THE MYSTERY CLEARED UP;

OR, THE HERITAGE OF MADAME YALTA.

CHAPTER VIII.—(Cont'd)

"The same which he had in preventing you from seeing me. He went to your house expressly to persuade you that I would be absent till to-morrow. This falsehood had an object. If I had not met you by a miracle, I should not have seen you to-day, and Villagos calculated that to-morrow you would no longer belong to this world."

"What! Villagos who boasts of his devotion to you; Villagos conspire against you! I dare not say against us, though you do me the honor of including me in the proscription you accuse him of meditating."

"Do not jest. Nothing is more serious; I will prove it to you presently. In the meanwhile let us talk of something else. Have you seen your cousin since the events of last night?"

"I have just seen her."

"Alone?"

"No; her father was present. The scene was a very painful one. I did not conceal from her what I thought of M. de Carnoel. Alice did not contradict me, but she declared positively that she would never marry."

"That signifies that she does not believe a word of your allegations, and that she intends to be constant to the absent one until his innocence shall appear. She is a woman; she has faith."

"You approve, then, of her persevering in her allusions?"

"Assuredly."

"And I have been counting on you to make her listen to reason!"

"Not a word more. We will resume our conversation in a few moments, for here we are."

The Russian trotter had vanquished the distance, and though Madame Yalta had taken the longest route, they were entering the Avenue de Friedland by the Place de l'Etoile.

She stopped Nedji before the little gate by which Maxime had first entered with Dr. Villagos. This private entrance opened at a stroke of the bell by the valet de pied, who took the reins and received from his mistress an order in a foreign tongue.

The countess passed in first and took a side walk which wound through a lawn and ended in an immense conservatory.

"Here," said Madame Yalta, "we may speak freely; no one will interrupt us."

"Not even the doctor?" asked Maxime, laughing.

"No; if he comes he will be told I have not returned."

"Do you intend never to receive him again?"

"I shall see him once more for the last time."

"He has, then, decided to pass over to the enemy?"

The question to which Maxime attached no importance made the countess start.

"No," she replied, slowly; "it is I who wish to separate from him."

And as Maxime seemed astonished, she added,

"Come, you shall know all."

At one of the extremities of the conservatory, was a rendezvous furnished in a manner appropriate to a sylvan boudoir; divans covered with Japanese stuff, rocking chairs and a bamboo table.

"So," said Madame Yalta when they were seated, "You saw M. de Carnoel last night?"

"I had a glimpse of him, for he simply appeared and disappeared. Borisoff brought him in a close carriage, which he drove himself under a good escort, to the house where his accomplice awaited him. He left it almost immediately by scaling the garden wall. What means the woman took to draw him from the clutches of this Russian, I cannot tell, but I am anxious that you should know that her associate and auxiliary in this enterprise was your fencing-master."

To Maxime's great amazement, this revelation was received with perfect indifference.

"Ah!" she said tranquilly, "you recognized Kardiki?"

"Yes, though he was dressed as a gentleman. He dined at Bignon's with M. Borisoff who treated him like a comrade, and never suspected, certainly, the trick that was about to be played on him."

"Kardiki is very adroit."

"But do you not think he is betraying you?"

"Why? He is a Polish refugee and has a right to counteract the designs of a Russian spy."

"Then you do not take in bad part that he should have aided a band of rogues, for this creature and this Carnoel hve been associated with the people who opened my uncle's safe with a false key."

"You are mistaken. M. de Carnoel does not know them, and he saw last night, for the first time the woman who rescued him."

"But she at least is, beyond doubt, a thief."

"No more than he is."

"You are not aware that they found on this wretch the fifty thousand francs taken from the safe."

"It was M. Borisoff who found them, was it not?"

"He has just placed them in my uncle's hands together with a letter written by Carnoel to account for being in possession of this sum. It was sent to him, he claims, by a friend of his father, an anonymous friend."

"Or by an enemy who invented this ruse to ruin him. One of the two explanations is true, I grant."

At this moment a sound attracted Maxime's attention, and turning he saw a gardener approaching, a rake on his shoulder and watering-pot in his hand.

The height and broad shoulders of this man attracted his attention and on looking at his face, he recognized him immediately as the person who had been successively porter in the house in Rue Jouffroy and protector of the false Madame Sergent.

This singular apparition drew from Maxime a cry of surprise, which made the suspicious gardener raise his head.

