The Diamond Bracelet

By MRS. HENRY WOOD,

Author of East Lynne, Etc.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

"Madam," said the officer "you must be aware that in an investigation of this nature, we are compelled to put questions which we do not expect to be answered in the affirmative. Colonel Hope will understand what I mean when I say that we call them feelers. I did not expect to hear that Miss Seaton had been on familiar terms with your servants although it might have been; but that question being disposed of, will lead me to another. I suspect that some one did enter the room and make free with the bracelet. And that Miss Seaton must have been cognizant of it. If a common thief or an absolute stranger, she would have been the first to give the alarm. If not on too familiar terms with the servants she would be as little likely to screen them. So we come to the question, who could it have been?

"May I inquire who was asleep Miss Seaton," coldly demanded Lady Sarah.

"Entirely from her manner, from the agitation she displays."

"Most young ladies, particularly in our class of life, would betray agitation at being brought face to face with a police officer," urged Lady Sarah.

"My lady," he returned, "we are keen experienced men, and we should not be fit for the office we hold if we were not. We generally do find lady witnesses betray uneasiness when first exposed to our questions but in a very short time, after the first awkwardness it wears off, and they glow gradually easy. It was not so with Miss Seaton. Her agitation was excessive at first. It ceased visibly, and it ended as you saw. I did not think it agitation of a joyful kind; I did think it that of conscious fear. And look at the undeniable fact that she had the bracelets then, never left them, no one came in, and yet the most valuable one vanished. We have many extraordinary things thought before us, but not quite so extraordinary as that."

CHAPTER VIII.

"The Colonel" nodded approbation. Lady Sarah began to feel uncomfortable.

"I should like to know whether any one called whilst you were at dinner," mused the officer. "Can I see the man who attends to the hall door?"

"Thomas attends to that," said the Colonel, ringing the bell. "There is a boy, sir, but that is only for the servants and tradespeople."

"I heard Thomas say that Sir George Danvers called while you were at dinner," observed Lady Sarah. "No one else. And Sir George did not go up stairs."

The detective smiled.

"If he had, my lady, it would have made the case no clearer."

"No," laughed Lady Sarah, "poor old Sir George would be puzzled what to do with a diamond bracelet."

"Will you tell me," said the officer, wheeling sharply around upon Thomas when he entered, "who it was that called here yesterday evening while your master was at dinner? I do not mean Sir George Danvers, the other one."

Thomas visibly hesitated; and that was sufficient for the lynx-eyed officer. "Nobody called but Sir George, sir," he presently said.

The detective stood before the man staring him full in the face with a look of amusement.

"Think again, my man," quoth he. "Take your time. There was some one else."

The Colonel fell into an explosion; reproaching the unfortunate Thomas with having eaten his bread for five years to turn around upon the house and its master at last, and act the part of a deceitful, conniving wretch, and let in that swindler——

"He's not a swindler, sir," interrupted Thomas.

"Oh, no, not a swindler," roared the Colonel, "he only steals diamond bracelets."

"No more than I steal 'em, sir," again spoke Thomas. "He's not capable, sir. It was Mr. Gerard."

The Colonel was struck speechless; his rage vanished and down he sat in a chair, staring at Thomas. Lady Sarah colored with surprise.

"Now my man," cried the officer, "why could you not have said it was Mr. Gerard?"

"Because Mr. Gerard asked me not to say he had been, sir; he is not friendly here just now, and I promised him I would not. And I'm sorry to have had to break my word."

"Who is Mr. Gerard, pray?"

"He is my nephew," interposed the checkmated Colonel. "Gerard Hope."

"But, as Thomas says, he is no swindler," remarked Lady Sarah, "he is no thief. You may go, Thomas."

"No, sir," stormed the Colonel, "fetch Miss Seaton here first. I'll come to the bottom of this. If he has done it Lady Sarah, I will bring him to trial, though he is Gerard Hope."

Alice came back leaning on the arm of Lady Frances Chenevix; the latter having been dying with curiosity to come in before.

"So the mystery is out, ma'am," began the Colonel to Miss Seaton; "it appears this gentleman was right and that somebody did come in; and that somebody the rebellious Mr. Gerard Hope."

Alice was prepared for this, for Thomas had told her Mr Gerard's visit was known; and she was not so agitated as before. It was the fear of its being found out, the having to conceal it, which had troubled her.

"It is not possible that Gerard can have taken the bracelet," uttered Lady Sarah.

"No, it is not possible," replied Alice. "And that is why I was unwilling to mention his having come up."

"What did he come for?" thundered the Colonel.

"It was not an intentional visit. I believe he only followed the impulse of the moment. He saw me at the front window, and Thomas, it appears was at the door, and he ran up."

