



CHAPTER XIX.

Of that night's fatal work the countryside remains in complete ignorance. Of Mr. Dysart's sudden death it hears the following morning with a feeling of strong curiosity, but with none of regret. The funeral that takes place on the third day is small, certainly, yet, considering all things—the dead man's open hostility to his neighbors, and the dearth of hospitality that characterized his sojourn among them—larger than might have been expected, and at all events select. Among others Lord Riversdale attended—out of compliment, it was supposed, to Seaton, as he and the old man had never so much as seen each other's features. But it was found impossible to conceal the existence of Sedley from the two girls. Peyton had undertaken to give them a rather careful account of what had happened; and in truth, when all was told, he was almost as much at sea about it as they were, as the stranger remained a stranger to him. Sedley had determined to reveal the secret held by him had on Mr. Dysart to Seaton, thinking the latter would make good his father's promises.

It is in the old man's private den that he does this. Going up to the old-fashioned bureau he, by a subtle touch, unlocks the secret spring. The door falls back, the hidden shelves and their contents lie all unconcealed. Seizing upon a fast yellow parchment, Sedley draws it out, and overcome by fatigue and excitement, drops upon his knees. Eagerly he opens and scans it, and then holds it out to Dysart.

"Compare that," says he, in a high tone of triumph, "with the will of your grandfather, that left all to Gregory Dysart, cutting out the elder son. Compare it, I say, and you will see that this was executed three years later than that other—that other which is now in force, and has been these twenty years."

Mechanically Dysart takes it. No word escapes him. Speech, indeed, is impossible to him, so busy is his mind trying to take in all the miserable dishonor of the story that as yet has but the bald outlines laid before him.

"No one knew of it but me," says Sedley, feverishly, yet with an undercurrent of delicious excitement in the recital. "But me and Grunch. What she made out of it no one can tell, as the old chap's gone, but she's as knowing a file in my opinion as you'd meet in a day's walk. You can see our two signatures. Eh, can't you read 'em? We witnessed it. We alone knew, and he bought us over. Well, 'twas worth a quid or two: 'tis a fine old place."

Dysart makes no answer. He has supported himself against a table near him, and is gazing blankly, hopelessly, through the window at the dull landscape outside. He sees nothing, hears nothing, save the voice of the man who is speaking.

"'Twas felony, mind you, besides the fact of having to give up the money, and property, and all, so I knew I could turn on the screw as tight as I liked. But," he laughs, "you see, I counted without my host. I never dreamed the old man would show fight like that. He took it hard, my return—guess he believed me dead, and resented the breath in me—and I shouldn't wonder if, after all these years, he had got to believe the place, money and everything, was legally his own."

"Well, I guess I'll chance it," says Sedley after a long glance at the young man's pale, earnest face.

CHAPTER XX.

With the fatal will clasped in his hand, Dysart goes straight to the small morning room, where he knows he will be sure to find Vera. Twilight is beginning to fall, and already the swift herald of night is proclaiming the approach of his king. She starts slightly as he comes in.

"I am sorry to disturb you," says Dysart, with an effort at calmness, "but it was so necessary that I should come, that—"

"I am glad you have come, I, too, was anxious to see you," says Vera, a touch of nervousness in her tone. "I—you must know it is impossible that we should stay here any longer. Our uncle, who was our guardian, is gone and—she has risen to her feet and is looking at him in sore distress—"I have wanted to speak to you about it for a long time; I thought, perhaps, you would help us to find another home." He can see that she suffers terribly in having to throw herself upon his good nature, to openly demand his assistance. "We must leave this, and at once," says she, stammering a little, and with a slight miserable break in her voice.

"You will not have to look for another home," says he; "this is your own home."

"Oh, no!" drawing back with a haughty gesture; "I have told you it is impossible. I shall certainly not stay here."

"As you will," quite as haughtily. "It will be in your power for the future to reside exactly where you please, but if the fear of seeing me here is deciding you against this place, pray be satisfied on that point; I have no longer the smallest claim to consider myself master here."

CHAPTER XXI.

Three months have come and gone. Great changes have these three months brought. They have unhoused Seaton Dysart and given his inheritance into the hands, the most unwilling hands, of his cousin. Hands too small to wield so large a scepter.

day, when the sound of carriage wheels on the gravel outside the window, the echo of a resounding knock, startle her out of her contemplated repose.

"It's selfish, I know, but I'm so glad to have you. Let me take off your fur. What a delicious coat! You hadn't that when I was down with you, eh?"

"No, it's a new one, Tom gave it to me. He's absurd, but ever. But I haven't braved the elements to talk about him. It is about Seaton I want to tell you."

"Seaton? To come out such a day as this to talk of Seaton? But why? It must be something very serious," says Vera, changing color perceptibly.

"Vera, I cannot help regarding you—and me—as in part criminals. Poor, dear fellow, it must have been a blow to lose everything in one fell swoop. And yet what more could we have done than what we did do? To the half of our kingdom we offered him, but, as you know, he would none of us."

