

# OUT OF REACH

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER

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CHAPTER XIII.

She was really fainting and too feeble to walk.

Given her and had her comfortably seated in an ambulance, then hastened their return to camp. To his great joy he learned that Rose and Ralph had just arrived. Rose at once insisted that she convey the wretched woman to the hospital and placed her immediately under the physician's care. The cold, hunger and exposure of the last few days made fearful inroads upon her constitution. A fever was already upon her, and when the excitement and danger of her wanderings was over she sank under it, and there seemed little hope of her recovery.

Many days of imminent danger and severe suffering elapsed before Rose's kind and skillful nursing and the physician's unremitting attention were rewarded by any symptoms of convalescence, and then, though broken in spirit and weak as a child, her heart was apparently softened and ready to receive the good seed.

One pleasant morning, when first able to converse, she unfolded the history of her course after leaving her father's house. It was a sad and painful story, but unfortunately she had not time to needs no repetition. Le Barron's supposed wealth had been De Courtenay's attraction, and the same mistaken idea of his high position, dignities and unbounded riches had led her on to that fatal step. Love had had no voice in this wicked compact. Not until they reached Paris and his draft on Le Barron came back protested did the fortune hunter learn the secret that she had practiced upon him.

The stormy scene that might have been expected ensued, and then De Courtenay informed her that her marriage was all a sham, and that she and her husband were equally fictitious. Thus deserted by the man with whom she had fled, not for love, but for selfish ambitions, and left to bear her troubles and disappointments as best she might, her fall was rapid. The money and jewelry she had so wickedly plundered from mother and sister that terrible night she had carefully concealed from De Courtenay. For a short time she had her father's gay life, but with no protector in Paris her associations must of course have been of a class that opened the door to every kind of temptation, until at last she sank into abject ignorance and dishonor, in this condition Estace saved and rescued her from the lowest depths of degradation.

And now, though she rallied for a few weeks, her days were numbered. The physician from the first gave no encouragement of recovery, and after a short period of comparative ease a speedy termination of her ill spent life was certain. When first compelled to realize her precarious situation, she was overwhelmed with terror and despair. The chaplain visited her daily. Under his unwearied teachings and Rose's gentle ministrations the darkness was gradually dispelled, and the hope that she, the misguided, might find mercy through that atonement so freely offered to all, even the chief sinners, began to take root in her heart. As this hope brightened her heart yearned after friends and kindred. She had only heard vague reports of her father's death, and was entirely ignorant of the condition of the others. Her first thought was to write to her family. It was a great trial to be called upon to reveal to the poor sufferer all the sorrow and shame that had overwhelmed her former home, but after her heart, so long cold and hard, was melted into a better state she would not rest until she had heard every particular. Her gratitude for the kindness that had shielded Robbie and Jennie from temptation was very touching, but Madam's perilous situation weighed heavily upon her mind. Feeling that her own reckless and unprincipled conduct from earliest childhood had led her sister into and forbidden paths, which had now so blasted her life if not ruined her soul, she begged Estace to seek out Madam and beseech her by her dying sister's example to seek the better life.

The Newtons, after leaving the city, had very little opportunity to hear of Madam's life. From the first she had steadfastly refused to see her little brother and sister and was even unwilling to receive any message from them, preferring, she said, that all memory of their father's family should die out of their young minds.

They now felt it important to see Madam, if possible, while Estace was with them, and therefore, acting at once in accordance with their views of duty, Mr. and Mrs. Newton, accompanied by Estace and Lillian, went next day to the city.

They learned from a friend that after two years of strife and bitterness, death had at last separated this miserable pair. Mr. Varney had been dead but a short time. At his marriage he settled a liberal sum upon his young wife and then made a will leaving her sole possessor of all his wealth at his death. Had she treated the foolish old man with even common kindness he was so infatuated with her beauty that he would have changed. But though she had sold herself and bartered all her hopes of happiness for riches she could not sufficiently control her loathing and contempt to secure that for which she had risked so much.

With his violent temper it took but a few short weeks to open her husband's eyes to his folly and to destroy all affection for and pride in her, and so his mandarin loomed to the bitterest hate. In his dotage he had become like some fierce animal in his anger, and her life was wretched past description. His cruelty she met by biting taunts, the most exparting language till at length she so outraged him that for her own safety she left the house and went to reside at some fashionable resort.

