

The Diamond Bracelet

By MRS. HENRY WOOD,

Author of *East Lynne, Etc.*

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

"Madam," said the officer "you must be aware that in an investigation of this nature, we are compelled to put questions which we do not expect to be answered in the affirmative. Colonel Hope will understand what I mean when I say that we call them 'feeler.' I did not expect to hear that Miss Seaton had been on familiar terms with your servants (though it might have been), but that question, being disposed of, will lead me to another. I suspect that some one did enter the room and make free with the bracelet, and that Miss Seaton must have been cognizant of it. If a common thief, or an absolute stranger, she would have been the first to give the alarm; if not on too familiar terms with the servants she would be as little likely to screen them. So we come to the question—who could it have been?"

"May I inquire why you suspect Miss Seaton?" coldly demanded Lady Sarah.

"Entirely from her manner; from the agitation she displays."

"Most young ladies, particularly in our class of life, would betray agitation at being brought face to face with a police officer," urged Lady Sarah.

"My lady," he returned, "we are keen, experienced men; and we should not be fit for the office we hold if we were not. We generally do find lady witnesses betray uneasiness, when first exposed to our questions, but in a very short time, often in a few moments, it wears off, and they grow gradually easy. It was not so with Miss Seaton. Her agitation excessive at first, increased visibly, and it ended as you saw. I did not think it agitation of guilt, but I did think it that of conscious fear. And look at the related facts; that she laid the bracelets there, never left them, no one came in, and yet the most valuable one vanished. We have many extraordinary tales brought before us, but not quite so extraordinary as that."

CHAPTER VIII.

The Colonel nodded approbation; Lady Sarah began to feel uncomfortable.

"I should like to know whether any one called whilst you were at dinner," mused the officer. "Can I see the man who attends to the hall door?"

"Thomas attends to that," said the Colonel, ringing the bell. "There is a side door, but that is only for the servants and tradespeople."

"I heard Thomas say that Sir George Danvers called while you were at dinner," observed Lady Sarah. "No one else. And Sir George did not go upstairs?"

The detective smiled.

"If he had, my lady, it would have made the case no clearer."

"No," laughed Lady Sarah, "poor old Sir George would be puzzled what to do with a diamond bracelet."

"Will you tell me," said the officer, wheeling sharply around upon Thomas when he entered, "who it was that called here yesterday evening while your master was at dinner? I do not mean Sir George Danvers; the other one."

Thomas visibly hesitated; and that was sufficient for the lynx-eyed officer. "Nobody called but Sir George, sir," he presently said.

The detective stood before the man staring him full in the face with a look of amusement.

"Think again, my man," quoth he. "Take your time. There was some one else."

The Colonel fell into an explosion; reproaching the unfortunate Thomas with having eaten his bread for five years, to turn around upon the house and its master at last, and act the part of a deceitful, conniving wretch, and let in that swindler—

"He's not a swindler, sir," interrupted Thomas.

"Oh, no, not a swindler," roared the Colonel, "he only steals diamond bracelets."

"No more than I steal 'em, sir," again spoke Thomas. "He's not capable, sir. It was Mr. Gerard."

The Colonel was struck speechless; his rage vanished and down he sat in a chair, staring at Thomas. Lady Sarah colored with surprise.

"Now, my man," cried the officer, "why could you not have said it was Mr. Gerard?"

"Because Mr. Gerard asked me not to say he had been, sir; he is not friendly here just now, and I promised him I would not. And I'm sorry to have had to break my word."

"Who is Mr. Gerard, pray?"

"He is my nephew," interposed the checked Colonel. "Gerard Hope."

"But as Thomas says, he is no swindler," remarked Lady Sarah; "he is no thief. You may go, Thomas."

"No, sir," stormed the Colonel. "Fetch Miss Seaton here first. I'll come to the bottom of this. If he has done it Lady Sarah, I will bring him to trial, though he is Gerard Hope."

Alice came back leaning on the arm of Lady Frances Chenevix; the latter having been dying with curiosity to come in before.

"So the mystery is out, ma'am," began the Colonel to Miss Seaton; "it appears this gentleman was right and that somebody did come in; and that somebody the rebellious Mr. Gerard Hope."

