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THE EVENING TIMES

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THE

COUNTERSTROKE

By AMBROSE PRATT

Author of "Vigoro is Daunt, Billionaire."

(Continued.)

It was laconic, and bore sharply to the point: "Expect me at twelve." He threw it in the fire, and lighting a cigar cast himself upon a lounge, the prey of expiring thought and vain imaginings. He saw himself as he had set out from London half a year back, an ardent, successful lover, for although Francine Elliott had not verbally accepted his proposal, still, she had promised to wear his ring, and she had not been offended at his kiss. He recalled with heart-felt bitterness the ambitious and splendid future that had beckoned to him at that time. Rich and young, the only son of one of England's greatest nobles, a career had opened for him in the diplomatic service of his country which only needed his own diligence and intelligent co-operation to lead him to the foremost rank of power and statesmanship. And true, for his sweetheart was a woman without peer in her class: well born, beautiful, an heiress, and, above all, worthy beyond dispute of the best things in the gift of Fortune, alike for her goodness of heart, her purity of mind and her sweet, untiring charity.

He reviewed the causes of his ruin as dispassionately as he could, but from the red coals into which the stared rose up the sorrows face and form of Katherine Viyella to taunt him and to disturb him as of old. She came, a Cleopatra smile upon her lips, bewildering and reckless challenge in her eyes, advancing toward him, gliding like a spectral phantom through the splendid ball-room of the winter palace, nearer, ever nearer, her gaze unflinching fixed on his, demanding, beseeching, commanding of him he knew not what.

Vividly he remembered how her first glance had filled his soul with doubt and trouble, with dreams and wild, intellectual desires. How he had struggled to resist her, to remain true to his English love, whom in his heart of hearts he always worshipped and worshipped still! Then the drifting, when day by day his resolutions weakened one by one. Last of all that mad and fateful night when Katherine had come at a witch hour to his rooms and prayed for his assistance. The story she had told him! Her distress and her despair! Even now it was at times impossible to realize that she had been so base. He shuddered to recall her acting, she had pretended a confession. She had fallen, she said, victim to a momentary weakness, a criminal weakness, and her desire was only to escape the consequences of her folly. A great man, the very greatest, had sought her love with gifts, and for a moment she had been tempted—the gifts were jewels, jewels fit only for a queen to wear. She gave him the jewels wrapped in an unsightly letter of imprecation and remorse, whose contents she recited to his unwilling ears. She implored him to be the messenger of their return. He was to take them that very instant to a certain chamberlain, to say to him certain words, and then on his return—well, what he would, she loved him, she said, and was willing to bestow on him

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to ascertain the name of her father, well assured in his heart the while that that name once revealed would open the door to a chamber of horrors unspeakable. He felt that he stood upon the threshold of a tragedy mysterious and terrible. He knew himself that moment of all creatures, a spy, and having his occupation with all the ardour of a straightforward upright nature, he caught himself pitying the woman and yielding to the weakness of procrastination.

Meanwhile Madame Viyella, seeking the reason of his growing coldness, had had her jealousy aroused. An inscribed photograph hanging above his desk with sharp question and the manner of his answer, had been to her instinct all sufficient; she felt she had a rival, and she knew her rival's name. A storm had followed, and Madame, losing all self-control, passionately, informed her lover of an intention so violently fantastic that he had smiled at first, but her words sank into his heart later, and in contemplation of her actions he became so fearful that she might really dare to try to realize her threat, that he had that afternoon forced himself to call upon and warn Miss Elliott in the manner that has already been described.

The remembrance of that interview made him restless and extremely self-dissatisfied. How gauche and awkward he had been; how melodramatic and foolish must have appeared his words, his spoken fears! They now appeared wild and senseless to himself, and yet he could not regret that he had spoken. That woman was capable of anything, and she was jealous as the devil; even in the cold light of day he could not divest himself of a certain indefinable dread of her. She inspired him now with the same consciousness of potential evil that the sight of a serpent gives to all human creatures, the same intangible power of fascination too that renders even the most loathing curious.

Trying with his solitary dinner he dreamed of her, and afterwards, trying vainly to read, her clear face with its slow, subtle smile eclipsed the printed pages on his knee, denying him to concentrate his mind on aught but her. How he wished that he had never met her, that his life had never been infected with the burden of her blighting personality! Ah, if only that, what other things had been, what more tender, peaceful, and pure visions had now been his! That thought was bitterest of all, for the sweet "might have been" had departed from the regions of the possible.

Francine Elliott's face took fashion in his fancy, too calm in its purity and self-control, pitiful for his pain but immeasurably scornful for his weakness. The expression of it maddened him, so infinitely far it placed her from his reach. How good she was, he thought, how beautiful, how strong! And he had lost her, for what? Dead Sea fruit! Ruin; almost disgrace; the love of a woman whom he had already almost ceased to find desirable.

