

Half A Chance

BY FREDERICK S. ISHAM.

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

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Strathorn House! A noble dwelling, massive and gray. And yet one that lifted itself with charming lightness from its solid, baronial-like foundation.

Long the man looked. Through a faint veil of mist turret and tower quivered, strong lines of masonry vibrated. Wavering as in the spell of an optical illusion, the structure might have seemed but a fragment of imagination or one of those fanciful castles sung by the Elizabethan brotherhood of poets.

"You find it to your liking?" A voice, fresh, gay, interrupted. With a great start, he turned.

Jocelyn Wray, for it was she, laughed; so absorbed had he been, he had not heard her light footstep on the grass behind.

His face changing, "Entirely!" he managed to say. And then, "I did not know you were near."

"No? But I could see that. Confess," with accent a little derisive, "I startled you."

She looked at him curiously. "Shall we walk on toward the house? I went down into the town thinking to meet my uncle," she explained, "but as I had a few errands, on account of a children's fete we are planning, reached the tavern after he had gone."

She stepped into the path leading from the churchyard; it was narrow, and she walked before him.

"The others went hunting," she said. "She stepped quickly from the by-way into the main road. "There it is," she said, pointing with a small white finger."

He moved now at her side. At the entrance, broad, imposing, she paused. A thousand perfumes seemed wafted from the garden; the rustling of myriad wings fell on the senses like faint cadences of music.

Within the stately house, near a recessed window at the front, a man stood at that moment reading a letter: "Shall be down to see you soon. Case coming on; links nearly all complete. Involves a new and bewildering possibility. Have discovered the purpose of S.'s visit to the continent. It was—"

Lord Rosdale perused the words expectantly. "So that was it," he said to himself slowly. "I might have known!"

Voices without caught his attention; he glanced quickly through the window. Jocelyn Wray and John Steele were walking up the marble steps.

CHAPTER X. A CONTRAST.

A FEW days passed. The usual round of pastimes inseparable from house parties served to while away the hours. Other guests arrived, one or two went. Lord Rosdale had greeted John Steele perfunctorily; the other's manner was likewise mechanically courteous. It could not very well have been otherwise; a number of people were near.

A rainy spell put a stop to outdoor diversions. The second morning of the dark weather discovered two of the guests in the oak paneled smoking room of Strathorn House.

"Believe I shall run over to Germany very soon, Steele," said Forsythe to the lawyer.

"Indeed?" "Yes; capital case coming on in the criminal courts there."

"And you don't want to miss it, Forsythe?" "Not if Weakness of mine, as you know. Most people look to novels or plays for entertainment; I find mine in the real drama, unfolded every day in the courts of justice."

John Steele watched a young lad approach outside. He waved a paper in his hand and called with easy familiarity to a housemaid in an open window above:

"Telegram from London, miss." The silence that followed was again broken by Captain Forsythe's voice: "There are one or two features in this German affair that remind me of our own—rather interested me."

"Ah?" The listener's tone was only politely interrogatory.

"A case in London—perhaps you have heard of it? The murder of a woman, once well known before the footlights, by a one time champion of the ring—the Frisco Pet, I think he was called. I once puzzled a bit over that one; investigated it somewhat on my own account, don't you know?"

"In what way?" Steele's manner was no longer indifferent.

"Then it attracted you, too, as an investigator?" murmured the captain in a gratified tone. "For your book, perhaps?"

"Not exactly. But you haven't yet told me," in a keen, alert tone, "why you looked into it on your own account." It seems simple, obvious.

"That is just it," said Captain Forsythe, rising. "It was perhaps a little too simple, too obvious!"

"You attended the trial of this fellow?"

"The last part of it; wasn't in England when it first came on, and what I heard of it raised some questions and doubts in my mind. However, I didn't think much more about the case until a good many months later, when chance alone drew my attention more closely to it. Was down in the country, when one night I happened to get on this almost forgotten case of the Frisco Pet, whereupon the landlord of the inn where I put up informed me that one of the villagers in this identical little town had been landlady at the place where the affair occurred."

"The woman who testified no one had been to her place that night except—"

John Steele spoke sharply. "This fellow? Quite so." Captain Forsythe walked up and down. "Now, I'd always had a little theory. Could never get out of my mind one sentence this poor, ignorant fellow uttered at the trial. 'Seems as if I could remember a man's face, a stranger's, that looked into mine that night, your lordship, but I ain't exactly cocksure.' 'Ain't exactly cocksure,' repeated Captain Forsythe. "That's what caught me. Would a man not telling the truth be not quite cocksure, or would he testify to the face as a fact?"

