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THE CABLEMAN

AN EXCITING PRESENT-DAY ROMANCE
BY WEATHERBY CHESNEY

CHAPTER XVII.—(Cont'd.)

"Yes; he too may have been killed," said Scarborough. "I hope he was; because if he was, he hasn't got the stones yet, and we may get them first."

"We shall have to find out where he is, and watch him. Unfortunately I can only do it between duty spells, but I'll get some of the older cablemen to help. And of course, here's a man who has plenty of spare time—"

"What are you going to do?" Elsa asked.

"Oh, Phil, and I will see you safely off, and then we are going to the vent where the apologetic Abenonian spends his time in studying controversial theologies."

"I was riding back from the Davis just now, Miss Carrington, and met your mother. She was driving home to the Cheneaux in a hurry. She says she has been visited by a valuable document."

Scarborough jumped to his feet with an exclamation.

"A letter from the stone jar!" he cried.

Mac laughed.

"Andrew Gillies, the hooded woman,

the man in the small boat, or whom?"

"Excitedly. This is becoming intense!"

CHAPTER XVIII.

Phil Varney's a quick glance round the room. His news that Mrs. Carrington had lost a document would appear to be momentous; for they were all showing strong excitement.

"I seem to have dropped a bombshell up there," he said, with a laugh. "What plot are you people hatching?"

Scarborough turned to Elsa.

"Did you show your mother the separated stone?" he asked. "Or tell her about it?"

"Neither," said Elsa. "I probably should have done both, but her confidences in my father's last letter to me—which I did show her—made me determined to tell her for the future, no more than I had to."

Scarborough looked relieved. "That may turn out to be a lucky determination," he said. "It puts us shore-on a level with her."

"How?" asked the girl.

"Well, if your father's last act in life was to make those scratches on the stone, they are probably important. We know about them, and she doesn't."

On the other hand, she knew what was in the stolen letter, and we don't—but perhaps the information that has been stolen from her wasn't complete. Don't you see? I'm inclined to think that it wasn't, and that the separated stone was meant to supply what was lacking. Where, by the way, is the stone?"

"In my desk at home," he said.

"Yes?" said Elsa, and then added meaningfully, "It's a common little lock. Any key, that."

"That's an inquisitive person—shall we say Andrew Gillies?—tried, would open it?" said Scarborough. "Or, it might not be Andrew Gillies?"

"It might be my mother," said Elsa. "I think she is capable of it."

"Quite so. Then will you like back to the Cheneaux at once, and see that she doesn't?"

"Yes," said Elsa.

"My, I go with you?" asked Mona suddenly. "We are not performing this week, you know."

Elsa hesitated, and then, seeing the almost pleading look of friendliness on the other girl's face, she said:

"Yes, come if you like. You're interested in the thing as great as mine."



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Scarborough lightly. "Probably you overestimate the tenderness of his conscience. Don't be nervous about me, little girl."

"I am. I can't help it," said Elsa simply, and Scarborough's heart leapt at the thought of all that the confession implied. A tender answer came to his lips; he wished Phil Varney anywhere but in the room listening to them; but before he had decided whether to speak the words which were trembling on his tongue, Mona came in to say that she was ready, and the opportunity was lost.

A few minutes later the two girls

had started, and Scarborough and Varney were on their way to the vent on the north road.

"As it appears that I am to be

pressed in the service," said Varney.

The misunderstanding between him and the girl he loved was a sad end; the days of initiation were over, and he done; he was somewhat definite in his plan of action, partly because there was time to make one, and partly because he would probably upset it in any case. Phil and I are neither of us good schemers; but we've been in ruffles together before, and worried through all right. We must trust to the spur of the moment to see our way."

Scarborough was in high spirits.

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Scarborough gave him a brief outline of the facts; and at the end Varney remarked:

"I see. There are three parties in the field—Gillies, the Carrington woman, and you. Gillies and the Carrington woman work alone, and you others seem to be a sort of syndicate. All that is needed to make them really beautiful is a little planting and care."

The morning glories used to beautify the cabin, were planted by the housewife. In fact, it is usually the woman who takes an interest; the man is too busy with the crops to bother with such things.—F.C.N. in Conservation.

Try Alfalfa Again.

Although it is now generally admitted that alfalfa is the one best feeding crop for live-stock, and despite the fact that it has been proved suitable to nearly every district in Ontario, many farmers refuse to give the plant a trial on their farm, while others give up trying to grow it after making a very feeble effort for success.

Those who wish to excuse them

for neglecting to even try alfalfa say that it interferes with their rotation, is hard to break up if once established, and is not suited for pasture; while those who give up trying to grow the crop say that their land is unsuited for it.

The first reason given for not sowing alfalfa is perhaps the best, but it is not a very good reason at that.

