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THE AMERICAN BARON

(BY JAMES DE MILLE.)

(Continued.) CHAPTER XXI.

AN EVENTFUL JOURNEY. On the day following, two carriage rolled and the luggage of the party.

and with the departing mists there open- superficial kind.

them.

but the events of the past few day had was traversed and the carriages began to disclosed most of her troubles to the ascend among the mountains. in life was the patient endurance of her gradually gaining on the other travelers. unmerited wrongs. She blamed no one; Now if it had been possible for Mrs. she made no complaint; yet there was in Willoughby to look back and discern the her attitude something so touching, so faces of the tavellers who were moving clinging, so pathetic, so forlorn, and in along the road behind her, what a sudher face something so sweet, so sad, so den overturn there would have been to reproachful, and so piteous, that she en- her feelings, and what a blight would forced sympathy; and each one began to have fallen upon her spirits! But Mrs. have a half-guilty fear that Minnie had Willoughby remained in the most blissbeen wronged by her. Especially did ful ignorance of the persons of these Mrs. Willoughby feel this. She feared travellers, and so was able to maintain that she had neglected the artless and the sunshine of her soul. simpleminded child; she feared that she had not been sufficiently thoughtful about | soul the first cloud. her; and now longed to do something to make amends for this imaginary neglect. riding behind, had overtaken the differ-So she sought to make the journey as ent carriages. pleasant as possible by cheerful remarks the attitude of Minnie. She sat there careless nod and smile. with unalterable sweetness and unvarying patience, just like a holy martyr, who arm. freely forgave all her enemies, and was praying for those who had despitefully used her.

The exciting events consequent upon the Baron's appearance, and his sudden revelation in the role of Minnie's lover. had exercised a strong and varied effect upon all; but upon one its result was wholly benifical, and this was Ethel. It was so startling and so unexpected that of the three who had witnessed it, and with the same nod and smile. orous; Mrs. Willoughby's indignant; Min- nise him? nie's sentimental. Out of all these Ethel

gained a fourth idea, compounded of these three, which again blended He came in. with another, and an original one of her own, gained from a personal obserwas the memory of that day on which before he succeeds in that project. they endeavored to fight off the enemy.

day of the siege. It was not without glance of Scone Dacres. difficulty that they had withstood Minflowed freely, were unavailing.

impatient and aggressive visitor, follow- Girasole. ee by others in swift succession, and in ever increasing power. Every knock tered an exclaimatian of terror, which smile. went to Minnie's heart. It excited an startled the other ladies, and made them unlimited amount of sympathy for the all look is that direction. one who had saved her life, and was now excluded from her door. But as the fully, knocks grew violent and imperative, and vented this. At last the door seemed little mite of a thing that may happen. underwent a change. They were convin- was silence in the carriage as the stranger think Once convinced that he was mad upon him the most imploring look that they became terrified. The maids all could posibly be sent from human eves

After a very eventful day night came. Minuie's heart again melted with tender pity for the man whose love for her had turned his head, and she begged to be allowed to speak to him. But this was not permitted. So she went to bed and fell asleep. So in process of time, did the others, and the night passed without any trouble. Then morning came, and there was a debate as to who should con. front the enemy. There was no noise but they knew he was there, At last gies and went forth to do battle. The I haven't got over it yet. result has already been described in the words of the bold Baron bimself.

But even this great victory did not reassure the ladies. Dreading another visit they hurried away to a hotel, leaving the maids to follow with the luggage as soon as possible. On the following lately, and its her poor nerves. morning they had left the city.

Events so very exciting as these had produced a very natural effect upon the would you prefer valerian? mind of Ethel. They had thrown her out of Rome, and took the road toward thoughts out of their old groove, and fixed Florence by the way of Civita Castellana. them in a new one. Besides, the fact One carriage held four ladies; the other that she was actually leaving the man one was occupied by four lady's maids who had caused her so much sorrow was already a partial relief. She had dread-It was early morning, and over the ed meeting him so much that she had wide Campagna there hung mists, which been torced to keep herself a prisoner. were dissipated gradually as the sun A deep grief still remained in her heart: arose. As they went on the day advanced but at any rate there was now some