Alice was prepared for this, for Thomas had told her Mr. Gerard's visit was known; and she was not so agitated as before. It was the fear of its being found out, the having to conceal it, which had troubled her.

"It is not possible that Gerard can have taken the bracelet," uttered Lady Sarah.

"No, it is not possible," replied Alice. "And that is why I was unwilling to mention his having come up."

"What did he come for?" thundered the Colonel.

"It was not an intentional visit. I believe he only followed the impulse of the moment. He saw me at the front window, and Thomas, it appears was at the door, and he ran up."

"I think you might have said so, Alice," observed Lady Sarah, in a stiff tone.

"Knowing he had been forbidden the house, I did not wish to bring him under the Colonel's displeasure. It was all the excuse Alice could offer. 'It was not my place to inform against him.'"

"I presume he approached sufficiently near the bracelets to touch them, had he wished?" observed the officer, who, of course, had now made up his mind upon the business—and upon the thief.

"Ye—s," returned Alice, wishing she could have said no.

"Did you notice the bracelet there after he was gone?"

"I cannot say I did. I followed him from the room when he left, and then I went into the front room, so that I had no opportunity of observing."

"The doubt is solved," was the mental comment of the detective officer.

The Colonel, hot and hasty, sent several servants various ways in search of Gerard Hope, and he was speedily found and brought. A tall and powerful young man, very good-looking.

"Take him into custody, officer!" was the Colonel's impetuous command.

"Hands off, Mr. Officer—if you are an officer!" cried Gerard, in the first shock of surprise, as he glanced at the gentlemanly appearance of the other, who wore plain clothes, "you shall not touch me unless you can show legal authority. This is a shameful trick. Colonel—excuse me—but as I owe nothing to you, I do not see that you have any such power over me."

The group would have made a fine study; especially Gerard; his head thrown back in defiance, and looking angrily at everybody.

"Did you hear me?" cried the Colonel.

"I must do my duty," said the police officer, approaching Gerard; "and for authority—you need not suppose I should act, if without it."

"Allow me to understand, first," remarked Gerard, haughtily, eluding the officer. "What is it for? What is the sum total?"

"Two hundred and fifty pounds!" growled the Colonel. "But if you are thinking to compromise it in that way, young sir, you will find yourself mistaken."

"Oh, no fear," retorted Gerard. "I have not two hundred and fifty pence. Let me see; it must be Dobs. A hundred and sixty—how on earth do they slide the express up? I did it, sir, to oblige a friend."

"The duce you did!" exhaled the Colonel, who but little understood the speech, except the last sentence. "If ever I saw such a cool villain in all my experience!"

"He was awful hard up," went on Gerard, "as bad as I am now, and I did it. I don't deny having done such things on my own account, but from this particular one I did not benefit a shilling."

CHAPTER IX.

His cool assurance and his words struck them with consternation.

"Dobs said he'd take care I should be put to no inconvenience—and this comes of it! That's trusting your friend. He vowed to me, this very week, that he had provided for the bill."

"He thinks it only an affair of debt," screamed Lady Frances Chenevix. "Oh, Gerard! what a relief! We thought you were confessing."

"You are not arrested for debt, sir," cried the officer, "but for felony."

"For felony!" uttered Gerard Hope. "Oh, indeed. Could you not make it murder?" he added, sarcastically.

"Off with him to Marlborough street, officer!" cried the exasperated Colonel, "and I'll go with you and prefer the charge. He scoffs at it, does he?"

"Yes, that I do," answered Gerard. "For whatever pitfalls I may have got into in the way of debt and carelessness, I have not gone into crime."

"You are accused, sir," said the officer, "of stealing a diamond bracelet."

"Hey!" uttered Gerard, a flash of intelligence rising to his face as he glanced at Alice. "I might have guessed it was the bracelet affair, if I had had my recollection about me."

"Oh, oh," triumphed the Colonel in sneering jocularly, "so you expected it was the bracelet, did you? We shall have it all out presently."

"I heard of the bracelet's disappearance," said Mr. Hope. "I met Miss Seaton when she was out this morning and she told me it was gone."

"Better make no admissions," whispered the officer in his ear. "They may be used against you."

