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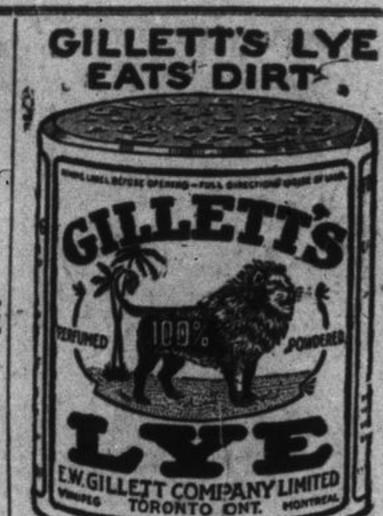
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# The Cableman

AN EXCITING PRESENT-DAY ROMANCE

Weatherby Chesney

Supplied Exclusively in Canada by The British and Colonial Press Service, Limited.

CHAPTER XX. An Eavesdropper

It was nearly nine o'clock when Scarborough rode up the gravel path to the door of the Chinelas again. He had been on duty from seven till ten that morning; then had come the message from Elsa, the ride with her into Ponta Delgada, the visit to the venta in the north road, and the ride back: he had had a tiring day already, and he was due for duty again at mid-

He hoped to be able to got an hour's sleep yet, before he had to begin his watch in the instrument-room; but drst, as Varney had said, he must so

that the girls were all right. He found them together in the dr. ing-room and it seemed to him t Blea's stiffness with the other girl i worn off considerably since the after noon. Had anything happened bring them closer together? Or wa it simply that Mona's sunny natu had melted a coldness that was main artificial, and her persistent offerin, of friendship had broken down th

barrier which Eisa's sensitive fancy had set up? Scarborough, seeing them, sittin: together, in outward amity at least had the thought borne in upon his irresistibly that they were surely and obviously meant to be friends. Th very difference in the types of their beauty made them such admirabl foils to each other-Elsa's the del cate, dainty beauty of carved ivory, and Mona's the vivacity of trashing brown eyes, black hair, and rich creamy col oring. The one was an anemone o the woods, fragile but exquisite; th. other a rich blossom of the sunlight.

"Mother has gone to bed will s headache," said Elsa, "and Mona is go ing life with the circus-troupe-" ing to stay with me for the night." Scarborough noted with pleasure that she said Mona, and not Miss

Ryan or Miss de la Mar. smiling.

Mona caught his meaning at once. battle togother since we saw you. pen. See?" and Mona. Are you pleased?"

"Very," he answered. "But against each other?"

"No," said Elsa, "against mother." "That is why she has gone to bed Phil found at the venta." with a headache," said Mona laughing. Scarborough told them the result of game.

"Five pounds to nothing you didn't." two towards the end," said Mona gaily, must be watched." mine was only a cavalry pursuit at the asked. finish, to cut up the disorganized forces of the enemy, and drive the At least that is the only reason I can make a regular picnic of it." think of to explain why she made the mistake of losing her temper and blurt-

wanted to know."

plan of the place where the diamonds last minute. So you see, we oughtn't an open space of the road. are hidden," said Mona, "and she seem- to frighten him yet." ables to the cashier to keep; thirdly, anybody else's suspicions." to put an opiate into it, until she awoke that duty, you know." the plan was gone. Of course the man fully. in the small boat had shadowed her "I don't think it will pay to forget from the Ring-Rock, and by sleeping her. in the hotel she gave him his chance. As he said this, the door of the After all that, instead of abusing her room opened suddenly, and Mrs. Car-The unreasonableness of this was also | threshold. pointing out to her."

"On what grounds does she blame young man to me." you?" Scarborough asked Elsa. Ring-Rock at all," said Elsa. "But contempt and anger. never mind that. We found out from her that the plan was not complete, have been-" because it gave no indication of where the place to which it referred was to be found. Father said he dared not

Elsa unlocked the desk and took the

stone out. "But, after all, it's unin informed me, would very possibly be telligible," she said. "What does 'ache my son-in-law one day." -blue-N. drip' mean?"

"I haven't an idea," said Scarbor Mrs. Carrington laughed Carrington wants."

"I think that's sense, and I'm surprised something, the knowledge that Elsa situation. The man who stole the here to watch me!" was now co-operating with him in the plan won't be able to use it, because fight, instead of tacitly putting obsta- he hasn's the scratched stone; we have her mocking laughter rang out again. cles in his way, the hope that now the the scratched stone, but it's no use to misunderstanding between them was us because we can't interpret it without at an end a closer understanding the plan; and your mother. Elsa, has would follow in its place, when he had lost the plan, and never heard of the put to her the question be was hunder. scratched stone. It rather looks as when we got them!"

smash, you know, and most of them diamonds should be sent to the liquiin the pound."