ed up a wide view. On either side ex- As for Mrs. Willoughby, in spite of her tended the dosolate Campagna, over self reproach about her purely imaginary which passed lines of ruined aqueducts neglect of Minnie, she felt such an extraon their way from the hills to the city. or inary relief that it affected all her Here and there crumbling ruins arose nature. The others might feel fatigue above the plain-some ancient, others from the journey, not she. She was willmedieval, none modern. Before them in ing to continue the journey for an indethe distance arose the Appennines, finite period, so long as she had the among which were, here and there, sweet consciousness that she was bearing visible the white outlines of some villa or Minnie farther and farther away from the grasp of "that horrid man," The For mile after mile they drove on; and consequence was, that she was lively, the drive soon proved very monotonous. lovely, brilliant, cheerful, and altogether It was nothing but one long and unvary- delightful. She was as tender to Minnie ing plain, with this only change, that as a mother could be. She was lavish in every mile brought them nearer to the i.er promises of what she would do for mountains. As the mountains were their her. She chatted gaily with Ethel about only hope, they all looked forward eagerly a thousand things and was delighted to to the time when they would arrive find that Ethel reciprocated. She rallied there and wind along the road among Lady Dalrymple on her silence, and congratulated her over and over, in spite of Formerly Mrs. Willoughby alone had Minnie's frown, on the success of her been the confidante of Minnie's secret. generalship. And so at last Campagna

other ladies also, at least as far as the Several other travelers were passing general outlines were concerned. The over that Campagna road, and in the consequence was that they were travelling same direction. They were not near in this way and Minnie knew that they enough for their faces to be discerned, all knew it. Yet this unpleasant con- but the ladies could look back and see sciousness did not in the least interfere the signs of their presence. First there with the sweetness of her temper and was a carriage with two men, and about the gentleness of her manner. She sat two miles behind another carriage with curs. there, with a meek smile and a resigned two other men; while behind these again, air, as though the only part now left her there rode a solitary horseman, who was

At length there came over that sunny

The solitary horseman who had been

The first carriage contained Lord Hawand lively observations. None of these bury and Scone Dacres. As the horsethings, however, produced any effect upon man passed, he recognized them with a

Scone Dacres grasped Lord Hawbury's

Did you see him? he cried. The Italian! I thought so! What do you say now? Wasn't I right?

By Jove! cried Lord Hawbury.

sitting upright glaring after the herse ever heard from her. man, cherishing in his gloomy soul the darkest and most vengefull thoughts.

The horseman rode on furthur, and I'm so glad ! Oh. Kitty darling don't not carriages constantly passing add reit had roused her from her gloom, and overtook the next carriage. In this there please don't look so cross. Oh, ple-e-e-e passing? Is it likely that if it were ungiven her something to think of. The were two men, one in the uniform of a e-e-e-ase don't Kitty darling. You make safe there would be no acts of violence? Baron's debut in their parlor had been Papal Zouaves, the other in rusty black. me laugh worse. It's so awfully funny! Yet you say there have been none. narrated to her over and over by each He turned toward these and greeted them

each gave the narrative her own color- Do you see that man, parson? said the er consternation, for some time there was ing. Lady Dalrymple's account was hum- Baron to his comparison. Do you recog- not one of them who knew what to say. considered very dangerous.

Well you saw him at Minnie's house.

No. he didn't. vation of the Baron, whose appearance on that time. Well, at any rate, that man I these apartments; and on the highway the stairs and impatient summons for believe, is at the bottom of the row. It's you know it will be quite as difficult for "Min" were very vividly impressed on my belief that ne' trying to cut me out him to hold any communication with us. her memory. In addition to this there and he'll find he's got a hard row to hoe So I really don't see any cause for alarm

And with these words the Baron sat nie should exhibit such delight. That was indeed, a memorable day, glaring after Italian with something in and was now alluded to by them as the his eye that resembled faintly the fierce

Then there came the first knock of the guishep, and Mrs. Willoughby recognized them or behind them.

