CHAPTER XXI.

other in speace for some moments after the i startling announcement made by the latter. The young man spoke first.

"You have the clue to the robbery in your possession, you say ?"

Yes. Shaw gave it to me when we came out of the buffet at the Calais station. Mr. Beresford's housekeeper was with us; mitte can prove that he put a little screw of for into my hand and said, 'Look here, nab, I've something important to trust you with.' Then she gave us a prim little bow and walked away, and poor Shaw showed me what was inside the paper and he rolled it up in my tobacco pouch, and fastenpockets, telling me that I should have to going to Paris about this business, I asked why he didn't take it with him, and he said he should be watched, and perhaps; suspected of carrying this clue; he intended to describe it to the head of the Police in Paris,

send it over." "And you never took it to Scotland

Yard?" " I did not dare."

"But why ? why ? You say Miss M'Lead

"Yes," said Blair, letting his head fall and it would not have helped me."

"But at least you should have tried-" "Perhaps so. At your age one does try; and one is bold successfully. When you have dodged Fortune for sixty years you lose the knack of taking difficulty by the horns." "What is this clue? Will you let me

see it ?" asked Gerald. It was very hard for him to be patient with the broken down old man's shifty, and persuasively on Blair's arm, seeing a look of mistrust and irresolution come again over the worn, laggard face:

"Come, it can do no harm to let me see

shabby black leather bag, out of which he took an old dark gray waistcoat, the same the other two. that he had worn on the unlucky journey." Pinned into one of the pockets, just as he had described, was the rolledup tobacco pouch, and inside that was a hidden possession since Mr. Shaw secreted Miss Simpson laughed again, but was less about it, and his fingers trembled as he felt while the ghastly remembrance of a similar | the room. search he had made brought added furrows into his worn face. He was more fortunate. this time: smoothing out the paper very a dark red stone with a crest and motto engraved upon it, evidently the centre of a clumsy old fashioned signet-ring.

The young fellow took it up to make out with unconquerable suspicion. The engrave they odious people, Gerald ?" ing represented two herons, the one standing with outstretched wings over the prostrate body of the other; the motto was: earl's coronet.

"Surely this can be traced," said Gerald eagerly. "It's easy enough to find out " Don't let us talk about them. Did you than the door flew open, and he was con-

whose crest this is.' "O yes, I know that," said Blair, without

any hop fulness. "The crest is Lord Kingscliffe's. It must have been stalen from him. "Well, then, the police may be able to help us. We must go and find out if there has been a robbery lately at his place, and if so, whether the thieves have been discovered. If they can tell us nothing, we must apply to Lord Kingscliffe himself."

"That won't do any good. He's the most selfish old scoundrel that ever lived, and he wouldn't give himself the trouble of saying two unnecessary words to save a man from the gallows."

"Well, you said just now that the young can be bold successfully. Will you trust this stone to me, and rely on my doing my best for you? I'll work like a slave to get this cleared up ; I will indeed."

Blair glanced with dull eyes from the bright young face glowing with generous enthusiasm, with stubborn determination, to the dark-red stone on which his fate, so he began to think, depended. He hesitated.

"I daren't do anything with it myself," he murmured, more to himself than to Gerald. "It might get me into fresh trouble. The police would think I'd picked it up in some pawnshop, and told this story to put them off the scent. And, after all, it'll do no good, I'm sure of it. I'd sooner chuck it into the gutter, and be rid of the thing."

"Trust it to me. Whatever it may do, it sha'n't get you into fresh trouble, I

swear."

He was gaining his end; little by little her at the foot of the stairs. the old man's resistance gave way, and within half an hour of his coming Gerald had for anybody airs," said the amiable gentleand left the house with the steadfast con- ed adept at the refined amusement of "praclast. The very suspicion which had caused intellect from that moment to the discovery Mr. Shaw to send the stone to England of some trick which should surpass all his rather than carry it himself had proved to previous feats in the discomforts it brought have a fatally strong foundation, and Ger- upon his victims and the consequent glory ald felt sure that the hopes he had built on | it brought upon himself. this little clue must be equally well ground- | The doctor pronounced Peggy to be suf-

station, and at once inquired whether it was the entire rest it was impossible for her to known that any robbery had been commit- take. And he advised her to stay in her ted lately from the person of Lord Kings- room for a few days, being afraid of fever. cliffe, or any of his estabishments. Noth- But Peggy burst into tears, and protested ing of the kind had been heard of, and on she should die if she had to remain by her-Gerald's producing the stone and stating self so long, and they had to give way to whose was the crest, he was advised by the her. superintendent to whom he was talking to So next morning she trotted down-stairs Good morning." apply to Lord Kingscliffe himself, since he after breakfast, wrapt up in an old white made no secret of the fact that the identifi- shawl of Mrs. Walton's, and looking like a thoughts. He seemed to have done no good, cation of the stone was matter of impor- ghost down on its luck. And she hovered and yet he had heard something suggestive

