

Half A Chance

BY FREDERICK S. ISHAM.

Author of "The Strollers," "Under the Rose," "The Lady of the Mount," Etc.

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(Continued.)

CHAPTER VI THIS EVENING.

JOHN STEELE was rather late in arriving at the house of Sir Charles Wray in Piccadilly the following Thursday. But nearly every one else was late, and, perhaps knowing the fashionable fable, he had purposely held back to avoid making himself conspicuous by being prompt.

The program on the present occasion included a poet and a woman novelist. The former, a paraphraist, led his hearers through dim masses, Hycranian wilds. The novelist, on the other hand, was direct. In following her there seemed no danger of losing the way. At the conclusion of the program proper an admirer of the poet asked if their young hostess would not play a certain musical something, the theme of one of the bard's effusions, and at once Jocelyn Wray complied. Lord Ronald stood adroitly near, turning the leaves. Steele watched the deft hand. It was slim, aristocratic and suggested possibilities in legardemain.

"An attractive looking pair!" whispered a woman near John Steele to another of her sex during a louder passage in the number. "Are they?" "I don't know, my dear. Perhaps. She's extremely well off in this world's goods, and he has large properties, but—a diminishing income." She lowered her voice rather abruptly as the evidence came to a pause. The music went on again to its appointed and spirited climax.

"Was formerly in the diplomatic service, I believe," the voice also went on; "has strong political aspirations, and, with a wealthy and clever wife—"

"A girl might do worse. He is both cold and capable—an ideal combination for a political career—might become prime minister—with the prestige of his family and hers to"—

John Steele stirred. The whispering ceased. My lord turned the last page. The girl rose and bent for an instant her fair head. And as Steele looked at her again there came over him—this time, it may be, not without a certain bitterness—an impression of life and its joys—springtide and sunshine, bright, remote—so remote—for him.

A babel of voices replaced melody. The people got up. A number lingered. Many went after speaking to their hostesses and Sir Charles. John Steele, at the rear, looked at the door leading into the main hall toward the young girl, then stepped across the soft rugs and spoke to her. She answered in the customary manner, and others approached. He was about to draw back to leave when—

"Oh, Mr. Steele," she said, "my uncle wishes to see you before you go. He was saying he had some"—

"Quite right, my dear!" And Sir Charles, who had approached, took John Steele's arm. "Some curious old law books I picked up today at a bargain and want your opinion of," he went on, leading the other into a lofty and restful apartment adjoining the library. Steele looked around him. His gaze brightened as it rested on the imposing and finely bound volumes.

"You have a superb collection of books," he observed, with a sudden quick look at his host.

"Yes. I rather pride myself on my library," said Sir Charles complacently. "Lost a good many of the choicest, though," he went on in regretful tones, "some years ago as I was returning to Australia. A rare lot of law books, a library in themselves, as well as a large collection of the classics, the world's poets and historians, went down with the ill-fated Lord Nelson."

"Ah!" John Steele looked away. "A great mart, London, for fine editions," he said absently after a pause.

"It is. But here are those I spoke of." And Sir Charles indicated a number of volumes on a large center table. John Steele handled them thoughtfully, and for some time his host ran on about them. A choice copy of one of the Elizabethan poets, intruding itself in that august company, then attracted Steele's attention. He picked it up, weighed and caressed it with gentle fingers.

"Who shall measure the influence of—a little parcel like this?" he said at length lightly.

"True," Sir Charles' eye caught the title. "As Portia says, 'It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.' Excellent bit of binding too. But," with new zest, "take any interest in rare books of the ring, full of eighteenth century colored prints, and so on?"

"I can't say at present that the doings of the ring or the history of pugilists attract me."

"That's because you've never seen an honest, hard fought battle perhaps?"

"A flattering designation, I should say, of the spectacle of two brutes disfiguring their already repulsive visages?"

"Two brutes—disfiguring!" the drawing voice of Lord Ronald, who had at that moment stepped in, inquired. "May I ask what the—talk is about?"

Sir Charles turned. "Steele was differing from me about a good, old honest English sport—the ring, its traditions, its chronicles."

"Ah!" The speaker looked at John Steele. The latter was nonchalantly regarding the pages of a book he yet held.

"For my part," went on Sir Charles in a somewhat disappointed tone, "I am one who views with regret the decadence of a great national pastime."

"Well, it's over!" the light tones of Jocelyn Wray interrupted. The girl stood on the threshold, glancing gayly from one to the other. "Did you tell my uncle, Mr. Steele, what you thought of his purchase? I see, while on his favorite subject, he has forgotten to offer you a cigar."

Sir Charles hastened to repair his remissness.

"But how," she went on, "did it go—the program, I mean? Have you forgiven me yet for asking you to come, Mr. Steele?"

"Forgiven?" he repeated. Lord Ronald's eyes narrowed on them.

"Confess," she continued, sinking to the arm of a great chair, "you had your misgivings."

He regarded the supple, slender figure so airily poised. As she bent forward he noticed in her hair several flowers shaped like primroses, but light crimson in hue. "What misgivings was it possible to have?" he replied.

"Oh," she replied, "the usual masculine ones—misgivings, for example, about stepping out of the routine, routine that makes slaves of men!" with an accent slightly mocking.

"And stepping into what? Society—the bugbear of so many men! Poor society! What stings it has to endure! By the way, did your convict get off?"

"Get off? What?"

"The one you represented—is that the word?—when we were in court."

"Yes. He was acquitted."

"I am glad. Somehow you made me feel he was innocent."

