked with a suppressed laugh—not that the remark was funny, but that Count Schumbourg was foolish. Ippolito's stern eyes were turned on him.

"This is a council of war?" he asked, "or a gathering of?"

"A council of war," interposed Conrad hastily, with his most winning smile.

But d'Este looked on him with mistrust; he had no love for the light-hearted German.

Still Masino came not, and Giacomo moved with a great show of patience and forbearance.

"This scarcely the way to treat with us," he said. "This treatment good enough for those who bear it," breathed Vincenzo, and Conrad sniffed his orange. Ippolito's brow grew dark; he struck a gong beside him, and a page appeared.

"Tell my lord of Verona we wait for him," he turned to the others. "This agreed," he said quickly, "that we furnish Della Scala with a small army—to be contributed between us."

Carrara moved in silent assent; in Julia Gonzaga's face a faint scorn showed.

A silence fell, broken only by the tapping of d'Este's fingers on the polished table.

he looked questioning round upon the others. No one answered, and, taking silence for consent, Ippolito continued: "We will aid thee, Mastino, I and Carrara, and the Duchess of Mantua."

He paused a little nervously, and Giacomo kept his bright black eyes on Masino's face.

"My lord of Ferrara says right," he put in smoothly. "I will second him."

The note of condescension in the Duke of Padua's voice stung Della Scala sharply; it was only with an effort he controlled himself.

"With what will you aid me?" he asked calmly.

Still d'Este hesitated, for his proposal was mean even in his own eyes, and Giacomo answered for him in even tones: "We will aid you with an army of ten thousand men, Lord della Scala, to be recruited from Padua, Mantua, and Ferrara; well armed and—"

But Della Scala had risen. "Spare thyself a catalogue of their virtue, my lord of Padua," he said. "For I refuse thy offer."

Giacomo paled with anger; his merchant descent was a sore point, and Masino's words struck home.

"Refuse?" exclaimed Ippolito. "Ten thousand men?"

Della Scala glanced at him with scorn. "Ten thousand men?" he echoed. "Yes, I refuse ten thousand men. I thought, thou once loved me, d'Este, and wert too much of a soldier to dishonor me by such a proposal."

"We can make it more," began Ippolito.

"Dost thou not think I can see through this?" interrupted Masino bitterly. "This offer is but given to get rid of me—a safer way of dismissing me from the court than once being to entertain me to thy princely refusal. Ten thousand men? I thought better of thee, d'Este."

"Then fifty thousand," replied Ippolito, stung by the reproach. "A royal number," put in Conrad, but Della Scala turned on them in fury.

"No!" he cried. "Not fifty nor a hundred thousand men, I make sport for Visconti's leisure hours. Visconti who holds nine towns of mine, one town who is leagued with France and has the Empire at his heels, Visconti who has gained Bergamo, Lodi, and Bologna and has half the mercenary of Italy in his pay! No, d'Este, I have been too great for that. Since you so forget what I have been, and who my wife is—I will leave thee, nor trouble thy peace for men thou canst not give ungrudgingly. And thou, Carrara, I will leave thee—in thy blind folly, to wait for Visconti's eye to fall on thee; all thy prudence will not save thee then. Meanwhile, I will try in the towns of Tuscany if there be men left in Italy to face a tyrant!"

They sat silent beneath his wrath, and he turned to go, but paused and looked back to them with a glance they could not meet.

"Only hear this before I go," he said passionately; "there is one thing thy faithfulness shall not touch, one thing thou shalt have out thy aid, though thy meanness leaves me, and that is, as thy cry, the freedom"—his voice trailed— "of Isotta, my wife. I will free her," he continued sternly. "Before you all I mean it; she shall be saved, even if mine honor goes to do it."

And he turned away, but Count Conrad rose, roused out of himself by the excitement Masino had inspired.

"I will follow thee," he cried. "What wouldst thou have, Masino?" cried Ippolito after him, half-distracted. "What wouldst thou have?"

Della Scala turned in the middle of the chamber, magnificent in his wrath and pain. "All," he said proudly. "All thou canst give, and above all, thy trust. I am no boy to be put off with a few words. I need Modena, Ferrara, Padua, every town of Lombardy that is in thy hands; all thy money, all thy troops, everything thou canst give—and then I will crush Visconti. When I fell it was through my foul treachery. I will league with no half-hearted friends again."

And again he turned to leave, this time Conrad at his heels; when a soft voice arrested him, Julia Gonzaga's.