Charing Cross Hotel, only to find that Mr. Cross Hotel. Then she sat quietly hold-Smith had not arrived yet, went back to ing his hand, and listening to his account his lodgings, and resisted the wish to see of his walk; and presently, having passed Peggy again until he had gone straight to a wakeful night, she went to sleep with her his own room, and written a careful and head on his shoulder. He went a second

down-stairs to Mrs. Walton's sitting-room, and mind the sight, the touch of the one hoping that he had deserved some praise for | person in the world who had shown her conhis energy from the imperious Peggy. But stant sympathy, constant kindness, was to disappointment was in store for him; the her as sunshine to the feeble plant, and water small dictatress was not alone. Sitting on to the parched ear h. the opposite side of the table were two inof the person favored by his confidences and

was saying, exuberanty. ble voice, before any of them caught sight enough to have her for a sister? And Gerwearily on his hands as he leaned over the of cterald, advancing behind the screen hear ald had to calm her by protes a ions of table, "but this clue is no clue at all. It the door. "Mrs. Walton can tell you who brotherly affection, which he made rather is merely another piece of stolen property, I am and all about me. And it is very awkwardly, the subject was hastily dropped, kind of you to offer to take me to the Academy ; but I don't know much about pictures, and I don't dress well enough, for anyone to take me out without being ashamed of my appearance."

"That's one for you!" said the young man to the lady by his side, who was dress ed with seedy smartness, but not unbecom-

Gerald wondered how it was that the illnerveless inaction. He put his hand gently bred pair had had the penetration to discover their superior in the tiny, tired creature, with her direct, simple speech, who sat drearily opposite to them in her plain, shabby frock, and blinked at them as if it. You know very well I'll help you if I trying to keep back the tears. As he came round the screen, however, her composure The old man shack his head; but he got gave way, and she sprang from her chair up, and dragged out from under the bed a with an electric rush at him, checking herself suddenly at a burst of laughter from

> "I'm so glad you've come back," she said quietly, though she was shaking with anger at the rudeness of the strangers " "

The young man cleared his throat loudly, crumpled envelope, torn off a letter and and got up with ostentatious alacrity. screwed up to hold some small object. Al- I'm afraid we shall be in the way, Miss though Blair had not even looked at this Simpson," he said, with elaborate sarcasm.

it for him, he now showed great anxiety inclined to take the matter seriously. However, she submitted to be half-dragged up the paper to make sure that it was safe; from her chair and led ceremoniously out of

"Has that cad been annoying you?" asked Gerald, hastily.

N-no, not exactly; at least, I don't carefully, he howed to Gerald's eager eyes think he meant to be annoying; only he asked me to go out with him, to tease that horrid girl, I think, and of course I said no, and then he was offended. She was the worst; she asked me a lot of questions about the crest while Blair's eyes watched him | who I was and where I came from. Aren't

"Yes, I think they are rather; and I'm sorry they have taken a dislike to us, for that man is spiteful and may worry you. "Vaincqueur et roy." At the top was an Last night he annoyed me in every mean and down the street for a quarter of an hour little way he could think of, because that before the hour struck : his punctuality was larly. girl talked to me instead of to him.".

see the man?"

"Yes, and I've learnt something very important. But you are not to hear any thing about that now. You are tired out, and you must go to bed, and in the morn-

She interrupted him, clinging tightly to his arm, and looking up at him with a feverish face.

"No, no, don't send me away! I hate to be alone now; if I were to go up stairs I shouldn't sleep; I should lie shaking with all sorts of silly fears, fancying I heard the | ber," said a voice, which instantly brought crackling of the branches in the wind as I did at 'Les Bouleaux,' and cries of voices and the howls of a wolf in the darkness. O you don't know how awful the nights have been since that evening when they came to say that Mr. Shaw had been murdered in the road, I thought if I came away I should forget it all; but to night I shall hear them just the same, I know."

