

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.)

"Do you think so?" An instant Steele's eyes rested on the speaker. "No doubt you are right." A sardonic flash seemed to play on the nobleman. "At all events you voice the accepted belief."

"I'm glad you defend, don't prosecute, people, Mr. Steele," said the girl irreverently.

"A pleasanter task perhaps."

"Speaking of sending prisoners out of the country," broke in Sir Charles, "I am not in favor of the penal system myself."

"Rather a simple way of getting rid of undesirable transportation—it has always seemed to me," dissented Lord Ronsdale.

"Don't they sometimes escape and come back to England?" asked the girl.

"Not apt to when death for returning stares them in the face," remarked the nobleman.

"Death?" The girl shivered slightly. John Steele smiled. "The penalty should certainly prove efficacious," he observed lightly.

"Is not such a penalty—for returning, I mean—very severe, Mr. Steele?" asked Jocelyn Wray.

"That," he laughed, "depends somewhat on the point of view, the criminal's or society's." His gaze returned to her. The bright bit of color in her hair again seemed to catch and hold his glance.

Lord Ronsdale regarded both quickly. A frown crossed his face, and he looked away to conceal the singularly cold and vindictive gleam that sprang to his eyes.

One evening about a fortnight later Lord Ronsdale in a dissatisfied frame of mind strolled along Piccadilly. He had begun to flatter himself that the flowery way to all he desired lay before him and that he had but to tread it when another, as the soothsayers put it, had crossed his path.

A plain man, a man without title, Lord Ronsdale told himself Miss Jocelyn Wray was no better than an ardent coquette, but the next moment questioned this conclusion. Had she not really been a little taken by the fellow? Certainly she seemed not adverse to his company. When she smiled, and she smiled often, she summoned him to her side. Nor did he now appear reluctant to come at her bidding. Self-assertive though he had shown himself to be, he obeyed, sans demur, the wave of my lady's little hand. Was it a certain largeness and reserve about him that had awakened her curiosity? From her high social position had she wished merely to test her own power and amuse herself after a light fashion, surely youth's and beauty's privilege?

But, whatever the girl's motive, her conduct in the matter reacted on my lord. The fellow was in the way—very much so. How could he himself pay court to her when she frivolously, if only for the moment, preferred this commoner's company?

What made the situation even more anomalous to Ronsdale and the less patiently to be borne was that Sir Charles understood and sympathized with his desires and position in the matter. And why not? Ronsdale's father and Sir Charles had been old and close friends. There were reasons that pointed to the match as a suitable one, and Sir Charles by his general manner and attitude had long shown he would put no obstacle in the way of the nobleman's suit for the hand of his fair niece. As for Lady Wray, Lord Ronsdale knew that he had in that practical and worldly person a staunch ally of his wishes. These had not become less ardent since he had witnessed the unqualified success of the beautiful colonial girl in London, noted how men illustrious in various walks of life, grave diplomats, stately ambassadors, were swayed by her light charm and impulsive frankness of youth. And to have her who could have all London at her feet, including his distinguished self, show a predilection, however short lived and capricious, for—

"Confound the end! Where did he come from? Who are his family—if he has one?"

As the nobleman ascended the steps of his club he seemed again to be thinking deeply. Within his preoccupation did not altogether desert him. In a corner, with the big pages of the Times before him, he read with scant interest the doings of the day. From behind another paper the face of a gray haired, good natured appearing person, quite different of the bench, chanced to look out at him.

"Eh? That you, Ronsdale?" he said, reaching for a steaming glass of hot beverage at his elbow. "How is your friend Sir Charles Wray? I had the pleasure of meeting him the other morning in the courtroom."

"Same as usual, I imagine, Judge Benson."

"And his fair niece, she takes kindly to the town and its gayeties?"

"Very kindly," dryly.

"A beautiful girl our young Australian?" The elder man toyed with his

glass, stirred the contents and sipped. "By the way, didn't I see John Steele in their box at the opera the other night?"

"It is possible," shortly.

"Rising man, that," observed the other lightly. "Combination of brains and force. Did you ever notice his fist? It might belong to a prizefighter, except that the hands are perfectly kept. You'd know at once he was a man accustomed to fighting, who would sweep aside obstacles, get what he wanted?"

"Think so?" Lord Ronsdale smoked steadily. "You as a magistrate, I suppose, know all about him?"

"Not much, only that he is an alien."

"An alien?" quickly. "Not a colonial?"

(To Be Continued.)

THE NEW YORK MARKET FOR CALIFORNIA FRUIT

NEW YORK, June 14.—The offering of California deciduous fruits by auction so far has comprised several cars of cherries, apricots, peaches and plums, principally cherries. The general condition of fruit is good. Range of prices and averages are as follows: Tartarians, 75c-82c, average \$1.33; Royal Annes, 75c-82c, average \$1.36; Bings, \$1.20-2.87, average \$1.75; Royal Apricots, \$1-2.25, average \$1.45; seedling, \$1.15-1.60, average \$1.41; Alex. peaches, 80c-1.75, average \$1.18; Clyman plums, \$1.30-2.00, average \$1.50.

