

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

DIAMONDS BY LOUIS TRACY MONTE CRISTO A THRILLING STORY OF A MODERN CRISTO

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Philip, puzzled more than ever at the turn affairs had taken, sat at the so-called table until the business of the morning was ended, and then Mr. Abingdon invited him to come to his desk.

"My boy," said the magistrate, "I do not know what to make of the strange situation in which you find yourself. I am sorry you cannot see your way to confide wholly in me, but I am convinced you did not steal the diamonds. Wherever you got them, they are yours, and you are entitled to do as you will with them. But, I must caution you that the possession of such an amount of wealth in the hands of one in your present condition is certain to be looked upon as suspicious, and may get you into trouble again. What are you going to do?"

Philip thanked the magistrate for his kindly words, and admitted he had formed no definite plan, beyond another visit to Isaacstein.

"I think you can do no better," said Mr. Abingdon. "But you must remember that Mr. Isaacstein is a man of business, and has not been accustomed to dealing with boys in your circumstances. Be frank with him, and make him your agent, if you can."

This advice quite agreed with the half-formed plans that flitted through Philip's head, and he so told the magistrate.

"And now I will go to see Mr. Isaacstein at once," he said.

"But," said Mr. Abingdon, "how will you get there? You can not go on foot, for you will find a crowd waiting outside to get a glimpse of the strange boy who has astonished the world by his possession of such an amount of wealth in diamonds. Your story has been in the newspapers, and you are now the sensation of London. It will be next to impossible for you to reach Isaacstein's unless you have a conveyance."

"I had thought of that contingency, sir," replied Philip, "but I am quite sure that I can manage it. I am accustomed to being alone on the streets, and surely I can make my way from here to Hatton Garden with little difficulty."

"But not with the worth of 50,000 pounds in diamonds on your person."

"I think I can, sir."

"You would better take a cab; I can have one called, and you can leave the court by the side door, and thus attract less attention. You will thus be far safer in your movements."

"I agree with you that for the present I had better be as little conspicuous as possible. I have much to do before I can really set about what I have in mind to accomplish, and first of all I must go to Mr. Isaacstein and make arrangements with him to realize on my diamonds."

"Here are the jewels," said the magistrate, handing him the paper package, in which the gems were wrapped. "Please open it and see that all are there."

Philip did so, telling the magistrate he fully felt that all was right, however. While the tones were unwrapping and counting the stones and then carefully trying them up again, Mr. Abingdon had requested one of the officers in waiting to summon a cab. When Philip was ready to leave the court room, he said simply: "I thank you."

The magistrate was strangely affected. "You are a strange boy," he said. "I think you are acting wisely, but—er— you have no money—that is in a sense. Let me—er—lend you cash before."

"Thank you, sir," said Philip again, and Mr. Abingdon, unable to account for the interest he felt in the boy, quite apart from his inexplicable story, gave him 5 shillings and shook hands with him.

An officer went with Philip to the side door of the court room, where a cab was waiting, but even there a large crowd had gathered to get a glimpse of the boy who had astonished all London with his wealth and his story. The policeman made a way for the boy to the cab, and the astonished driver took the directions with a stare of surprise.

The journey to Hatton Garden was quickly accomplished, and when Philip tendered the fare to the driver, the latter declined, saying: "It is my treat. I think as 'ow hit's my treat. Y'know, hit's all right, but I think as you needs the bob mors nor me."

And he drove away before ever Philip had a chance to thank him or to expostulate, inside the door at Isaacstein's.

Cheap and Easily Made, But Ends a Cough Quickly

How to Make the Very Best Cough Remedy at Home. Fully Guaranteed.

This pint of cough syrup is easily made at home and saves you about \$2.00 as compared with ordinary cough remedies. It relieves obstinate coughs—evn whooping cough—quickly, and is splendid, too, for bronchial asthma, spasmodic croup and hoarseness.

Put one pint of granulated sugar with 1/2 pint of warm water, and stir for 2 minutes. Put 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex (fifty cents worth) in a pint bottle, and add the Sugar Syrup. Take a teaspoonful every one, two or three hours. Tastes good.

