Prisoners and Captives
By H. S. MERRIMAN

CHAPTER XI—Continued

American minister. Meanwhile, the initials "M.E.", standing for Matthew Mark Easton, Andrus snapped the paper. But the minister's face lighted up, and he turned to Mrs. Easton.

"I am a writer," he said, "and I have some letters for you."

"Letters?" Mrs. Easton asked, surprised.

"Yes," Andrus replied, "I have a letter from the minister in France."

"Ah," Mrs. Easton said, "I see."

Andrus handed her the letter. She read it with interest, and then thanked him.

"I have another letter," Andrus said, "but it is personal."

"I understand," Mrs. Easton replied, "but if you can give me anything else, I shall be grateful."

Andrus hesitated for a moment, and then said, "I have a letter from a friend of mine in London."

"A friend of yours?" Mrs. Easton asked, interested.

"Yes," Andrus replied, "his name is John Smith."

"Mr. Smith," Mrs. Easton said, "I am grateful for your help."

Andrus returned to the office, and began to work on the new letter. He was a skilled writer, and he took great care with his work. He knew that the minister's safety depended on his words, and he would do everything in his power to help him.

CHAPTER XII

It was almost midnight, and Mrs. Easton was sitting alone in her study. She was writing a letter to her son, Matthew. She had been corresponding with him since he had joined the army, and she was happy to hear from him. She knew that he was doing well, and she was proud of him.

"My dear son," she wrote, "I am glad to hear that you are doing well. I hope that you are taking care of yourself, and that you are not getting into trouble."

She paused for a moment, and then continued.

"I have been working hard, and I hope that you will do the same. I want you to know that I love you very much, and that I am proud of you."

She signed the letter and sent it off to her son. She felt better now, knowing that he was safe and well.

"I shall write again soon," she thought, "and I shall tell you all about my day."

She closed her eyes and fell asleep, feeling content and happy.