Her surprise was so great that she ut-

And now I suppose you'll all go and Minnie grew sad and pitiful, the other say that I brought him too, said Minnieladies grew indignant. Lady Dalrymple That's always the way you do. You was on the point of sending off for the never seem to think that I may be inpolice, and only Minnie's entreaties pre- nocent. You always blame me for every

almost beaten in, and their fe lings No one made any remark, and there ced that he was mad, or else intoxicat. approached. The ladies bowed someed. Of the madness of love they did not what cooly except Minnie, who threw hid themselves. None of them would the Italian's impressible nature thrill now venture out even to call the police, ed before those beseeching, pleading, They expected that the concierge would earnest, unfathomable, tender, helpless freely about that horrid man, wondering interpose, but in vain. The concierge innocent orbs. Removing his hat, he bowed low.

I haf not been awara, he said, politely convinced that some such attempt would They heard footsteps pacing up and down in his broken English, that youar lady be made, and the servants of the inn who and finew that it was their tormentor, sippa's bin intend to travella. Ees eet waited on them were strictly charged to not subito intenzion?

sponce of a general character, the Italian and after it was over they began to think paused a moment to drink in deep of retiring, so as to leave at an early draughts from Minnie's great beseeching hour on the following morning. Minnie eyes that were fixed upon his and then had already taken her departure, and with a low bow, he passed on.

I believe I am losing my senses, said Mrs. Willoughby.

Why, Kitty darling? asked Minnie.

I'm sure I don't see why, said Minnie. You're always imagining things though. Now isn't she, Ethel dearest? Well, really, I don't see much in the

poor, dear Kitty has been so agitated I have my lavender, Kitty dear, said

Thanks, much, but I do not need it said Mrs. Willoughby. I suppose it will

I'm sure the poor Count never did anybody any harm, said Minnie, plaintively; so you needn't all abuse him so-unless you're all angry at him for saving my life. I remember a time when you all thought very differently, and all praised

Really, Minnie darling, I have nothing against the Count, only once he was a ments. little too intrusive; but he seems to have got over that, and if he'll only be nice and quiet and proper, I'm sure I've nothing to retreated to their rooms. say against him.

They drove on for some time, and at ength reached Civita Castellana. Here they drove up to the hotel, and the ladies He then looked earnestly all round the got out and went up to their apartments. They had three rooms up stairs, two of had expected to see Minnie, and was which looked out into the street, while disappointed. Lady Dalrymple marked the third was in the rear. At the front the glance, and the expression which windows was a balcony.

The ladies now disrobed themselves, and their maids assisted them to perform himself near to Lady Dalrymple, I said the duties of a very simple toilet. Mrs. Willoughby's was first finished. So she walked over to the window, and looked

It was not a very interesting place, nor was there much to be seen; but she took a lazy, languid interest in the sight which met her eyes.

There were the two carriages. The horses were being led to water. Around the carriages was a motley crowd, composed of the poor, the maimed, the halt, I really did annoy any body. the blind, forming that realm of beggars which from immemorial ages has flourished in Italy. With these was intermingled a crowd of ducks, geese, goats, pigs, and ill-looking, mangy, snarling

Upon these Mrs. Willoughby looked for some time, when at length her ears were arrested by the roll of wheels down the street. A carriage was approaching in which there were two travelers. One hasty glance sufficed, and she turned her attention once more to the ducks, geese, goats, dogs and beggars. In a few minntes the crowd was scattered by the newly-arrived carriage. It stopped. A man jumped out. For a moment he looked up, staring hard at the windows. That moment was enough. Mrs. Willoughby ner less than robbers. You see along the had recognized him.

She rushed away from the windows. dodge to one side or other, and where the Lady Dalrymple and Ethel were in this room, and Minnie in the one beyond. Now our papal government means well, All were startled by Mrs. Willoughby's but it ain't got power to keep down these

What? cried they. What is it? He's there! He's there! Who? who? they cried, in alarm.

That horrid man! Lady Dalrymyle and Ethel looked at each other in utter terror.

As for Minnie she burst into the room, peeped out of the window, saw "that horrid man," then ran back, then sat down, then jumped up, then burst into a Whereupon Dacres relapsed into silence peal of the merriest laughter that was

Oh, I'm so glad! I'm so glad! she exclaimed. Oh, it's so awfully funny. Oh,

But while Minnie laughed thus, the others looked at each other in still great-But Lady Dalrymple again threw herself in the gap.