SHERIFF JONES WILL MAKE RACE AGAIN

Wilbur A. Jones Will Be a Candidate to Succeed Himself as Sheriff of Jackson County.

"It has been rumored that I would not accept a second nomination," said Mr. Jones, "but such statements are not based upon facts. I will be a candidate for the nomination for sheriff at the hands of the democratic party and will file my petition shortly."

Mr. Jones has made one of the best administrators of the sheriff's office that Jackson county has ever had. He is conscientious, active and courageous in the discharge of his duties and during his term has endeavored to fulfill his duties in all respects. That Mr. Jones will receive the democratic nomination goes without saying and his election should be equally assured.

NORTH BEACH PUSH CLUB GREETED WILSON

LONG BEACH, Wash., June 22.—John L. Wilson, candidate for United States senator, was the guest of honor and principal speaker at a meeting of the North Beach Push club Saturday evening.

Mr. Wilson's talk was very interesting. At this meeting of the Push club it was resolved to have another social evening on Monday, June 27, when the club will give a blowout at Sylvan hall to the members and friends. There will be a musical and literary program, refreshments and dancing for the edification of those who attend.

MRS. JOB ELECTED ON EDUCATIONAL BOARD

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., June 22.—At the school meeting held here yesterday afternoon Mrs. B. R. Job was elected director to serve three years in the place vacated by Charles Walker, whose term expired, and J. K. Barrett was re-elected clerk, a position he has held for a number of years. Last year a 10-mill tax was voted by the taxpayers, which paid off an indebtedness of over \$1200, paid the schools' expenses and leaves a surplus of \$85.27 in the treasury to apply on next year. At today's school meeting a tax of 5 mills was voted for school work.

HAS NOT THROWN UP CONTRACT TO DRIVE LOGS

John Pankey was in Medford Tuesday on business. "You were misinformed when you published the statement that I had thrown up the contract for logging on the Rogue river for the Condor Water & Power company," said Mr. Pankey. "I have been unable to attend to the matter personally, so had the company furnish me a competent foreman. I still retain the contract and am driving the logs as rapidly as possible. Some delay was caused by inability to get experienced river drivers, but we are working right along at present."

BIG MOB OF MOTHERS NEARLY LYNCH YOUTH

PHILADELPHIA, June 22.—When 19-year-old Jacob Swoolean of Eighteenth and Moore streets was accused by 4-year-old Fanny Keller of attacking her, he was mobbed by a crowd of women living in the neighborhood and beaten until both eyes were discolored and most of his outer garments in shreds. At the hearing the child's mother told Magistrate Carey she wanted to kill him, and though he restrained her, the magistrate told Swoolean that if the charge against him were true he should have been strung up on a lamp post.

WRIGHTS INVESTMENTS

Nice 7-room house, 50x140-foot lot, barn, 25 fruit trees, close to pavement, a nice home, for \$3800, terms.

6-room house and one-half acre fine soil, one block from Main, only \$2600, easy terms.

Cozy 5-room cottage, furnished, barn, buggy and gentle horse, 50x110 foot lot, with apple trees in bearing; for quick sale at \$1650.

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Fine lot in Siskiyou, 60x166 feet, in choice location; \$750, terms.

BUY OAK RIDGE LOTS on easy terms.

WOMEN'S WOES.

Medford Women Are Finding Relief at Last.

It does seem that women have more than a fair share of the aches and pains that afflict humanity; they must "keep up," must attend to duties in spite of constantly aching backs, or headaches, dizzy spells, bearing-down pains; they must stoop over, when to stoop means torture. They must walk and bend and work with racking pains and many aches from kidney ills. Kidneys cause more suffering than any other organ of the body. Keep the kidneys well and health is easily maintained. Read of a remedy for kidneys only that helps and cures the kidneys and is endorsed by people you know.

Mrs. Grace Skeeters, 6 West Jackson street, Medford, Or., says: "I can recommend Doan's Kidney Pills highly for pain and stiffness in the back and other symptoms of kidney trouble. This remedy relieved me when I used it and I have been well ever since."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

SUFFRAGE LEAGUE ASKS NEW AMENDMENT TITLE

SALEM, Or., June 22.—The Woman's Suffrage league of Oregon is again showing dissatisfaction with the title given in initiative petition filed, and a Portland representative of the league called at the capitol this morning and requested that the title be changed from the "Woman's Taxpayers' Suffrage Amendment" to the "Citizens' Taxpayers' Suffrage Amendment." The matter was put in the hands of Attorney General Crawford for reconstruction.

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