CLARENCE SPEARS CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF EDW. WAY

Liverpool, Oct. 30.—Chief of Police Power, of Liverpool, arrested last night Clarence Spears and he is now in custody charged with the murder of Edward Way. Spears was arrested at Brownell's lumber camp, Granite village.

Chief Power left Liverpool yesterday afternoon on a trolley with instructions to effect an arrest. He telephoned from Sable River at 7 o'clock last night that he had arrested Spears and was bringing the prisoner into Liverpool. At midnight he had not arrived.

The coroner's jury heard evidence all day yesterday and adjourned about 1 o'clock. They met again at 4 o'clock to deliberate on a verdict. The most important evidence was given by the men who lived in the shack with Way. These men, Drury, Freeman and Harlow, were intimately acquainted with the deceased, had lived with him and knew his habits, his friends and who were likely to be his associates.

Harlow, the section boss, told a straightforward story. He related the circumstances of finding the shack closed Monday morning and the undisturbed condition of the interior thereof. The bed was made, landing wood in place and general indications were that Way had not slept there Saturday night. Harlow felt that Way had been induced to leave the shack but would not say that his suspicion rested on any particular person.

The evidence given by Drury was important. He had worked with Way on the section for about two months and had a suspicion on Spears. Most of the important evidence was given in secret, the public being excluded. Facts came out though that pointed in the direction of Drury's suspicions. The jury met at 4 o'clock to deliberate. They arrived at a verdict, which was a decision on the death by foul play, that he was murdered and suspicion pointed to Clarence L. Spears. The verdict was kept secret. The prisoner appeared surprised when arrested and felt pretty badly. He was in a moody condition and did not say much.

There was quite a number of other men in the camp when he was arrested. Chief Power had no trouble in picking his man out. The prisoner is a young man, 26 years of age, five foot eleven inches in height, 170 pounds and well built. He belongs to Louisville. While on the railway he was section boss and the murdered man worked under him. Spears is apparently a quiet man and well liked. He denied to Power that he was the guilty party. It is alleged, however, that the evidence was strongly against him. The fact that deceased had money tied about his neck, that he was robbed of this and when the body was found the neck and front of the shirt were open, indicated that the murderer, after killing his victim, had opened the shirt and taken the money.

He had discovered her to possess an insatiable craving for admiration, excitement and conquest. His own coldness had aroused her every energy. He had studied the methods she employed to attract other men and recognized them applied in form a thousand times intensified to himself.

Gradually she declined in his esteem; he commenced to harbour doubts and strange suspicions; and he would at last have been content to break the bonds between them, but here the tragic contrivance of fate came into evidence.

The more that his affection for her subsided, the stronger grew the flame of hers for him, and sometimes, the mask thrown altogether aside, she showed herself to him, a woman with her womanly armour of reserve dissolved, a creature of pathos and passion, imperious, languishing and pleading in a breath, madly resentful of his coldness; his slave, his plaything, did he care to stoop.

Then came the interview with Porrigord, in which his suspicions were converted into certainties and the scales finally removed from his eyes. Thereafter he had no choice but to recognize in Katherine Viyella her veritable ego, and while the man in him saw her outer covering beautiful as that of an angel, his mind's eye caught traces of a soul within, wicked, licentious and powerful for evil. Had he been a free agent he would have fled from England to escape her, but bound by chains he dared not break he was forced to remain and honestly endeavor to achieve the task which he had been allotted.

It became his duty to elucidate a hidden page in Madame's history, to win from her, since she alone held the key to the riddle, the story of her parentage.

Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 30.—The high school football team will leave for St. John tomorrow morning and will play Rothery in the afternoon. On Thursday they play the St. John high school team.

A monumental stone of white marble to be erected over the grave of the late Mrs. Medley in the rear of the cathedral, has arrived from England and is being placed in position.

Montreal, Oct. 30.—Karl Cremer, a young German who was employed by the Canadian Rubber Co., has created a sensation here by claiming to have just inherited a fortune of \$400,000. He rented a handsome dwelling, ordered magnificent furnishings, jewelry, clothing, etc., and secured a romantic write-up in a local paper, with a pretty love story that was to have a denouement at the altar immediately. Now, however, Cremer is detained at police headquarters because he has been unable to sustain his self-created reputation.

SMALLPOX IN KENT COUNTY

Reported There are 100 Cases
--- Quarantine is Imperfect
and it is Thought Contagion
Will Spread.