You need not feel at all nervous, my dear, said she, gravely. I do not think that this person can give us any trouble. Didn't he? No. By thunder, it wasn't He certainly cannot intrude upon us in on your part, nor do I see why dear Min-

These words brought comfort to Ethel and Mrs. Willoughby. They at once perceived their truth. To force himself into The Italian rode on. A few miles fur- their presence in a public hotel was, of nie's earnest protestations, and intrench- ther were the two carriages. Minnie course, impossible, even for one so recked themselves. But Mrs. Willoughby and her sister were sitting on the front less as he seemed to be; and on the road was obdurate and Minnie's tears, which seats and saw a stranger as he advanced he could not trouble them in any way, He soon came near enough to be distin- since he would have to drive before

At Lady Dalrymple's reference to herself. Minnie looked up with a bright

You're awfully cross with me, aunty darling, she said; but I forgive you. Only How very edd! said Ethel, thought- I can't help laughing, you know, to see how frightened you all are at poor Rufus K. Gunn. And. Kitty dearest, oh how you did ran away from the window! It was awfully funny, you know.

Not only after the arrival of the Baron and his friends another carriage drove None of the ladies were at the window, and so they did not see the easy nonchalance of Hawbury as he lounged into the house, or the stern face of Scone Dacres as he strode before him.

> CHAPTER XXII. ADVICE REJECTED.

During dinner the ladies conversed what plan he would adopt to try to effect an entrance among them. They were see that no one disturbed them. How-Mrs. Willoughby made a polite re- ever, their dinner was not interrupted the others were thinking of following her example, when a knock came at the

I don't know how it is, but I actually the door, and found a servant there who Lady Dalrymple summoned up her ener. trembled when that man came up, and brought a message from the Baron Atramonte. He wished to speak to the ladies on business of the most urgent importance. At this confirmation of their expectations the ladies looked at one another with a smile Count to make one tremble. I suppose mingled with vexation, and Lady Dalrymple at once sent word that they could not possibly see him.

But the Baron was not to be put off. Lady Dalrymple. Won't you take it? Or In a few moments the servant came back again, and brought another message of still more urgent character, in which the Baron entreated them to grant him this interview, and assured them that it was interview, and assured them that it was Sample cases postpaid. All goods for the United States free of duty.

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He's beginning to be more and more violent said Lady Dalrymple. Well, dear, she added, resignedly, in my opinion it will be better to see him, and have done with him. If we do not, I'm afraid he will pester us further. I will see him You had better retire to your own apart-

Upon this she sent down an invitation to the Baron to come up, and the ladies

The Baron entered, and, as usual, offered to shake hands-an offer which, as usual, Lady Dalrymple did not accept. room and gave a sigh. He evidently followed.

Well, ma'am said he, as he seated that the business I wanted to speak about was important, and that it was a matter of life and death. I assure you that it is. But before I tell it I want to say something about the row in Rome. have reason to understand that I caused a little annoyance to you all. If I did, I'm sure I didn't intend it. I'm sorry. There! Let's say no more about it. 'Tain't often that I say I'm sorry, but I say so now. Conditionally, though-that is, if

Well, Sir? Well, ma'am-about the business I came for. You have made a sudden decision to make this journey. I want to know, ma'am, if you made any enquiries about this road before starting?

This road? No, certainly not. I though so, said the Baron. Well. ma'am. I've reason to believe that it's somewhat unsafe.

Unsafe?

And why?

Yes; particularly for ladies.

Why, ma'am, the country is in a disordered state, and near the boundary line it swarms with brigands. They call themselves Garibaldians, but between you and me, ma'am, they're neither more road runs there are often crowds of them. we are weak; and so there it is.

And you think there is danger on this the sums given below, you will receive the present set opposite that road? said Lady Dalrymple, looking sum, keenly at him.

I do ma'am. Pray have you heard of any recent acts of violence along the road?

No ma'am. Then what reason have you for supposing that there is any particular dan-

A friend of mine told me so, ma'am. But do not people use the road? Are Not of late ma'am.

But it is of late, and of the present I can only say, ma'am, that the read is

Who considers it so? To be Continued.



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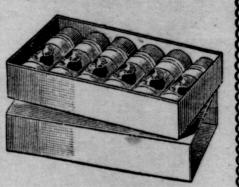
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