Mr. Varney had long been falling, and when the excitement of her presence was over he sank rapidly. One of his last acts was to destroy the will and make a new one, by which he deprived her of everything but what she could legally claim. So when summoned to his dying bed it was to find that the palatial home with its royal furnishings, the spacious grounds and splendid equipages had passed into strangers' hands and was beyond her reach. Her bridal settlement, in itself a fortune, and rich jewelry were all she could call her own.

This she determined to contest on the ground that Mr. Varney at the time of making it was in no condition to make a valid instrument for the disposal of his property, and that the will that he made at his marriage was still binding. As soon as her husband was buried she sought legal advice, but there was sufficient evidence to prove that he was competent to dispose of his property according to his own wishes, even if the first will had not been destroyed by his own hand before his death. Her conduct had been too widely known for any to sym-



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Romantic Tale Connected With the New Stone Recently Taken to England.

Is the "Jagersfontein Excelsior," recently discovered in the Orange Free State, the largest diamond in the world? The extraordinary gem is said to have already reached England, and it is stated that it is the most perfect large diamond ever seen, its color being blue-white, and its weight 971 carats. It is true that the lustre of the "Excelsior" is dimmed by one black spot, but this defect, so the owners of the diamond declare, can be easily eradicated. A big diamond is sought without some spice of romance attaching to it, and the account of the finding of the "Excelsior," if not highly picturesque, is at least strange. A black had just taken place in a mine in the Jagersfontein diamond fields, when a Kafir workman, who was talking to his overseer, saw something shine, and he put his foot over the luminous object until his "boots" had gone away. Had the overseer remained and detected the treasure, the Kafir's shares of the profits might possibly not have exceeded that of Pantolon when he and Mr. Cullin did down to discuss a basin of soup. The clown gets the soup and Pantolon is fain to be content with licking the spoon. The cautious Kafir, however, who for his shrewdness might claim kindred with Bishop Colenso's intemperate Zulu, handed over the immense diamond to the manager of the mine, who gave him £100, a horse, saddle and bridle, and the Kafir, in a state of unmingled happiness. Of course, in the case of a diamond mine, findings are not keepings, and the "Excelsior" would obviously be the property of the proprietors of the diamond field; so there will be no need in the case of the gem found by the Kafir to spread ill-tempered reports analogous to that which the Pope exhorted in a cruel and unchristianous exploit on the "PHI" diamond.

"Alseep and naked as the Indian lay, an honest farmer stole the gem away." It would be practically useless to discuss the value of the "Excelsior" diamond, which is described as having the form of a sloping cone, flattened on two sides and standing on an oval base so flush as almost to wear the appearance of having been cut. Its height is about three inches, and its width about two, while the flat base measures two inches by one and a quarter. Not till the lapidaries have worked their will upon the prodigious stone will it be possible to ascertain the precise amount of "fire" and "show" which it may possess. Only to a very small extent is the transcendent brilliancy of the diamond, its transparency and its powers of reflection displayed in rough stones. In order to render them available as personal ornaments, they must undergo the elaborate process of cutting and polishing, which will bring out their latent beauty in its fullest light; and, indeed, the value of the stone depends almost as much on the regularity of the facets and the perfection of the polish as on the original material; since, although no ingenuity of craftsmanship can render a yellow stone or the purest stone cut by unskillful hands remains, comparatively speaking, a dull mass. This is particularly the case with the famous "Koh-i-Nur," or "Mountain of Light," which is among the crown jewels of England, and is occasionally won by her majesty, the queen.—London Telegraph.

**Better Times Coming.**

Henry Clews, the New York banker, in his weekly financial review of Aug. 20th, says: "The condition of monetary affairs is improving and to a greater extent than appears on the surface. As long as the banks have to restrict their cash payments and currency is selling at a premium, appearances must be unsatisfactory. But although these features still remain, a great deal is being accomplished toward their removal. The arrival of nearly thirty millions of gold from Europe and still more on the way, and the issue of twelve millions of bank circulation, all of which has been accomplished in the last two or three weeks, cannot possibly fail to work out immense relief. The banks of this city must now be on the verge of restoration of their reserves to the legal limit, and there can be no doubt that the country banks are holding much more than the average amount of cash. When these facts become officially declared, the spell of the stringency will be broken and confidence and ease will gain rapidly. In the meantime there are distinct signs in the interior cities of a more decided turn towards recovery than has yet appeared at this center.

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