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The Bride's Name;

Or, The Adventures of Captain Fraser

CHAPTER XVIII.—(Cont'd).

"Whatever has happened to your memory?" said Mrs. Church, sweetly. "My memory," said the trickster, slowly, passing his hand over his brow; "why, what's the matter with it?"

"It doesn't seem quite so good as it was," said the lady, affectionately. "Never mind, my memory will have to do for both."

There was enough emphasis on the last sentence to send a little chill through the captain's frame. He said nothing, but keeping his eye on his plate attacked his frugal meal in silence, and soon afterwards went upstairs to bed to think out this position.

If his own memory was defective Mrs. Church's was certainly redundant. When he came hurrying in to dinner next day she remembered that he had told her he should not be home to that meal. He was ungrateful enough to contemplate a raid upon hers; she, with a rare thoughtfulness, had already eaten it. He went to the "Thorn," and had some cold salt beef, and cursed the ingenious Nibletts, now on his way to London, sky-high.

Mrs. Banks came in the next evening with her daughter, and consoled with the housekeeper on the affliction which had already been noised about Seabridge. Mrs. Church, who had accepted her as an ally, but with mental reservations, softly applied a handkerchief to her eyes.

"How are you feeling?" demanded Mrs. Banks, in the voice of one addressing a deaf invalid.

"I'm all right," said Barber shortly. "That's his pride," said Mrs. Church, mournfully; "he won't own to it. He can't remember anything. He pretends he doesn't know me."

"Who are you?" asked the sufferer, promptly.

"He'll get the better of it," said Mrs. Banks, kindly, as her quondam foe wiped her eyes again. "If he don't, you'd better marry before October."

To say that Captain Barber pricked up his ears at this, indicates but feebly his interest in the remark. He held his breath and looked wildly round the room as the two ladies, deftly ignoring him, made their arrangements for his future.

"I don't like to seem to hurry it," said the housekeeper.

"No, of course you don't. It he said October, naturally October it ought to be, in the usual way," remarked the other.

"I never said October," interrupted the trembling mariner.

"There's his memory again," said Mrs. Banks, in a low voice.

"Poor dear," sighed the other.

"We'll look after your interests," said Mrs. Banks, with a benevolent smile. "Don't you remember meeting me by the church the other night and telling me that you were going to marry Mrs. Church in October?"

"No," bawled the affrighted man.

"Clean gone," said Mrs. Church, shaking her head; "it's no use."

"Not a bit," said Mrs. Banks.

"October seems rather early," said Mrs. Church, "especially as he is in mourning for his nephew."

"There's no reason for waiting," said Mrs. Banks, decidedly. "I dare say it's his loneliness that makes him want to hurry it. After all, he ought to know what he wants."

"I never said a word about it," interposed Captain Barber, in a loud voice.

"All right," said Mrs. Banks, in-

dulgently. "What are you going to wear, my dear?" she added, turning to the housekeeper.

Mrs. Church seemed undecided, and Captain Barber, wiping the moisture from his brow, listened as one in a dream to a long discussion on the possibilities of her wardrobe. Thrice he interrupted, and thrice the ladies, suspending their conversation for a moment, eyed him with tender pity before resuming it.

"Me and Frank thought of October," said Elizabeth, speaking for the first time. She looked at Captain Barber and then at her mother. It was the look of one offering to sell a casting vote.

"October's early," said the old lady, bridling.

Mrs. Church looked up at her, and then modestly looked down again. "Why not a double wedding?" she asked, gently.

Captain Barber's voice was drowned in acclamations. Elizabeth kissed Mrs. Church, and then began to discuss her own wardrobe. The owner of the house, the owner of the very chairs on which they were sitting, endeavored in vain to stop them on a point of order, and discovered to his mortification that a man without a memory is a man without influence. In twenty minutes it was all settled, and even an approximate date fixed. There was a slight movement on the part of Elizabeth to obtain Captain Barber's opinion upon that, but being reminded by her mother that he would forget all about it in half an hour's time, she settled it without him.

"I'm so sorry about your memory, Captain Barber," said Mrs. Banks, as she prepared to depart. "I can understand what a loss it is. My memory's a very good one. I never forget anything."

"You forget yourself, ma'am," returned her victim, with unconscious ambiguity, and, closing the door behind her, returned to the parlor to try to think of some means of escaping from the position to which the intimacy of Captain Nibletts, aided by that of Mrs. Banks, had brought him.

CHAPTER XIV.