Alfalfa is known to improve with the length of time that it occupies a field, but even if the third or fourth year

are sacrificed to maintaining a rotation the whole benefit of the crop is not lost; and what cuttings are made in the first few years of its life are equal, if not superior, in value to cuttings of any other crop in the same period.

As for the trouble of breaking up a field of alfalfa, this only occurs in very old fields, and the fault found by the plowman—that the roots run his plow out—is often due to the occurrence of an odd plant of alfalfa that comes as a surprise after the plow has been running through light soil for some time.

The third reason for objection to alfalfa cannot be very well maintained by many who make it, because the crop is so valuable as hay, and is capable of producing so many cuttings in a season that other ground than an alfalfa field may well be given over to pasture and the alfalfa crop used for soiling if the Summer feed is insufficient.

"It's monstrous."

(To be continued.)

The Contented Cow.

There is a firm, whose business it is to supply milk to city consumers, who make a specialty of advertising that their milk is drawn from contented cows. There is a lot in this for the farmer to consider. Milk production bears close relation in to nervous condition. An excited cow will not readily "let down" her milk, as everybody knows. Excitement is an intimation that she may require her energies for self-preservation, and the milk making process impairs its activities to allow her to meet the apprehended emergency.

Annoyance in any form produces some degree of worry, irritability, and consequently excitement. Keep the cows contented, and functional activity in milk secretion will be the more generous.

Hence it is that dogs unusual odors, ventilated air, sudden chills or draughts of air, irregular feeding or watering, noise, roughness in handling, all help to decrease the milk yield. Keep the animal quiet and contented, in well-ventilated but quiet quarters, feed regularly, and act in a kindly and gentle manner when about the cattle.

The War on Smut.

The prevalence of smut in the Ontario grain crop last season induced many farmers to treat their seed before sowing this spring. One drug

rist in a small town told a representative of this paper before seedling started that he had sold 200 pounds of grain and expected to sell 700 more before the season was over. This is significant, especially where his sales of this material amounted to very little in 1915. There are farmers in the Province who have treated their seed for the past ten to fifteen years annually and without fail, and the results have repaid them on their trouble. We have also known of farmers who have never treated for smut, and their grain has become so badly infested and their threshings so dirty that the neighbors refuse to let them threshing time. Fruit growers are obliged to spray to produce a marketable commodity, and the time may come when farmers generally will be obliged to treat their seed grain in order to prevent severe loss. Anyway, it is a precaution that costs little except labor and trouble, and, not knowing what the season will be like, it will probably pay to make it an annual practice just as is the seeding itself. Farmer's Advocate.

Harrow or Ryder?

There is often a considerable difference of opinion as to whether a field of grain should be harrowed or rolled in the spring, and if it's to be rolled, how, and when.

The first question the farmer asks is: "What will it cost?" feeling that he cannot afford it. It will cost a little time in plowing and work in planting, but these will be well repaid by the added attraction and consequently increased value of the farm. In many parts of Canada trees and shrubs for planting are often, be secured from the wild. Nothing is better for home planting than the common trees from the surrounding woodland, no shrubs purchased from an agent are superior to those native to the district, and no purchased vines can surpass some of those growing wild, such as the Virginia creeper, bitter sweet or the wild grape. Many of the choicest wild flowers, when transplanted to the flower border, often flourish more in the wild. Yet in spite of the ease with which these attractions may be obtained, many farm home grounds are unplanted, untidy and unattractive.

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The Neutral Newsmonger.

Who cheers us when we're in the blue. With reassuring German news Of starving Berliners in ghettos?

The Neutral.

And then, soon after, tells us they're feeding nicely all the day Just in the old familiar way?

The Neutral.

Who sees the Kaiser in Berlin Dejected, haggard, old as sin? And shaking in his hoary skin?

The Neutral.

If he was, as you suggested just now, the man whom my father went to meet, she answered earnestly. "I think that he is to be feared. Father's letter hints that he is, least, fearing him." Be careful, Horace. If the man was dangerous then, when it was only a case of blackmail; he is likely to be more dangerous now, if he thinks he is fighting for twenty thousand pounds. Besides, we don't know what it was that killed my father.

"You think that Andrew Gillies may have murder on his conscience already?" asked Scarborough.

"If my father died in the midst of a contest with him at the Caldeire de Mortre, he has," said Elsa; "even if he did not lift a finger against him in actual violence."

The Neutral.

Who tells us tales of Krupp's new guns Much larger than the other ones? And endless trains checkful of Hunns?

The Neutral.

And then, when our last hope has fled, Declares the Hunns are either dead Or hopelessly dispirited?

The Neutral.

In short, who seems to be a blend Of Boleyn's Ass, the bore's godsend, And Mrs. Gamp's elusive friend?

The Neutral.

"Well, I won't let him hurt me," said

Punch.

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