"Whatever admissions I may make, you are at liberty to use them, for they are truth," haughtily returned Gerard. "Is it possible that you do suspect me of taking the bracelet, or is this a joke?"

"Allow me to explain," panted Alice, stepping forward. "I—I did not ac-

cuse you, Mr. Hope; I would not have mentioned your name in connection with it, because I am sure you are innocent; but when it was discovered that you had been here I could not deny it."

"The charging me with having taken it is absurdly preposterous!" exclaimed Gerard, looking first at his uncle and then at the officer. "Who accuses me?"

"I do," said the Colonel.

"Then I am very sorry it is not somebody else instead of you, sir."

"Explain, Why?"

"Because they would get a kindly horsewhipping."

"Gerard," interrupted Lady Sarah, "do not treat it in that light way. If you did take it say so and you shall be forgiven. I am sure you must have been put to it terribly hard; only confess it and the matter shall be hushed up."

"No, it sha'n't, my lady!" cried the Colonel. "I will not have him encouraged—I mean felony compounded."

"It shall," returned Lady Sarah, "I shall induce. The bracelet was mine, and I have a right to do as I please. Believe me, Gerard, I will put up with the loss without a murmur, only confess, and let the worry be done with."

Gerard Hope looked at her; little trace of shame was there in his countenance. "Lady Sarah," he asked, in a deep tone, "can you indeed deem me capable of taking your bracelet?"

"The bracelet was there, sir, and it went, and you can't deny it!" uttered the Colonel.

"It was there, fast enough," answered Gerard. "I held it in my hand for two or three minutes, and was talking to Miss Seaton about it. I was wishing it was mine, and saying what I should do with it."

"Oh, Mr. Hope, pray say no more," involuntarily interrupted Alice. "You will make appearances worse."

"What do you want to screen him for?" impetuously broke out the Colonel, turning upon Alice. "Let him say what he was going to say."

"I do not know why I should not say it," Gerard Hope answered, in, it must be thought, a spirit of bravado or recklessness, which he disdained to check. "I said I should spend it."

"You'll send off to every pawnshop in the metropolis, before the night's over, Mr. Officer!" cried the choking Colonel, breathless with rage. "This beats brass."

"But I did not take it any more for having said that," put in Gerard, in a graver tone. "The remark might have been made by any one, from a duke downwards, if reduced to his last shifts, as I am. I said if it were mine; I did not say I would steal to do it Nor did I."

"I saw him put it down again," said Alice Seaton, in a calm, steady voice.

"Allow me to speak a word, Colonel," resumed Lady Sarah, interrupting something her husband was about to say. "Gerard, I cannot believe you guilty; but consider the circumstances. The bracelet was there; you acknowledge it; Miss Seaton left the apartment when you did, and went into the front room; yet when I came up from dinner, it was there no longer."

"The Colonel would speak. 'So it lies between you and Miss Seaton,' he put in. 'Perhaps you would like to make believe she appropriated it.'"

"No," answered Gerard, with flashing eye. "She cannot be doubted. I would rather take the guilt upon myself than allow her to be suspected. Believe me, Lady Sarah, we are both innocent."

(To be continued.)

POUND FOOLISHNESS.
Not Always Economy to Buy in Large Quantities.

One of the commonest forms of pound foolishness is countenanced by many high authorities. This is the purchase of certain household provisions in large quantities. Few writers on domestic topics fail to lay stress upon the economy of buying groceries in bulk. That sugar and flour, potatoes and apples should be bought by the half or whole barrel, cereals by the case, butter by the tub, and other things in like proportion, is one of the early precepts in the "Young Housekeeper's Complete Guide to Domestic Economy." The ignorant young things buy the provisions first and the experience afterward. The flour grows musty, the cereals develop weevils, the potatoes and apples rot long before they can be eaten, and the cook exercises a lavishness in the use of butter and sugar she would never show were they bought in such limited amounts that the housekeeper could hold close watch over them. Even after these events the young mistress feels as if she were absolutely reckless and no manager at all when she so far departs from household law as to buy food in small quantities.—Independent.

Evidence to the Contrary.
"Do you think that a man is always better off for a college education?" "No," answered the housewife, rather sharply. "This morning I asked a man who came around with a wagon whether he had any nice fresh eggs. He merely looked at me reproachfully and said: 'Madam, might I be permitted to observe that fresh eggs are always nice eggs, and nice eggs are always fresh?'"—Washington Star.

