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## The Cableman

AN EXCITING PRESENT-DAY ROMANCE

WEATHERBY CHESNEY

Supplied Exclusively in Canada by The British & Colonial Press Service,

How could be tell ber? 'To gain time, he asked her to tell him first what she

"Very little," she answered. "When saw Mona de la Mar at the circus yesterday, I thought at once that I knew the face, but I couldn't remember at first where I had seen it. Just bein the gangway speaking to her, and sion, he found it almost impossible. she looked up into his face with a laugh, and a curious shake of the head. stave off the disaster?" she said. Then I remembered in a flash where I - "No. It had not been added to the had seen that laugh, with its accom- firm's assets. No trace of it was panying jerk of the head before. It was at a tennis party at the Varney's, thatthree or four years ago, and I rememhered that Phil Varney and Margaret Ryan had played together most of the afternoon. They are cousins, I think. That is all I know.'

"There is nothing in all this to make you suspect ber," said Scarborough. "She is one of the Varney's. I sus-

and she are cousins. He told me that there is no relationship between them. His father and yours were her joint guardians; that is all."

"Oh, what does it matter?" cried Elsa, "She is in the circus, and my mother warned us of danger from the circus! Tell me what you learned about her." Scarborough paced the room once or

twice. Then he sat down beside Elsa "She is an orphan," he said, "and she was an heiress. Her father had made his money as a stockman, in the States, in the days before the West was fenced with wire, and opened out with railways. Her childhood been spent in the saddle, and she often knew what k was to sleep under the stars. When her father had made what he considered was a big enuogh pile to leave to a girl, he came to England and brought Margaret with him. She was fourteen then, and the next three or four years she spent at school. getting the education for which there had been no time in her wild life out West. When she was nearly twenty. her father died, and for a year she travelled with an elderly governess.

whom your father and Mr. Varney engaged for her. At the end of that time she went to live with the Varneys for a month or two. The firm of Carrington and Varney failed when she was within three weeks of the time when, by her father's will, she would be of age. On her twenty-first birthday she

was to have been given the absolute and unfettered control of her fortune of twenty thousand pounds. Her father had had, she would be capable of controlling it wisely. But she was never put to the test."

Scarborough paused, and Elsa, who he was speaking, asked quickly: "It had gone?"

Every penny of it, I am told." "Poor girl! How she must have loathed the Varneys! What did sho

"Made up her mind to earn her living. There was one accomplishment in which she excelled, and she resolved to put it to account. She became a riding-mistress."

known her father kept a big ridingschool there. He happened to be in England on a holiday, and be offered her a post in his school. She had a few pounds of her allowance left, and she made up the money for her pas- will do without it. You believe ill join the troupe he was getting up to came, and I thought I had found one tour the Atlantic islands. She did so." whom I could love more!" "It was an extraordinary thing to!

girl. Besides, she had a reason. And you now! Montagne was not a stranger. She had known him out West as one of her father's stockmen, and she be covered her face with her hands. lieved he was to be trusted."

"Still," said Elsa, "It was a mad thing, unless her reason was a very strong one, "I believe it was." A faint smile flickered over Elsa's

face, and she asked with something like a sneer: "Was if Phil Varney? So she did not hate him, though his father had ruined her?"

Scarborough shook his head gravely. "Phil did not know of the existence of the circus troupe till three months later, when he joined it at Rio, Her motive was not that."

"Do you know what it was?"

After all, the thing had to be told, and his delay had not made it easier, or shown him any gentle way of saying a hard-thing. But Elsa was not as other girls; she was brave, and would hear the truth without flinching. He owed it to her courage not to fence with the necessity longer. He would

say straight out what had to be said. "You know that there are people who do not hold the view you do about your father's innocence?" he said. "Why do you say that?" she asked

"Because what I am going to tell you is only plausible if it is read in the light of that fact."