"What is the matter?" asked the countess, quietly."

"That man!"

"He has the charge of my flowers He came to make the round of the conservatory, and is going off for fear of disturbing us."

In fact, the man with the rake, after respectfully taking off his straw hat, was retracing his steps.

"But he—he too knows the thief. It was he who formerly kept the house in Rue Jouffroy, and afterward played the role of foreign lord, protector of this jade. I quarrelled with him, and we were to fight next day."

"You see it is well you did not do so. You would have crossed swords with a domestic."

"And you are not astonished to learn that your gardener is also the accomplice of this worthy friend of M. de Carnoel?"

"I am astonished at nothing; but I understand that everything will be a surprise to you, and the time has come to make known what I should have preferred to keep from you. Learn, then, that I know by whom and why this theft was committed."

"You knew it, and you did not tell!"

"Listen before you judge. And first remember that they took from your uncle's safe only a casket belonging to a Russian spy. You will object that they took also a sum of money. I will come to that presently, and will prove to you that things were not as has been supposed."

"Then the thieves were Nihilists?"

"The government which employs Col. Borisoff has other enemies than Nihilists. All the proscribed, all who defended the independence of Poland, and who live in exile far from their conquered country. This Borisoff's mission was to watch and denounce the Nihilists, whose aim is to destroy everything and the oppressed who still struggle against their oppressors. The casket deposited with your uncle contained written proofs of a vast conspiracy against Russian tyranny. The papers had been given up by a traitor, who has met with his deserts, and the patriots whom they compromised wished to regain them at any cost."

"And they could do no better than steal them."

"In their eyes the end justified the means. Two of them resolved to make the attempt."

"And one of them was a woman."

"Yes; a woman devoted to the cause she served—devoted even so far as to sacrifice her life, and more than her life—her honor. The other was a Polish refugee, who had passed ten years in the mines of Siberia, to which Russian despotism had condemned him, and was prepared to do anything for the sake of vengeance."

"Prepared to do anything; that is just the word," said Maxime, between his teeth.

The misfortunes of the Polish insurgents affected him very moderately, whilst he had true tradesman-like ideas of the sacredness of a banker's safe.

"They went together one evening," resumed the countess, "and reached your uncle's offices without difficulty. Some one awaited them there who had procured a key, and indicated the word to open it. The woman wanted to operate herself, and you know what it cost her. He who gave her the information was ignorant of the terrible mechanism, whose claws seized her hand as she introduced the key into the lock."

"I had no difficulty in guessing the beginning of the story, and I know the end. But I have often wondered what came to pass when the thief found herself caught."

"She whom you call the thief tried to extricate herself," replied the countess. "Her friends tried to deliver her. They could not discover the spring that had to be touched to withdraw the apparatus. Time was passing; some one might have come in, and if she had been surprised all was lost. She did not hesitate. She commanded the man who accompanied her to cut off her hand."

"And he consented to render this frightful service?"

"He was under her orders; he obeyed. He had a poniard, large and sharp; with one blow the hand was severed."

"And this strange heroine did not die? She did not fall fainting on the floor?"

"She had strength to stand, and conquered her pain. Her companion, who had served in war, knew something about wounds; he tied up the wrist, and led off the wounded woman, who was scarcely able to stand."

"She was dressed as a man, was she not?"

"Yes."

"Then it was she and her accomplice whom Vignory and I met in the gateway. We saw the light, and entered the office—"

"Where you found the hand. To remove it your friend Vignory touched the spring. You believed yourselves alone, but some one saw you—heard you. This thief, as you call her, knew that you had taken her bracelet, and that it was your intention to search for her, to conduct by yourself an inquest which belonged of right to the agents of the prefecture of police."

"Good! the traitor heard my conversation with Vignory and made his report to her who paid him.

"You are partly right. Only he was not paid, but he told what he had heard, and she whose destruction you swore, swore to regain possession of the bracelet. She had all the forces of the association of the proscribed at her disposal, and to recover the jewel which might have betrayed her, she made choice of a woman skilful and bold."

"The woman of the Rink!"

(To be continued.)

TORTURED FOR SEVEN YEARS

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" HER SALVATION

MADAM JOSEPH LIRETTE
No. 111 George St., Sorel, Que.