"I know all that. We have discussed it a thousand times."

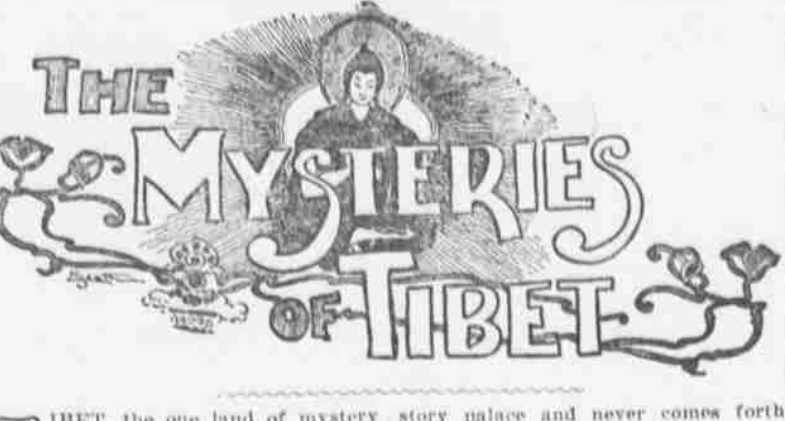
"The face is, Seaton is leaving Eng and forever, and he has a desire, a longing he cannot subdue, and I'm sure, a most natural one, to see his old home before he goes."

"Well!" says Vera, coldly. "Well!" in exactly the same tone, with a little mockery thrown in, "that's the whole of it. He wants to get a last look at the old place before leaving it for ever. At least, that is how he puts it. Can he come? that is the question. I really think it would be only decent if you were to drop him a line and ask him. It would be the most graceful thing, at all events."

An hour later Griselda drives back to the Friars with the coveted note from Vera to Seaton in her hand. (To be continued.)

BREAD 1,800 YEARS OLD.

Loaves that were being baked when Pompeii was destroyed.



TIBET, the one land of mystery yet remaining in the world, has at last been invaded by the photographic camera. Every foot of Africa has been explored and that continent is now gridironed with railroads. The railroad also runs through the whole length of Northern Asia. But in the heart of Asia is one great mysterious, semi-savage land, guarded by stupendous mountains, from which the innovating white man is fiercely excluded. That is Tibet. It seems as if all the strangest and most fantastic customs on earth had taken refuge in this last retreat, for there one woman has many husbands, the ruler is a child who dies before he comes of age, the inhabitants wash themselves with butter and pray by machinery.

The attempts of the Tibetan government to keep foreigners absolutely beyond the borders of Tibet have not been entirely successful, but they have succeeded in keeping them away from the sacred white city of Lhasa, in the heart of the land. That is the holy of holies, the mystery of mysteries, where the Grand Dalai Lama dreams away his sacred, but brief existence. Explorers from time to time cross the wild mountain borders, but they must advance amid great natural difficulties and in face of a murderous population. The rulers at Lhasa hear of their coming months before they can reach the capital, and can make simple arrangements for murdering them.

When Henry Savage Landor crossed the frontier in an attempt to reach Lhasa, he was seized, tortured and barely escaped with his life. Mr. William Woodville Rockhill, the distinguished diplomat, lately special American envoy in China, has explored Eastern Tibet and written the most valuable modern account of the people and their customs. He did not try to reach Lhasa.

Tibet lies between India, Asiatic Russia and China. On the southern side are the Himalaya Mountains, the highest in the world, and the whole of Tibet consists of mountainous table land, rising 20,000 feet and more above the sea level. The inhabitants die of bilious fever when taken to a normal level. On the northern or Russian side are great deserts. The least explored part of China lies on the remaining side. Tibet has an absolute religious government or theocracy. The head of it is the Grand or Dalai Lama at Lhasa, who is supposed to be an incarnation of Buddha, but the real ruler is a person, curiously named "the Gyalpo," or temporal chief. He, too, is a lama.

Years ago the lamas were not so anxious about excluding foreigners from their land as now, probably because they believed the visitors would reverence their greatness. It is one hundred and forty-one years since the Jesuit priests were expelled from Tibet, but even for many years after that it was not difficult for a foreigner observing the Buddhist religion to enter the country. In 1811 an Englishman named Manning entered Lhasa disguised as a lama, and in 1846 the French priests, Fathers Huc and Gabet, did the same thing. But since then no white man has seen the sacred city. Every one attempting to approach has been killed.

This fierce exclusiveness has naturally stirred civilized curiosity to the utmost and much information has been gathered from Asiatic Buddhists concerning the Sacred City. This curiosity has now received an unusual gratification in a remarkable series of photographs of the Holy City and its most holy places. These were all obtained by Asiatics. One of them was a Kalmyk chief named Oyche Novzounof, a Russian subject, and the other a member of the Nepal Embassy to China. Nepal is a native state between India and Tibet. These photographs confirm the most extraordinary statements that have been made concerning the place. The Potala or Grand Lama's abode is situated on a steep rock, about 1,500 feet high, and rises nine tall stories above that into the sky. The lower stories are occupied by the Gyalpo and hundreds of Lamas, while the Grand Lama is hidden away at the top.

