The Diamond Bracelet

By MRS. HENRY WOOD,

Author of East Lynne, Etc.

CHAPTER V-(Continued.)

the stairs watching-if I may tell the and then I returned to it. Yet, when recollect of this." Lady Sarah came up from dinner it was gone."

"And did no one else go into the her upstairs."

"She went in for a minute. It was my sister, Gerard."

"Oh, indeed, was that your sister? Then she counts as we do for nobody in this. It is strange. The bracelet was in the room when I left it-"

"You are sure of it?" interrupted cial Alice drawing a long breath of sus-

"I am. When I reached the door I turned round to take a last look at you, and the diamonds of that particular bracelet gleamed at me from its dows-"

place on the table." "Oh, Gerard! is this the truth?"

"It is the truth, on my sacred word of honor," he replied, looking at her agitated face and wondering at her words. "Why else should I say it? Good-by, Alice, I can't stay another moment, for here's somebody coming I don't care to meet."

He was off like a shot, but his words and manner, like her sister's, had conveyed their conviction of innocence to the mind of Alice. She stood still, looking after him in her dreamy wonderment, and was jostled by the passers-by. Which of the two was the real delinquent? One of them must have been.

CHAPTER VI.

A little man was striding about his library with impatient steps. He wore a faded dressing gown, handsome once, but remarkably shabby now, and he wrapped it closely around him though the heat of the weather was intense. But Colonel Hope, large as were his coffers, never spent upon himself a superfluous farthing, especially in the way of personal adornment; and Colonel Hope would not have felt too warm, cased in sheep-

The Colonel had that afternoon been made acquainted with an unpleasant transaction which had occurred in his house. The household termed it a mystery; he, a scandalous robbery; and he had written forthwith to the nearest chief police station, demanding that an officer might be dispatched back with the messenger to investigate it. So there he was, waiting for " his return in impatient expectation, and occasionally halting before the window to look out on the busy London world.

The officer at length came and was introduced. The Colonel's wife, Lady Sarah, joined him then, and they proceeded to give him the outlines of the case. A valuable diamond bracelet, recently presented to Lady Sarah by her husband, had disappeared in a singular manner. Miss Seaton, the companion to Lady Sarah, had temporary charge of the jewel box, and had brought it down the previous evening, Thursday, this being Friday, to the back of the drawing room, and laid several pairs of bracelets out on the table ready for Lady Sarah, who was going to the opera, to choose which she would wear when she came up from dinner. Lady Sarah chose a pair, and put, herself, the rest back into the tox, which Miss Seaton then locked and carried to its place upstairs. In the few minutes that the bracelets lay on the table the most valuable one, a diamond, disappeared

"I did not want this to be officially investigated; at least, not so quickly,' observed Lady Sarah to the officer. "The Colonel wrote for you quite against my wish."

"And so have let the thief get clear off, and put up with the loss!" cried the Colonel. "Very fine, my lady."

"You see," added her ladyship, explaining to the officer "Miss Seaton is a young lady of good family, not a common companion; a friend of mine, I may say. She is of feeble constitution, and this affair has so completely upset her that I fear she will be laid on a sick bed."

"It won't be my fault if she is," retorted the Colonel. "The loss of a diamond bracelet, worth two or three hundred guineas, is not to be hushed up. They are not to be bought every day, Lady Sarah!"

The officer was taken to the room whence the bracelet disappeared. It was a back drawing room, the folding doors between it and the front standing open, and the back window, a large one looking out upon some flat leads—as did all the row of houses. The officer seemed to take in the points of the double room at a glance; the door of communication, its two doors opening to the corridor outside and its windows. He l oked at the latches of the two entrance doors, and | cheeks grew white, her lips parted, and he leaned from the front windows, and he leaned from the one at the back. He next requested to see Miss Seaton, and Lady Sarah fetched her-a delicate girl with transparent skin and looking almost too weak to walk. She was in a visible tremer, and shook as she stood before the stranger.

