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A Million a Minute

A Romance of Modern New York and Paris

By Hudson Douglas

(Continued)

CHAPTER V.

THE RAT-FACED FRENCHMAN HAS WORDS WITH MONSIEUR AT THE ST. REGULUS.

It was nearly noon before a stray shaft of sunshine, falling across M. le Duc's pallid face as he lay sleeping soddenly in his luxurious chamber at the St. Regulus after a most wearisome night-journey from Chicago, woke him to blinking consciousness of his uncared for condition.

He gaped, and yawned, and struck at the blinding ray, irritably but without effect, caught sight of the clock, and sat up with an exclamation of anger. The intrusion of daylight before he desired it was quite inexcusable,—there was no sign of his morning chocolate or Courier,—his dusty clothes were lying untended where he had left thmem,—the room was empty save for himself. Where the devil was Jules! Of what avail was a valet who did not attend to his duties! He reached for the bell-push, and pushed it hard.

A red-headed bell-boy appeared with a pitcher of distilled water fresh from the ice.

"Send my servant," said Monsieur, in elegant French, and the boy, having bowed with great outward deference, left him to brood over his many wrongs.

It was Jule's advice which had sent him off on a fool's errand to Chicago, that city of an almost inconceivable repugnance to a Parisian of taste. He had traveled incognito, unattended, with the common herd. He had been subject to all the discomforts democracy ever invented to harass a harmless aristocrat. He had not been able to sleep in the train, and, when he had once more reached the St. Regulus, at half past eight in the morning, he had to turn on his own hot bath and get into bed without help—because Jules could not be found. The recapitulation of these and a number of other fermenting grievances much inflamed Monsieur. And, even now, no one came hurrying to his assistance. He rang a second time.

He was still absent-mindedly pressing the button on the wall behind him when the red-headed youth reappeared, with a further supply of ice water.

"Phwat's eatin' yez?" he demanded, his words not at all in accord with his attitude of polite attention, but safe in the knowledge that Monsieur had no understanding of Irish-American.

"Are ye stuck to th' wire, or thryin' to bore a hole through th' wall, ye frog-eatin' Frenchman?"

"Holy name of a dog!" cried the object of his apostrophe in fervent Gallic. "Remove me those poisonous pitchers swiftly. Is it that you think I have a stomach of leather, rascal and fool! It is chocolate I ask for, and Jules my servant. Send Jules Chevrel to me. Thousand thunders! Was there ever such a dunce! Where is Jules? Send me Jules!"

"Awright," said the red-headed boy, bowing still more deeply. "Quit yelpin' an' kape yer wool on. I'll dig out Jool, since it's him ye're afther. Why didn't ye say so before."

He once more withdrew, closing the door delicately behind him, and Monsieur threw himself back on his pillows with a great air of exhaustion. But when Jules Chevrel did at length arrive, a short, thick-set man, close-cropped after the French fashion, carrying a cup of chocolate in one unsteady hand, and in the other a morning paper, his shifty eyes, bloodshot and bilious, his employer had still enough energy left to berate him roundly.

"You were drunk again last night, Jules," he complained in conclusion of a long tirade to which the other had listened indifferently.

"I was sober," Jules contradicted insolently.

"Have the goodness to hand me my boots," Monsieur begged, getting half out of bed in his rage over such futile untruth.

"You don't want boots on your bare feet," Jules objected. "You aren't going to bathe in your boots. What do you want your boots for?"

"I want them to kick you down stairs with, you scoundrel!" cried Monsieur, but Jules merely darted a glance of contempt at him and went on with his own occupations unmoved. He would have a card or two to produce from his sleeve ere he should be kicked down stairs, and, in any case, the threat was a thread-bare metaphor.

Monsieur subsided presently, taking without objection the cup which was handed to him in place of the boots he had asked for. But he did not altogether forego his verbal complaint.

"Why did I bring you with me from Paris?" he grumbled bitterly, while Jules laid out his morning costume for him. "Because you can speak the barbarous language they use in this barbarous country, and that you might be of assistance to me in my search. I place myself thus in your power, and how do you help me? By getting drunk!

