

The Diamond Coterie.

(Continued from 1st page.)

"Well, I wish I could feel as sanguine, that's all." At this moment there came the sound of wheels on the gravel outside, and glancing toward the window, Frank sprang up exclaiming: "There's Belknap, and not a minute to spare. I'll meet him," and he hurried out, wearing a look of relief, mingled with expectancy.

Late in the afternoon, John Burrill came home, but Frank was not caring to answer any questions at that time. Burrill seemed to care little for this, or that, or the other, in a wonderfully jubilant mood. He rambled through the tenacious rooms, whistling shrilly, and with his hands in his pockets. He commanded the servants like a person of old. He drank wine in the library, and smoked a cigar in the drawing room.

A coarse laugh, a smothered oath; they both turn swiftly, and there, in the doorway, standing to one side and brandy, John Burrill, and beside him, with clenched hands, swollen temples, drawn white lips, stands Francis Lamotte. "Stand! No. He reels, he clings to the door-frame for support; his enemy is upon him like a bird of prey, and laughing.

"Ha! ha! ha! Frank Lamotte, I have sold my account with you." Then turning swiftly upon Burrill, and with even fiercer fury she shrieks: "Out, out, out of my sight! I am almost done with you, too. Go back to your wife and your wailing in the gutter; your days are numbered."

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