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CHAPTER XXIV -- (Cont'd.)

away from me, it was myself alone me and pretend. He'd feel himself ried, and made a martyr of myself. how it hurts a woman to be pitied? If I had thought more of you, all I'd rather he'd hate me. I'd rather would have been well. This time I he'd forget me altogether." think I-I have thought a little more "But what of the talks I had with of you. It was to get at you and not him in the dark?" he questioned. myself that I wanted to see again. So "When he talked to me of you then, experience." I saw again. I let go of myself and it was not in pity." reached out for you. So now-why, everything is quite clear."

She raised her head. "Clear, Peter?"

"Quite clear. I'm to go back to my work, and to use my eyes less and less with statutes and more with people. Instead of quoting precedents. There's work enough to be done God that!" he cried. knows, of a sort that is born of just such a year as this I've lived through. I must let go of myself and let myself go. I must think less of my own ambitions and more of the ambitions of others. So I shall live in others. Perhaps I may even be able to live a little through you two." "Peter!" she cried.

"For Covington must come back to you as fast as ever he can."

"No! No! No!" "You don't understand how much he loves his wife."

"Please!" "And, he, poor devil, doesn't understand how much his wife loves him." "You-you"-she trembled aghast -"you wouldn't dare repeat what I've

told you!" "You don't want to stagger on in the dark any longer. You'll let me tell him."

She rose to her feet, her face white. "Peter," she said slowly, "if ever you told him that, I'd never forgive you. If ever you told him, I'd deny You'd only force me into more lies. You'd only crush me lower."

"Steady, Marjory," he said. "You're wonderful, Peter!" she exclaimed. "You've-you've been seeing visions. But when you speak of telling him what I've told you, you don't understand how terrible that would be. Peter-you'll promise me you won't do that?"

She was pleading, with panic in her

"Jet, if he knew, he'd come racing

to you.





'He'd do that because he's a gentle-"I understand now. When you went man and four-square He'd come to considered. I was hurt and wor- at fault, and pity me. Do you know

"Because,"-she choked,-"because and kissed him. he doesn't himself as I know him. He -he doesn't like changes dear acle-worker with you," she smiled. Monte. It disturbed him to go because it would have been so much her.' easier to have stayed. So, for the my head and heart more. I'm to deal moment, he may have been-a bit sentimental."

"You don't think as little of him as

"He-he is the man who married me," she answered unsteadily. was-just Monte who married mehonest, easy-going, care-free Monte, who is willing to do a woman a favor even to the extent of marrying her. He is very honest and very gallant and very normal. He likes one day to be as another. He doesn't wish to be stirred up. He asked me this, Peter: 'Isn't it possible to care without caring too much?' And I said, ried."
'Yes." That was why he married "Ma me He had seen others who cared a great deal, and they frightened him. They care so much that they made themselves uncomfortable, and he feared that." "Good Lord, you call that man Cov-

ington?" exclaimed Peter.

"No-just Monte," Marjory answered quickly. "It's just the outside of him. The man you call Covington-the man inside-is another

"It's the real man," declared Peter. "Yes," she nodded, with a catch in her voice. "That's the real man. But -don't you understand?-it wasn't that man who married me. It was This is the Only Way to Cut Down Monte who married me to escape Covington. He trusted me not to disturb the real man, just as I trusted him not to disturb the real me."

Peter leaned forward with a new hope in his eyes.

"Then," he said, "perhaps, after all, he didn't get to the real you."

Quite simply she replied:-

know it, but he did." "You are sure?"

She knew the pain she was causing him, but she answered:-

"Yes. I couldn't admit that to any one else in the world but you-and it hurts you, Peter."

"It hurts like the devil," he said. She placed her hand upon his.

"Poor Peter," she said gently. "It hurts like the devil, but it's nothing for you to pity me for," he put in quickly. "I'd rather have the hurt from you than nothing."

earnestly. "Yes."

stand how, even with me, the joy and losses will, in time, bring about rethe grief are one?"