She looked at him coldly. "What fact?" she asked. "That my father was guilty? Is that what you

"That there are people who believe that he was guilty." he said. "Oh, I know that!" she said, scornfully. "Why, we have been living here for two years in San Miguel under the false name of Page, if not because has directions for babies, children of there are fools who think my father was a scoundrel? We will take their existence for granted. Go on, please." counterfeits sold here, so surely look "When the affairs of Carrington and and see that yours is made by the Varney were investigated," Scarbor- "California Fig Syrup Company." and steps to take to ferret out, you

Scarborough thought for a moment. partners, or whichever of them we the guilty man, must have known for a long time that the failure was inevi table; and yet it was only within period of six weeks before the crast came that the securities which repre sented Margaret Ryan's inheritane

were turned into ready money." Scarborough stopped. He had or fore your friend, the Revolver King, to say; but now, with Elsa's eve pected that the thing would be hard came into the ring, I saw him standing widening with a growing apprehen "The money was taken to try of natural temper, expressed in a

found in the books. It was believed "But I want to talk to her."

eyes fixed on him with horror looking out of their depths. "Go on," she said. "Tell me quick father?"

"It was believed that the partner who had fled had taken this money "She is not," said Scarborough. with the intention of paying it back, if time for her! And for you too, old You are wrong in thinking that Phil by its means he could save his firm man," he added quietly. "I think I from ruin-but simply and solely for can understand what you are feeling. himself, to swell his crime-gained What difference will this make to plunder. It sounds incredible, but you."" her. She became a riding-mistress readily. He thought that Varney was because she knew no quicker way of asking about Elsa, not about him. earning, the money she would need;

she joined Val B. Montague, because with him she could begin her search at once, and earn money as she went. She had heard that the object of her pursuit was in hiding in one of the slands of the Atlantic.' "Horace," cried Elsa, suddenly, and there was a note of heart-breaking

grief in her voice. "Do you believe all He forced himself to answer. "I don't know what I believe. But. it is true, it gives us what has been lacking hitherto-a motive for the murder-if murder has been done.

"It gives that, even though it is-not true," said Elsa quickly. "She believed it, and she vowed revenge." Again Scarborough had to force him-

"I do not mean that. I don't think respect a man to whom that thought that Margaret Ryan is the murderess. did not even occur. But it is known that before he left London Mr. Carrington invested a large sum in diamonds. If he retained them in his possession, as it is prob believed that, with the training she able that he would, they would supply a motive. There are plenty of men in the world who will murder for less.

With a cry that was almost a sob. Elsa rose and faced him. "You say that my father had those diamonds." she asked-"dlamonds money! You say that, Horace?"

'I say that that is the story I was

"Do you believe it?" nearly a minute, and the silence was fissure, but somtimes the stream took broken only by their deep breathing. up all the available space for itself. Then she laughed softly, and Scar and left no path; so that it was necesborough thought that laugh was the "No, in Boston. A man who had most desolate sound be had ever heard. bed, or to splash boldly through it. Then she stopped, and with an im- Walls of grey pumice, splashed with

"Elsa!" "Go! . I asked for your help, but sage and outfit by selling her trinke's. hiy father, whom I loved more dearly A month after she landed, Val B. Mon. than anyone in the world"-and then tague saw her ride, and asked her to in a lower tone, she added:—"till you A ring of jagged teeth of basalt made

He went to take her in his arms, bu she shrank back from him. "I fancy, she is not a very ordinary "Go!" slie cried. "Go! I think I hat

And then, in a passion of sobbing she threw herself into a chair, and

CHAPTER VIII. A Scratched Stone

"Well?" asked Phil Varney, who Scarborough returned from the Chine las to the Cable Station. "Richmond Carrington Is dead said Scarborough simply.

"Murdered ?" "I don't know, but it looks like it "The diamonds?"

# He got up and paced the room again. If Tongue is Conted or if Cross,

Feverish, Constipated, Give "California Syrup of Figs." Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is ind bowels are clogged with sour gerous.

When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California edge of the water, a blouse-clad Azor-Syrup of Figs." and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again. Children love this of the whitened circle was evidently harmless "fruit laxative," and moth-

cause it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet. Keep it handy, Mother! A little morrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which in Ponta Delgada."

In the second of the second of

Oh, I suppose so. Have you an "Yes. If I am in the circus twenty minutes before the performance begins it will do. What do you want

"I want you to help me probe this thing. I am going first to the girl, who, so far as we know, was the last person to see him alive; and afterwards i shall go with you to Ponds Delgada. I want to be introduced to Mona de la Mar."

"What for?" asked Varney quickly "You are not going to be ass enough to suspect her of murder, are you?"