Gerald did his best to soothe her and to laugh away her nervous terrors; but the poor child was really ill, and when he made her lie down on the sofa she could not rest, but started at every sound, and began to talk so incoherently that when the landlady came in Gerald in alarm asked her to send for

Before she went up-stairs, however, with Mrs. Walton on one side and Gerald on the your possession, sir?" other, she was unlucky enough to offend again her enemy Mr. Hicks, by failing to hear his "Good night, miss," as he passed

"I'll serve them out, with their too-goodthe stone safely in his own pocket-book, man to himself; and, being an acknowledgviction that he was on the right track at | tical joking," he gave the whole force of his

fering from the effects of mental shock and He asked his way to the nearest police- over-excitement, and of course prescribed conjectured complicity in a murder."

about the sitting-room restlessly until Ger- and interesting. And through it all he had So Gerald, after another duty-call at the ald returned from his first visit to Charing a strong sense of amusement at the eccentric humble letter to the formidably wicked and a third time that day, as he had made

it a rule to do, to see if Mr. Smith had arrived; each time he found on his return that Peggy had worked herself into a fever of impatience to see him again. She was quite unconscious of the fact, quite innocent of the effect her contentment in his society had upon Gerald. After the horror cates the engagement of ladies of education of her weird stay at "Les Bouleaux," she as dressmakers and milliners, and speaks of Lord Kingscliffe, begging the favor of a few instinctively, shattered in health and spirits it as being detrimental to those who have minutes' interview to put him in possession as she was, took life as a convalescent does, fewer educational advantages. I myself Gerald Staunton and Blair stared at each of some property, which the writer believed drifting along in a haze, without clear would like to see dressmaking regarded not thought, understanding little more than the Then with a clear conscience Gerald ran immediate present : and in this state of body art. To construct a costume that will be at

So that Gerald alone felt all the awkward- sign. The health of a nation depends very mates of the house to whom already Gerald ness of the position. What would Mr. largely on its mode of dress; the artistic had taken a part dislike. The one was a Beresford say when he found out, as find out feeling, of, a nation should find expression in massive, black-eyed young lady, of almost he must, that his runaway clerk was living its costume quite as much as in its architecaggressively healthy appearance and buoyant under the same roof with his runaway ture; and just as the upholstering tradesmanner, who was employed at a large mil- daughter? He suggested this view of the man has had to give place to the decorative linery and drapery establishment in Totten matter to Peggy on the third day after her artist, so the ordinary milliner, with her ham Court Road, and had there obtained a arrival; but she only laughed and thought lack of taste and her lack of knowledge, ed it with two pins into one of my waistcoat, wide fame for her beauty and accomplish- it very funny. Then he proposed, in a her foolish fashions, and her lack of invenments. The other was a young man with a roundabout way, that he should find a ledg- tions, will have to make way for the scitake it to Scotland Yard. Knowing he was very low forehead and a mean, coarse face, ing in some other house; but at this she entific and artistic dress-designer. Indeed, whose hands were not particularly clean, began to cry, and sobbed out that she didn't so far from it being wise to discourage weand who made his conversational effects by wonder that he was growing tired of such dull men of education from taking up the protalking in giggling whispers, to the delight society as hers. And when poor Gerald, fession of dressmakers, it is exactly women getting very red and stammering frightful- of education that are needed, and I am glad the envy of the rest. The young man was ly, said that it was not proper for a young to see in the new technical college for wo and if necessary get the London police to looking furious, the lady delighted, as Ger- lady to live by herself in a lodging house, men at Bedford, millinery and dressmaking ald came into the room. Peggy, sitting up and that she ought to try to find out her are to be taught as part of the ordinary right in the armchair by the fire, was star- mother's friends, if she wouldn't go back to curriculum. There has also been a society summer from Quebes every Saturday to Liverpool, and the ing across at them, tired, sad, and puzzled. her father, Peggy told him that he was very of lady dressmakers started in London for calling at Londonderry to land mails and puzzled. her father, Peggy told him that he was very She had you there?" the young lady silly, that she wasn't staying by herself since the purpose of teaching educated girls and he was in the same house, and asked him women, and the Scientific Dress Association could prove it was given to you by Mr. was given to you by Mr. was given to have any why he hadn't had the sense to say he was is, I hear, doing very good work in the same gow lines sail during winter to and from Hallax. one," said Peggy, in a most forlon and hum- her brother? Didn't he like her well direction. and the talk turned again upon Mr. Smith's continued non-appearance, and the obstin-