He was a man of pleasant manners other minute. What harm is there in quarter of Paris.

and speech, and he hastened to assure "I trust not, but I am very unhap- her: "There's nothing to be afraid of, py. Who could have done it? How young lady," said he, with a broad could it have gone? I left the room | smile. "I'm not an ogre; though I do when you did, but I only lingered on | believe some timid folks look upon us as such. Just please to compose yourtruth-whether you go out safely, self and tell me as much as you can

"I put the bracelets out here," began Alice Seaton, laying hold of the table underneath the window, not more to room?" he repeated. "I met a lady at indicate it than to steady herself, for the door who asked for you; I sent | she was almost incapable of standing. 'The diamond bracelet, the one lost, I placed here," she added, touching the middle of the table at the back, 'and the rest I laid out round, and and before it."

"It was worth more than any of the others, I believe," interrupted the offi-

"Much more," growled the Colonel. The officer nodded to himself, and

Alice resumed: "I left the bracelets and went and sat down at one of the front win-

"With the intervening doors open, I

"Wide open, as they are now," said Alice, "and the other two doors shut. Lady Sarah came up from dinner almost directly, and then the bracelet was not there."

"Indeed! You are quite certain of

"I am quite certain," interpohed Lady Sarah, "I looked for that bracelet, and, not seeing it, I supposed Miss Seaton had not laid it out. I put on the pair I wished to wear and placed the others in the box and saw Miss Seaton lock it."

"Then you did not miss the bracelet at that time?" questioned the officer. "I did not miss it in one sense, be-

cause I did not know it had been put out," returned her ladyship. "I saw it was not there." "But did you not miss it?" he asked. "I only reached the table as Lady

she answered. "Lady Frances Chenevix had detained me in the front "My sister," explained Lady Sarah. 'She is on a visit to me, and had come

Sarah was closing the lid of the box,"

with me up from dinner." "You say you went and sat in the skins, for he had spent the best part front room," resumed the officer to of his life in India, and was of a Alice, in a quicker tone than he had used previously. "Will you show

> Alice did not stir; she only turned her head towards the front room, and pointed to a chair a little drawn away from the window.

"In that chair," she said. "It stood as it stands now." The officer looked baffled.

"You must have had the back room full in view from thence; both the door and the window."

"Quite so," replied Alice. "If you will sit down in it, you will perceive that I had an uninterrupted view, and faced the doors of both rooms."

"I perceive so from here. And you saw no one enter?"

"No one did enter. It was impossible they could do so without my observing it. Had either of the doors been only quietly unlatched, I must

"And yet the bracelet vanished!" interposed Colonel Hope. "They must have been confounded deep whoever did it; but thieves are said to possess slight of hand."

"They are clever enough for it, some of them," observed the officer.

"Rascally villains. I should like to know how they accomplished this." the officer. "At present it appears to me incomprehensible."

There was a pause. The officer seemed to muse; and Alice, happening to look up, saw his eyes stealthily studying her face. It did not tend to reassure her.

Your servants are trustworthy; they have lived with you some time?" reanswer might be.

"Were they all escaped convicts, I don't see that it would throw light on this," retorted Colonel Hope. "If they came into the room to steal the bracelet, Miss Seaton must have seen them.' "From the time you put out the

bracelets to that of the ladies coming up from dinner, how long was it?" inquired the officer of Alice.

"I scarcely know," panted she, for, what with his close looks and his close questions, she was growing less able to answer. "I did not take particular notice of the lapse of time; I was not well yesterday evening."

"Was it half an hour?" "Yes-I dare say-nearly so."

"Miss Seaton," he continued, in a brisk tone, "will you have any objections to take an oath before a magistrate-in private, you know-that no person whatever, except yourself, entered either of these rooms during that period?"

CHAPTER VII.

Had she been requested to go before a magistrate and testify that she, herself, was the guilty person, it could scarcely have affected her more. Her her eyes assumed a beseeching look of terror. Lady Hope hastily pushed a chair behind her, and drew her down upon it.

"Really, Alice, you are very foolish to allow yourself to be excited about nothing." she remonstrated; "you Christian science is said to be popuwould have failen on the floor in an- lar among art students in the Latin

taking an oath-and in a private room? You are not a Chartist, or a Mormon-or whatever the people call themselves, who profess to object to oaths, on principle."

