The Diamond Bracelet

By MRS. HENRY WOOD,

Author of East Lynne, Etc.

CHAPTER XI (Continued).

"Even than my love. Alice you like me more than you admit. Unsay your words my dearest and give me hope."

"Do not ask me. she resumed in a pained tone. "do not seek to turn me from my duty. I, though I scarcely like to speak of these sacred things, Gerard, I have put my hand on the plough, even you cannot turn me back."

"Tell me one thing, Gerard: it will be safe. Was the dispute about Frances Chenevix?"

He contracted his brow and nodded.

"And you could refuse her! You must learn to love her, for she would make you a good wife."

"Much chance there is now of my making a wife of any one."

"Oh, this will blow over in time. I feel it will. Meanwhile—"

Meanwhile you destroy every hope: for feeling I thought to take to cheer me in my exile was his impatient interruption. I love you alone, Alice. I have loved you for months truly fervently, and I know you must have seen it.

Love me still, Gerard," she softly answered, "but not with the love you should give to one of earth, the love you will give to Frances Chenevix. Think of me as one rapidly going soon to be gone."

Oh, not yet," he cried in an imploring tone as if it were as she wished.

Not just yet. I hope to see you before I am exiled. Let us say farewell while we are alone."

She spoke the last words hurriedly, for footsteps were heard. Gerard snatched her to him and laid his face upon hers.

What was the woman who took leave of herself Frances Chenevix of Gerard, who was then reading back on the sofa apparently waiting for her. A mortified! I cannot see any thing like it.

No." I am sorry to have given you the trouble Fanny. It has gone, perhaps amongst the chairs here."

Just so," said Gerard, removing her hand from before her face. That was a carriage stopped. Can they be coming home?"

Frances and Gerard flew into the next room whence the street could be seen. A carriage had stopped but not at the house. It was not ready for them yet," said Gerard.

I am sorry things go so cross just now, with you, Gerard," whispered Lady Frances. You will be very glad over there."

As left to home myself if you know not the history of that luck up and lady Sarah be spoiling it on her arm again and I never know that the cloud is off for me. No chance that I am of you, I to be at the trouble of writing to a fellow."

I will, said Lady Frances. Whether the bracelet turns up or not I will write you sometimes, if you like, Gerard, and give you all the news."

You are a good girl, Fanny," returned he, in a brighter accent, "and I will send you my address as soon as I have got one. You are not to turn proud minded and put off the bargain if you find it's offensive."

Frances laughed. "Take care of yourself, Gerard."

So Gerard Hope got clear off into exile. Did he pay his expenses with the proceeds of the diamond bracelet?

CHAPTER XII

The stately rooms of one of the finest houses in London were open for the reception of evening guests. Wax lights, looking innumerable, when reflected from the mirrors, shed their rays on the gilded decorations, on the fine paintings, and on the gorgeous dresses of the ladies; the enlivening strains of the band invited to the dance; and the rare exotics emitted a sweet perfume. It was the West End residence of a famed and wealthy city merchant of lofty standing. His young wife was an earl's daughter, and the admission to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Lady Adela Netherleigh was coveted by the gay world.

There's a mishap! almost screamed a pretty looking girl. She had dropped her handkerchief and stooped for it, and her partner stooped also, in his haste he put his foot upon her thin, gauze dress, she tore it the same moment and the bottom of her skirt was torn half off.

Quite impossible that I can finish the quadrille, quoth she to him half in amusement, half provoked at the misfortune. You must find another partner and I will go and get this repaired.

She went upstairs. By some neglect the lady's maid was not in attendance and too impatient to ring and wait for her, down she flew to the housekeeper's parlor. She was quite at home in the house for she was the sister of its mistress. She had gathered the damaged dress up in her arms, but her white petticoat fell in rich folds around her.

Just look at an object that stupid And there stopped the young lady, for instead of the housekeeper and lady's maid, whom she expected to meet, nobody was in the room but a gentleman a tall handsome man. She looked thunderstruck, and then slowly advancing and starting at him as if not believing her own eyes.

