

# A Feudal Courtship

By HENRY F. KEENAN

## CHAPTER II.

WHEN Mrs. Van Gueldres made her morning tour in to the bridal chamber next morning she found the room a scene of devastation. The jewel cases were all empty. The smaller articles in gold and silver were nowhere to be seen. Stupefied, she glanced all over the room, then hastened to her daughter.

"Have you been in the blue room?"

"No, mamma. Why? Kitty made answer indifferently.

"Some one has robbed the house."

"Mamma!"

"I'm not joking!"

Kitty arose and fled toward the ravaged chamber. The mother followed, and she at the same time the maid in the dining room. Kitty stared about her in bewilderment.

"Who can it have been? Was the door broken open?" she gasped, sweeping the despoiled cases with amazement.

"Mamma, the maid, entering, almost shrieked in astonishment.

"Have you been on this floor this morning?" Mrs. Van Gueldres asked anxiously.

"No, Mrs. Van Gueldres, I have been at my regular work," the maid answered pitifully.

"Where is Benham? Send for him."

When the maid was gone Kitty broke out: "Why didn't we take heed of Count Malstern's warning? Hundreds must have known of the jewels, and burglars have become so scientific that we might have foreseen this wretched business."

"But how could it be burglars? No doors were broken—at least I've heard of none. Ah, Benham," she cried as a grave domestic stopped in the doorway, "you see what has happened. Everything of value has been carried off, at least out of the room. Have you been through the house?"

"From cellar to attic, ma'am. Not a sign of break or disorder anywhere except that the chain was not up on the front door."

Kitty started. She had forgotten to put up the chain, but how could a burglar know that?

When it was found that no clew could be traced by questioning the servants Kitty promptly suggested sending for Teddy Acton; as a lawyer he would know what to do. Her own desire was that nothing should be said of the matter and that the presents should all be replaced at her own expense, as the talk and wonderment were more than she cared to encounter. But a still more critical loss was in store. Teddy Acton had not been at his home. His law partner had not seen him since the previous afternoon.

At first Mrs. Van Gueldres shrunk from telling Kitty this. But when the evening came with no word from her sweetheart the girl felt that something evil had befallen her Teddy, who had never missed the house for twenty-four hours during the last six months. To remain away at such a juncture as this he must be ill. Her mother listened to her daughter's vehement conjuncturings, incapable of revealing the brutal facts as laid before Mr. Van Gueldres by his counsel.

These were simply the cynical statement of the lawyer's conviction that Theodore Acton had made away with his sweetheart's trousseau of jewels. When this hideous surmise was finally of necessity broken to Kitty her wrath was electrifying.

"Papa, you let that dolt of a Flung say that to you? There must be some law to punish such monstrous villification. Don't invite him to the house again while I'm here." Kitty fled in tears from the room.

The family's first efforts were directed to keeping the "affair" from the newspapers. This was not difficult, as the servants were adoringly loyal to the whole household and regarded any misfortune to their employers as a pain to themselves.

Brinton Flint—Acton's law partner—took it upon him that the clubs and congregations where Teddy was known should be satisfied with a reasonable invention; then he set to work to unravel the mystery. He knew Acton as men know their brothers. He had been his enemy in Harvard. They had made the grand tour in Europe together, and he would as soon have credited the officiating clergyman at the wedding with the pillage of the presents as his friend Teddy. His first proceeding was to procure a morning's talk with Kitty. By infinite patience he drew from her the story of her relation with Count Malstern. She had, she admitted, half promised the count to consider his jewelry, but she had never loved him. She frankly told him when her heart was engaged by Teddy.

"Tell me—don't hasten, don't think anything trivial—tell me word for word just what Malstern said when you dismissed him," the lawyer persisted, carelessly jotting in a notebook.

"It is absolutely vitally essential for Teddy's good name, for his recovery, in fact, that you should tell me."

"His recovery? You know where he is? Is he ill? Something has happened to him?" Kitty cried beseechingly.

"It is useless to torment you with my conjectures, my suspicions. If Teddy is living, his life will only be worth living by getting at the facts in the case. I don't think there has been a murder. A plunder so large as this of your jewels implies a master hand. Such men do not commit murder. Probably in the course of a few days you will receive a proposal, upon which will depend Acton's release."

"Then you think the count has carried Teddy off? The abominable wretch!"