"I have this to say before thou leavest us, Della Scala," she said. "All I have, Mantua and its lands, are at thy disposal, and I am proud to great a captain as my lord of Verona should command my men."

"While I live thou shalt not repent." "Meanwhile Giacomo Carrara's prudent brain had rapidly concluded it would be most to his advantage, at least for the moment, to side openly with Della Scala, even in this wholesale fashion."

"I too am of the same mind," he said pleasantly and frankly. "All I have is thine, Della Scala."

"Then in a few days I will march on Verona," cried Masino, "and with thy generous aid I shall recover it! My heart is too full, I cannot speak my thanks," he continued, "but by my honor and my sword I swear, thou d'Este, thou Carrara, and thou lady, shall never regret thy trust in me."

(To be continued.)

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—Flour—Ontario best 90 per cent, patents \$3.90 to \$4.40 in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, \$5.60 on track, Toronto; second patents, \$5, and strong bakers', \$4.90.

Wheat—Manitoba wheat, \$1.12½ for No. 1 Northern, and \$1.09½ for No. 2 Northern. Georgian Bay ports, No. 1 Northern, \$1.18, all rail, and No. 2 Northern \$1.13, all rail.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white 47 to 47½c on track, Toronto; No. 2 Western Canada oats, 46½c, lake ports, and No. 3, 44c, lake ports.

Rye—No. 2 67 to 68c outside. Barley—No. 2 barley 58c outside; No. 3 extra 55½c to 56c, and No. 3 52 to 53c.

Buckwheat—55½ to 56c, outside. Peas—No. 2, 57c outside. Corn—No. 2 American yellow, 70½ to 71c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 yellow, 69½ to 70c, Toronto. Canadian corn, 65 to 66c, on track, Toronto.

Bran—Cars, \$21 in bulk outside. Shorts \$23 in bulk outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—\$4 to \$5.50 for choice qualities, and \$3 to \$3.50 for cooking purposes.

Beans—Prime, \$1.90 to \$2, and handpicked, \$2.10 per bushel.

Honey—Combs, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per dozen, and strained, 10½ to 11c per pound.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, \$10.50 to \$11 per ton on track here, and lower grades \$9 to \$10 a ton.

Straw—\$6.50 to \$7.50 on track. Potatoes—Ontarios, 60 to 65c per bag.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 12 to 13c per pound; fowl, 10 to 11c; ducks, 13 to 14c; geese, 12 to 13c; turkeys, 17 to 18c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 22 to 24c; tubs and large rolls, 20 to 22c; inferior, 18 to 19c; creamery rolls, 27 to 28c, and solids 23 to 25c.

Eggs—Case lots of cold storage, 25 to 26c; select, 27 to 28c, and new laid, 29c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, 13½c per pound, and twins, 13½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 11½ to 11¾c per pound in case lots; mess pork, \$20 to \$20.50; short cut, \$23 to \$24.

Hams—Light to medium, 13½ to 14c; do., heavy, 12½ to 13c; rolls, 10½ to 11c; shoulders, 10 to 10½c; backs, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 18½ to 16c.

Lard—Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12½c; pails, 13c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 16.—Peas—No. 2, \$2 to 55c. Oats—Canadian Western No. 2, 48 to 48½c; extra No. 1 feed, 47½ to 48c; No. 1 feed, 46½ to 47c; Ontario No. 2, 47c; Ontario No. 3, 46c; Ontario No. 4, 45c. Barley—No. 2, 63½ to 65c; Manitoba feed barley, 55 to 55½c; buckwheat, 55½ to 56c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$5.60; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, \$5.10; Manitoba strong bakers', \$4.90; Winter wheat patents, \$5.20 to \$5.45; straight rollers, \$4.50 to \$4.90; straight rollers, in bags, \$2.25 to \$2.35; extra, in bags, \$1.90 to \$2. Feed—Manitoba bran, \$21 to \$22; Manitoba shorts, \$21; Ontario bran, \$22 to \$22.50; Ontario shorts, \$21 to \$21.50; Ontario middlings, \$24.50 to \$25; pure grain, mouille, \$25 to \$29; mixed mouille, \$25 to \$27. Cheese—Finest western, 12½ to 12¾c; easterns, 12½ to 12¾c. Butter—Winter creamery, 26c; Fall creamery, 24c; fresh receipts, 23c; dairy rolls, 20c. Eggs—New laid, 33 to 35c; selected stock, 28 to 29c; No. 1 stock, 25 to 26c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Detroit, Feb. 16.—Wheat—No. 1 white, cash, \$1.12; No. 2 red, cash, \$1.13; May, \$1.13½; July, \$1.03.

