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The.... Laird's Secret

CHAPTER XVII.

No sooner had the figure of the girl disappeared up the heights leading to the seashore, than Edward Linné turned to proceed upon his way. As he did so he came face to face with a man—no other, indeed, than the young stranger from America.

With a scowl he was passing by when the stranger, with insolent familiarity, laid his hand upon his shoulder.

"Stop a bit!" he said. "I want a word or two with you."

Edward Linné looked at him in surprise. His bold, reckless bearing, his careless freedom of manner, were more strongly emphasized than ever.

"I have no time to stand talking. I am wanted at the Castle."

"You could spare time for a flirtation with that pretty lass. You can spare a few minutes longer for a friend."

The words relieved Linné's mind to some extent; for they seemed to be taken from the speaker's own mouth. The words of the interview which had just taken place.

"You are no friend of mine," he cried impatiently. "I don't know you."

"Oh yes, you do," returned the other. "We have met before, and are likely to meet again. I reckon, I think I can be of service to you, for unless my ears greatly deceive me, you're in a devil of a fix."

"What do you mean?"

"Girl in the way? Another girl whom you like better waiting for you at the Castle?"

"Damn you, you've been listening!" cried Linné, taken off his guard.

"Right you are," returned the other, laughing. "I always keep my eyes and ears wide open. I learned that out west. Come, you'd better square me. I want money, for between you and me, I'm down to my bottom dollar."

"Let me pass," cried Linné, pushing the other aside.

"All right!" cried the other, with a shrug of the shoulders. "If you won't talk, I'll go and have some conversation with your wife."

Furious with rage, Linné turned again and faced his tormentor.

"Who are you?" he asked between his set teeth.

"Name, Roberts—Hungry Jim, they used to call me in Colorado. Ready to drink, play or fight with any man, and as valuable as a special Providence to any man who would make it worth my while."

"I see, a vagabond! but you have come to the wrong shop if you want assistance."

"Now, don't you be a damn'd fool!" replied the young man, good-humoredly. "I know all the ropes of the ship you're sailing. The old man is dead, and you're in for the succession. Well, that looks like fine work. But there's a storm ahead, and if you don't look out, it'll sink you to the bottom. Yes, sirree!"

By this time Linné had recovered his self-possession. He looked the speaker from head to foot thoughtfully, as he said:

"I am not to be intimidated. Whatever you know, it cannot be of much consequence to me. If you listened to that girl's talk, you listened to the talk of a fool."

"Guess most women are fools. What about the other?"

"What other?"

"The young lady they call Miss Marjorie. By-the-by, has the old man left her anything in his will?"

"His will!" repeated Linné nervously. "How do you know there is any will?"

"Certain to be. He was just the sort to make all right and square," said Linné. "You talk very glibly of things you know nothing about."

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Oct. 31.—Wheat—Ontario—No. 2 red and mixed are quoted at 75c to 76c, at outside points, with No. 2 white at 76c, and goos and spring at 70c.

Wheat—Manitoba—Prices at lake ports are firmer, No. 1 hard 86c to 86 1/2c, No. 1 northern 83c to 83 1/2c, No. 2 northern 81c to 81 1/2c, and No. 3 northern 79c.

Flour—Ontario—Exporters are bidding \$3.05 for 90 per cent. patent, and \$4.40 to \$4.50 for 100 per cent. patent.

Manitoba—\$4.90 to \$5 for first patents, \$4.20 to \$4.60 for second patents, and \$4.40 to \$4.50 for 100 per cent. patent.

Blended for domestic consumption are \$3.40 to \$3.50 outside in car lots.

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HALIFAX IN DANGER.

Flames Near Dynamite Caused a Panic.

A Halifax despatch says: The spectacular blaze which broke out on George's Island, the Imperial fortress in Halifax harbor, caused a thrill of excitement in the city. The island is directly opposite the citadel, and is within a quarter of a mile of the important docks and a large section of the south end residential district. The fire broke out about 8 o'clock on Friday night, and rapidly assumed the proportions of a conflagration. The island is situated on a small level space on the eastern side where were the living quarters of the artillery, the storeroom and repairing shops of the submarine mining corps of the Royal Engineers. There the fire broke out, and as the fire-fighting apparatus on the island was of little power it soon gained headway. The night was calm, and the great blaze lighted up the whole harbor and caused so great a reflection that thousands of people were drawn to the waterfront. Harbor tugs were rushed to the island and hundreds of bluejackets from Prince Louis' cruiser squadron hurried to the scene in steam launches. The tars did great work, and after an hour's exertions the flames were subdued.

Thousands of pounds of gun cotton used by submarine miners, are stored underground on the island, and considerable anxiety was felt lest a concussion would cause it to ignite. Happily no accident occurred. George's Island is one of the strongest fortresses, and commands entirely the inner harbor. This is the first loss suffered by the Imperial authorities since the great citadel fire seven years ago.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The property loss is not large, but it is believed a quantity of platinum was destroyed, which may well total to fifty thousand dollars.

Butter—The market is steady. Creamery prints 22c to 23c do solids 21c to 21 1/2c Dairy h. rolls, good to choice 19c to 20c do medium 17c to 18c do tubs, good to choice 17c to 18c do inferior 15c to 16c

Cheese—The local prices for jobs lots hold steady at 12c to 12 1/2c. Potatoes—Ontario stocks are quoted at 60c to 70c per bag on track, and 7c to 8c out of store. New Brunswick at 8c per bag on track and 9c to 10c out of store.

Poultry—Dressed turkeys are 16c to 17c; live weights are, turkeys 13c to 14c, fat hens 6c to 7c, thin 6c to 7c, chickens 8c to 9c, thin 6c to 7c, ducks 7c to 8c.

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LYNCH LAW IN RUSSIA

Lives of Officials and Police Constantly Snuffed Out.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Telegraph draws a sensational picture of the strike situation. He says, among other things that meetings are being held everywhere in the provinces, and that speeches are being made by anybody and everybody. Demands are being formulated which the Government would not grant if it could and could not if it would. Resolutions are being passed unanimously and enthusiastically to continue the strike until these demands are conceded. Downright frenzy, revolutionary frenzy, seems to have seized the entire people, who rush headlong as though literally possessed, and resolved to bring ruin on themselves, or else end the odious regime, which is dying too slowly. There are no people's tribunals at work, as in revolutionary France, but there are executions enough, which are carried out in ways that merit the local vengeances. Every morning paper brings lists of officials, police, Cossacks, administrators, and even watchmen, whose lives have been suddenly snuffed out during the night.

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