"For seven years I suffered from womb disease and dreadful torturing pains, and I had constant Dyspepsia and Chronic Constipation—the latter so bad that sometimes I went ten days without action of the bowels. Six different doctors treated me and for a year I was in bed, constantly facing death. Then my husband coaxed me to try "Fruit-a-tives" and this medicine, and nothing else, cured me and saved my life."

(Signed) Mme. JOSEPH LIRETTE.

50c. box—6 for $2.50—or trial box 25c.—at dealers or from Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

ROYAL TREASURES.

Indian Rulers' Collections Include Many Priceless Articles.

The little boy Shah of Persia owns a pipe, which is set with diamonds, rubies and emeralds, to the value, it is asserted, of no less than $500,000. This pipe of the ex-Shah is ten times more valueble than his sword, which is set down at the comparatively insignificant figure of $40,000.

The Gaekwar of Baroda is the possessor of what is probably the most precious blade in existence. Its hilt and belt are encrusted with diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds and its value is stated to be something like one million dollars. There are some costly swords in the treasure rooms of Eastern and European potentates, notably those belonging to the Tsar of Russia, the Sultan of Turkey, and the King of Siam, continues Harper's Weekly; but this sword of the Gaekwar outshines them all. The most valuable sword in Europe is that presented by the Egyptians to Lord Wolseley. The hilt is set with brilliants, and the whole sabre is valued at $10,000.

Another Indian ruler—the Maharajah of Ghened—owns the finest brougham in the world. The handles of the doors are of solid gold, while the rest of the carriage is silver.

Beware of your victims. You can't trust a victim out of sight.

"Since Maud's engagement how bright and happy she looks!" "Yes; a match lights up a girl's face."

Spending hundreds of dollars in building a splendid home or barn and then deliberately allow it to suffer for paint.

Martin-Senour Paint

100% Pure, Preserves

It feeds the hungry open pores of the wood with pure linseed oil, lead and zinc—making the surface absolutely impervious to climatic changes.

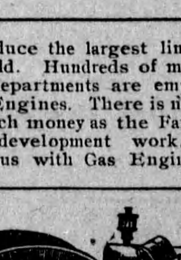
It seals wood from dampness—prevents it from splitting, cracking, from sun and frost, blistering heat and blowing dust, which help the processes of decay and ruin. Good pure paint buys more than 100 cents worth of insurance against the ravages of time.

The ingredients of a pure paint are well known. In the main they are Carbonate of Lead, Oxide of Zinc pure Colors, well ground by specially adapted machinery, and thinned with pure linseed oil and pure turpentine dryer.

A building owner who fails to recognize *the great importance of selecting the right paint*, will see his property value decrease while he grows aged and peevish wondering why.

Notify us if your dealer cannot supply you, we'll gladly direct you where our paints can be had.

Refuse All Substitutes



Illustrated booklet, "Home Beautiful," and interesting color card Free for the asking.

The Martin-Senour Co. LIMITED Montreal

Pioneers Pure Paint

MAPLEINE A flavoring used the same as lemon or vanilla. By dissolving granulated sugar in water and adding Mapleine, a delicious syrup is made, and a syrup better than maple. Mapleine is sold by grocers. If not send 30c. for 2 oz. bottle and recipe book. Crescent Mfg. Co., Seattle, Wn.

PAINT FOR YOU.

It is for you, because it is you who wants it good. You know it costs more to put on poor paint than to put on good paint. Your house should be painted with good paints, with

RAMSAY'S PAINTS

to keep it looking bright and clean for years—costs not too much but just right for right paint. We want you to see our handsome little booklet telling all about house painting, it will help you. Write for copy of our Booklet "W" free.

A. RAMSAY & SON CO.,
Established 1842,
The Paint Makers, - Montreal.

Daimler

MOTOR CARRIAGES

AWARDED DEWAR TROPHY.

The Dewar Challenge Trophy is awarded yearly by the ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB for the most meritorious performance of the year under the general regulations for certified trials.

The New Daimler engine has now been in the hands of the public for nearly 18 months, quite long enough to prove its merit; owners are sending in testimonials by every post and we should like to forward to any person or persons interested a complete set of literature fully explaining this marvellous new motor. Send also for our new illustrated booklet, "The Dewar Trophy and how it was won," a history of the Greatest Engine Test on Record.

The Daimler Motor Co., (1904) Limited,
COVENTRY, ENGLAND.