"I think you might have said so, Alice," observed Lady Sarah, in a stiff tone.

"Knowing he had been forbidden the house, I did not wish to bring him under the Colonel's displeasure. Was all the excuse Alice could make. It was not my place to inform against him.

"I presume he appointed sufficiently near the bracelet to tempt them, had he wished," observed the officer, who, of course, had now made up his mind upon the business, and spoke the thing.

"Yes," returned Alice, wishing she could have said no.

"Did you notice the bracelet there after he was gone?"

"I did not, sir. I was so vexed with him for being there, that when he left and then I went into the front room, we had no opportunity of observing."

The officer he solved was the mental comment of the detective officer.

"The Colonel not only knew you several servants various ways in search of Gerard Hope, and he was speedily found and brought. A tall and powerful young man very good looking."

"Look him into custody officer," was the Colonel's imperious command.

"Hands off Mr Officer, if you are an officer." A red Gerard in the first shock of surprise as he glanced at the gentlemanly appearance of the officer who were plain clothes; you shall not touch me, unless you can show legal authority. There is a shrewd fellow, Colonel; excuse me but as I owe nothing to you I do not see that you have any such power over me."

"The attempt would have made a fine case, especially Gerard, has had thrown into the scale against him and looking uneasily at everybody.

"Did you hear me, sir?" cried the Colonel.

"I must do my duty," said the police officer, approaching Gerard, and he drew back a step and said, "I suppose I should not get it without a row."

"Allow me to understand, first," remarked Gerard haughtily eyeing the officer, "What is it for? What is the sum total?"

"Two hundred and five pounds," growled the colonel. "But if you are thinking to compounce it in this way, young sir, you will find yourself mistaken."

"Oh, no fear," retorted Gerard. "I have not two hundred and fifty pence. Let me see—I must be flush—A thousand a year! Look on earth do they slide the express up? I did it sir, to oblige a friend."

"The direct you did!" exclaimed the colonel who had little conceived the church except the last sentence. "If ever I lose such a trick I think in all my experience."

"He was awful hard up," went on Gerard, "so he says I am now and I did it. I don't deny having done such things on my own account, but from this particular bire I did not benefit a shilling."

CHAPTER IX.

His cool assurance and his words struck them with consternation.

"Bobbs said he'd take care I should be put to no inconvenience—and this comes of it! That's trusting your friend. He vowed to me this very week, that he had provided for the bill."

"He thinks it only an affair of debt," screamed Lady Frances Chenevix. "Oh, Gerard! what a relief! We thought you were confessing."

"You are not arrested for debt, sir," cried the officer, "but for felony."

"For felony!" uttered Gerard Hope. "Oh, indeed. Could you not make it murder?" he added, sarcastically.

"Off with him to Marlborough street officer!" cried the exasperated colonel "and I'll go with you and prefer the charge. He scoffs at it, does he?"

"Yes, that I do," answered Gerard, "for whatever pitfalls I may have got into in the way of debt and carelessness, I have not gone into crime."

"You are accused, sir," said the officer, of stealing a diamond bracelet."

"Hey!" uttered Gerard, a flash of intelligence rising to his face as he glanced at Alice. "I might have guessed it was the bracelet affair, if I had had my recollection about me."

"Oh, indeed," interrupted the colonel in sneering parodying, "so you expected it was the bracelet did you? We shall have it all out presently."

"I heard of the bracelet's disappearance," said Mr Hope. "I met Miss Seaton when she was out this morning and she told me of it. She was gone."

"Better make no admissions," whispered the officer in his ear. "They may be used against you."

"Whatever admissions I may make, you are at liberty to use them, for they are truth," haughtily returned Gerard. "Is it possible that you do suspect me of taking the bracelet, or is this a joke?"

"Allow me to explain," panted Alice, stepping forward. "I did not accuse you, Mr Hope; I would not have mentioned your name in connection with it. I believe I am sure you are innocent; but when it was discovered that you had been here I could not deny it."

"The charging me with having taken it is absurdly preposterous," exclaimed Gerard, looking first at his uncle and then at the officer. "Who accuses me?"

"I do," said the colonel.

"Then I am very sorry it is not somebody else instead of you, sir."

"Explain. Why?"

"Because they would get a kindly horsewhipping.

"Gerard," interrupted Lady Sarah, "do not treat it in that light way. If you did take it say so and you shall be forgiven. I am sure you must have been put to it terribly hard; only confess it and the matter shall be hushed up."

"No, it sha'n't, my lady!" cried the colonel. "I will not have him encouraged—I mean felony compounded."

"It shall," returned Lady Sarah, "it shall indeed. The bracelet was mine, and I have a right to do as I please. Believe me, Gerard, I will put up with the loss without a murmur, only confess, and let the worry be done with."