My goodness, Gerard! Well I should just as soon have expected to meet the dead here.

How are you, Lady Frances?" he said, holding out his hand with hesitation.

Lady Frances! I am much obliged to you for your formality, Lady Frances returns her thanks to Mr. Hope for his polite inquiries," continued she in a tone of pique, and honoring him with a swimming ceremony of courtesy.

He caught her hand. "Forgive me, Fanny, but our positions are altered—at least mine is: and how did I know that you were not?"

"You are ungrateful, raven," cried she, "to crush like that. After getting me to write you no end of letters and all the nons about everybody beginning with dear Gerard, and ending as good to you as a sister, you meet me with Mr. Lady Frances. Now, don't squeeze my hand to atoms. What on earth have you come to England for?"

I could not stop there. he returned with emotion. I was fretting away my heartstrings. So I took my resolution and came back guess in what way, Frances and what to do.

How should I know? To call me Lady Frances perhaps."

As a clerk to earn my bread. That's what I am now. Very consistent is it not for one in my position to address fashionable Lady Frances Chenevix?"

You never spoke a grain of sense in your life, Gerard, she exclaimed, peevishly. What do you mean?"

Mr. Netherleigh has taken me into his counting house."

Mr. Netherleigh! she echoed in surprise. What with that that

That crime hanging over me Speak up, Frances."

That you was going to say that don't. I don't believe you guilty. You know that, Gerard."

I am in his house Frances and I came up here tonight from the city to bring a note from his partner. I declined any of the reception rooms not caring to meet old acquaintances and the servants put me into this."

But you had a mountain of dints in England, Gerard and were afraid of arrest."

I have managed that. They are going it, let me square up to Is that enough. Has the bracelet never been heard of?"

Oh, that's gone for good, nodded Frances, carelessly. The Colonel sold it and the diamonds reset. It remains a mystery of the past and is never expected to be solved."

And they will suspect me! What is the matter with your dress?"

Matter enough, answered she letting it down and turning round for his inspection. I came here to get it repaired. My great beauty of a partner did it for me."

Fanny, how is Alice Seaton?"

You have cause to ask for her. She is dying."

Dying! repeated Mr. Hope in a hushed shocked tone.

I do not mean actually dying this night: or going to die tomorrow, but she is sinking by slow degrees ready to succumb. It was to worry off on a consumption."

Where is she?"

Curious to say she is where you left her, at Lady Sarah Hopes. Alice could not bear the house after the loss of the bracelet for she was so obstinate and foolish as to persist that the servants must suspect her even if Lady Sarah did not. She left and this spring Lady Sarah saw her, and was so shocked at the change in her, the extent to which she had wasted away that she brought her to town by main force and we and the doctors are trying to nurse her up. It seems of no use."

Are you also staying at Colonel Hopes again?"

I invited myself there a week or two ago to be with Alice. It is pleasanter too than being at home."

I suppose the Hopes are her to night?"

My sister is. I do not think your uncle has come yet."

Does he ever speak of me less resentfully?"

Not he. I think his storming over it has only made his suspicions strong. Not a week passes but he begins again about that detestable bracelet. He is unalterably persuaded that you took it and nobody must dare put in a word in your defence."

And does your sister honor me with the same belief, demanded Mr. Hope bitterly.

Lady Sarah is silent on the point to me. I think she scarcely knows what to believe. You see I tell you all freely, Gerard.

CHAPTER XIII.

Lady another word could be spoken Mr. Netherleigh entered. An astonished flush with a frown overthrew him. He was a tall handsome man of Mr. Hope to distance in the city.

Why, Fanny, he exclaimed to his sister-in-law, you here."

Yes, look at the sight they have made me, replied she shaking down her dress to hide its ruin as she had gathered it up after Mr. Hope. I am waiting for some one of the dancers to mend it for me. I suppose Mr. Hopes presence has scared them away. Won't mamma be in a fit of rage when she sees it for it was new tonight."