"The other day he would have carried you off. Perhaps had you been in that political remembrance of feu-

dalism, the Kaiserreich, he would have whiffed you off instead of your jewels and your sweetheart. But—Malstern's words until the last moment you saw him."

"He said that I would find that I had made a mistake in choosing Mr. Acton; that he was not worthy of me; then I stopped him and rose. He rose, too, and as he went out, said more to sorrow than in anger, 'It is too bad to throw away such a life!'"

"And that was all?"

"He returned the night of the robbery and gave me an opal, which he said had been his mother's and an heirloom in the family for ages."

"Was that stolen with the rest?"

"No, I left it in the library when we went upstairs with mamma to show the count the presents."

"Good. Let me have that opal."

Armed with the gem, Brinton Flint took leave, saying, as the girl followed him wistfully to the door: "Telephone me the instant you receive the anonymous letter. It will reach you soon."

He went straightway to an eminent jeweler, known for the perfection of the work turned out in his establishment. The first glance trained eyes gave the gem it was pronounced paste. It was a very excellent imitation and in its old German setting would never be detected save by an expert.

"Where did it come from?"

"The jeweler called an employee in the rear. 'Isaiah, where was that put together?'"

The man examined the gold circlet with a glass and answered promptly: "Randall's—London."

That evening Flint made known to Kitty that he would be absent from New York for some time. He gave her a cable address in London.

In such agitation as may be easily conceived, the Van Gueldres set themselves to evading curiosity. It was no difficult matter to replace the jewelry and gold work stolen, as the boxes were sufficient to give the dealers the clew. The problem was to account for the postponement of the wedding and the absence of Acton. This was more or less successfully done through Flint, who gave out that Acton had been seized by a recurrence of angina pectoris and under the doctor's orders had gone into seclusion.

Meanwhile every scintilla of clew that could be evoked from persons and incidents was in energetic and cautious hands. Berthold—the young butler, the count's protégé—was kept under close surveillance. He had given a straightforward account of himself the night of the robbery. His comrade, the footman, bore witness that Berthold had gone to bed at 10 o'clock, that once or twice during the night he had awakened and saw him asleep beside him. No trace, however, could be found of the carriage in which Acton had been driven from the Van Gueldres mansion.

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## LINCOLN AND LONDON.

Tower Dedicated to Our President in an English Church.

"With charity for all and malice toward none"—these well known words of the great, brave, sagacious Lincoln appear in large lettering in the creeds of Christ church, Westminster, London. It is fitting, then, that the imposing tower of this superb structure, costing over \$2,000 (\$310,000), should be dedicated to the liberator of a race. Rowland Hill, whose name is linked with the world's great preachers, founded Surrey chapel eighteen years before the close of the eighteenth century. Newman Hall was one of his successors, and under his leadership the church secured this splendid temple and center of Christian service. When the building was still in the hands of the architect Dr. Hill conceived the idea of dedicating the tower to Abraham Lincoln, the martyred president of the United States, and today within the tower you may read the following inscription:

LINCOLN TOWER.  
Inaugurated 4th July, A. D. 1903, by Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton Bart. The memorial stone was laid 9th July 1874, by the late President Lincoln to this country. The cost (£7,000) was defrayed equally by English and American contributions obtained by the Rev. Newman Hall, LL. D.

It was built in commemoration of the abolition of slavery effected in 1863 by President Lincoln.

And as a token of international brotherhood.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.

—St. Nicholas.

## WILD ANIMALS.

Different Methods by Which They Are Captured.

The different methods by which various wild animals are captured in their native state are interesting. Lions are generally caught by being tempted to thrust their heads through nooses of strong cords composed of twisted hides. Pieces of meat are used for bait, but frequently the hunters have many days of hard chasing before the lion can be persuaded to try the noose. When he does, the cords are pulled quickly around his throat, stifling him, and other stout cords are bound around his legs. Tigers are more savage than lions and can rarely be captured without the aid of a dog. They are accordingly carried on among the cubs, the parent tigers being killed and the young left without protectors, being easily caught. The cubs readily accustom themselves to captivity. Perhaps the most difficult of all wild animals to capture is the giraffe. In addition to being very rare giraffes are exceedingly timid and swift footed. There is no special way to capture giraffes. Many different ways have been tried, and all have been equally unsuccessful. The method which has occasionally resulted in a capture is that of using a long cord, at each end of which is a round weight. This cord is thrown by the hunter in such a manner as to wind around the animal's legs, either bringing it to the ground or rendering it incapable of escaping before it is made a prisoner. Most of the giraffes in captivity have been caught by chance when young.

