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Monsieur Beaucaire

By Booth Tarkington

An Interesting Serial Story, a Portion of Which will be Published in the Review Until Completed.

(Continued from last week)

Monsieur, I wish you to think very cool. Then listen; I will be briefly. It is that I am well known to be all, entire' honore'. Gambliat? Ah, yes, true and most profitable, but fair—always fair. Every one say that. Is it not so? Think of it. And—is there never a w'isper come to M. le Duc that not all people belief him to play al-ways honore'? Ha, ha! Did it almos' be said to him las' year, after when he play' with Milor' Tappin'ford at the chocolate house?"

"You dirty scandal monger!" the duke burst out. "T'p!"—"Monsieur, monsieur!" said the Frenchman. "It is a poor valor to insult a helpless captor. Can he retort upon his own victim? But it is for you to think of what I say. True, I am not reco'nize on the parade; that my friend's who come here do not present me to their ladies; that Meestaire Nash has rebuff' me in the pomp room. Still, am I not known for being honore' and fair in my play, and will I not be belief, even I, when I lif' my voice and charge you aloud with what is already w'isper'? Think of it! You are a noble, and there will be some handgods who might not fall away from you. Only such would be lef' to you. Do you want it tol'? And you can keep out of France, monsieur! I have lef' his service, but I have still the ear of M. de Mirepoix, and he know' I never lie. Not a gentleman will play you when you come to Paris."

The Englishman's white lip showed a row of scarlet dots upon it. "How much do you want?" he said.

The room rang with the gay laughter of Beaucaire. "I hol' your note' for seven hunder' pound'. You can have them, monsieur. Why does a such great man come to play M. Beaucaire! Because no one else willin' to play M. le Duc—he cannot pay. Ha, ha! So he come' to good M. Beaucaire. Money—ha, ha! What I want with money?"

His grace of Winterset's features were set awry to a sinister pattern. He sat glaring at his companion in a snarling silence.

"Money! Pouf!" snapped the little gambler. "No, no, no! It is that M. le Duc, impoverish', somewhat in a bad odor as he is, yet command the entree any-where—unless I— Ha, ha! Eh, monsieur?"

"Ha! You dare think to force me?"

M. Beaucaire twirled the tip of his slender mustache around the end of his white forefinger. Then he said, "Monsieur and me goin' to Lady Malbourne's ball tonight—M. le Duc and me!"

The Englishman roared, "Curse your impudence!"

"Sit quiet. Oh, yes, that's all. We goin' together."

"No!"

"Certain. I make all my little plan'. 'Tis all arrange'." He paused and then said gravely, "You goin' present me to Lady Mary Carlisle."

The other laughed in utter scorn. "Lady Mary Carlisle, of all women alive, would be the first to prefer the devil to a man of no birth, barber."

"'Tis all arrange'; have no fear. Nobody question monsieur's guest. You goin' take me tonight?"

"No!"

"Yes. And after—then I have the entree. Is it much I ask? This one little favor, and I never w'isper, never breathe that—it is to say, I am always forever silent of monsieur's misfortune."

"You have the entree!" sneered the other. "Go to a lackey's rout and dance with the kitchen maids. If I would, I could not present you to Bath society. I should have cartels from the fathers, brothers and lovers of every wench and madam in the place, even I. You would be thrust from Lady Malbourne's door five minutes after you entered it."

"No, no, no!"

"Half the gentlemen in Bath have been here to play. They would know you, wouldn't they, fool? You've had thousands out of Bantison, Rakell, Guilford and Townbrake. They would have you lashed by the grooms as your ugly deers are. You to speak to Lady Mary Carlisle! 'Od's blood! You! Also, dolt, she would know you if you escaped the others. She stood within a yard of you when Nash expelled you the pump room."

M. Beaucaire flushed slightly. "You think I did not see?" he asked.

"Do you dream that because Winterset introduces a low fellow he will be tolerated—that Bath will receive a barber?"

"I have the distinction to call monsieur's attention," replied the young man gayly, "I have renounce' that profession."

"Fool!"

"I am now a man of honor!"

"Faugh!"

"A man of the parts," continued the young Frenchman, "and of deportment. Is it not so? Have you seen me of a fluster or gross ever or, what shall I say—bourgeois? Shall you be shame' for your guest' manner? No, no! And my appearance, is it of the people? Clearly no. Do I not compare in taste of apparel with your y'ong Englishman? Ha, ha! To be hope'. Ha, ha! So I am goin' talk with Lady Mary Carlisle."

"Bah!" The duke made a savage burlesque. "Lady Mary Carlisle, may I assume the honor of presenting the barber of the Marquis de Mirepoix? So, is it?"

"No, monsieur," smiled the young man. "Quite not so. You shall have nothing to worry you, nothing in the world. I am goin' to assassinate my poor mustachio—also remove this horrible black peruke and emerge in my own hair. Behol'!" He swept the heavy, curled mass from his head as he spoke, and his hair, coiled under the great wig, fell to his shoulders and sparkled yellow in the candle light. He tossed his head to shake the hair back from his cheeks. "When it is dress', I am transform'. Nobody can know me. You shall observe. See how little I ask of you—how very little bit. No one shall reco'nize 'M. Beaucaire' or 'Victor.' Ha, ha! 'Tis all arrange'. You have nothing to fear."

"Curse you," said the duke, "do you think I'm going to be saddled with you wherever I go as long as you choose?"

"A mistake. No. All I requir'—all I beg—is this one evening. 'Tis all shall be necessary. After, I shall not need monsieur."

"Take heed to yourself—after!" vouchsafed the Englishman between his teeth.

"Conquered!" cried M. Beaucaire and clapped his hands gleefully. "Conquered for the night! Aha, it is ris'nable! I shall meet what you send—after. One cannot hope too much of your patience. It is but natural you should attempt' a little vengeance for the racial trap I was such a wicked fellow as to set for you. I shall meet some strange frien's of yours after tonight. Not so! I must try to be not

(Continued next week)

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If you want job printing done at once, bring it in now.

CHURCH NOTICES.

Baptist church—E. A. Leonard, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. B. Y. P. U. 7 p. m. Preaching at 8 p. m.

Methodist church—F. L. Young, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Epworth League at 7 p. m.

Holy Cross Catholic church, Portsmouth Station 8:15 a. m., low mass; 10:15 a. m., high mass; 7:30 p. m., vespers and benediction.

Christian church—Meets every Sunday in Bickner's hall as follows: Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m., and Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 7 p. m. R. J. Johnson, pastor.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, University Park—Rev. Wm. R. Powell, chaplain. Regular services 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 3 p. m.; Bible class 7 p. m.; Lenten services every Friday at 10 a. m.

Evangelical church—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m. Junior K. L. C. E. 2:30 p. m.; Senior K. L. C. E. 7 p. m. Preaching at 8 p. m. Chester P. Gates, pastor.

First Congregational Church—G. W. Nelson, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. V. P. S. C. E. meeting at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday at 7:30 p. m. A seat and welcome to all.

Baptist Church, University Park. Rev. A. B. Walte, pastor. Regular services every Sunday morning and evening.

German Baptist church—Services held each Sunday at Baptist church as follows: Sunday school 2 p. m., preaching at 3 p. m. Rev. Faltmeat, pastor.

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Mail Schedule

Mail arrives at St. Johns at 7:10 a. m.

and 1:15 p. m.

Leaves at 10:20 a. m., and 4:45 p. m.

Office open week days from 6:45 a. m. to 6:10 p. m. Sundays from 9 to 10 a. m.

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