"You urge me on wild-goose chases in all directions. I go. What happens? I lose still more time and money.

"Look you Jules. There is now enough of this folly. The next time it happens you go back to Paris, and I find a valet de place, who will assuredly prove of more service to me
more service than you.

"Is it my fault,' growled Jules disrespectfully, "that it takes a little time to find a needle in such a hay-stack? Have not I toiled devotedly to serve Monsieur? Monsieur forgets, it seems——"

"I forget nothing, Jules," Monsieur broke in, in a tone more placable. He did not care to be reminded of some services Jules had done him. "I forget nothing, and—when the time comes, you will not find me ungrateful."

"When you get hold of the girl, you mean," muttered Jules to himself in the bathroom, "I may get the smallest possible share of the plunder—if I can force you to disgorge." It was painfully evident that Monsieur was no hero to his own valet. "But I know a trick worth two of that, mon ami. I'll squeeze her purse first, and yours afterwards—since it will be better filled then. I wish I had not so foolishly let her slip through my fingers last night, but—I'll find her again And, in the meantime, I suppose I must humor you."

"Monsieur's bath is ready," he said aloud, coming back to the bedroom. He was sober enough now, and had all his wits about him again. While Monsieur was absent his man's brain was busy, and when he emerged from the bathroom, it been decided that he was to hear nothing of Jules Chevrel's chance encounter with the object of their joint quest. That worthy did not intend to enlighten him as to the girl's proximity until it should suit his own convenience to do so.

"Events will develop themselves," Jules assured himself with great philosophy. "And when I find her again, as I certainly shall, she will pay dearly for any extra trouble I may have, before I turn her over to Monsieur. What are five thousand francs—to her? Peste! A mere bagtelle."

He helped his employer to dress, and, by the time that operation was over, both were in much better temper; Monsieur because he felt glad to be back on Fifth Avenue, which was the nearest approach to his beloved boulevards of which he knew in America, and Jules Chevrel because he would shortly be free for the afternoon. The one was once more sauvely patronizing, the other smoothly respectful, before they parted, Monsieur to stroll down to Sherry's for a late breakfast, his valet to lunch lavishly at a less expensive resort and plan a subsequent airing at three-dollars-fifty an hour, to be charged to his master's account.

While he ate Jules was thinking of what he had seen after the girl had left him at Martin's. The surface car he had caught had carried him quickly up Broadway and, by good luck, he had sighted her in her automobile as she had turned west. He had cunningly deduced that she would double back, either to the North River ferry at Twenty-third street or round to the East River.

With only that slender clue to guide him he made up his mind that it would be wise to look for her on Long Island first.

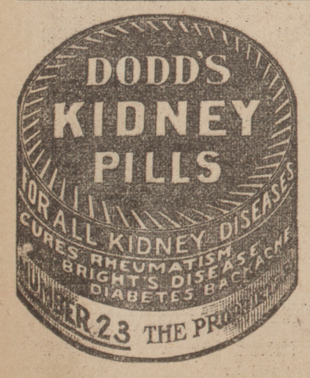
He hired a small motor car, and having made inquiry about her at the New York dock without result, crossed to Long Island City. On that side, he discovered a dock-hand who recalled having seen a lady alone in a runabout leave the boat some time between nine and ten on the previous night, and from the description he got of her had no doubt that it must have been the girl he was seeking. But which way she had gone no one could inform him, and, while he stood there debating the best road to follow, a big, new touring car passed at an easy pace.

He ducked down behind his own inconspicuous turnout; he had recognized at the wheel of the other, beside a grey-haired individual unknown to him, the man he had seen overnight at Martin's. A sudden, unclean suspicion shot through his mind. He promptly decided to act on that.

Quaintance had not been idle since he and O'Ferral had parted, during the small hours and after a prolonged interchange of confidence. He had found it vain to seek sleep, on his first night in the noisy city and while his brain was yet busy with the strange events of the evening. Dawn had found him pacing his room in pyjamas and dressing-gown, a cold pipe between his teeth.