## BROKEN MIRRORS.

Varying Phases of the Superstition That Clings to Them.

A young man with a hall bedroom atmosphere about him got off an elevated train at Rector street. He omitted to take a paper bag that a passenger who got aboard with him at Fifty-ninth street saw him carrying.

"Hi!" shouted his fellow passenger. "You've forgotten your luncheon."

The young man hurried off without appearing to hear. The train had beeped into the bag. "Broken shaving mirror this trip," he said to the passenger. "We run across broken mirrors in bags or wrapped in neat newspaper parcels every few days. For my part, I put the pieces under the seat for the cleaners to take away. If one is superstitious at all it is just as unlucky to dispose of the pieces of a broken mirror as it is to break the glass. I don't want any secondhand bad luck handed out to me."

"Somebody has got to break shaving mirrors or they wouldn't be any sale for new ones. But suppose the lady in the boarding room wants like to leave the pieces around when they break one for fear of the landlady. There is no more superstitious person on earth, not barring the sailor, than the New York boarding house keeper. I have heard of cases where a man has been asked to give up his room because he happened to break a mirror."—New York Press.

## Where Stanley Worked as a Boy.

He sometimes, but not often, spoke to me of his life as a boy. I remember in 1860, when we were staying in Cincinnati together, his asking me one afternoon to go for a walk with him. He took me through obscure back streets and down dirty alleys until we reached a wharf on the banks of the Ohio river. He stopped at the bottom of a street which ran steeply down to the river and pointed out a lad who was rolling a large cask of tallow from a cellar down to the wharf. He said: "I have brought you here because I wanted to show you this place. I was doing exactly the same work as that lad, and, if I mistake not, that is the same cellar in which I worked."—Reminiscences of Sir Henry Stanley in Scribner's.

## This Topsy Turvy World.

This is a topsy turvy world. One man is struggling for justice, and another is fleeing from it. One man is saving to build a house, and another is trying to sell his "for less than it cost."

One man is spending all the money he can make in taking a girl to an entertainment and sending her flowers in the hope eventually of making her his wife, while his neighbor is spending the gold he has got to get a divorce. One man escapes all the diseases man is heir to and gets killed on the railway. Another goes everywhere without being hurt and dies with whooping cough. Such is life!—Exchange.

## Comparing Notes.

Mrs. Apollo—Your cook seems to have a very refined appearance. Mrs. Brooks—She says she is a Vassar girl. Mrs. Cunningham—She worked for me once and then said she was a Wellesley girl. Mrs. Devine—She told me she had been a cook at both colleges.—Smart Set.

## A Question of Color.

Jiggs—What's the difference between a hectic flush and a baptismal flush? Jiggs—A hectic flush makes some one red and a baptismal flush makes some one blue.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

## PRIMITIVE MINING.

The Way Rubies Are Found, Washed and Sold in Burma.

The system practiced for obtaining rubies in the mining districts in Burma is of the most primitive description. The mining shafts are simply holes about two feet square sunk to a depth varying up to fifty or sixty feet. The shoring up of the walls of the shafts is most crude, the sides being supported by posts at the corners and branches of small trees secured against the sides by stout sticks.

The miner carries a tin pot similar in shape to a blunt ended cone on his head. He squats down in one corner and digs between his knees in the opposite corner. The earth, or byon, as the ruby bearing earth is called, is conveyed to the top as fast as it is excavated in small buckets let down from above. The apparatus for raising and lowering the buckets is simple in the extreme. A stout bamboo post about twenty feet high, called a maungine, is fixed upright in the ground at a convenient distance from the pit or shaft and a long, thinner bamboo pivoted horizontally into the upper end of it so as to project an eighth from the mine and the long arm toward the mine.

From the end of the long arm hangs a long cane fastened to a longer thin bamboo, the latter ending in a double hook, and from the short end hangs a basket of stones. The buckets are raised by the inner arm with its hook, while the stones counterbalance the weight. Usually three men work in a dwin—one down below, one hauling up the baskets, and the third operator piles up the byon as it is received. The byon is excavated by means of a straight, strong tool about two feet three inches long, with a broad blade. The baskets are shallow and circular, with loop cane handles.

