

Through the Wall

By CLEVELAND MOFFETT

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Her distress was so evident that even this calloused man felt a thrill of pity and stepped forward to assist her. And as he passed the table his eye fell on the blotting paper.

"Why, what is this?" he exclaimed, eying her sharply.

"Oh, excuse me, sir," begged Alice. "I have spoiled your nice blotter. I am so sorry!"

"Never mind the blotter, but"—He bent closer over the scrawled words, and then, with a troubled look, "Did you write this?"

"Why—er—why—yes, sir, I'm afraid I did," she stammered.

"Don't you know you did?"

"I—I wasn't thinking," she pleaded in fright.

He went to his desk, picked up a printed form, filled it out quickly and handed it to her.

"There," he said, and his voice was



"Did you write this?"

almost gentle, "I guess I don't quite understand about this thing."

Alice looked at the paper blankly. "But what is it?" she asked.

"It's what you asked for—a permit to see this American prisoner, by special order."

CHAPTER X. LOYD AND ALICE.

THE Sunday morning service was just ending when Kittredge reached the Senate prison, and he got his first impressions of the place as he listened to resounding Gregorian tones chanted, or, rather, shouted, by tiers on tiers of prisoners, each joining in the unison with full lung power through cell doors chained ajar. Lloyd settled down as comfortably as might be in his cell to pass the afternoon over "The Last of the Mohicans."

Scarcely had Lloyd finished a single chapter when one of the guards appeared with as much of surprise on his stolid countenance as an overworked underjailer can show, for an unprecedented thing had happened—a prisoner an secret was to receive a visitor, a young woman at that. Moreover, he was to see her in the private parlor, with not even the customary barrier or iron bars to separate them. When Kittredge crossed the threshold he started back with a cry of amazement.

"Alice!" he gasped, and his face lighted with transfiguring joy. It was a bare room, with bare floors and bare yellow painted walls, the only furnishings being two cane chairs and a cheap table, but to Kittredge it was a marvelous and radiant happy place, for Alice was there. He stared at her almost unbelieving, but it was true. By some kind miracle Alice—his Alice—was there!

Then, without any prelude, without so much as asking for an explanation or giving her time to make one, Lloyd sprang forward and caught the trembling girl in his arms and drew her close to him.

"You darling," he whispered—"you brave, beautiful darling! I love you! I love you!"

"Lloyd, dear," she said, "I am here to help you, to get you out of this dreadful place."

"You little angel!" he smiled.

"But first you must answer some questions. I'll begin with the easiest question," she said. "Now, then, have you ever had gout or rheumatism? Don't laugh—it's important."

"Never," he answered.

"Do you play tennis with your right hand or your left hand?"

"Oh, see here," he protested.

"No, no," she insisted, "you must tell me."

"I use both hands," he answered.

"Now, you have a chest of drawers in your room with two brass dogs fighting about the lock plates?"

"How the devil did you know that?"

"Never mind. You usually keep the right hand upper drawer locked, don't you?"

"That's true."

"Do you remember going to this

drawer any time lately and finding it unlocked?"

"No, I don't."

Alice hesitated, and then, with a flush of embarrassment, she went on bravely. "Now, Lloyd, I come to the hardest part."

"Well?"

"It's about the lady who—who called for you. She wants to help you. I have seen her."

"What?"

"Yes, and, Lloyd, she is sorry for the harm she has done and—"

"You have seen her?" he cried, dazed. "How?"

Then, in as few words as possible, Alice told of her talk with the lady at the church. "And I have this message for you from her—and this." She handed him the note and the folded banknotes.

Lloyd's face clouded. "She sent me money?" His lips grew white. "No, no," he declared. "It's quite impossible. I cannot take it," and he handed the money back.

She thrilled with pride in him.

"But the lawyer?" weakly.

"Would you want me to owe my safety to her?"

"Oh, no," she murmured.

"Besides, they have given me a lawyer."

"Then—then what shall I do with these?" She looked at the banknotes in perplexity.

"Return them."

"Ah, yes," she agreed. "I will go to her apartment in the morning. Let me see, it's on the Avenue—Where did I put her address?" And she went through the form of searching in her pocketbook.

"The Avenue Kleber," unsuspecting.

"Of course, the Avenue Kleber. Where is that card? I've forgotten the number too. Do you remember it, dear?"

Poor child! She tried so hard to speak naturally, but her emotion betrayed her.

"Ah, I see!" he cried, eying her steadily. "She did not give you her address and you are trying to get it from me. Do you even know her name?"

"No," confessed Alice shamefacedly. "Forgive me. I—I wanted to help you."

"By making me do a dishonorable thing?"

"Don't look at me like that. I would not have you do a dishonorable thing, but—"

"Who told you to ask me these questions?"

"M. Coquennil."

"What? The detective?"

"Yes. He believes you innocent, Lloyd, and he's going to prove it."

"I hope he does, but—tell him to leave this woman alone." Nothing would prevail on the young man to reveal the woman's name.

The guard came forward to warn them that the time was nearly up; they had three minutes more.

(To Be Continued.)

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