Long Enough for Any One.
Teacher—How many of my scholars can remember the longest sentence they ever read? Billy—Please, mum, I can. Teacher—What? Is there only one? Well, William, you may tell the rest of the scholars the longest sentence you ever read. Billy—Imprisonment for life.—Stray Stories.

Users are always in the wrong.

NOTES ON SCIENCE.

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

The Need of Water-Drinking—Something New on Jupiter—A Repeating Gun for Boys—A Machine for Making Cigarettes.

THE NEED OF WATER-DRINKING.
A well-known nerve specialist has said that "all neurasthenics (that is, people with unhealthy nerves) have diseased nerves and suffer from an insufficiency of fluid in the tissues of the body." It is probable that we all, in more or less degree, even when not conscious of any definite symptoms, are suffering in some part of our system for the lack of enough fluid, and especially of enough pure, cool water.

We know that so nicely is the human body adjusted and adapted to its uses that one part cannot suffer without all suffering. If the nerves are diseased, or dried through lack of fluid, then it is certain that other tissues are also suffering from the same lack, and that the wheels of the wonderful machinery are being clogged by reason of waste matter which is not washed away.

We see by this that water does for us a three-fold service. It feeds, it washes and it carries away the cinders of the body furnace; and through the want of it we are exposed to many and great dangers. The tissues become too dry, the blood is thick, and its flow sluggish, and the retained waste of the body sets up a condition which the doctors call "autointoxication," or self-poisoning. This condition may give rise to almost any known symptoms, from a pimple to heart failure, and is really responsible for most of the semi-invalids with whom the world is largely peopled.

To obtain the best results from water-drinking certain rules should be observed. People do not all need the same amount, and it may take a little experimenting to find out just how much should be taken in individual cases. It has been stated by some physicians that five or six pints should be taken during the twenty-four hours. Of this only a moderate quantity should be taken with the meals. It is a mistake to take no water with a meal, but it is perhaps a greater mistake to wash food down with water, especially with ice-water.

The best time for water-drinking is at night and early in the morning. It is well to form the habit of slowly slipping, during the bath and while dressing, two or three glasses of cool—not ice-cold—water. Two or three more may be sipped at bedtime, and again two or three glasses an hour or two before luncheon and before dinner.

In a very short time the value of this habit will become apparent in the resultant general improvement in digestion, temper and appearance."

REPEATING GUN FOR THE BOY.
When the Fourth of July begins to draw near small boys will be looking for the gun which can be fired the greatest number of times in the shortest space of time at the least expense. E. T. Adams and J. E. Simpson of Ohio have designed a toy revolver with those objects in view, a picture of which is shown herewith. The gun has an automatic feed and hammer mechanism which relieves the boy of every task but that of pulling the trigger. The explosive is in the form of percussion caps attached to a long strip of paper, which can be wound on a reel in the stock of the gun. A pull on the trigger drives a sliding block toward the muzzle of the gun, which pulls the feed roller over far enough to place a new charge in position and also sets the hammer. A continuation of the pull on the trigger releases the block, which is driven backward by the spring to strike the hammer and explode the charge, the concussion detaching the strip of paper in line with the hammer. To reload the gun a plate at the side of the grip is de-

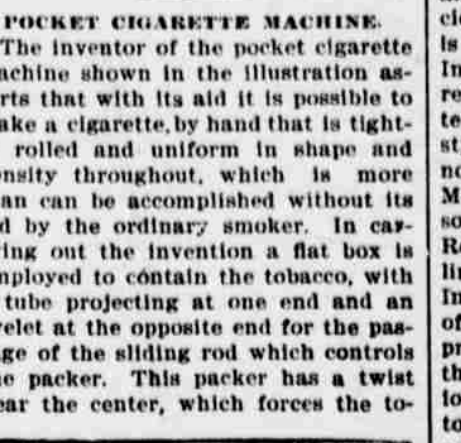
tached, exposing the reel and feed mechanism, as shown in the illustration.