When enough byon has been piled up it is taken off and put into a stone paved circular inclosure resembling a bath under a fall of water and shoveled about with a mattock till the mud and clay are washed away and the stones are all collected in a deep hole at the end of a narrow channel. These are then strained, sieved and finally sorted and all rubies and sapphires placed in a little bamboo cup full of clean water till the wash is over. They are then transferred to a little canvas bag, which every mine owner carries, and are finally transferred to the unclean hands of the money lending fraternity, who flock around in crowds on the bazaar days to buy any stones found during the week.—Scientific American.

## THE JAPANESE BABY.

Showers With Gifts Before It Even Makes Its Appearance.

A hundred gifts in various shapes are offered to the baby before its appearance—toys, big ones, of course; pieces of cotton, silk or crepe, invariably with a happy omen in their designation, are a joy to the mother. The baby will be busy with the full grown. Recurring is accordingly carried on among the cubs, the parent tigers being killed and the young left without protectors, being easily caught. The cubs readily accustom themselves to captivity. Perhaps the most difficult of all wild animals to capture is the giraffe. In addition to being very rare giraffes are exceedingly timid and swift footed. There is no special way to capture giraffes. Many different ways have been tried, and all have been equally unsuccessful. The method which has occasionally resulted in a capture is that of using a long cord, at each end of which is a round weight. This cord is thrown by the hunter in such a manner as to wind around the animal's legs, either bringing it to the ground or rendering it incapable of escaping before it is made a prisoner. Most of the giraffes in captivity have been caught by chance when young.

## THE FIRST RAILWAYS.

When Sixteen Miles an Hour Made the Passengers Dizzy.

In 1825, when the railway was opened between Liverpool and Manchester, the Liverpool terminus was at Wapping. Lime street tunnel was not completed until about six years later.

At first the service consisted of three trains each way on week days and two on Sundays, but this was soon found to be insufficient. After Lime street station was opened there were six first class trains and six second class trains each way on week days and two of each description on Sundays. The journey of thirty-one miles occupied nearly two hours, which led to complaints that the speed was too great to be pleasant and caused dizziness. On the other hand, sanguine expectations were indulged in that in course of time the average rate of traveling would be at least double the ordinary speed of the swiftest conveyances drawn by horses.

This was anticipated that the general adoption of railways would lead to "a vast decrease in the consumption of oats and hay by the substitution of steam engines in lieu of horses, and that portion of the soil which has hitherto been allotted to the growth of such produce may be appropriated to the raising of food suitable to the human species"—an important consideration in the time of the corn laws. It could not have been foreseen that the railway system, so far from superseding horses, would lead to an immense increase in the demand for them.—Liverpool Post.

## MacVeagh Adjourned the Court.

On one occasion Wayne MacVeagh succeeded in adjourning the supreme court before the usual hour. Mr. MacVeagh never returned to the Washington over night if he could help it, and on this occasion he greatly desired to take the 4 o'clock train for Philadelphia. Although talking to the court he kept his eye on the clock and at 3:45, giving himself just enough time to reach the station, he ceased his argument and said: "May it please your honors, I move that the court do now adjourn. I want to catch the 4 o'clock train for some of the reasons forementioned. The request seemed to paralyze the justices, but the chief justice made the customary order without a protest, and Mr. MacVeagh got his train.

## Majesty of the Law.

A great deal is said of the majesty of the law, and a sonorous phrase has been coined to express it, but its majesty resides in the sternness, promptness, impartiality and fearlessness with which laws are enforced and the authority of the courts vindicated. If the law has ever been brought into contempt it has been done by no act of criminals or of intending offenders, but by the weakness and failures of the officers of the law and the ministers of justice to maintain the majesty with which the law should clothe them.—New Orleans Picayune.

## A Question of Weight.

The enthusiasm of oarsmen for their sport is, I think, keener even than that of the golfer. They never can help talking "shop." The other day a young oarsman told me of his engagement to be married and also of the engagement of another well known oarsman. I endeavored to find words suitable to the occasion, but I was stopped, as he promptly interjected, "You know, mine's 11 stone 3, and X's is only 9 stone 1." The ruling passion was strong in love.—London Truth.

## The Consultation.

Friend—You've never been called in consultation, have you? Young Doctor—No, but I'd like to be. It's nice to charge ten times as much as the other doctor for saying that you don't know any more about the case than he does.

## Penitence View of It.

Her Husband—I suppose a woman would be indifferent to her appearance. She—She'd have to be a penitence.—Brooklyn Life.

## WOMAN AND FASHION.

Shows Figure to Advantage.