Cash, \$1.14½; May, \$1.09½; July, 99½c.

Buffalo, Feb. 16.—Wheat—Spring wheat, easy; No. 1 Northern, carloads, store, \$1.17½; Winter steady; No. 2 red, \$1.14½; No. 3 extra red, \$1.13; No. 2 white, \$1.12½; No. 2 mixed, \$1.13; Corn—Higher; No. 3 yellow, 67 to 67½c; No. 4 yellow, 66½ to 68½c; No. 3 corn, 66½ to 68c; No. 4 corn, 66 to 66½c. Oats—Higher; No. 2 white, 55½ to 56c; No. 3 white, 54½ to 55c; No. 4 white, 53½c. Barley—Feed to malting, 65 to 70c.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—Very few exporters were offering, and prices continue firm, with a moderate demand for choice steers and heifers. There was a strong demand for choice butcher cattle; everything was quickly cleared and more wanted. Sheep and lambs—Steady demand and prices firm at last quotations. Hogs—Select at \$6.50 f.o.b., and \$6.75, fed and watered.

ANOTHER GIFT FOR MCGILL.

Anonymous Friend Contributes One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

A despatch from Montreal says: McGill has just received another \$100,000, but the name of the donor is kept secret. Principal Peterson announced on Wednesday night that McGill was trying to secure half a million dollars. Of this amount \$100,000 was already contributed, \$50,000 being given by Mr. Robert Reford. Principal Peterson stated that the new gift of \$100,000 was conditional on the half million being raised. The resignation of Prof. Owens of the Science Department was accepted.

A STREAM OF LAVA.

Flowing Down the Side of a Mexican Volcano.

A despatch from Mexico City says: Another earthquake occurred in the vicinity of Colima on Tuesday. A violent eruption of the volcano followed the quake. A ridge of lava about a mile long is streaming down one side of the volcano. No fatalities have resulted so far as known. The region affected is barren. The famous old well known as the Dos Bocas, which for months shot a column of flames and smoke into the air for many hundreds of feet, has turned into a geyser, and fears are entertained that eventually the well, which for so long has furnished a grand spectacle of the powers of nature, may become an active volcano. The first evidences of this were made apparent on Tuesday, when, in addition to the great volume of boiling water which is lifted heavenward at the rate of 25,000 gallons each twenty-four hours, a large quantity of volcanic stone was thrown out.

DEIEM HIS GUILT.

Last Words of Stephen Swayryda Before Hanging.

A despatch from Brampton says: Stephen Swayryda, Galician, was hanged on Thursday morning in the jail yard here at 8 o'clock. At 8.12 the jail physician, Dr. D. Heggie, pronounced the man dead. Swayryda's last words were uttered in the corridor after his hands had been manacled behind his back and after he had bidden farewell to his confessors and others. They were: "Please, people, I no guilty. I may be guilty before people, but not before God." At 8.30 the body was placed in a coffin and viewed by Coroner Lawson's jury, who afterwards returned the customary verdict. The body was interred later on in a grave dug in the north corner of the jail yard.

BOMB FOR LORD MINTO.

Attempt to Take Viceroy's Life Near Calcutta.

A despatch from Calcutta says: A bomb was thrown at a railroad train near Barrackpore, fifteen miles north of here, on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday an investigation resulted in the suspicion that the act was an attempt upon the life of Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India. The Viceroy was due to pass this spot on his way to Assam, but it so happened that he was on another train. The explosion of the bomb did not result in injury to anyone.

THE FOURTH VICTIM.

Death of Miss Gertrude Slack from Injuries Sustained at Fire.

A despatch from Montreal says: The fourth daughter of Mr. G. W. Slack of the Bell Telephone Co., died on Thursday. In the fire at home on Jan. 24 three daughters were burned to death. On Thursday Gertrude, aged 19, died in the Western Hospital. She had been badly burned, and also injured internally by jumping. Two other daughters are in the hospital in a serious condition.

A ROMANCE BLOCKED.

Girl on Her Way to Marry Iowa Farmer Turned Back.

A despatch from Port Huron says: Fascinated by the alluring offers of a Cleveland matrimonial agency, Jean McTavish, a prep school Toronto girl, left home on Monday, bound for Iowa, to marry a farmer of that State, but when she arrived in Port Huron her dreams were rudely shattered by the immigration officers here. She was highly indignant, but she was deported all the same.