The officer's eyes were still keenly fixed on Alice Seaton's, and she cow-

ered visibly beneath his gaze. "Will you assure me, on your sacred word, that no person did enter the room?" he repeated, in a low, firm tone, which somehow carried her to the terrible belief that he believed that she was trifling with him.

She looked at him, gasped, and looked again; and then she raised her handkerchief in her hand and wiped her damp and ashy face.

"I think some one did come in," whispered the officer in her ear; "try and recollect." And Alice fell back in

Lady Sarah led her from the room herself speedily returning to it.

"You see how weak and nervous Miss Seaton is," was her remark to the officer, but glancing at her husband. "She has been an invalid for years, and is not strong like other people. I felt sure we should have a scene of some kind; that is why I wished the investigation not to be gone into hurriedly."

"Don't you think there are good grounds for an investigation, sir?" testily asked Colonel Hope of the officer. "I must confess I do think so," was

the reply. "Of course, you hear, my lady. The difficulty is, how can we obtain the first clue to the mystery."

"I do not suppose there will be an insurmountable difficulty," observed the officer. "I believe I have obtained

"You are a clever fellow, then," cried the Colonel, "if you have ob-

tained it here. What is it?" "Will Lady Sarah allow me to mention it-whatever it may be-without taking offense?" continued the officer,

looking at her ladyship. She bowed her head, wondering

"What's the good of standing upon ceremony?" peevishly put in Colonel Hope, "Her ladyship will be as glad as we shall be to get back her bracelet; more glad, one would think. A clue to the thief! Who can it have been?"

The detective smiled. When men are as high in the police force as he. they have learned to give every word its due significance. "I did not say a clue to the thief, Colonel; I said a clue to the mystery."

"Where's the difference?" "Pardon me, it is indisputably perceptible. That the bracelet is gone, is went, is as yet a mystery."

"What do you suspect?" "I suspect," returned the officer, lowering his voice, "that Miss Seaton knows how it went."

There was a silence of surprise; on Lady Sarah's part, of indignation. "Is it possible that you suspect

her?" uttered Colonel Hope. "No," said the officer, "I do not suspect herself; she appears not to be a suspicious person in any way; but I believe she knows who the delinquent is, and that fear, or some other motive, keeps her silent. Is she on familiar terms with any of the servants?"

"But you cannot know what you are saying!" interrupted Lady Sarah. "Familiar with the servants! Miss Seaton is a gentlewoman, and has always moved in high society. Her family is little inferior to mine, and betterbetter than the Colonel's," concluded her ladyship, determined to speak out.

(To be continued.)

WOMAN WHO RIDES HORSEBACK. St. Louis for some time past has been greatly exercised regarding a fair equestrienne who has appeared daily on the fashionable drives around Lafayette park riding her steed bareback and astride. Her identity was known "So should I," significantly returned to few and the majority marveled greatly at her skill in managing her spirited steed and at her temerity in setting at defiance the accepted customs of her sex. With her blonde hair dressed pompadour, and her blue eyes flashing with exhilaration, clad in a clinging wrapper, wearing neither hat nor gloves, she goes forth daily for an equestrian stunt that astonishes sumed the officer, not apparently at- the avenue. The identity of the fair taching much importance to what the horsewoman has finally become known to the public at large. She is Miss Jessie Goodpasture and belongs to an excellent family. She knows a good horse when she sees one, but she never refuses a ride on any animal that is offered, no matter how sorry a plug he may be. She prefers a horse with much spirit and plenty of speed, and she does not object at all to one that tries to throw her. "I have never been thrown," she says, "and I don't fear being thrown. I guess I can stay on any horse that comes along. I never rode a bucking broncho, though. I have heard of Miss Bessie Mulhall of Oklahoma and the way she rides horses and ropes cattle. Well, I suppose she is a pretty good rider, but I can ride a little myself. When Buffalo Bill was here two years ago I rode in his parade. I also rode in his show with the general turnout of riders. But I like riding astride better than on a sidesaddle." Miss Jessie went from Springfield, Ill., to St. Louis eight years ago. She has never owned a horse, but depends upon acquaintances for her mounts. Whenever a boy rides past the alley in the rear of her home

TARIFF REVISION WILL COME WHEN NECESSARY.