Gerard Hope looked at her; little trace of shame was there in his countenance. "Lady Sarah," he asked, in a deep tone, "can you indeed deem me capable of taking your bracelet?"

"The bracelet was there, sir, and it went, and you can't deny it!" uttered the colonel.

"It was there fast enough," answered Gerard. "I held it in my hand for two or three minutes, and I was talking to Miss Seaton about it. I was wishing it was mine, and saying what I should do with it."

"Oh Mr Hope, pray say no more incriminating interrupted Alice. "You will make appearances worse."

"What do you want to screen him for?" impetuously broke out the colonel turning upon Alice. "Let him say what he was going to say."

"I do not know why I should not go on," Gerard Hope answered. "It is not the thought in a spirit of bravado, or recklessness, which he declared to Alice. I said I should spout it.

"You'll send off to every pawnshop in the metropolis before the nights over Mr Officer," cried the choking colonel, snatchess with rage. "This rogue knows."

"But I did not take it any more for having said that put to Gerard in a graver tone. "The remark might have been made by any one, from a duke downwards. If indicted to his last shifts as I am, I said if it were mine I should do so. I would steal to do it. Not did I.

"I saw him put it down again," said Alice Seaton, in a calm, steady voice.

"Allow me to speak a word, colonel," resumed Lady Sarah, interrupting something her husband was about to utter, "I cannot believe you guilty, but consider the circumstances. The bracelet was there, you acknowledge it. Miss Seaton left the apartment when you did and went into the front room yet when I came up from dinner it was there no longer.

"Yes, Gerard, I must put it to you, especially Gerard, has had thrown upon him the blame and looking uneasily at everybody.

"Did you hear me, sir?" cried the colonel.

"I must do my duty," said the police officer, approaching Gerard, and he drew back a step and said, "I suppose I should not get it without a row."

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(To be continued.)

QUEER LUCK OF BITTORS.

Some Mistakes in the Backing of Horses That Paid Well.

Man who goes racing suffer from quaint bad luck, and he and his friends seldom get results, says the London Sketch. At Goodwood this year a well-known winter game across a man who professed to have backed the winner in the Stewards cup. When asked why, he calmly referred his questioner to the good race of Donovan Roosa had won at Newmarket a week or two previously. A "book" was predicted and the race hunted up, but the winner was O'Donoghue, and the Stewards cup winner did not run in that race. Last Cambridgeshire day, after the race had beautifully won by Sloan on Encombe, I asked an acquaintance what sort of a race he had had. It turned out to be a satisfactory one. He proceeded to inform me that he had received a wire from somebody "in the know" at Stanton advising him to back the good thing and that Wallace had just got the horse to his liking. Added to which he gave me many other details concerning the animal and its owner.

"Pardon me," I ventured to say, "you have mixed things up a little." I took his race card and showed him that he had backed Echelon. But he had not. Through some mistake he had backed Ensombe for Echelon, and, what is more, he backed a winner.—Chicago Tribune.

POUND FOOLISHNESS.

Not Always Economy to Buy in Large Quantities.

One of the commonest forms of pound foolishness is contentmented by many high authorities. This is the purchase of certain household provisions in large quantities. Few writers on domestic topics fail to lay stress upon the economy of buying groceries in bulk. That sugar and flour, potatoes and apples should be bought by the half or whole barrel, cereals by the case, butter by the tub, and other things in like proportion, is one of the early precepts in the Young Housekeeper's Complete Guide to Domestic Economy. The ignorant young thing buy the provisions first and the experience afterward. The flour grows musty, the cereals develop weevils, the potatoes and apples rot long before they can be eaten, and the cook exercises a lavishness in the use of butter and sugar she would never show were they bought in such limited amounts that the housekeeper could hold close watch over them. Even after these events the young mistress feels as if she were absolutely reckless and no manager at all when she so far departs from household law as to buy food in small quantities.—Independent.

Evidence to the Contrary.

"Do you think that a man is always better off for a college education?" "No," answered the housewife, rather sharply. "This morning I asked a man who came around with a wagon whether he had any nice fresh eggs. He merely looked at me reproachfully and said: "Madam, might I be permitted to observe that fresh eggs are always nice eggs, and nice eggs are always fresh!"—Washington Star.

Long Enough for Any One.

Teacher—How many of my scholars can remember the longest sentence they ever read? Billy—Please, ma'am, I can. Teacher—What? Is there only one? Well, William, you may tell the rest of the scholars the longest sentence you ever read. Billy—Imprisonment for life.—Stray Stories.

His Criticism.

The farmer—Don't that there new boarder like your cookin', Maria? His wife—Well, I dunno jest what he means, but he says there ain't enough of it per capita.—Puck.