McKenzie Mine at Elk Lake Has Started Bagging Ore

Successful Operations at the Mine Which Make the Property a Coming Shipper.

ELK CITY, May 4.—With the opening of navigation, which is now in full swing, the greatest of activity prevails at the various mines and prospects in this vicinity and the city is rapidly recovering from the recent fires.

The district is likely to become another Cobalt and the veins run to depth with values. Among the shippers and properties bagging ore are the Lucky Godfrey, the Borland-Thompson, the Devlin and the Moose Horn mines.

The Moose Horn mine put in a new plant this spring and are now sinking a winze at the 125-foot level on a vein which has shown values from the surface.

In the midst of the mines is the McKenzie, a 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 engineer in charge, Mr. Harry McMaster, reports that the vein on location 846 of the company's group at a depth of 50 feet continued steadily the whole distance and showed free silver all the way with the exception of four feet. Several hundred feet of stripping has already been done, resulting in the discovery of two additional veins, one of which is 7 inches wide, cutting at an angle of six degrees. It is the intention to continue this shaft to the 75 or 100 foot level, then drift to the McKenzie vein, where the new 7 inch vein crosses. Mr. McMaster states that in his opinion this week will result in the placing of the value of the mine beyond question. The necessary buildings have now all been erected, including bunk house, cooking camp, manager's dwelling, blacksmith shop, powder house, and the necessary machinery is being installed. A good wagon road has been built from the main road which parallels the road from Elk Lake.

The McKenzie company are in a very fortunate position, owning a group of five properties which have been thoroughly tested. Six assays made from the veins on which the company are now working have shown results of from 400 ounces of silver up as high as 15,000 ounces to the ton.

This company is under good management, and it is the opinion of the engineer in charge and those who have seen the property that it should be brought to the shipping stage in a very short time, 600 pounds of good ore having been bagged by May 1, and the work in this regard being pushed rapidly from day to day.

Application is being made to list this Stock on the New York Curb.

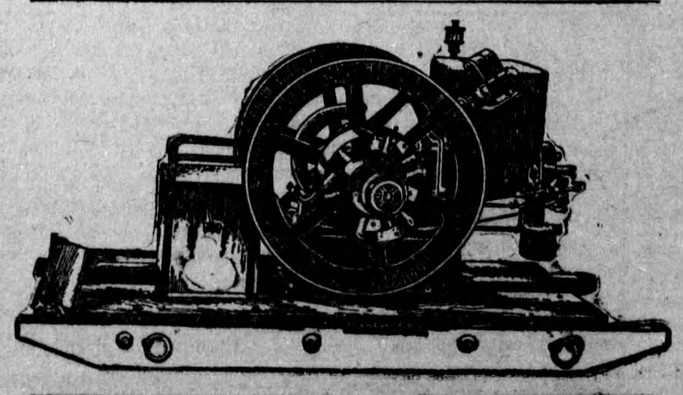
The Transfer Agents are The Trusts and Guarantee Company of Toronto and the Guarantee Security and Transfer Company of New York.

I am offering 50,000 Shares of this Stock at 25c. per share, subject to prior sale. Write or wire me your subscription at once.

P. S. HAIRSTON, Manning Arcade Toronto, Ont.

FAIRBANKS - MORSE Gasoline Engines

Fairbanks-Morse factories produce the largest line of internal combustion engines in the world. Hundreds of men in the engineering and experimental departments are employed on all problems connected with Gas Engines. There is no company in the world that has spent as much money as the Fairbanks-Morse Co. on experimental and development work. The name Fairbanks-Morse is synonymous with Gas Engine Perfection.



Horizontal Evaporator Tank Engine. Mounted on skids. Sizes 2, 4 and 6 Horse Power. Built in our Toronto Factory, the finest Gas Engine Plant in the world.

For General Farm Power

Our farm engines have all the principal features of the well-known Fairbanks-Morse Engines, and are made in Vertical or Horizontal types to meet the various requirements of the farmer. Their simplicity means long life, and satisfactory service.

SPECIAL TERMS TO FARMERS

The Canadian Fairbanks Co., Ltd.
MONTREAL

Branches: Toronto St. John, N.B. Winnipeg Calgary Vancouver

W. P. Co.

The Canadian Fairbanks Co., Ltd.

Gentlemen,—Please send me your free Catalogue, G.E. 106, showing full lines of Farm Engines.

Name.....

Address.....