Gerard Hope shook hands with Lady Frances and Mr. Netherleigh who had a word of direction to give him walked with him into the hall. As they stood there, who should enter but Colonel Hope Gerard's uncle. He started back when he saw Gerard.

Gerard, I can I believe my senses, stuttered he. Mr. Netherleigh is he one of your guests?"

He is here on business was the merchant's reply. Pass on Colonel.

No sir, I will not pass on, cried the enraged Colonel who had not rightly caught the word business. Or if I do pass on, it will only be to warn your guests to take care of their jewelry. You?" he added turning to his nephew. You can come back soon you, when the proceeds of your theft is spent! You have been starring it in Calais! I hear how long did the brazen fact last on the 10th?"

Sir," answered Gerard, with a pale face, it has been starving rather than starring. I asserted my innocence at the time, Colonel Hope, and I repeat it now."

Innocence!" ironically repeated the Colonel, turning to all sides of the hall, as if he took delight in parading the details of the unfortunate past. The trinkets were spread on a table in Lady Sarah's own house. You came stealthily into it after being forbidden it by another fault went stealthily into the room and the next minute the diamond bracelet was missing. It was owing to my confounded folly in listening to a parcel of women that I did not bring you to trial at the time. Now I shall not be neglected in doing it and that has been ever since. A little wholesome correction at the penitentiary might have made an honest man of you, Good-night, Mr. Netherleigh. If you encourage him in your house you don't have me."

Now another gentleman had entered and heard this same servants also heard it. Colonel Hope who firmly believed in his nephews guilt turned off quietly and indignant and Gerard giving vent to sundry unnephew like expletives strode after him. The Colonel made a dash into a street cab and Gerard towards the door.

Lady Frances Chenevix was there right again, at least to appearance, was sitting to get her breath after a whirling waltz. Next to her sat a lady who had also been whirling. Frances did not know her.

You are quite relieved we kept it up too long, said the cavalier in attendance on the stranger. What can I get for you?"

My fan there it is. Thank you Nothing else."

What an old creature to dance herself down, thought Frances. She's as old as the hills."

The lady opened her fan and proceeded to use it the diamonds of her rich bracelet gleamed right in the eyes of Lady Frances Chenevix. Frances looked at it and started. She strained her eyes and looked again. she bent nearer to examine and became pale with her emotion. If her recollection did not play her false that was the lost bracelet.

She discerning her sister, Lady Adela Netherleigh and glided up to her.

Adela, whose is that lady. she asked, pointing to the stranger.

I don't know who she is, replied lady Adela carelessly. I did not catch the name. They sank with the Cadogans."

The idea of your having people in your house that you don't know! indignantly spoke Frances, who was working herself into a fever. Where's Sarah do you know that?"

In the card room, gilled to the whist table.

Lady Sarah, however had implored herself for Frances only turned from Lady Adela to encourage her.

I believe your lost bracelet is in the room, she whispered in agitation. I think I have seen it."

Impossible! responded Lady Sarah Hope.

(To be continued.)

KICKING A BILL OUT.

Document Actually Kicked Out of House of Commons.

Sir John Knight a stout old Tory member for Bristol who in the year 1695 proposed to kick a motion of the house of commons out of the house. It was a measure for the naturalization of foreign Protestants and Sir John in the course of a violent invective exclaimed. "Let us first kick the bill out of the house and then let us kick the foreigners out of England." This observation being after Williams's Dutchmen if not of the king himself. But what Sir John only proposed to do with this bill the commons actually did with another obnoxious measure in 1758 says Good Words. The peers had presumed to alter a money bill by striking out a provision which offered a bounty upon the exportation of corn. The commons indignant at the treatment of their deputation, who had been contumaciously ejected from the peers chamber, and further incensed by the fact that on another occasion Burke had been kept waiting three hours at the door of the upper house with a bill sent up by the commons, took the present opportunity to show in emphatic manner that there was at least one privilege in which they would not allow the peers to encroach. The amendment was promptly rejected and with it the bill. The speaker tossed the document over the table and members of both parties as they went out kicked it toward the door.