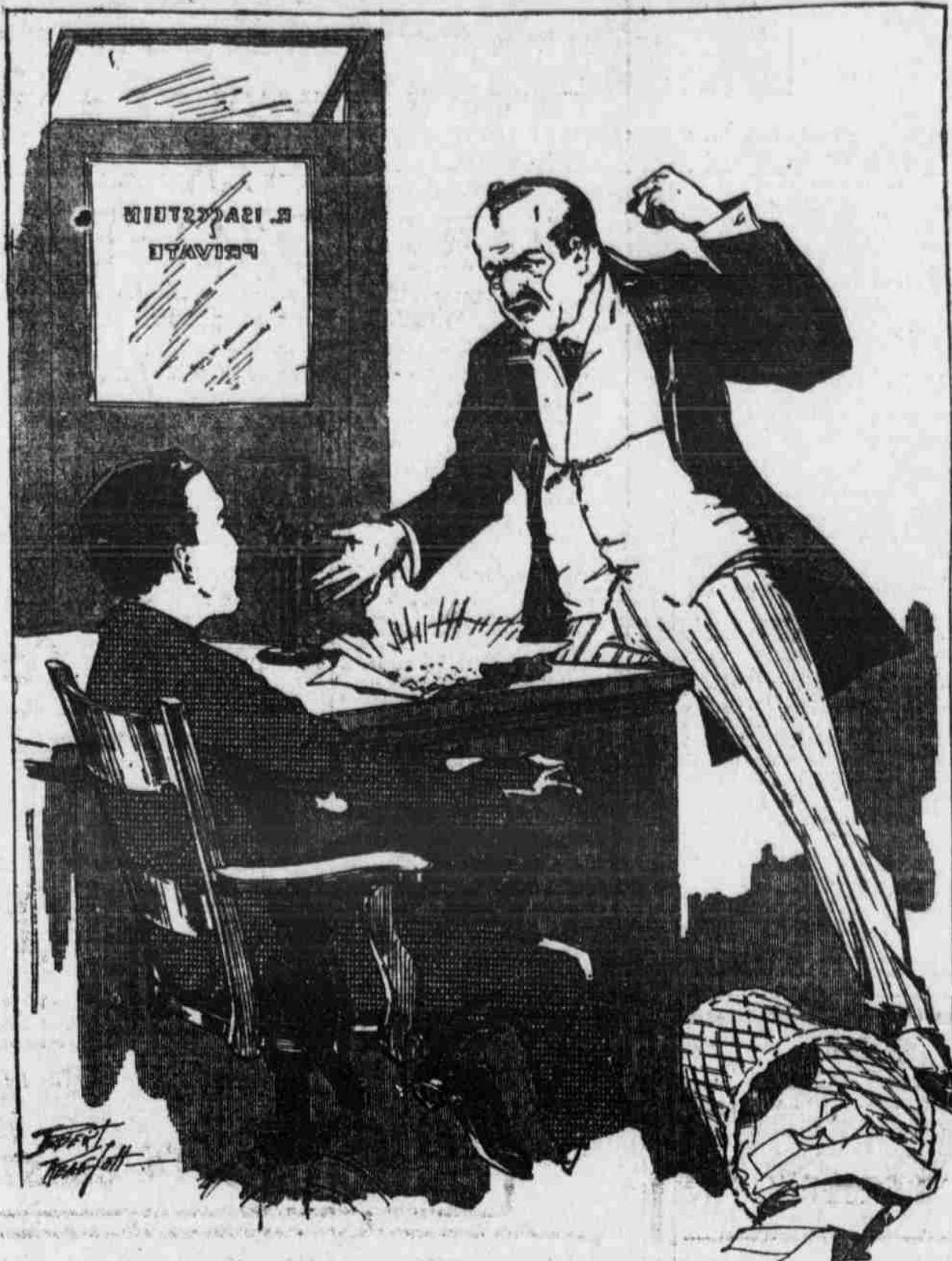
This takes right hold of a cough and gives almost instant relief. It stimulates the appetite, and is slightly laxative—both excellent features.

Pinex, as perhaps you know, is a most valuable concentrated compound of Norway white pine extract, rich in guaiacal and the other natural healing pine elements.

No other preparation will do the work of Pinex in this matter, although strained honey can be used instead of the sugar syrup, if desired.

Thousands of housewives in the United States and Canada now use this Pinex and Sugar Syrup remedy. This plan has often been limited, but the old successful combination has never been equaled. Its low cost and quick results have made it immensely popular.