Opponents of medicine have hit upon a means of cleansing the system by abstaining for a time from food, and drinking a quantity of fair water. It is stated to clear the eyes and the skin, and to cause a feeling of lightness and buoyancy undreamt of by those who have never tried it. All people, perhaps, are not affected exactly alike, and Captain Flower, while admitting the lightness, would have disdainfully contested any charge of buoyancy. Against this objection it may be said that he was not a model patient, and had on several occasions wilfully taken steps to remove the feeling of lightness.

It was over a fortnight since his return to London. The few shillings obtained for his watch had disappear-



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ed days before; rent was due and the cupboard was empty. The time seemed so long to him, that Poppy, and Seabridge, and the Foam might have belonged to another period of existence. At the risk of detection he had hung round the Wheeler's night after night for a glimpse of the girl for whom he was enduring all these hardships, but without success. He became a prey to nervousness, and, unable to endure the suspense any longer, determined to pay a stealthy visit to Wapping and try to see Fraser.

He chose the night on which in the ordinary state of affairs the schooner should be lying alongside the wharf; and keeping a keen look-out for friends and foes both, made his way to the Minorities and down Tower Hill. He had pictured it as teeming with people he knew, and the bare street and closed warehouses, with a chance dock or two slouching slowly along, struck him with an odd sense of disappointment. The place seemed changed. He hurried past the wharf; that too was deserted, and after a loving peep at the spars of his schooner he drifted slowly across the road to the "Albion," and, pushing the door a little way open, peeped cautiously in. The faces were all unfamiliar, and letting the door swing quietly back he walked on until he came to the "Town of Yarmouth."

The public bar was full. Tired workers were trying to forget the labors of the day in big draughts of beer, while one of them had thrown off his fatigue sufficiently to show a friend a fancy step of which he was somewhat vain. It was a difficult and intricate step for a crowded bar, and panic-stricken men, holding their beer aloft, called wildly upon him to stop, while the barman, leaning over the counter, strove to make his voice heard above the din. The dancer's feet subsided into a sulkily shuffle, and a tall seaman, removing the tankard which had obscured his face, revealed the honest features of Joe. The sight of him and the row of glasses and hunches of bread and cheese behind the bar was irresistible. The skipper caught a departing customer by the coat and held him.

(To be continued).

Here is the way one gardener protected the strawberries and the birds at the same time: Made a bluebird house with rooms for at least four pairs of bluebirds. Set it on top of a post in the center of the berry patch. This encouraged the birds to build in it. They kept other birds away from the berries. Bluebirds eat only the insects off the fruit.

Aluminum is now being substituted in place of wood in the manufacture of automobile bodies. Large sections of aluminum castings are now used in making touring cars and the enclosed bodies of certain other motor cars, a use which was not practicable ten years ago. Cast aluminum is also used for making automobile dashes. Bodies made of it are lighter than those made of other sheet metal and have a rigid surface that will not dent easily in case of accident. The aluminum surface retains paint well, and the increased rigidity makes the car more durable.

HUN INFLUENCE IN RUSSIA.

Responsible for Intrigue and Assassination for Many Years.

Prussomania has been a disturbing factor in Russia for many years, and has been the continuing cause of revolution, intrigue, abdications, assassinations and the perpetuation of factions within the empire that in the present day have brought about the fall of the greatest absolutism in history.

Two Czars, Peter III. and his son, Paul I., owed their death by assassination largely to the resentment of the Russians at the Prussian influence. Alexander II. also forfeited his life to that malign influence.

The history of the Czars is a long record of stormy regimes and intrigues within the imperial court, probably without parallel in the history of any other dynasty. It is replete with abdications and removals of emperors by violent deaths, but the first tremendous struggle of Russian sentiment against the Prussian influence culminating in the present revolution, may be said to have begun with the death in June, 1762, of Peter III., who was the husband of Catherine II.

The Ides of March thereafter were days to be well remembered by the Romanoffs, self-asserted successors to the line of Byzantine Caesars, for it was on March 23, 1801, that Paul I. died by the hands of assassins, and March 13, 1881, that Alexander II., after four attempts on his life, finally fell a victim to a Nihilist's bomb. The present revolution is the latest example of the fateful March days in the fortunes of the Romanoffs.

Since 1605, when Dimitri was assassinated in Moscow, four other Czars have fallen victims to assassins. They were Peter III., in June, 1762; Ivan VI., in 1764; Paul I., March 23, 1801, and Alexander II., March 13, 1881.

The Swiss Navy.

The Swiss have a navy consisting of a few gunboats on Lake Lucerne. They should have an army of 500,000. The population of Switzerland is three million, and its area 15,000 square miles. Belgium has a population of 6½ million, and an area of 11,000 square miles.

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