ate silence of Lord Kingscliffe. But no spirit and no affection could stave off for long the illness which had threatened Peggy on her arrival in England. On the sixth day after her coming she broke down, and was forced to keep in her own room. Then there was a great display of feeling among the other lodgers in the house-not of sympathy, with the forlorn little stranger, but of excitement lest "it should be something catching." And in the midst of their selfish fears, as usual the good Samaritan turned up in the person of Mrs. Walton, the landlady, an over-dressed, untidy woman, whose worn, rather good-looking face made you curious, suspiciously curious, about her past life, and who nursed the fretful, lonely girl with the the tenderness of a speciallyselected mother.

Gerald was inconsolable. He had been so much troubled as to the results of her runaway freak, so much concerned to keep down his feelings to brotherly warmth, that he had not realised how indispensable to his comfort and content the touch of the little fingers, the confiding gaze of the big elfin eyes, had become. He was forever upon the stairs, in the hope of meeting the landlady or the servant, either going to or coming from her. He had to set himself long distances to walk, that he might keep away from the house for a reasonable time. In his impatient misery he wrote to Lord Kingscliffe a third letter, and wrote it so hurriedly that involuntarily he allowed it to grow absolutely rude. To his great surprise he got an answer, in the form of a curt note from the Earl's secretary, commanding, rather than asking, him to be at Lord Kingscliffe's house in Piccadilly at one o'clock on the following day.

ment to the minute that he had to walk up rewarded, for no sooner had he rung the bell ducted at once into the Earl's presence. At first he thought he was alone in the rather screen's, and dark plush 'chairs, and much woodwork, gave a gloomy look. Then a voice addressed him from out of a heap of clothes in a deep armchair, and he discover ed that a white haired gentleman, with a penetrating face, the outlines of which were still handsome, was gazing upon him very intently.

"Your name is-what? I don't rememinto Gerald's mind the thought how very like one old man's voice is to another.

"Gerald Staunton, sir," said the young fellow, wondering whether that was the right way to address an Earl.

"And you say you have some property of mine in your possession?"

"I think so. I hope you will be kind enough to tell me if it is yours."

Gerald produced the red stone and gave it to the old gentleman, who turned it over in his hand, and then asked: "And what did this come out of ! "A ring, I believe, sir."

"Ah! Well, yes, this came out of a ring

which was once mine, if that is any satisfac tion to you." "And is it too much to ask how it left

"I'll tell you that, too! It was takenstolen, if you like-from me by a member of my own family, thirteen years ago." Gerald started. This time it occured to him how very much one old gentleman resem-

bled another, not only in voice, but in man-"I suppose," continued Lord Kingscliffe, looking at the young man shrewdly, "I am not far wrong in supposing that the person in whose possession this stone was found is 'wanted,' as the police say, for some action or other that wouldn't raise the family

prestige?"

"Good, very good. Well, my good boy, I would hazard a fair sum that the person who took the ring from me is the person you Gibraltar, 1,50); Greece; 3,000; Servia, want. But you won't catch him. You are 3,500; Sweden, 3,000. an agent of the police, I suppose ?"

"No, sir. May I keep this stone?"

Gerald went out in a whirl of excited manner of the old Earl.

"What a queer, snappish, clever old fellow he seems to be! And how he reminds me of Mr. Beresford !"

(TO BE CONTINUED).

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### WOMAN'S WORLD.