He had been thinking of many things during the dark hours, but chiefly of a face too fair to be soon forgotten. He had been wondering whether, if need were, he could forget it in time. And daylight brought clear understanding. He could not.

(To be Continued)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers

A STRIKING BLACK EVENING GOWN.

Quaintness is the feature of this Paris evening gown, which surely might have stepped directly from some old picture of the early eighties. Black is the rage for evening wear in Paris now, and this gown of black satin, lavishly embroidered with jet beads, opens over a petticoat of gold and black brocade. The back breadths are shirred closely into a narrow panel, which extends from shoulder to hip, falling below in the full train, which is caught again by shirring near the foot. The sleeves are made of black net, to which are sewed the jet beads.

AMERICAN TARIFF BILL PASSED THE HOUSE

Free Lumber Schedule Voted Down and Expectation is That Reciprocity Clause on Coal will be Cut Out

Washington, D. C., April 9—After three weeks of consideration the Payne tariff bill was passed by the house of representatives by a vote of 217 to 161.

The final vote demonstrated the capacity of the Republican organization to get together. The situation with respect to lumber was greatly relieved to the Republican leaders when it became manifest that the advocates of the proposition placing it on the free list were in the minority. Because of that fact Mr. Fitzgerald, of New York, charged that a midnight deal had been made last night whereby free lumber was to be voted down and the rates on barley and barley malt increased, and this notwithstanding the denials of Messrs. Mann, of Illinois, and Cushman, of Washington, who officed the barley amendments.

When the senate committee on finance concluded its session tonight it was with the understanding that all avenues to the committee rooms had been closed and that the few sessions to be held prior to the reporting of amendments to the Payne bill would not be hampered with suggestions from the outside. The committee is now prepared to insert rates on certain important matters.

Among the schedules that are attracting particular attention now are metals and manufactures of metals, lumber, hides, bituminous coal and sugar.

No rates on steel and iron have been inserted as yet, although it is practically settled that iron ore will be taxed twenty cents a ton and a proportionate rate will be assessed against scrap iron and steel refuse fit only to be manufactured. The iron interests are concerned chiefly in getting an increase over the proposed rates in the Payne bill on rails and structural iron. The Payne bill cuts the existing rate on steel rails from $7.84 to $3.92, just one half. Steel men contend that the Payne bill rates are too severe a reduction, and have asked that a rate of $5.88 be fixed on rails. It is generally believed that the committee will name a rate of about $5 per ton. On structural steel it is likely that the Dingley rates of one half a cent a pound will be maintained, instead of adopting a rate of 3-10 of a cent a pound, as fixed by the Payne bill. A number of reductions have been made on other articles under the metal schedule in order to make the schedule symmetrical. These changes, it is said, have been approved by steel manufacturers.

The reciprocity clause of the bituminous coal schedule, which it is said, would result in the elimination of all duties on coal in the trade between Canada and the United States, is likely to go out of the bill. Senators Elkins and Dick were before the committee today in this connection, taking opposite sides.

Under both the Dingley law and the Payne bill bituminous coal pays a duty of 67 cents a ton. The senate committee is considering a reduction of the duty to about fifty cents in view of the elimination of the reciprocity clause. The Payne bill places culm or slack coal on a par with bituminous coal which would increase the rate it must pay from 15 cents to 67 cents. Those who favor striking out the reciprocity clause, want an advalorem duty placed on slack coal which would equal a specific duty of 30 or 40 cents a ton.

Senator Elkins submitted some data indicating that the present rate of 15 cents on slack is too low. He read letters from American agents in Canada and Australia, asserting that mines in those countries artificially crush bituminous coal in order to make it admissable to the United States at the fifteen instead of the 67 cent rate.

It is reported that the senate committee will reduce the existing Dingley rates on lumber one half. A canvass of the senate indicates that an effort in the direction of getting free lumber, if made after the bill reaches the senate, would be unavailing. The canvass of the senate on the question of hides was concluded today and it is asserted that as a result hides will be taken from the free list and a duty fixed at 15 cents advalorem. Wool of all grades and wool tops will be placed in the senate bill under the existing rates, was stated today upon what appears to be excellent authority.