Moncton, N. B., Oct. 30.—Rather an alarming situation has been created by a smallpox outbreak in certain sections of Kent county, near the border of Westmorland. The Moncton Board of Health investigated the matter and as a result communicated the facts to the Provincial Board of Health. Dr. Botsford, who visited the infected districts, states there are probably 100 cases in two or three parishes. In one house thirteen are down with the disease, while it was not uncommon to find from two to five cases in other families.

There appears to have been little precaution taken against the spread of the disease. People from infected houses have left the place and it is feared the contagion may become widespread throughout Kent, as well as in some parts of Westmorland.

The Moncton Board of Health was advised last week that two men—Vital Carey and Octave Gallant—escaped from St. Anthony, where the cases existed, and came to Moncton. Search was made for the parties here, but they were not found, and it is believed they have left the city. Dr. Botsford went to St. Anthony to investigate and found seven cases. In the family of Felix Leblanc there were three cases, at Israel Gogan's, three cases, and in M. Leblanc's house, one. Five houses in that district were under quarantine. Parties from Cocagne river had visited the infected district and carried the disease home. At the latter place he found several cases. He visited St. Norbert and learned that a man who worked eight days at Shuloe had arrived home recently completely broken out with smallpox. This man traveled in cars with a number of passengers, both on the I. C. R. and M. and B. trains. In the district of St. Norbert the schools were closed and services cancelled in the Catholic chapel on account of the outbreak. Ten cases were ascertained, while four bodies in the lower part of the settlement contained twenty-five cases. In Edward Cormier's house there were thirteen cases.

From all Dr. Botsford could learn he estimated there are 100 cases in the infected districts, and estimating as is in fact the chances are contagion has been carried to other sections. St. Norbert is about five miles from McLean's Settlement, in Westmorland. Dr. Fisher is expected here tomorrow to confer with the local board of health in regard to the situation.

A BIG ROLLING MILL PROJECT FOR SYDNEY

Sydney, Oct. 30.—A proposition is now being considered by the Sydney city council in secret sessions respecting the establishment in Sydney of a rolling mill capitalized at \$1,000,000. The promoters say that 230 hands will be employed and \$500 a day paid in wages. The buildings to be constructed will cover an area of 80,000 square feet.

The proposed plant is for the manufacture of bar steel, angle bars, tie plates, pit rails, railway spikes, bolts and other articles used in connection with the building and construction of railways. The plant will have a capacity of 40,000 tons of finished material and the cost of construction and building machinery will amount to about \$400,000. The furnace and boilers will use over 20,000 tons of coal per month. It will take from seven to nine months to erect the buildings and install the machinery. The buildings will be constructed of steel with concrete foundations. The company will secure its raw material from the Dominion Iron and Steel Company.

They are asking the city for a bonus of \$50,000 and exemption from taxation for twenty years. These concessions may be granted.

STILL FURIOUS OVER THE MODUS VIVENDI

St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 30.—The local press criticizes the statement made in the British house of commons last night by Winston Spencer Churchill, parliamentary secretary for the colonial office, on the matter of the modus vivendi on the fisheries question. The Telegraph, the organ of Premier Bond, asks:

"Are the colonial rights to be bartered by Downing street without reference to the legislature of the colony concerned and are colonial laws, or the declaration of Downing street officials the supreme rules of the empire?"

This newspaper declares further that the use of purse seines by Newfoundlanders on board American vessels is illegal and that the modus vivendi cannot legalize them. It is also illegal for colonial fishermen, according to this paper, to assist Americans in any manner within territorial waters.

The Herald asks Mr. Churchill to explain why, when the American state department last July admitted Newfoundland's right to prohibit her people to go outside colonial waters to join American vessels, the modus vivendi abrogated this right and allows Americans this concession?

W. C. T. U. DISCUSSED WHITE SLAVE TRADE

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 30.—There are 10,000 young women in Chicago who are obliged to work at \$5 a week and there are 5,000 saloons there too," said Mrs. Lurinda B. Smith, of Kansas, at the afternoon session of the National Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in presenting to the convention the difficulties with which the rescue workers of the organization have to contend.

Mrs. Smith made a spirited appeal for the efforts of all the delegates from all parts of the country to put a stop to the white slave trade. The speaker cited instances of young women found in captivity and sold at auction in New York and asked that if after forty years after the civil war had been fought for the liberation of the black slaves, why it was that slavery of young women should be tolerated in this country. She said that one of the most hopeful signs of the times was when the seven nations recently banded together for the suppression of this awful vice.

McGill's Trial Monday

Toronto, Oct. 30.—The preliminary examinations of Charles McGill and G. R. Cockburn, which will begin Monday next, will probably be of short duration. Very little evidence will be brought out before Magistrate Denison, as when a case sufficient for committal is secured counsel for the defence will consent to the trial of the Ontario Bank case in the higher court. It is in ascertains that the real contest will begin and it may see many other courts before the issue is decided.

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