Losers are always in the wrong.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

HELEN GOULD ACCEPTS.

Miss Helen Gould, who has accepted her appointment as member of the board of lady managers of the St. Louis world's fair, is the most distin-

HELEN GOULD.

guished member of the family of the late Jay Gould.

DRESS HAS THE ADVANTAGE.

It may be unfortunate but it is true that dress and manners count for about as much as ability in the capitals of Europe and South America. A diplomat who is laughed at in society can be of little use to his government. He loses much of the gossip heard in exclusive circles, which a diplomat ought to know, and he meets with coldness instead of hospitality at the foreign office. The general character of the United States representatives abroad has been raised of recent years. But congress has not yet appreciated the value of the social standing of the government envoys.—Kansas City Star.

PEACE TESTS OF BRAVERY.

Peace has its tests of a soldier's or a sailor's bravery no less severe than those of war, though they may be less glorious. Few Americans would fancy the duty which has been assigned to several naval officers of sealing them up in the hold of a submarine torpedo boat Fulton of sinking them below the surface of the water and of remaining there from twelve to fifteen hours. The officers and men who are to undergo this experience will breathe bottled air, so to speak, the necessary supply of atmospheric fluid being contained in compressed air flasks.—New York Mail and Express.

FROM COOK TO MILLIONAIRE.

William Morgan, second cook at the St. Charles hotel in St. Joseph, Mo., is preparing to claim the $1,000,000 fortune left him by an uncle with whom he resided in London, England.

WILLIAM MORGAN.

(St. Joseph, Mo.) who has fallen heir to $1,000,000.

Lord Rosebery's Heir.

Lord Dalmeny, Lord Rosebery's eldest son, has, like his father, a sense of humor, though in other respects he is singularly unlike his distinguished father. His strong and athletic build is found in outdoor life and field sports. He is a first-class cricket player, and much interested in racing. It was Lord Dalmeny who when Lord Rosebery was first elected member for Edinburgh, and was placing his address on the door Edinburgh, and was placing his address on the door Eton, the "Fourth of June" boys, had an inscription added to Mr. Gladstone's address, which ran thus: "Lord Dalmeny, the Grand Old Man's son." The joke Eton, the "Fourth of June" boys, had an inscription added to Mr. Gladstone's address, which ran thus: "Lord Dalmeny, the Grand Old Man's son." The joke frequently interrupted.

Reciprocity with Canada.

A delegation representing the chambers of commerce of the United States has told President Roosevelt that it believes reciprocity with Canada will be of great value to American commerce and industry. The President told the delegation that he would take the matter under advisement. This is as safe a polite method of saying that one is not ready to take action.

May Goelet to Marry.

Miss May Goelet, the wealthiest American heiress in her own right, who is spending the winter in London with her mother is reported engaged to Viscount Ingestre, the son and heir of the earl of Shrewsbury. Lady Ingestre, the mother, is the premier earl of the realm and as such takes precedence of all peers of the rank of earl in the British empire.

Three Deweys are now on the navy lists—the admiral, his cousin, Lieut. Theodore G. Dewey, and Rupert C. Dewey, second lieutenant in the marine corps.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine cases of ten are caused by catarrh which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

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Pain Wizard Oil. Use the last on the first and you have neither one nor the other.

The man who always does his best will find it slowly demand for the things that he can do.

Stops the Cough and Works Off the Cold

Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

The day is not long enough for the rich to do all the work they claim they could.

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Great cures are recorded for Piso's Cure for Consumption. It cures Coughs and Colds. 25c.

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Disease can't be cured unless you know what causes it. Dr. Shoop's Book on the Heart, Nerves, Kidneys, Stomach, Liver, Blood, Skin, Rheumatism, Pain, Sent Free. Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis.

A man's success often depends on his ability to prevent others from preventing him.

Man Is Locked in Ice Box.

Two masked robbers walked into the saloon of Adolph Bonazzi, 752 West Harrison street, Chicago, and with drawn revolvers ordered the saloon-keeper to throw up his hands. After emptying the cash register of $15, the hold-up men took a gold watch and a diamond stud from Bonazzi and then placed him in an ice box and shut the door. The robbers made their escape unnoticed. The saloon keeper was imprisoned in the ice box for half an hour and was released by friends who heard his cries.

McKinley's Cousin Cleared.

Guthrie, O. T., dispatch: Major Fred E. McKinley, a cousin of the late President, has been exonerated by the Interior Department on charges of misconduct filed against him as receiver of the government land office here.

Nesga, Ill., Swept by Flames.

Nesga, Ill., dispatch: Fire destroyed a large portion of the business part of the city today, and for a time threatened the entire business portion. The estimated loss is about $40,000, with $25,000 insurance.

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Lydia E. Pinkham

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