A guaranty of absolute satisfaction, or money promptly refunded, goes with this preparation. Your druggist has Pinex, or will get it for you. If not, send to The Pinex Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind.



ISAACSTEIN STEPPED TO A SIDEBOARD AND Poured out a stiff glass of brandy. He swallowed it as an ordinary person takes an oyster.

"That's better," he said, returning to his desk.

NOW WE CAN GET TO CLOSE QUARTERS, HAND OVER THE STONES. PHILIP DID NOTHING OF THE SORT.

"Why?" he inquired, blandly. "You know all about them. You can

HARDLY WANT TO EXAMINE THEM SO FREQUENTLY." "CONFOUND IT!" CRIED ISAACSTEIN, GROWING RED WITH RENEWED IMPATIENCE. "WHAT MORE CAN I DO THAN AGREE TO YOUR TERMS?"

the youthful guardian was a little more polite to Philip this time, and he was soon in Mr. Isaacstein's office again. His welcome was not very cordial, but it was apparent Isaacstein had expected him. The making of the bargain was the first thing, and it was proceeded with directly. The boy had his mind fairly well made up, and he told the diamond dealer that he wanted to dispose of the stones immediately. Isaacstein was rather inclined to undertake to browbeat the lad, but he soon found he was making no progress at this. Philip's keen brain was working clearly, and he detected the points where the dealer sought to take advantage of him.

Finally, Isaacstein had agreed to dispose of the gems, and to pay Philip 50 pounds immediately, and to credit him at a bank with 5,000 pounds on account. In return, Philip had offered him 10 per cent commission on the sale of the stones, and all other stones he might bring him.

"I talked the business over with Mr. Abingdon before coming here," said the boy, "and he knows of my visit and its object."

So Philip caught a gleam of resentment at the introduction of the magistrate's name, and he instantly resolved to see Mr. Abingdon again at the earliest opportunity.

"Oh, he treated you kindly today, did he?" snarled Isaacstein.

"Yes, most kindly."

"You don't drink, I suppose?" broke in the other, abruptly.

"No. I am only a boy of 15, and do not need stimulants."

He was favored with a sharp glance at this remark, but he bent over his diamonds again and began to examine them, one by one. He knew that the action was tantalizing to his companion, and that is why he did it.

Isaacstein went to a sideboard and poured out a stiff glass of brandy. He swallowed it as an ordinary person takes an oyster.

"That's better," he said, returning to his desk. "Now we can get to close quarters. Hand over the stones. Hand over the stones."

Philip did nothing of the sort.

"Why?" he inquired blandly. "You know all about them. You can hardly want to examine them so frequently."

"Confound it!" cried Isaacstein, growing red with renewed impatience. "What more can I do than agree to your terms?"

"I asked you for an advance of £50. I said nothing about leaving the diamonds in your charge. Please listen to me. I make no unreasonable demands. I only wish to keep the stones now you must first write a letter stating the agreement between us. If it is right I will give you the diamonds. If it is not according to my ideas you must alter it."

"Do you think I mean to swindle you?" "I have no views upon that point. I am only telling you what my conditions are."

Isaacstein set back in his chair and regarded Philip fixedly and with as

much calmness as he could summon to his aid. A ray of sunshine illuminated a bald patch on the top of his head, and the boy found himself glibly speculating on developments in the Jew's future life. The man, on his part, was seeking to read the boy's inscrutable character, but the fixity of Philip's gaze at his denuded crown disconcerted him again.

"What are you looking at?" he demanded, suddenly.

"I was wondering how you would look when you go to heaven, Mr. Isaacstein," was the astounding reply.

For some reason it profoundly disturbed his hearer. He wobbled for a little while, and finally seemed to make up his mind, though he sighed perplexedly. The dealer was not a bad man. In business he was noted for exceeding shrewdness combined with strict commercial honesty. But the case that now presented itself contained all the elements of temptation. No matter how clever this boy might be, he was but a boy, and opportunities for cheating him must arrive. If not by Isaacstein, there were others. The boy possessed a large store, possibly a very large store, of rough gems, and in dealing with them his agents could rob him with impunity. Yet, in answer to an unguarded question, this extraordinary youth admitted that Isaacstein might merit eternal bliss. Such an eventuality has not occurred to the Jew himself during unrecorded years. Now that it was suggested to him it disturbed him.