Washington, D. C., April 9—President Taft has won a signal victory for the Ehilippine Islands in the acceptance by the senate committee on finance late tonight of the provision of the Payne bill for the free admission of 300,000 gross tons annually of Filipino sugar.

A LAYAMN OFFERS SOME GOOD ADVICE TO PREACHERS

(The Manchester 'Guardian.').

"The place of the evangel in the preaching of today' was the title of a paper read by Professor A. S. Peake, of Manchester, at the Swansea Conference of Free Churches.

It is not wise, he said, to identify the Gospel with traditional theology, for not only common title, but traditional theology contains elements which are foreign to it, rather than integral parts of it. To define it as the plan of salvation' would be unduly to narrow it, and the conception is itself unfortunate; the representation of the glad tidings as a plan is too mechanical, rigid, and formal. There is a danger of reducing the Gospel too much to a series of transparent formula, from which there clings no aroma of rich suggestions. To explain everything—to have no sense of unfathomable depths—is the mark of the theological charlatan. Nor yet is the Gospel a scheme of social reform. It is true that social reform is a practical corollary from our fundamental doctrine of the Fatherhood of God, but agreement upon this point is compatible with the sharpest difference of conscientious opinion on the lines which practical reform should take. It is an evil day for any church when it pledges its Gospel to any form of economic theory or political constitution. The Gosepl is not simply a sea of ideas or scheme of doctrine; nor is it simply a series of facts. It embraces both, but it combines them inseparably with a Person.

THE CHRISTOCENTRIC INTERPRETATION

The etlement which differentiates Christianity from other religions is Christ Himself. He was Himself the main contribution which He made to religion, and when I speak of our interpretation of the Gospel as Christocentric, I would urge that this should not be too narrowly interpreted. I think we ought not to concentrate attention so exclusively on the Cross that we belittle the theological significance of the Incarnation, the life, the ministry, and the resurrection of Christ. Jesus was not born simply that He might die, and although in one sense we cannot emphasize that experience, we may emphasize it too exclusively. Hence, I prefer to regard the Gospel as Christocentric rather than staurocentric, if I may coin the term—understanding, of course, that any truly Christocentric theology will attach a very high significance to the Cross. In the light of what I have just said, it will be clear that I could not assent to the old-fashioned view that the plan of salvation should be in every sermon. Incessant dwelling upon the theme would make the average ministry one of intolerable tedium; and defeat the very purpose which the preacher had in view. Moreover, it is not the case that the object of the preacher is merely to bring men to Christ. It is important that men should become Christians, but of almost equal importance is the question what kind of Christians are they to be? One of the most urgent concerns of the preacher is to secure a richness and depth of spiritual life in his congregation, morality of high distinction, a grave sense of responsibility. At the same time the old formula had an element of truth in it. In every sermon there ought to be a distinctively Christian element, and where the person or work of Christ is not the main theme care should be taken that these are made prominent in other parts of the service, and that not only in the prayers but especially in the hymns.

Hints to Preachers.

We ought not to speak without sympathy of those who cling tenaciously to the faith taught them at their mother's knee, but God has laid it on the hearts of some of us to care for those to whom that faith became incredible, but whom we may perhaps be permitted to win, at least for what is essential in that earlier belief. I will add that it is very desirable that in this difficult and delicate work the apologist should not be hampered by suspicion, wounded by assaults from his brethren, or even stung by their pinpricks. In a time of theological flux we need the utmost forbearance with each other. We should seek to be free from censoriousness and purge ourselves from the lust of mutual ex-communication. We need in our presentations of the Gospel in our pulpit both the teacher and the prophet, and if, as a layman, I may venture to offer advice to preachers who are younger than myself; I would urge them to bear the following points in mind:—The basis of the sermon should be soundly exegetical. The preacher should not be shy of great texts, for at any rate this would ensure that the people would have something to reward them for coming, and no minister can rise to greatness unless great themese are those most congenial to him. The preacher should aim at balance and proportion and be very tolerant of types other than his own. When he finds that the best of his old sermons move him no longer as he delivers them it is time to print them or put them behind the fire. His sermons will gain immeasurably if he has a sense of style. He should certainly be sparing of the language of Canaan, but he should hold its proverbial
hold its provincial dialects in utter abhorrence; who shall tell us the number of those who have been repelled by them? Let me emphasize the vital necessity of theological equipment. The minister needs it for his people, since failure to ground the members of our churches in the great truths of the Gospel is responsible for no little of the amazing bewilderment in which so many are involved today, and even more he needs it for himself.