No Undue Haste Will Be Taken That Might Injure American Industries-Great Care Will Be Taken to See That Our Smaller Capitalists Are Protected.

From American Economist: 'The Schenectady Star exhibits astonishment at the statement of the American Economist that the time will come manufacturing rivals. when it will be necessary to revise the tariff. It thinks that:

"When sane folks read the admission in the Economist that there ever will arrive a time when it will not be sacrilege to tinker the blessed Dingley highest respect and deference to the bill, they will pinch themselves to see if they are awake and will surely conclude that the millenium is in sight. Every one agrees that the tariff will may deliberately form. have to be revised in time.' What time? Babcock says, 'Now is the appointed time; now is the day of salvation,' and invites sinners to repentance. The Economist admits that it fetters upon their own limbs. must be done in time, but belabors poor Bab for setting the time prema-

This shows how difficult it is for the ly grasp the true principle of protection. It is, in fact, impossible for the free trader to understand that there reckless ripping up of a tariff in the interest of free trade and the conservative, level-headed adherence to a tariff that has thus far produced a prosperity unequaled in the world's history until such time as experience and the development of events shall show the wisdom of changing that tariff. The Star is right in one thing. It is, indeed, a question of time. Unlike Mr. Babcock and his revisionary brethren who would tear open the tariff schedules as a means of attacking real or imaginary evils which did not grow out of the tariff, do not flourish because of the tariff, and would not be remedied by the removal of the tariff, the American Economist says, Go slow, let the tariff alone; give business a chance; and when it becomes clear that the greatest good of the greatest number will be conserved by revision, then the work of revision will be undertaken by the only party to which tariff legislation can be safely intrusted, the party of patriotism, progress and protection. But not until then.

WHY THE MILLS RESUMED. The Washington Times says editori-

ally, referring to the Dingley law:

"We may concede that there was until after that measure was passed: but that was merely because the man-

as that the mills were closed under the | your feet." operation of the Wilson law and did not reopen until the Dingley law was enacted, there is hope. The only thing which can account for the free trade delusion is the failure to recognize industrial facts. The second part of the sentence quoted is so manifestly ridiculous as almost not to call for comment. Men are in business for the purpose of making money. They are not so blindly loyal to any economic theory as to let good business opportunities go by for the sake of bolstering up their theories. If the mills were idle, as they were, it was because it would not have paid to run them. The pleasure of being able to point to the Dingley law as a restorer of prosperity would hardly have been sufficient to make up for the lost dollars. When the free traders are driven to take refuge in such absurd statements as this in order to support the claims of the policy they advocate, they but make more evident the weakness of their

BABCOCK MAY NOT PUSH HIS BILL,

Mr. Babcock of Wisconsin, author of the bill to put iron and steel products and some other things on the free list, which he introduced in the last Congress and which he has said he would introduce in the next house, seems to be changing his mind. Asked today as to whether or not he intends to push the bill at the coming session he

"I won't develop my plans until I confer with my colleagues, but I may say that this is recognized in the Northwest as a principle that will go on, regardless of whether it is pushed by me or not. The people of the Northwest are with me on this question, and I would not have the least fear of stumping my district on this question

Some of Mr. Babcock's discreet friends have been saying all along that he would, when he had fuller information on the subject, abandon his proposition to destroy the protective tariff, as that would be the result of the passage of his bill, and they now assert that he has secured that knowledge

and will drop the subject. If senators and representatives from the West are any guide to public sentiment there the Babcock bill has no sources, builds up manufactories, gives support in the Republican party in the more employment and better wages to she craves the privilege of riding his West. The Senators from Wisconsin, our people, and furnishes us the best horse. Then the neighbors witness a Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and market in the world right here at daring exhibition. "I don't know why other states have declared that the home for our products, we will main-I am so fond of riding," she said. "I Republicans of their respective states tain Protection. We are legislating guess I was just born that way. I'd would not support any measure derather ride than do anything else on signed to destroy the protective tariff. England, or any other foreign country earth. I just must ride."-Chicago as would be the result of the passage of the Babcock bill. Every Republican mittee of the last congress, excepting Glasgow 36,000 were found to have but done that myself." I replied that 1 Mr. Babcock and one other, has de- one room, and 70,000 but two rooms.