Horse Killed in Runaway

Two couples of Ashland young people returning last night from a drive to the springs southeast of the city met with a disaster as they were turning off the paved Main street at Third toward the home of one of the members of the party, which comprised Miss Mabel Kincaid, Miss Bessie Corbett, Royal Chambers and George Spencer. A horse stumbled, a strap broke and let the neckyoke and tongue of the carriage down, frightening the horses. They ran down Third street and piled up in front of the Dankard church. All the occupants were thrown out, the rig smashed badly, and one of the horses of the team, a valuable one belonging to the Smith stables, was killed, being snagged, it is believed, by the tongue of the carriage. The only one of the party injured was Miss Kincaid. At first it was feared she was seriously hurt, but fortunately the injuries proved only superficial.—Tidings.

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3-ROOM HOUSE, CHICKEN HOUSE AND YARD, WOODSHED, ETC.; LOT 50 x100, 6 FRUIT TREES, 6 BLOCKS FROM DEPOT, STREET TO BE PAVED; IF TAKEN AT ONCE, \$750 CASH. CALL ON OR ADDRESS OWNER, 528 SOUTH FIR STREET.

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The former famous chef at the Nash Grill, Mr. Sam Lock, has opened a first-class restaurant above Kennedy's saloon, No. 33 South Front street. Entrance at both sides. Only first-class meals served, and just the name of the proprietor is the best guarantee.

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This is the only place where will be served chop suey and China noodles. Come and see me and you are both sure you will come back. Remember, I am willing and I preach what I promise. Yours truly, SAM LOCK.

CENTRAL POINT NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Rena Whipple of Woodville has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Bessie Randall, of this city, for the past few days.

S. A. Patton, wife and babies returned home on Saturday, after a week's sojourn in Oregon's metropolises.

Sunday afternoon the sad intelligence of the death of Mrs. William Roberts of Portland reached this city. Mrs. Roberts was a sister of Mrs. Osa Garvin, and had been in ill health for the past four months, following the birth of a little daughter. Her death occurred at her home in Portland on Sunday morning, and her remains will be taken to her girlhood home in the east for burial.

W. A. Cowley attended the rose show in Portland last week.

Dr. and Mrs. Hellsbrom, who purchased an orchard about one mile from Central Point last year, arrived from Pasadena last Thursday, where they have been spending the winter. They will summer here, it is understood.

Mayor Leevee has been bitten with the automobile microbe, and will shortly join the ranks of Central Point "Joy Riders." His choice is the White gasoline car, which he purchased through Mark Welch, Southern Oregon agent for that make of machine.

F. C. Fuhrer, who purchased lots last year in the south part of town, is about to build a substantial modern home thereon.

Mrs. Nellie Ford and daughter, "Little Zip", from Roseburg, stayed over Sunday at the home of G. Burton. Mrs. Ford is a sister of our genial barber.

T. E. Wiley of the firm of Freeman & Wiley, is at present entertaining his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Wiley, of Salem. Mr. Wiley Sr. has retired from active business, having been for many years of his life a harness dealer and manufacturer.

C. E. Laoge, who purchased last year much fine orchard and residence

property, has begun the erection of a nice modern home on his residence lots near the J. H. Myers property.

On Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock a business men's prayer meeting, led by Rev. Robert Johnson, will be held in the tabernacle. These prayer meetings will be a feature of the week's program of revival services.

A tiny daughter arrived early Monday morning to gladden the home and the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Yocum, living in the southeast part of the city.

Miss Cora Deiderick of Monmouth arrived the latter part of last week, and will spend several weeks in Central Point as the guest of Miss Mary Moe and Mrs. Emma Bebb.

On Sunday evening at the tabernacle twenty-one people came to the altar, announcing their intention of leading a new life. About 125 people have professed conversion thus far as a result of the religious effort on the part of the evangelists and the local Christian workers.

George Pankey has contracted to act as superintendent of the Beckwith orchard and has moved with his family back to Central Point.

Miss Iva Dugay spent Sunday with friends in Grants Pass.

Will Hathaway is now able to be up and around the house, and will, in a short time, have entirely recovered from his desperate attack of appendicitis.

The tabernacle meeting will probably close on Monday, June 20. The most obstinate old unbeliever in Central Point can have but little to say against the methods and results of a religious campaign such as the one being conducted here.

Attorney Walker, the latest arrival among Central Point's coterie of professional men, announces himself perfectly satisfied with the amount and quality of business that is coming his way. He likes Central Point and Central Point likes him, which is a very satisfactory state of affairs all around.

EDEN PRECINCT ITEMS

V. A. Dunlap of Talent was in Phoenix last Saturday.

W. O. Holman arrived in North Talent recently from Sonora, Cal. Mr. Holman was formerly a resident of Missouri and is here visiting his friend, Roy Colman.

J. W. Dean of Talent was in Phoenix Sunday.

Rev. William Clyde and wife came down from Ashland Saturday to visit

with Mrs. Lillie Blackwood for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fern of Fern Valley were in Phoenix Sunday.

Mrs. C. Carey was a Medford business visitor last Monday.

Dr. Carter and son Chester were in North Talent Sunday.

D. H. Jackson passed through Phoenix last Sunday morning on his way to Medford.

Modifying Coronation Oath.

LONDON, June 14.—Premier Asquith has announced in the house of commons that he was formulating a bill modifying the coronation oath eliminating some of the phrases objectionable to Catholics. The Protestant forces of the kingdom are preparing to oppose the plan.

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