"Then what do you want with her?" "I want to know whether she saw or spoke to Richmond Carrington yesterday. I want to know whether the private business which made her refuse to perform last night was an interview with the man who had robbed her. Is she the sort of girl who will be sensible enough to see that questions will be put, and that she'll have to answer for her movements? "Yes," said Varney . "And she's sensible enough to have forgotten that fantastic vow business long ago. It was only a piece of girlish froth in the beginning, nothing more than a burst

romantically violent way. Of course she soon dropped it." "Probably," agreed Scarborough. "Oh, all right, I'll introduce you. Again he stopped. He saw Elsa's How is the daughter taking things?" "Bravely," said Scarborough.

"Did she know the truth about her

"You told her?" "Yes, but she didn't believe me'."

many believed it, and amongst them Varney's question meant to ask what the girl herself. I have told you that difference the knowledge that the in some ways she is a strange girl, a father was an unpunished criminal girl from whom one would expect would make in Scarborough's feelings strange things; She took a fantastic towards the daughter. It was a natural yow of vengeance, dedicated the next question, perhaps, but luckily Ecarfive years of her life-if the task borough misunderstood it. It never should take so long-to tracking down even occurred to him that such a quesand punishing the man who had ruined tion would be put, so he answered it

> "I hope that in the end it will make no difference," he said. Varney shot a puzzled look at him, saying "I don't quite see. Do you rean to

say that it does make a difference "Yes. \ She refuses to speak to me,

or to let me help her. Shall we start? Your machine is in the shed." Varney understood now, and saw that he had made a mistake. It wis the girl, not the man, to whom the new knowledge made a difference. He was glad that Scarborough had missed the point of his question, and he honored his friend for not understanding him. Varney had learned in a rough school

natural one; and he knew too, how to "You mean to help her, none the less," was what he said

lately, and he knew that in the world's,

eyes, his thought would be counted the

"Oh, yes," said Scarborough, and they rode off together. The road to the pine-grower's house passed within a few hundred yards of the Caldeira de Morte, and they turned aside to see the place where Richard

Carrington had met his death The Caldeira lay in a shallow depression in the hillside, formed by an which he had bought with that girl's extinct crater, and they had to leave their bleycles to get tooit. There was a narrow fissure in the lip of the crater through which the warm, shallow tions. stream from the Caldeira made its way to the lower levels. The path and He did not answer. She waited for the stream occupied the whole of this sary to jump from rock to rock in its irregular patches of red lichen, rose for forty feet on either side; and scorings and watermarks on their flanks

showed that there were times when the shallow stream was a rapid torrent. After-about fifty yards this gully a complete circle, a quarter of a mile in diameter, broken only at the place where the two young men had entered. Below this black rampart the slopes were clothed with a green mantle of heath and whortleberries; lower down there was a thick carpet of stag-horn moss; and lower still, barrenness, baro earth and : tones, with a scurfy incrustation of white upon them. The Caldeira itself was hardly more than ten fards across it now, but the white desolation round it marked the limits to which its waters sometimes rose. The waters themselves were white. like milk, and they were in constant

curling, bubbling movement, like milk gently boiling. A cloud of steam rose from them in a dense column, expanding into a canopy, and twisted in everthinning wreaths out over the toothed

edge of the crater. "It reminds me of the picture of the genie in the Arabian Nights, rising in a cloud from the brazen jar," said Var-

ney. "What's the smell?" "Sulphuretted hydrogen," said Scarborough. "There generally is a little, though the amount varies. The vapors are mostly carbon dioxide, I believe; but after an earthquake anywhere in the island, the sulphur fumes a sure sign its little stomach, liver are in sufficient quantity to be dan-

"Does the often happen? "Yes, pretty often; but I haven't heard of any earthquake lately. They were not the only visitors to the crater. A man was standing by the ean peasant, with a wide hat on his head and a cigarette of maize-husk between his lips. A donkey quietly browzing on the herbage at the edge his property. Presently the man bent down and lifted a dripping, steaming ers can rest easy after giving it, besack from the water.

"What's he doing?" Varuey asked. "Cooking," said Scarborough. "That sack is full of red lupin beans . They

(To be continued)

ough went on, "It was found that the Hand back with contempt any other never hear the gossip complain of

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