Eczema, Salt Rheum.

Eczema or Salt Rheum, as it is often called, is one of the most agonizing of skin diseases. It manifests itself in little round blisters, which contain an extremely irritating fluid. These break and subsequently a crust or scale is formed.

The intense burning, itching and smarting, especially at night or when the part is exposed to any strong heat, are almost unbearable.

The pre-eminent success which Burdock Blood Bitters has met with in permanently curing a disease of such severity is due to its wonderful blood cleansing and purifying properties.

No other remedy has done, or can do, so much for those who are almost driven to distraction with the terrible torture, as our thousands of signed testimonials can testify to.

Mrs. John O'Connor, Burlington, N.S., writes:—"For years I suffered with Salt Rheum. I tried a dozen different medicines, but most of them only made it worse. I was advised to try Burdock Blood Bitters. I got a bottle and before I had taken half a dozen doses I could see a change so I continued its use and now I am completely cured. I cannot say too much for your wonderful medicine."

For sale by all druggists and dealers

A large congregation attended Trinity church last evening when Maunder's sacred cantata, Olivet to Calvary, was given an excellent interpretation by the choir. In addition to the singing of the chorus and the quartette, which was exceptionally good, the soloists, Mrs. F. A. Godsoe, John A. Kelly, S. J. McGowan and H. N. Stanbury, added materially to the performance. The choir was under the direction of J. S. Ford, who also presided at the organ.

THE ILLS OF BABYHOOD AND OF CHILDREN.

The ills of childhood are many, and may prove serious if not promptly attended to. In all homes where Baby's Own Tablets are kept there is a prompt cure at hand for such troubles as indigestion, colic, diarrhoea, constipation, worms, and teething troubles. And the mother has the guarantee of a government analyst that this medicine contains no opiate or poisonous drug. Mrs. R. Hammond, Copetown, Ont., says:—"I have used Baby's Own Tablets and think nothing can equal them for small children. I would not be without them in the house, for they saved my little girl's life." Sold by medicine dealers, or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Hon. Charles E. Oak, who has been in the city for the last two days, returned to Bangor last evening. The sittings of the commission to decide the matters at issue between the N. B. Railway Company and the International Railway, and of which Mr. Oak is a member, will be resumed here next Monday.

PILES CURED IN 6 to 14 DAYS

PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

The Women's Canadian Club executive will hold a meeting at 11 o'clock on Monday morning. Any wishing to join the club may do so by sending their names to the secretary, Mrs. D. P. Chisholm, 95 Coburg street.

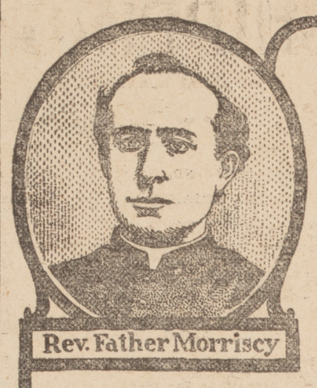
NAUTICAL LEARNING.

Little Mermaid—I have read of the origin of the papa shad, but can't find how the mamma shad was created.

Mamma Mermaid—She was fashioned from a rib of the papa shad.

Little Mermaid—Gee whizz! I'll bet he never missed it.

Only One "BROMO QUININE," that is Laxative Bromo Quinine. Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days. E. W. Grove on every box. 25c



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