SOMETHING NEW ON JUPITER.
The great planet Jupiter has frequent surprises in store for those who watch it closely with telescopes. Its vast belts, composed apparently of clouds, are continually undergoing changes, and occasionally an extraordinary apparition rewards the patient observer and sets him to wondering what is happening on the giant planet. During the past summer a conspicuous dark spot has made its appearance in the southern hemisphere of the planet and its motions are being studied with much interest by astronomers. Some twelve years ago a similar spot suddenly sprang into view, and drifted, with reference to the surrounding surface, very much as the present one is doing. When it passed the celebrated great red spot it seemed to be driven 500 miles in its course, and afterward became

strung out in a reddish streak. If the new spot lasts until next July it will also overtake the red spot, and may suffer a similar fate. These things are interesting as occurrences on a world nearly 1,400 times larger than ours.

VENEZUELA'S PEARLS.
The island of Margarita, off the coast of Venezuela, is one of the most celebrated centers of pearl fishery. The Spaniards in the days of Columbus found the natives of Margarita and the neighboring mainland decked out with pearls, and the pearl-producing oysters of that locality have never since failed in their productiveness. Recently the price of pearls has risen in the market and the activity of the Venezuelan fishermen has correspondingly increased. Metal scoops are dragged over the oyster-beds, and the interest of the search culminates when the shells thus secured are opened. A black pearl is a rarity, commanding a high price. Fine white pearls, of good luster, are also very valuable. A French company has recently obtained a concession from the Venezuelan government to fish for pearls with diving apparatus.

POCKET CIGARETTE MACHINE.
The inventor of the pocket cigarette machine shown in the illustration asserts that with its aid it is possible to make a cigarette, by hand that is tightly rolled and uniform in shape and density throughout, which is more than can be accomplished without its aid by the ordinary smoker. In carrying out the invention a flat box is employed to contain the tobacco, with a tube projecting at one end and an eyelet at the opposite end for the passage of the sliding rod which controls the packer. This packer has a twist near the center, which forces the to-



MAKES A UNIFORM CIGARETTE. Hacco through the metallic tube into the roll of paper which has been previously formed by wrapping it around the tube and sealing. As the weed begins to pack near the outer end of the paper case the later is gradually withdrawn from the metal tube, until when the end is reached the tobacco is packed throughout the entire length, the solidity depending on the desire of the smoker. The case can be easily carried in the pocket and the cigarettes are made without the necessity of handling the tobacco with the fingers.

A FAR-TRAVELLED LOCOMOTIVE.
The English papers record the recent completion by express locomotive No. 1 of the Great Northern Railway for its four-millionth mile of travel. The engine was built at Doncaster more than thirty years ago, and is still in active service. It has single driving-wheels, and was one of the first to be fitted with outside cylinders. Four million miles is more than sixteen and one-half times the distance between the earth and the moon, and 160 times the circumference of the earth. But the veteran locomotive would have to continue the same average rate of travel for about 700 years in order to traverse a distance equal to that of the sun from the earth.

WONDERS OF PHOSPHORESCENCE.
In pursuit of the dream of "cold light," or light without expenditure of heat-producing energy, much attention is being given to the phenomena of phosphorescence. The sea is full of this strange light, due to animal life. A minute phosphorescent rhizopod has been found so numerous in the damp sands at Ostend that Dr. Phipson describes a handful of this sand as dripping like molten lava. Among the captures by the deep-sea trawl of the ship Challenger was a gigantic Pyrosoma of which Prof. Mosely said "I wrote my name with my finger on its surface, as it lay in a tub at night, and the name came out in a few seconds in letters of fire."

NOTES.
A 600 Foot Cataract.
In exploring the Waipio river in Hawaii, a party from the Bishop Museum of Honolulu recently discovered a cataract that has one sheer fall of 600 feet, and in this exceptionally dry season runs 8,000,000 gallons a day. The party reached the cataract only because of the low water, which permitted the explorers to ascend the bed of the stream.

The Cowthorpe Oak.
The Cowthorpe oak is the largest in England. It is reputed to be over 1,600 years old, and its branches cover half an acre. At the close of the seventeenth century, according to Evelyn's "Silva," it was 78 feet in circumference at the base of the trunk. Since then a quantity of earth has been placed around it as a support. It is estimated to contain at the present time 73 tons of timber.