"You imagine then that I may deal fairly with you?" he said at last.

"Oh, yes. Why should you rob me? You can earn more money that you can ever need in this world by looking after my interests properly. If only you will believe this statement it will save you much future worry. I assure you."

"Were you in earnest when you said that you have abundance of stones like those in your hands?"

"So many, Mr. Isaacstein, that you will have some trouble in disposing of them. I have diamonds as big—let me see—as big as an egg."

The wonder is that the Jew did not faint.

"My God!" he murmured. "do you know what you are saying? Where are they, boy? You will be robbed, murdered for their sake. Where are they? Let me put them in some safe place. I will deal honestly by you. I swear it, by all that I hold sacred. But you must have them taken care of."

"They are quite safe; be certain of that. Reveal my secret I will not. I have borne insult and imprisonment to preserve it, so it is not likely I will yield now to your appeals."

Philip's face lit up with a strange light as his protest left his lips. The meteor was this mother's bequest. She gave it to him, and she would safeguard it. Had she failed hitherto? Was not all London ringing with the news of his fortune, yet what man or woman had discovered the whereabouts of this treasure? "In his

pocket he felt the great iron key of No. 3, Johnson's Mews, and he was as certain now that his hiding place was unknown as that his mother's spirit was looking down on him from heaven and directing his every movement.

The dealer, in spite of his own great lack of composure, saw the fleeting glimpse of spirituality in the boy's eyes. Puzzled and disturbed though he was, he made another violent effort to pull his shattered nerves into order.

"There is no need to talk all day," he said, doggedly. "Now I am going to tell you something you don't know. If your boast is justified—if you really own as many diamonds, and as good ones, as you say you own—there must be a great deal of discretion exercised in putting them on the market. Diamonds are valuable only because they are rare. There is a limit to their possible purchasers. If the diamond mines of the world were to pour all their resources forth into the lap of the public there would be such a slump that prices would drop fifty, sixty, even eighty per cent. Do you follow me?"

"Yes," nodded Philip.

A week earlier he would have said, "Yes, sir," but his soul was very bitter against Isaacstein. It may take me months—years—to realize your collection. To do it properly I must have some idea of its magnitude. If there are exceptionally large stones among it, they must be dealt with separately. They may rival or eclipse the few historical diamonds of the world, but their worth can only be measured by the readiness of some fool to pay hundreds of thousands for them. See?"

"Yes," nodded Philip again. His sentimentality brought the man to the point.

"Therefore you must take me into your confidence. What quantity of stones do you possess, and what are their sizes? I must know."

Isaacstein, cooler now, pursed his lips and pressed his thumbs together until they appeared to be in danger of dislocation. It was his favorite attitude when engaged in a deal. It signified that he had cornered his victim. Philip, appealed to in this strictly commercial way, could not fail to see it was to his own interest to tell his chosen expert the exact facts and nothing but the facts.

The boy, singularly unfurrowed in tone and manner, hazarded an inquiry.

"What amount of ordinary diamonds in their money value I mean, can you dispose of readily in the course of a year, Mr. Isaacstein?"

"Oh, two or three hundred thousand pounds worth; it is a matter largely dependent on the condition of trade generally. But that may be regarded as a minimum."

"And the bigger stones, worth many thousands each?"

"It is impossible to say. Taking them in the lump, at values varying from a thousand each to fancy figures, perhaps 500,000 worth."

Some Examples of the Charm of the New Velvet Brocade



This very modish costume is in pretty frill and black velours frappe, the latter material being used for the sleeves, centre, and tablier. The skirt is of plain velours, in pale tan, fastened with buttons of the same and softened at the neck with a lace frill. The large silk pendelois depending from the tablier are tan to match the skirt. Three quaint bunches of colored silk leaves give the tricorné effect to the chic and fascinating shapeau.

Colored velours frappe is the beautiful material of which this model is composed, the trimming and huge motif being of undyed silkline. The attractive little coat is open at the front, showing a vest of frilled mousseline de soie, and has sleeves in perfectly simple style, falling in natural folds, with a wide centre of the velours. The close-fitting little toque is trimmed with quantity of paradise plumes at the back.

Here we have another illustration of the charm of the rich material, the skirt in this instance being slightly draped up in front. The velours is continued in two high points on the corsage, which is a plain Magyar in colour to tone with the skirt, just bordered with a doigt de fourrure. The jabot and wired collar are of costly lace. The large hat is of plain black velours and garnished with two sprays.