Lam sorry to see that Mrs. Fawcett depre-

DRESSMAKING AS A FINE ART. (Oscar Wilde in the Woman's World)

merely as a learned profession, but as a fine once rational and beautiful requires an accurate knowledge of the principles of proportion, a thorough sense of color, and a quick appreciation of the proper use of materials, and the proper qualities of pattern and de-

### WHERE A GIRL MAKES A MISTAKE.

Lady Bellairs in Blackwood's Magazine; There are girls who, instead of making them. selves useful and calmly resting in their maiden dignity, think only of getting married, and use questionable means to achieve their purpose. Forgetting the proverb, "The more haste the less speed," this sort of girl not infrequently assumes a "fast" style of talk, manner and dress in order to make herself attractive to the opposite sex. In doing so she makes a great 'mistake. Fish may nibble at her bais, but they will not allow themselves to be caught. A loud girl may attract attention and have half an hour of popularity, but she is a type of the short-sightedness of some of her sex. Men of the baser sort may amuse themselves WM. RENNIE, -- TORONTO, ONTARIO. with her, but no man worth having would think of marrying her. There is a liberty that makes us free, and a liberty that makes us slaves, and the girls who take liberties with modesty of speech and manner, and who cross over the boundary into masculine territory, are not more free but more enslay. ed than before. And the approbation of men; which is the end in view, is lost by the means taken to gain it. Whatever men may be themselves they like gentleness, modesty, and purity in act and thought in women. They want their wives to be better than themselves. They think that women should be the conservators of all that is restrained, chivalrous and gentle.

## NOTES.

A woman in Hampton County, S.C., is described by the local paper as the model | Peerless made by woman of the State. She is 43 years of age and a member of the Baptist Church. For 30 years she has followed the plough and engaged in the usual round of farm labor. Last year she made nine bales of cotton, besides provisions, with one plough. She has dug one well, built five chimneys and Gerald was so anxious to keep the appoint- frequently split 100 rails a day. She has a good home of her own, enjoys excellent health and is sending her children to school regu-

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin has decided that the women of that State have not the right of franchise other than its exercise in school elections. The town of heavily furnished room, to which tall Racine is by this decision deprived of its lady mayor, who was not installed pending the judgment of the court. The principal results are that Wisconsin women are disappointed, and the husband of the Racine mayor has stopped sewing on buttons and gone back to business.

## The Groundhog Theory.

"People may ridicule the groundhog theory as much as they like," remarked an old fellow yesterday in talking of the matter. "All the same, there's truth in it, as anyone may see if he will only take the trouble to look back. Tradition has it that if the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2, Candlemas day, he returns to his hole, knowing that there will be six weeks more of winter weather. Within my recollection I have never known this sign to fail. Look at the present instance! Less than two weeks ago the groundhog foretold a prolonged winter. Aren't we having it? Well, I should say so. Since Candlemas day we've had rain, snow, hail, ice and fog. It seems impossible, I know, that any earthly creature should be endowed with the power to forecast the weather so far ahead, nevertheless, it does appear that the groundhog has that wonderful gift. I have great faith in his hogship's signs."-[Philadelphia Bulletin.

## The Number of Jews in the World

Concerning the figures of the entire Jewish population on the globe, there is a difference of opinion among the statisticians; but the Hebrew Annual declares that France contains 600 000: Germany, 562 000, of whom 39,000 inhabit Alsace and Lorraine; Austria-Hungary, 1,644 000, of whom 688, 000 are in Galicia and 638,000 in Hungary; Italy, 40,000; Netherlands, 82,000; Rou-"Robbery," said Gerald simply, "and mania, 265 000; Russis, 2,552,000 (Russian Poland, 768,000); Turkey, 105,000; Belgium, 3 000; Bulgaria, 10,000; Switzerland, 7,000; Denmark, 4,000; Spain, 1,900; In Asia there are 300,000 of the race.

Turkey in Asia has 195,000 of whom 25,000 "Certainly. It will do nobody any harm. are in Palestine, 47,000 are in Russian Asia, 18,000 in Persia, 14,000 in Central Asia, 19,-000 in India, and 1,000 in China. In Africa, BUY THE BREADMAKER'S YEAST. PRICE 5 CENTS. 8,000 Jews live in Egypt, 55,000 in Tunisia, 35,000 in Algeria, 60,000 in Morocco, 6,000 in Tripolis, and 200,000 in Abyssinia.

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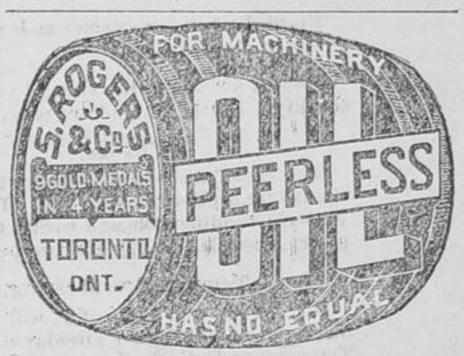
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