PROSECUTOR SHOT DEAD.

Murdered by a Bengali in Court in Suburb of Calcutta.

A despatch from Calcutta says: Ashutosh Biswas, a public prosecutor, was shot dead on Wednesday in the court of Alipour, a suburb of Calcutta, by a youthful Bengali. Biswas was the official who prosecuted the recent anarchistic conspiracy case. This revival of assassination, after a period of comparative quiet, has caused a sensation. The murderer was arrested.

AN ARBITRATION TREATY

Has Been Concluded Between Great Britain and the United States.

A despatch from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, says: Ambassador James Bryce of Great Britain was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the annual banquet of the Milwaukee Merchants and Manufacturers' Association on Wednesday night. The Ambassador spoke with satisfaction of the treaties concluded, or almost concluded, between the United States and Great Britain.

"It is a pleasure to me," he said, "and I am sure it ought to be so to all Americans and to all Canadians that the friendship between you and the people of Canada has steadily grown, and that your Government and ours have lately been able to conclude three treaties designed to remove possible causes of dispute between the two peoples. One of these provides for the exact delimitation of the

boundary between the two countries; another for salvage operations; a third for regulating and developing the fisheries in the great lakes.

"We have also concluded a treaty of great importance for the friendly arbitration of all questions that may hereafter arise between the United States and the British Empire, and within the last few weeks your late Secretary of State and I have signed two other treaties, one for the arbitration of questions relating to the North Atlantic fisheries, and the other regulating the use of waters on the boundary between the United States and Canada. This last is a matter of the greatest consequence because questions left unsettled on this boundary might easily give rise to vexatious controversy."

DIVORCES IN CANADA.

Twenty-four Applications to Come Before Senate (this Session).

A despatch from Ottawa says: There are now twenty-four applications for divorce to be considered by the Senate at the present session. This constitutes a record in divorce cases for any one session of Parliament. The cases are all from Quebec, Ontario and the three prairie Provinces, there being special divorce courts in the other Provinces of the Dominion.

Last year only five divorces were granted by Parliament, and since confederation the total has been sixty-six.

J. J. HILL'S ACTIVITIES.

Petitions in Legislature for Right to Build Railways.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Petitions are now before the Manitoba House and bills will shortly be introduced for allowing James J. Hill to build further railways in the province, and also to form a company which will purchase all these railways and control them under one name. This legislation will permit the Hill forces to concentrate their work in the province.

CHICAGO CORNED BEEF.

Firm Secured Contract to Supply British Army for Three Years.

A despatch from London says: A Chicago firm has been awarded a contract to supply the British army with corned beef for a period of three years. The first delivery, between \$59,900 and 1,000,000 pounds, will be made next July, and further deliveries will be in accordance with the requirements of the army. The meat will be packed in Chicago under the supervision of British army officers.

A FEAST OF HUMMING-BIRDS.

Five Hundred to be Eaten at Banquet in Texas.

A despatch from Tampico, Mex., says: A game dealer in Tampico has received an order from Harry J. Benson of San Antonio, for 500 humming birds, which are to be served at a banquet to be given in that city. Humming birds are plentiful in this region, and the order will be filled easily.

INVITATION TO CANADA.

Asked to Send Delegates to Congress.

A despatch from C. W. Wyoming, says: James Byrnes, Ambassador of Great Britain, forwarded from Washington a station of the Dairy Farming congress to the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, in order that the Dominion may be represented at the congress here, Feb. 23.

TO LIGHT NIAGARA FALLS

The Cities on Both Sides of the River Will Install a Plant.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, N. Y., says: Plans to make the illuminating of Niagara Falls by electricity a permanent feature of this resort are rapidly nearing completion, and at a meeting held on Wednesday afternoon the committee in charge practically decided to secure the power that probably twice the power of that used two years ago, when the experiment was first made.

The committee, consisting of members of the Boards of Trades of the two cities on either side of the river and Mayor R. P. Slater,

of Niagara Falls, Ont., met with Mayor Anthony C. Douglas in the latter's office, where they held a conference with W. D'Arcy Ryan, illuminating expert.

The committee propose to install a plant that will require an operating force of at least 700 horsepower. Mr. Ryan and City Engineer Robbins, of this city, spent the greater part of Wednesday afternoon making measurements and picking the locations for the proposed batteries. Mr. Ryan will make a report upon the approximate cost of the equipment next week.