France has now the deepest well in the world. It is 3,609 feet, and the temperature at the bottom is 117 degrees.

A SQUAW'S ATTIRE.

SOME WEAR SUITS WORTH A THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Oklahoma Indian Women Among the Most Extravagant Dressers in America—Much Money Spent in Purchasing Costly Ornaments for Their Clothing.

It has just cropped out in social circles that the Oklahoma Indian women are among the most extravagant dressers in America. The fact is worth presenting to those who look to Paris for their fashions. There may come a time when Paris looks to Oklahoma if things go on in this way. It is a fact, very narrowly known, that many women of the Kiowa, Comanche, Arapahoe and Ponca tribes have dresses costing from \$750 to \$1,500 apiece. They are not made in what we should call the latest styles; the decorations are what count.

The squaws' money is nearly all spent in purchasing costly ornaments for their clothing. These ornaments are in the shape of jewelry and precious stones, elk teeth and pearls. It is nothing out of the common to see an Indian girl walking around over her reservation with \$500 worth of elk teeth tied to her dress in decorative style. Again, a two-karat diamond is no curiosity to these dusky belles. Most of the dresses are made from soft buckskin lined with silk or satin. Red satin is a great favorite for dress lining and shirt waists among the Indian women. Yellow silk is another of their favorites, but violet was the prevailing color this year. Next year the Indian woman who leads the fashion will decree a new and flashy color to be the up-to-date thing, and, of course, all of the women will follow her. Society as we name it is a thing unknown among the reservation Indian women, but they have a certain envy of social standing just the same.

When they come to the small towns on trading days there may be assembled several hundred of the women from various parts of the country, and they gather in the agency and talk over events among themselves, gossip upon the scandals and rail against the whites for hours at a time. It is during this function that they may be seen in their best dress, and each one tries to outdo her neighbor in ornaments. The more elk teeth she has on her dress the more popular she is at these weekly meetings at the agency buildings. They examine each other's dresses carefully and freely express to the wearer opinions upon the quality and cost. If the dress meets with the disapproval of one, she has no hesitation about saying so to the owner of such dress, who retorts as she sees fit. Sometimes open quarrels ensue at these sessions because some woman has been too bold in her criticism. Before they go home they take a vote on the dresses, and the owner of the best is crowned leader of fashion for the next week, and all must refrain from criticizing her dress.

During the ensuing week there is a great race to outshine her garments, and this is generally accomplished, no matter how hard she may have striven to hold her place in the lead. The squaws do not have to work as hard as is generally supposed. They do little outside their houses, as the Indians who have an income from the United States do not farm. All of the money due the women is paid direct to them, and they spend it to please their own tastes, which means for dress. The fashions they follow are very amusing to the white people, but with them it is a serious business, and the women are as much interested in their shopping as a white woman would be at the counter of one of the largest millinery houses in New York.

Civilization is steadily growing with these people, and the ways of the whites show in many matters besides those of dress. Most of the young married couples of the Kiowa and Comanche tribes have comfortable houses instead of tepees. They are well educated, having been forced to attend government schools. To these new manners of life the young men and women take kindly but the older class will have none of them. They continue to live in tepees, as do full-bloods of other southwest tribes. The young Indian wife of today is clean, a fairly good cook and tidy with her house. She is not yet well versed in the art of decoration and red and green are predominating colors in all her rooms, whether in harmony or not. The house has good furniture, but it is strangely arranged. The lounge is a favorite piece of furniture, and one sees it in every Indian household, always in the parlor. If the Indians have a piano or organ it goes into the bedroom. The young buck's best saddle goes into the parlor, and in many houses it is hung upon the wall. Red ribbons are tied to everything, even the all of the cat, for no Indian household is complete without a cat and dog.—San Francisco Call.

Only at First Sight.
She—Do you really mean to say the engagement is broken off between Jack and Miss Rustling? He—Yes, I heard it straight from Jack. She—How strange. I thought it was a case of love at first sight. He—So it was, but you see they have known each other some time now.—The King.

A Suggestion.
"No, I'm not very well impressed with the house," said the prospective tenant. "The yard is frightfully small; there's hardly room for a single flower bed." "Think so?" replied the agent. "But er—mightn't you use folding flower beds?"—Philadelphia Press.