"Oh, no, it isn't splendld, or herofe, nounced that she was going to bed. or anything of the sort," Mona cut in "Really to bed, this time," she said. I've got two reasons, both are very eron is really necessary, as Elsa's touch a penny of the money which the I have got your professional name man who stole it from me lost his life right, my dear, have I?-that, no doubt. in defending. That's silly perhaps, is why Mademoiselle Mona de la Mar but I can't help it. The second is that insisted upon staying. I am not I don't need it."

"But if you grow tired of your wander- I am afraid I have complicated them but it's a theme I don't want to dis | he thought; but he was not even an-"What has happened?" he aske that too, which I shall perhaps tell woman's impudence. She was a type

"Why, Mona-"

"It was a hot engagement, you know, the visit to the venta, and of Varney's | "I should like to hear what you mean and she was utterly routed. She ob suggestion that the Furnas district to do with me," she said sweetly. "I jected to my presence in the house, should be watched night and day, in am coming to your picnic, but I reaand Elsa stuck up boldly for me, and order to catch the man Gillies. Of lize that I shall not be very welcome. for the rites of hospitality, and said I course Gillies knew nothing about the I am an unfortunate complicationshould stay. 'Mrs. Carrington retorted soratched stone, and if it was he who how are you going to deal with it?" that I shouldn't, and they fought it had stolen the plan from Mrs. Carringout, and that pale fragile little girl ton, there was still that link missing "I don't think there is anything to there scored a complete victory. I in his knowledge; but it was also pos be gained by saying," he answered. was proud of her. It was glorious." sible that he had other reasons for "You hope to be "Did you sit quietly by and listen?" knowing, or guessing, the place to out, after all?" asked Scarborough with a smile. which the plan referred, and so could "Oh, no," said Scarborough. "If you do without the stone. Anyway Var- say you are coming, I have no doubt

"I couldn't resist it, you know. But "You are going to ride over and re- Mrs. Carrington gave him a quick Elsa bore the real brunt of the battle; lieve Phil in the morning?" Mona glance.

"I can improve on that plan. Elsa Good-night." victory home. I think Mrs. Carring- and I will go with you. and we'll call ton's headache is probably rather bad. on the way for Miss Davis. We will and Mona jumped up and opened the Scarborough shook his head.

"Too conspicuous," he said. ign out something that we very much shall frighten our man if we go in a to the Cable station." she said to Scarswarm. Phil suggests, and I think he's borough. "There are no keyholes in "She told you what was in the letter right, that as Gillies seems to know the open air! Never mind your hat, that was stolen?" cried Scarborough more than we do, we should let him Elsa. It's warm." go ahead without interference for the When they were clear of the house "She admitted that it contained a present, and be ready to come in at the and the trees round it, Mona halted in

ed to think that it was Elsa's fault "Exactly," said Mona. "But that's "There isn't a hedge within futy that it had been stolen. I didn't follow just what I meant by suggesting a yards, and the sick-room of our headher reasoning there, and I took the picnic. If he sees you and Phil moon- ache patient is double that distance liberty of pointing out some of her ing about here, he'll know that you away. Our voices won't be heard. mistakes. In the first place I reminded are watching him; and you may be But speak without pointing at things. her that she went to an hotel, instead sure he will see you. But if we all go. There's a bright moon, and an intelliof coming straight home; secondly, she he'll think it's just a picnic party, and gent observer can deduce a good deal put the plan in her purse instead of we shall be able to explore the whole from gestures. Now, then, what's to handing it over with her other valu- neighborhood without exciting his or be done?"

she had a large cup of coffee sent up "And Mrs. Carrington?" said Scar- you two had better give up your plan to her the last thing at night, and didn't borough. "Who's going to stay and of going with me to-morrow; stay suspect that someone bad been paid | watch her? I had counted on you for here, and watch Mrs. Carrington. If next morning about eleven to find that "I forgot about her," said Mona rue- "Oh, she'll go right enough," said

self for her folly, she abuses Elsa, rington herself stood smiling on the one of the things I took the liberty of "No," she said, softly, "It won't do ing you the slip. I'll carry out my to forget me. Elsa, introduce the original plan of joining Phil at Fur-

Elsa had jumped up, and was gazing "Because I hid that stone jar at the at her mother with a look of mingled

"Listening," said Mrs. Carrington

be found. Father said he dared not put that information in the letter, because it might get into the wrong hands, but that he would convey the knewledge to her in some other way, She believes that I have that knowledge, and that I am keeping it back from her purposely."

"Well, so you are," said, Scarborough, smiling.

Elsa sprang to her feet.

"The scratched stone!" she exclaimed. "Blue—N. drip!"

"Exactly," said Scarborough. "By the way, that lock of yours hadn't been tampered with?"

"No."