His Satanic Majesty.

The latest phase of the discussion of the devil is not an attack upon the deeds definite evidence but a defense of his comeliness. The popular idea of the devil with cloven hoof a forked tail and the leering countenance does not seem to be entitled to recognition as scriptural. The Rev. Dr. Hill Mackay a clergyman of the Presbyterian church of South California, says that the mission of the devil is commanding enough without detracting from his personal attractions. The devil was chief among the angels the other most have had angelic excellence. All the beauty and all the glory of the angelic hosts and St. Paul refers to him as being an angel of light. The devil therefore is an angel with purposes more than human but with all his original comeliness. There have been painters who preferred to present him thus and the picture of the fallen archangel driven out of heaven by the angel Milton recalls a strong man indignant. Atlanta Constitution

New Zealand Scenery.

Almost every New Zealander lives within sight of mountains. The ocean or both. Its landscape views bring nature and scenery grand and beautiful. Its mountains are covered everywhere some of them among the finest in the world, with magnificent forests, dark, sombre, gloomy recesses, forests with trees of every shade, white and red flowering trees in the valleys and lowlands. Its rivers are threading their way around the feet of mountains crowned with glaciers and perpetual snow. The scenery is a synopsis of the best in Norway, Switzerland, Italy and England.

A Machias, Me. house which was built in 1765 is receiving its third coat of shingles.

Everything comes to the man who waits on himself.

JUST LIKE CARLYLE.

Savage Epistle from the Biographer of Oliver Cromwell.

An unpublished and most characteristic letter of Carlyle's has recently appeared in the London Times. He had been asked to subscribe toward the raising at St. Ives of a statue to the Protector and his adherence was qualified with no little ferocity for the people who presumed to celebrate at the same time Cromwell and "King Hudson," the great railroad speculator. The project for the Cromwell monument had been started and lived until only the other day for a memorial of its greatest citizen. The dedication, the Times correspondent assures us, passed off without the ocean of flummery and mere idle balderdash, which Carlyle deprecated. The biographer of Cromwell writes: "My position is suspicious I confess, is that the present generation of Englishmen who have filled their towns with such a set of public statues as were never before erected by any people, ugly brazen images in mere commonplace adventurers with titles on them, and even sometimes to mere paltry scoundrels, worthy of immediate oblivion only, and who have added up their enterprises in the statue or memorial line by subscribing £2,000 to a memorial for King Hudson are not likely to do themselves or anybody much good by setting up statues to Oliver Cromwell. I fear they have forfeited the right to pretend to remember Cromwell in a public manner. Cromwell a divine memory and sheen and earnest as the gods, says virtually to them 'Forget me and pass on ye unhappy canaille carry your offerings to King Hudson and strive to emulate him.' Nevertheless I have privately resolved if such a thing does go on, to subscribe my little mite to it on occasion and to wish it success. I am in prospect much better than I can well be in substance hope. I think it will be very difficult to avoid the introduction of such an ocean of flummery and mere idle balderdash into the affair of the public are fairly awaken to it as well be very distressing to any one who has been a citizen well ought to be honored by the memory of a profound him." New York Evening Post.

CARD-SHUFFLING MACHINE

It Has Excited Wonder of Several Professional Gamblers.

A card shuffling machine has been invented in a Cleveland man. It should make business poor for crooked card players. The device is complicated yet simple in its action.