A QUESTION OF TIME. clared against the proposed measure. Mr. Babcock evidently begins to appreciate the mistake he has made and will act accordingly.-Philadelphia

> SENATOR HOAR'S WISE WORDS. American manufacture, as its friends

predicted, has outgrown the American market. Now the manufacturers of the country are girding their loins for that struggle. I see it is proposed to begin operations by making reciprocity treaties with leading manufacturing nations of the world, especially with our

Now I do not wish to be understood as opposing altogether and in all cases | road to India as is usually believed. constitutional way. I shall pay the

ufacturers of the country not to enter "Gibraltar, a National Danger," in kind for an antagonist by placing any ing faith in the impregnability of the



every night to gaze upon the stars. It the west, terminating at Carnero not a general reopening of the mills happened one night that as he was Point, which ends the shore line on wandering in the outskirts of the city, the west side of the bay. The author with his whole thoughts wrapt up in of this Spanish military idea is Major ufacturing interests were desirous of the skies, he fell into a well. On halloo- Garcia Roure, who estimates that 70 pointing to the idle mills as an argu- ing and calling out, one who heard his pieces of large caliber placed at equal ment in favor of the tariff which they cries ran up to him, and when he had intervals along one-third of this line listened to his story said, "My good might at one and the same time direct When so rabid a free trade organ as | man, while you are trying to pry into | their projectiles on Gibraltar from a the Washington Times is willing to the mysteries of heaven you overlook distance of 7,300 to 9,000 meters, and concede even such a self-evident fact the common objects that are under could easily reduce the works now

THE FARMER'S HOME MARKET.

able market for the farmer, and any- ference of the work to the east side thing that tends to increase the home seems almost impracticable, a British consumption of products is of benefit commission appointed to investigate to the men on the farms as well as to the matter has agreed with Mr. Bowles' the men in the workshops and the view and submitted a plan for constores.-Minneapolis Tribune.

FREE-TRADE AND SAVINGS.

There is no better way to judge the future than by the past. From their especially the "middle class" and the workingmen, can readily foresee that the abolition of protection, which has enabled them to increase their savings a billion dollars in the past four years, and the adoption of free trade, with the idleness and want which followed During free trade in this country the 'middle class" and the workingmen rated .- Helena (Mont.) Record,

HOME FIRST.

Some men, most all free traders, are fools enough to argue that because Germany and a few other countries dc at a certain figure as I could furnish: not like our tariff we must materially modify if not replace it. Well, it makes no difference whether Germany likes it or not, as long as Protection put up I bid it in, and it was knocked enriches our country, develops our refor the United States, not Germany -London, Ky., Echo.

Out of 156,000 houses or flats in

ABOUT GIBRALTAR.

DENIED THAT IT IS AN IMPREG. NABLE FORTRESS.

French Critics Declare the World at Large Will No Lonzer Regard Gibraltar as the Stronghold the English Claim It to Be.