The Grand Lama, who is regarded as a reincarnation of Buddha, is usually chosen at the age of five or six. Under the influence of the Gyalpo he dies of some mysterious malady at the age of fifteen or sixteen. His spirit then passes into another child. Fathers Huc and Gabet are the only white men who have left a description of the enthrone of a new Grand Lama. When one dies the Tibetans watch for a rainbow, and when this appears it is a sign of aid from Buddha. The lamas come out in procession and their oldest member says to them: "Your Grand Lama has reappeared in Tibet at such a distance from your Lamaery. You will find him in such a place."

SHIPBUILDING OF THE WORLD.

America Ranks Second to England, Including Colonies.

United States Consul Monaghan at Chemnitz has made a report to the State Department in regard to the world's shipbuilding for 1900.

The total number of vessels of over 100 registered tons built during 1900 is given in German returns as 319 sailing vessels and 906 steamships, with a total tonnage of 2,208,338 tons. Of this number, 20 sailing vessels and 70 steamships, with a tonnage of 211,850 tons, were built by Germany.

The following table gives the relative position of the shipbuilding countries for 1900, number of ships and registered tons:

England (exclusive of colonies)	698	1,471,475
America	197	207,631
Germany	90	211,850
France	65	101,318
Italy	37	54,382

According to these figures 10 per cent of the whole falls to Germany.

During the six months ended Dec. 31, 1901, there were built in the United States and officially numbered by the Bureau of navigation 717 rigged vessels of 154,073 gross tons, compared with 508 rigged vessels of 170,229 gross tons for the corresponding six months of 1900. Canal boats and unrigged barges are not included.

The principal decline, 19,752 tons, is on the Atlantic seaboard, and is attributable to work on several large ocean steamers, which will be completed during the coming six months. Included in the six months' figures are thirty-eight vessels, each over 1,000 tons and aggregating 103,832 tons. Of these fourteen steel steamers, aggregating 52,310 tons, were built on the great lakes. Four are for the seaboard, two banana steamers, Watson and Buckman, each of 1,820 tons; the Hugoma, 2,182 tons, and the Minnetonka, 5,270 tons. The Minnetonka will be cut in two to pass the canals.

On the seaboard fifteen wooden schooners of 24,804 tons were built, says the Washington Star, five steel steamers for the coasting trade and one steel ferryboat, aggregating 20,964 tons. Square-rigged vessels are the steel ship William P. Frey, 3,374 tons, and two barkentines on the Pacific, aggregating 2,310 tons.

About Gems.

The diamond, although not so rare or precious as the ruby, holds the first place as favorite among precious stones with almost every one. The high estimation in which it is held is due to its remarkable hardness, rarity, and brilliancy. In spite of its beauty, it merely consists of carbon—a simple elementary substance, and in its greatest beauty. Although diamonds are usually colorless and clear, like water, occasionally—from some slight foreign inter-mixture—they are white, gray, yellow, green, brown, and more rarely orange, red, blue or black. The hardness of the gem—as everybody knows—renders it incapable of being scratched by any other substance, and in cutting and polishing diamonds diamond dust is employed. The art of cutting diamonds, although long practiced in India and China, was not known in Europe until after the middle of the fifteenth century.

Poor Actresses' Costumes.

In Germany there is a society for the relief of needy actresses. An ordinary actress has to supply her own costumes; it is often most difficult for those who are poor to obtain good engagements, says Home Notes. Accordingly certain practical philanthropists started a society for their benefit.

The society is now in its second year, and in the first report it is stated that "branches have been established in Berlin, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart, Carlsruhe and Mannheim, and it is intended to have a branch in every German city of importance before the end of another year. In every city the business of the society is conducted by a joint committee of wealthy society women and the most conspicuous actresses in the place. So far the demand for costumes has been much larger than the supply, but this condition has only impelled the women workers to greater activity."

Faith and Works.

A piece of bright class-room repartee comes from a Western college. The professor had been annoyed by the tardy entrance of a student into the lecture-room, and pointedly stopped talking until the man took his seat.

After class the student went to the desk and apologized.

"My watch was fifteen minutes out of the way, sir. It's bothered me a good deal lately, but after this I shall put no more faith in it."

"It's not faith you want in it," replied the professor; "it's works."

British Electric Railway.

The estimate of the cost of constructing the electric railway between Brighton and London is in round figures £7,338,403. The stations will cost £330,000, and accommodation bridges and viaducts £1,128,301, while no less than £2,408,720 is to be spent on tunnels.

Pass It On.

"Have you had a kindness shown?"

Pass it on.

"Was not given for you alone—"

Pass it on.

Let it travel down the years, Let it wipe another's tears, Till in heaven the deed appears, Pass it on."

Women in Glasgow University.

Among the 2,038 students at Glasgow University last term there were 350 women.

The man who is willing to lend you money to-morrow always wants to borrow to-day.