Card players who want a fair and honest game are enthusiastic in their praise of the machine says the inventor. They say it shuffles cards more thoroughly than in possible to be done by hand and that it is impossible for a dealer to put up a hand to beat himself. I have taken the machine to a number of professional gamblers some of them "sharps" and in every instance they would not touch it. They said in private that they expected the machine to prevent the machine being put in use because it takes away from them the advantage which the dealer could in shuffling gives to the house. But when the machine gets into the rooms where games are conducted the professional players will get there and the crooked rooms will then be compelled to adopt its use also. The shuffling machine is a metal box about twelve inches high three inches wide and six inches from front to back. All the mechanism is inside. Cards are dropped in at the top and rest on a thin shelf. Below this there are five small fingers one on each of five thin steel blades extending across the full width of the machine. When a shutter on the front is dropped the shelf falls and the cards drop upon the blades and are separated into five little packages or bunches by the fingers. The blades separate and one by one cards drop from the various bunches into a receptacle at the bottom. the drop being regulated by a clockwork mechanism.

Islands in the Indian Ocean.

If you should search an atlas to find is an uninhabited island for the purpose of occupying it alone, Robinson Crusoe like or to use it for romantic, infirm of any other purpose, the extension of all places in the world you need have no trouble in finding one if you care to make a journey to the Indian ocean. In the waters between Madagascar and Australia, not full twelve thousand miles from where there is not a human to be seen where you can walk for miles on end, each of all you have. Mr. English traveler Easter Island, by itself among the small islands that dot the waste in all of the Indian ocean to make an exception of Christmas and Keeling Island, is the most remote island in the world. One of them is Ascension. Now there's a good chance for those who think they want an island. Those particular islands are not large as islands go but very many of them are suitable for the purpose of a holiday resort, and for small colonies. Ascension is the nearest to other persons who might be set on one of them with a view to the purpose of making a home pretty much out of the busy world.

Tons of Dutch Cheese.

In the Dutch town of Alkmar on the great northern canal about twenty miles from Amsterdam which is noted for the quality of its cheese, and the markets in the world, less than 5,000 tons of cheese are disposed of in the course of twelve months. The first cheese market is opened for the season on the first Friday in May, and lasts for about three hours. Between 20,000 and 30,000 persons are present, and about 1,000 carts are required to convey the cheese away. The cheese is weighed and marked off the baskets are taken to the local banks, examined and then the cheeses which they contain are taken away by the buyers to the canal, through a wooden gate to be transported to the various destinations. Before exportation they are given a coating of vegetable red and it is in this guise they are known and recognized the world over.

The chicken that flourishes itself is often far from flourishing.

A GREAT SOLDIERS' HOME.

Both Union and Confederate Veterans to Be Cared For.

The Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Johnson City, Tenn., which is now being built, will, when completed, be one of the most notable groups of buildings in that state. Aside from its architectural value, the home will be remarkable because of the broad and liberal plan on which it will be conducted. There are homes and soldiers' retreats in all parts of the United States but they are exclusively either for union or for confederate veterans. This one will be, according to the plans which have been adopted a shelter for 2,500 men who volunteered in the union or confederate service in the civil war and in the war with Spain.

The home will comprise thirty five buildings. Congress appropriated $1,000,000 toward the project and the home is to be completed in three years. The site comprises a tract of land a mile and three quarters long and three quarters of a mile wide, situated in the heart of the Tennessee mountains. The place is so delightfully situated that it is believed it will eventually become a popular health resort.

Among the larger buildings of the group will be a memorial hall, mess hall and chapel and a canteen similar to those which were maintained at army posts many years ago will be one of the features. The grounds will be laid out in parks, groves and driveways, and the landscape features will add to the picturesque appearance of the home. Gen. John T. Richards of Maine, has been appointed superintendent of construction.

He Was Prominent in Russia.

Admiral Count Heyden, who died recently in his ninety fifth year, had been a prominent figure at the court of St Petersburg during four reigns. He greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Navarino, and was then decorated by Nicholas I. for special bravery. He was for many years governor of Revel, and in 1866 he was selected to escort Princess Dagmar of Denmark (now Empress Dowager) from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg. Count Heyden bore the imperial crown at the coronations of Alexander III. and Nicholas I.

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