French technical journals like the

Revue d'Armee et de Marine and oth-

ers are expressing the views that Gib-

raltar is not such a formidable defense

of British interests on the shortest

such commercial arrangements, when The Revue d'Armee et de Marine has made carefully and wisely and in a just given a detailed history of the works undertaken by Great Britain at Gibraltar since 1895. The Tour de conclusion which the president, a great | Monde and other journals, also, are authority, perhaps the greatest living having much to say on the subject. authority on that class of questions, Their criticisms are based in part upon the pamphlet which Mr. Gibson Bowles But I am bound to caution the man-printed a while ago under the title, upon this great struggle with all man- which he maintains that the prevailfamous rock is a delusion. The French The possession of your own market writers declare that there is nothing is what has gained for you the power new in this view. They quote older and the opportunities to enter upon British authorities in support of this foreign markets. Be careful that you idea, among them Gen. Codrington, average free trade intellect to correct- do not throw away that vantage formerly governor of Gibraltar, who ground. Remember that nearly every maintained that the place was nothconsiderable reciprocity treaty we have ing but a scarecrow to frighten people ever made, especially our old reciproc- who did not know the real facts about is a wide gulf between the rash and ity treaty with Canada, has been a it. The French journals say that the source of unmarked vexation, and you works begun by the British governwere eager to get rid of it as soon as ment in 1895 are to be completed in its term expired. If you make a mis- 1905 and 1906. They consist of a large take in this matter the mistake is ir- torpedo station, a great dry dock and reparable. The national faith becomes two new piers, all strongly fortified. The critics declare that the particularly weak point in the enterprise is that all these works are to be erected on the west side of Gibraltar, and now, when nearly \$6,000,000 have been expended, experts come forward and declare that it is most unwise to build the improvements on the west side of Gibraltar. They say the works will be exposed there to a ruinous fire from Spanish batteries on the opposite side of Algeciras bay, about four miles distant, should Spain take it into her head to erect batteries on her side of the coast. The fact is that the Spanish have already studied the question of batteries and other military works near Gibraltar. A part of their army is now kept in the neighborhood and a series of fortifications has been reared all around the north and west side of Gibraltar. The works extend from the Sierra Carbonara, which is just north of the neutral strip separating the rock from the Spanish territory north An astronomer used to walk out of it, all along the shore of the bay to ouilding and also the much vaunted fortress. Mr. Bowles obtained the plans of these projected Spanish works If there are any farmers who im- which he published to the world with agine that their branch of industry is the warning that no military authority not benefited by the tariff on steel, and louid advise the carrying out of the in fact by all tariffs that tend to pro- indertaking already far advanced on mote the establishment of manufactur- the west side of the fortress. In his ing industries in this country, let them opinion the British should be content reflect what would happen if all the to lose the money they have put into workmen now engaged in turning out these uncompleted structures and domestic manufactures were removed should begin the work all over again from this country and set to work, say on the east side of Gibraltar. There in England. Would not the home mar- would certainly be little or no danger ket for foodstuffs and other agricultur- from the fire of Spanish batteries on al producers be curtailed by such de- the east side of the rock, but unforportation? Instead of selling such a lunately for Mr. Bowles' proposition large percentage of farm products to the rock on that side is almost preciphome consumers, the farmer would be itous, and the base of it is not well obliged to sell them abroad, and would adapted for the carrying out of the debe mulcted for the freight and charges, sired improvements. Although the The home market is the most profit- French critics declare that the transstructing the works on the east side. It remains to be seen whether the plan is really feasible. In any event, the French critics declare, the world at large will no longer regard Gibraltar as experience, the people of this country, importance to British interests which the English jingoes have always held it to be .- New York Sun.

His First Business Venture. An American capitalist, who has

made a fortune running far into the that policy before, would not present millions, likes to tell a story of his any necessity for postal savings banks. first business venture, and how he saddened the local grocer. At this time he was fond of frequenting a were more interested in and had more public salesroom near his home where use for free soup houses than savings all sorts of bargains were offered. banks, and the same conditions would One day I noticed several boxes of obtain if free trade were again inaugu- soap of a certain brand which I had often been sent to buy at the corner grocery. I thought to myself, "That will go cheap," so I ran to the grocery and received a promise from the man in charge to buy as much of the soap Of course he never suspected that 1 could furnish any of it. I returned to the salesroom, and when the soap was down to me. My name was demanded, and when I gave it, in a shrill voice. everybody laughed, for I was then only eleven years of age. Amused as they were at the sale, the bystanders carried over to the grocery and received the price agreed upon. The grocer wore a weary look when he heard how I had obtained the soan. He said: "Well, I guess I could have Youth's Companion.