"I believed in him," said John Steele.

"And yet the evidence was very strong against him. If some one else had appeared for him—Do you think many innocent people have been—hanged or sent out of the country, Mr. Steele?" Her eyes looked brighter, her face more earnest now.

"Evidence can play odd caprices."

"Still, your average English jurymen is to be depended on," put in Lord Ronald quickly.

(To Be Continued.)

DEFENDS PICKPOCKETS WHO ROB HIM IN RETURN

CINCINNATI, O., June 13.—Attorney A. Strickett today asked the police to search for six men whom he had defended against charges of picking pockets at the Latonia race track, and who he alleges robbed him of his fee after they paid him.

After the men had been fined and released, one of them paid Strickett \$50. The others crowded around him congratulating him on the manner in which he had conducted their cases. When they left the money they had given him was missing.

RAILWAYS BACK DOWN FOR THE TIME BEING

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 13.—The inter-state commerce commission is flooded with applications of eastern railways asking permission to withdraw their schedules of rate increases in accordance with the terms of the president's agreement with President Taft. The application in many cases ask for a suspension of the schedules for the time being. Many roads not participating in the conference are taking this action.

Jersey Cow.

Wanted—First class fresh Jersey giving not less than 12 quarts per day at least. Address Oak Vale Orchards, Larkin Reynolds, supt., Woodville, Or. 72*

CITY TREASURER'S NOTICE.

Office of City Treasurer, Medford, Oregon, June 11, 1910.

Notice is hereby given that there are funds on hand in the city treasury for the redemption of warrants Nos. 14 and 15 issued against the trunk sewer fund, protested May 12, 1909.

Interest on the same will cease after the above date.

L. L. JACOBS,
City Treasurer.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the City of Medford, Oregon, at its next regular meeting on June 21, 1910, for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon at its place of business on lots 5, 6, 7, 8, block 20, in said city, for a period of six months.

HOTEL NASH CO.

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ANGELA MAY (Roseview Review.)

It is so seldom that the really good things from the world of music come this way that it is a genuine treat to see and hear a musical artist such as Angela May, who is appearing at the Novelty this week. With a magnificent, pure and powerful contralto voice and a great personal charm of manner, Angela May sings with all the temperament and finesse



Angela May

of the true artist. It is an object lesson for any aspirant for vocal honors to hear her. The numbers chosen are diversified so as to please all tastes in song, and her clever imitations of Anna Held and Edna Wallace-Hopper are gems of mimic art. Assisted by J. Louis MacEvoy, she gives operatic sketches that bring roars of laughter and the comedy is refined. Angela May is a Broadway, New York, favorite and made her first "hit" in the London and New York productions of the "Silver Slipper" and "Princess of Kensington," playing ten months on the "Great White Way." These artists will appear at the Isis, giving entire change of program, songs and costumes to-night and again on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

NEW NORTHWEST VESSEL ARRIVES FROM ENGLAND

SEATTLE, Wash., June 13.—The new Grand Trunk steamer Prince Rupert arrived at the end of her journey of 10,000 miles from Walsend, England, at 9 o'clock Saturday when the vessel tied up at pier B. The Prince Rupert was launched at Walsend in December, and is said to be the finest boat on the Sound today. She has developed a speed of 19 knots. The engines are triple expansion, with four cylinders.

The chief dimensions of the steamer are 320 feet over all in length and 42 feet from rail to rail, with a depth of 18 feet to the main deck. There are accommodations for 220 first-class passengers and 1500 excursionists can be taken care of.

The Prince Rupert will be put on the Vancouver-Seattle run.

Big Strike Planned.

BOSTON, Mass., June 13.—Arrangements are being made today for a strike of 20,000 to 30,000 cloak-makers employed in New York, following the authorization of the strike by the Lady Garment Workers' International Union, now in session here. Albert Block is chairman of a special committee appointed to arrange preliminary details for the walkout.

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I also have property in the town of Eagle Point for sale. Those intending to purchase please give me a call in person or call Eagle Point central by phone.

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320 acres, adjoining the Orland irrigation project and adjoining the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad; 240 acres of this land will be irrigated by the government system within two years and will command a price of \$150 per acre; lands not so good as this now under the system are selling at from \$150 per acre and up; I can deliver this at \$25 per acre, and it is a buy; easy terms.

400 acres of the finest land in Solano county, near the town of Dixon, all level land, adapted to the growth of alfalfa; all adjoining lands held at \$100 per acre and up; this place has no waste, is free from hardpan, alkali, adobe and gravel and is one of the finest ranches in Solano county; easily worth \$100 per acre at the minute, but I can deliver it at \$60 per acre, with easy terms, and it is a buy. Better see this one if you want a swell ranch for yourself.

300 acres of the finest land in Sutter county, all fine land for alfalfa, almonds, peaches, prunes, almonds or any crop you want to grow; easily worth \$150 per acre; I can deliver it to you for \$75 per acre, and it's worth double; terms. This is a buy.

68 acres, near the State University farm at Davisville, on Putah creek, the finest land in the state of California; all in alfalfa, now under irrigation, that will cut 12 tons to the acre every year; fine barn, cost \$3000, house not much, but there is a world of stock and implements that go with the place; close to San Francisco and Sacramento, and an ideal ranch in every respect; just large enough; will make a swell fancy stock ranch. The price is \$25,000, with terms; the land alone is easily worth the money; think of it, almost adjoins the state farm and is all in alfalfa; this is a snap if you want something nice.

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FOR THE INVALID

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