"He'd come back to me, you're going to say again. And I tell you fire is indirectly reducing the cost of again, I won't have him come back, insurance. Every man who causes kind and gentle and smiling. If he fire by carelessness or neglect is helpcame back now,-if it were possible ing indirectly, but none the less surely, for him really to come to me,-I'd to increase the cost of insurance for want him to ache with love. I'd want both himself and his neighbors.

him to be hurt with love." She was talking fiercely, with a wild, unrestrained passion such as Peter had never seen in any woman. all control of herself-"I'd want manufacture and in storage. The everything I don't want him to give wholesaler and retailer likewise carry -everything I've no right to ask. I'd insurance upon their stocks. Be it a want him to live on tiptoe from one loaf of bread or a pair of socks, by morning through to the next. begrudge him every minute he was just comfortable. I'd want him al- consumer a dozen insurance premiums ways eager, always worried, because have been paid upon it, and the I'd be always looking for him to do amount added to the price. The fire great things. I'd have him always loss, is therefore, nothing more or ready for great sacrifices -- not for less than a tax upon the public which, me alone, but for himself. I'd be so in some form or other, they are sooner proud of him I think I-I could with or later compelled to pay. There is a smile see him sacrifice even his life no escape except by a reduction of the for another. For I should know that, fire loss itself. Better construction, after a little waiting, I should meet the elimination of carelessness and the him again, a finer and nobler man. And all those things I asked of him I should want to do for him. I'd like incendiaries are matters of direct and to lay down my life for him."

suddenly awakened to find herself in a strange country. It was Peter's voice that brought her back again to the empty room.

begun, staring about like some one

"How you do love him," he said solemnly.

have listened!"

She shrank back toward the door. "And I-I thought just kisses on the eyes stood for love," he added. "You must forget all I said," she moaned. "I was mad-for a moment!"

"You were wonderful," he told her. She was still backing toward the

"I'm going off to hide," she said piteously.

"Not that," he called after her. But the door closed in front of her. The door closed in front of him. With his lips clenched, Peter Noves walked back to the Hotel des Roses.

### CHAPTER XXV. So Long

When Peter stepped into his siter's room he had forgotten that his eyes were open.

"Beatrice," he said, "we must start back for New York as soon as possible."

She sprang from her chair. Pale and without his shade, he was like an apparition. "Peter!" she cried.

"What's the trouble?"

"Your eyes!"

"They came back this morning." "Then I was right! Marjory-Marjory worked the miracle!"

He smiled a little. "It's wonderful. But, Peter-" "Well?"

"You look so strange-so pale!" "It's been-well, rather an exciting

She put her arms about his neck

"You should have brought the mir-"And instead of that I'm leaving

"Leaving Marjory-after this?"

"Sit down, little sister," he begged. 'A great deal has happened this morning-a great deal that I'm afraid it's going to be hard for you understand at first; and yet, after all, it's merely a question of fact. isn't anything that leaves any chance for speculation. It just is, that's all. You see, you-both of us-made an extraordinary mistake. We-we assumed that Marjory was free."

"Free? Of course she's free!" exclaimed Beatrice. "Only she's not," Peter informed

her. "As a matter of fact, she's mar-

"Marjory-married!"

"To Covington. She's Covington's They were married a few weeks ago in Paris. You understand? She's Covington's wife." His voice rose a trifle.

"Peter-you're sure of that?" "She told me so herself-less than an hour ago."

"That's impossible. Why, she listened to me when-" "When what?" he cut in.

(To be coninued).

## REDUCE CANADA'S FIRE LOSS.

## Insurance Tax.

Failure to understand the real place and function of insurance is the most powerful obstacle in the way of fire prevention work. The average man figures that, when a building burns, the only loss is the difference be-"He did, Peter. He does not tween the actual value destroyed and the amount of insurance carried. Insurance does not restore property that is burned, nor obviate the loss entailed. It merely distributes the loss over many individuals instead of allowing it to fall upon the owner alone. The insurance company is merely a collecting and disbursing agency for the policy holders. It collects from those policy holders enough money to pay the loss plus a sufficient amount to cover operating expenses, including "You feel like that?" she asked the ordinary dividends on capital stock.

Excessive fire losses necessitate ex-"Then," she said, "you must under- cessive insurance rates. Low fire duction of rates. In the long run, "Yes, I understand that. Only if he this rule works out inexorably. Every man who prevents or helps to prevent

Even the man who has nothing to insure pays his share of the cost of fire. The manufacturer carries in-"I'd want," she hurried on, out of surance on his goods in process of the time the article has reached the prosecution and prompt conviction of vital importance to every man, woman She stopped as abruptly as she had and child in Canada. J. G. S.

Fares Paid for Farm Help.

To provide help in having and harvest, the Trades and Labor Branch of the Ontario Government will pay the going railway fare of persons who agree to work on a farm for at least "Peter," she cried, "you shouldn't 3 weeks. The worker has, however, to pay his return fare. The maximum distance for which this free transportation is given is 300 miles.

It is understood also that the Quebec Government has arranged with the railways for reduced fares for farm laborers.

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