Siée REWARD, stee

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least of the least wouldn't submit to be bullied by the lady with the headache. You see, the lady with lady with the headache. You see, the lady with the lady with t "Good. Will you give me the stone ledo. O. Address P. J. CHENEY & CO., To-

calmly. "Yes, child, I have. Do you expect me to be ashamed of admitting it? Don't be foolish. Introduce me."
Elsa stood where she was, and made no movement to do so. Mrs. Carring-

ton laughed. "Very well," she said. "I must introduce myself. I am Rachel Carrington, the woman who retired to bed with a headache, utterly routed after a battle of words with two young girls. But even after a defeat the enemy sometimes rallies, you know, and while I have been standing behind that door I have rallied considerably. You, I presume, are Mr. Horace Scarborough, the young man who, my husband "Mother!" cried Elsa again.

ough, "But it we had the full text, in- "Elsa's blushes suggest that I am including the words that that idiot of a discreet," she said mockingly, "But, bean-seller rubbed out with his blouse, Horace, if I am to be your mother-in-I haven't a doubt but that it would law, you ought to have the opportunprove to be the message that Mrs. Ity of knowing something of me. shall join your picnic to-morrow, and "Well, now," said Mona approvingly, we can enjoy a talk together. You I think that's sense, and I'm surprised don't look pleased. Surely the arnight. But he hardly knew that he Elsa and I didn't think of it. Do you rrangement is a good one. It will obwas tired. The joy of at last doing know it seems to me rather a preity viate the necessity of leaving anyone

She threw herself into a chair, and

CHAPTER XXI.

A Letter of Introduction

Mrs. Carrington was enjoying the ing to put—these things had been ton. | though the diamonds stood a good situation. These young people were ics, and would have been enough to chance of staying undisturbed where really delicious. They thought they counterbalance the fatigue of even they are for a year or two. You and I had outwitted her, and were discussneedn't have bothered about deciding ing gravely what they meant to do what we were going to do with them with the diamonds when they got them. The stones were to be handed over to "Have you been doing that?" Scar her husband's creditors, for distribuborough asked with some amusement, tion amongst the widows and orphans "Oh, yes, we've settled it all! There in England; it was a touching scheme, were rather a lot of people who suf. but it was not the one which Mrs. Car-

fered in the Carrington and Varney rington proposed to see carried out. But though she enjoyed her triumph. were poor. We had decided that he and did not mind in the least that she had gained it by admitted eavesdropdator in bankruptcy, to be turned into ping, she was really tired. Moreover a small dividend of something or other ber headache had not benefited by half an hour's crouching with her ear "She resigns all her own claim," to the keyhole of the door. She exsaid Elsa to Scarporough. "Isn't it pected to spend an energetic day tomorrow, and she did not think she was splendid of her? She says that the likely to gain any other information poor people suffered more than she to-night, so she sacrificed present gratification to future profit, and an-

before Scarborough could answer, ["But don't go, Mr. Scarborough; on "Don't run away with that idea, Elsa. that account! . I don't suppose a chapordinary ones. The first is that I've friend is with her. No doubt that was got a feeling that I should hate to why Mademoiseuile Mona de la Marneeded, so I will retire. You have "Not just now." said Scarborough. arrangements to make for to-morrow.

somewhat." "Oh, don't bother!" said Mona. "You have," said Scarborough, "I've got plenty of money, I tell you; quietly. She was trying to anger him, cuss just now. I have a reason for noyed; and he rather admired the you some day, and perhaps not. It all that he had not met before, and he depends upon whether something I realized for the first time the tremen-"Oh," she said, "we've been through very much want to happen, does hap dous advantage that a simple shame lessness gives a plotter who has brains We went into it Miss Carrington and The others noted with astonishment to use it effectively. Mrs. Carrington Miss Ryan, and we came out of it Elsa | that she was blushing, and Elsa be- had the gift of shamelesaness, but she also undoubtedly had the gift of brains. She was an added difficulty of course. whom was the battle? -Not against "Change the subject, please!" said but his hands were not tied by mis-Mona with a laugh. "Mr. Scarborough, understanding now; he was free to you haven't reported what you and grapple with difficulties, and he rather welcomed them as adding zest to the

Scarborough smiled.

"Oh, I chipped in with a remark or new was quite right in saying that he that you will . But you will probably make your own arrangements."

> "Young man," she said, "you are not fool! I admit that I hoped you were, She swept smiling from the room long French windows that led to the garden.

"Elsa and I will see you on your way

"I think this will do," she said

"I think," said Scarborough, "that

"Yes, I think she will. If she does, you can follow her. Does she bicycle,

"Then she'll have a carriage. You on your bicycles can prevent her giv-

Mona turned to Elsa. "Are you willing to give up your picnic?" she asked. "Mother!" she said scornfully, "You | "I don't mean to give it up," said

Elsa quietly. "I am going." Mona looked at Scarborough queerly. "A determined family, the

Scarborough doubtfully; "but what's your plau?"

(To Be Continued.)

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