Building a Better Race of Children

By DR. D. A. SARGENT of Harvard University.

Considering a few of the causes generally conceded to be potent factors in the declining birth rate in most civilized countries, we come to the conclusion that the trouble is largely a conflict between individual instincts and abilities and racial needs. This conflict may be variously expressed as poverty or the inability of the individual to make headway against the many selfishness, or the unwillingness to assume the responsibility of giving and maintaining life; indifference, preference for other occupations or conscious abstention from marriage through the lack of physical fitness.

Some of the reasons which are brought forward in defense of a marriage resulting in a few children are unfortunately justifiable in the light of our social and economic conditions. It rests with the thinkers and workers along these lines to solve this side of the problem through such movements as mothers' pensions and all such agencies which center about child welfare.

And it rests first with parents themselves, then with all teachers and preachers to so present and exemplify the ethical significance of family life that youth will gravitate toward high and pure ideals.

It is proper to consider those physical conditions which have in the past produced and maintained superior races and to try to point out the necessity of reconstructing an age of physical idealism, so to speak, which shall help to reunite the inclinations of the individual and the claims of the race.

The present tendency of the superior races and individuals to diminish in number is contrary to the accepted theory of the "survival of the fittest," as that law is worked out under natural conditions of plant and animal life. Here it is the most perfect specimens of tribe and race, the strongest and most adaptable, who become, as is desirable, the progenitors of the future race. But when applied to man, these physical principals of the "survival of the fittest" through the struggle for existence have been forced into the background because of man's mental, social and sympathetic development.

It is especially this growth of the human sympathies that has largely checked the action of the natural elimination of the weak and sickly and the deformed; and, while there has accrued much benefit of the finer emotions of the race through exercising these qualities of service and care, there have also arisen many present regrettable conditions of physical unfitness, which has become the task of our age to eliminate.

It is the province of the physical educator not only to invigorate the individual for himself, but through him to improve the race. That is, physical education offers at least one constructive solution of the problem of race betterment.

Long experience and careful observation has shown us that physical education in its best and broadest sense is one of the most important factors in the betterment of the race. Through improving the structure and function of various parts of the human organism, it so harmonizes the nervous processes that superabundantness is allayed by motor activity and power and efficiency are developed through the habits of health.

Above all, through this individual improvement in the physical condition of men and women there results a better race of children, so that we may consider physical education an agent in our modern sciences of eugenics and genetics.

"It would be safe to reckon on a quarter of a million a year, all told?" "Quite safe."

"Then, Mr. Isaacstein, I will supply you with diamonds of that value every year for many years."

"The Jew relaxed the pressure on his thumbs. Indeed he passed a tremulous hand across his forehead. He was beaten again, and he knew it—worried by a gutter snipe in a war of wits.

The contest had one excellent effect. It stopped all further efforts on Isaacstein's part to wrest Philip's secret from him. Thenceforth he asked for and obtained such diamonds as he needed, and resolutely forbade himself the luxury of questioning or probing the extent of his juvenile patron's resources.

And there was a long pause before he found his tongue again. His voice had lost its aggressiveness when he said: "In the police court I valued the diamonds you produced at 50,000 pounds. It does not necessarily follow that I am prepared to give such a sum for them at this moment. I might do so as a speculation, but I take it you do not want me to figure in that capacity. It will be better for you, safer for me, if I became your agent. I will take your stones to Amsterdam, have them cut sufficiently to enable dealers to assess their true worth, and sell them to the best advantage. My charge will be 10 per cent and I pay all expenses. Today I will give you 50 pounds. Tomorrow I will take you to a bank and place 5,000 to your credit. Meanwhile, I will give you a receipt for thirty stones, weighing, in the rough, so many carats, and you, or anyone you may appoint, can see the sale vouchers subsequently, when I will hand you the balance after deducting 55,000 and my 10 per cent. The total price may exceed 50,000, or it may be less, but I do not think I will be far out in my estimate. Are you agreeable?"

Some inner monitor told Philip that the man was talking on sound business lines. There was a ring of sincerity in his voice. Apparently he had thrust temptation aside, and was firmly resolved to be content with his 10 per cent. (To be Continued Tomorrow.)

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