

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 'feelers.' 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 a 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 checkmated 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," 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.

"Yes," 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 Dobbs. 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!" echoed 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."

His cool assurance and his words struck them with consternation.

"Dobbs 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 smearing jocularity, "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 I 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, "it shall indeed. 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 spout 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 acknowledged 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."

QUESTIONS OF DETAIL.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE RECIPROcity PROPOSITION.

Vital Considerations Which Should Engage the Careful Attention of the Forthcoming Convention of American Manufacturers.

From the American Economist: The advocates of Tariff concessions as a means of enlarging our export trade do not condescend to tell us how their plan would work. They do not go into particulars. When asked to specify they invariably decline to take up details. These, they say, must be left for later consideration, the main thing being to agree upon the general principle that in order to sell more we must buy more, and in order to buy more we must lower our duties so as to admit an increased quantity of foreign-made commodities. If requested to name what branch or group of domestic industries shall diminish their production, or cease altogether to produce to the end that we may buy larger quantities of foreign goods of the same character, they evade the question. Evidently they have not gone into the matter deeply enough to give a specific answer.

Nevertheless, the extension of our export trade by means of Tariff concessions, whether by special trade treaties, or by legislative lowering of the Tariff schedules, is a practical question, a question of specific detail. Either it is that, in the deepest and broadest sense, or it is a reckless, ignorant tampering with existing conditions that is morally certain to lead to disaster. Somebody must answer the question, and answer it plainly: "What industries will you select for slaughter in order that we may offset our big export surplus by an increase in the volume of imports of competitive goods?" Perhaps it will be answered by the forthcoming convention to be held under the auspices of the National Manufacturers' Association. It certainly should be answered, for it is the main question, almost the only question to come before that assembly of notables. Bearing directly upon this question is a letter lately addressed to the Philadelphia Times by Mr. S. H. Wehlemeyer, treasurer of the Blue Ridge Knitting Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. It is the outgrowth of a practical man who knows whereof he speaks, and who is able to present his facts in plain, convincing language. Mr. Wehlemeyer says:

"I have been greatly interested in articles on reciprocity in your paper of recent dates and feel sorry to see a man of Mr. Search's prominence take the stand that he does. The importation of foreign goods hurts labor more than the manufacturer, as mills will not be run at a loss. If his raw material cannot be purchased cheaper he is bound to reduce wages to meet the same.

"If the present Tariff is too high and goods cannot be purchased at a profit, there is plenty of home competition to keep prices down to a reasonable figure. On the other hand, if Mr. Search would have the Tariff reduced, and it would not hurt the manufacturers, it certainly would do the other country entering into the reciprocity agreement no good. I would like to have Mr. Search explain how it can be done otherwise. Or better yet, go into the hosiery manufacturing business, have a satisfactory reciprocity agreement reducing Tariff on hosiery, and demonstrate to us how it could be done; and also explain how can a too high Tariff prevent us from exporting. I can readily see how a low Tariff can easily stop us from exporting as well as supply the home demand. We are always ready to learn and are looking for new ideas.

"The hosiery industry has more people with limited capital engaged in it than in any other line, and I venture to say we have more mills scattered over the country than any other one industry. As the manufacture of full fashioned hose is really in its infancy in this country, and considerable capital is now being invested in manufacturing these goods as well as machinery to produce the same, it undoubtedly would be a poor policy to add more disadvantages to their lot than they now have to contend with. As I understand it, reciprocity is to encourage the purchasing of goods that we do not produce in this country from the country that encourages their people to purchase from us such articles as they do not produce in sufficient quantities to meet the demand.

"To cripple the hosiery manufacturing industry to benefit other industries is undoubtedly wrong. Mr. Search should not forget that the motto, 'United we stand; divided we fall' can be applied to Protectionists; and unless he can explain his motives better we must offer him our sympathy, as his future ability to do the country the good he has done in the past must be at an end."

Mr. Wehlemeyer should be invited to read a paper before the reciprocity convention of the National Manufacturers' Association. He would be the right man in the right place, for he could tell the convention some things which it ought to know. Among other things, he can make clear the proposition that the only Tariff changes of any value whatsoever to the foreign producer are changes that will enable him to sell in the American market goods which are now made in America and by so much displace domestic production and decrease the employment of domestic labor; in short, Free Trade. Anything less than that would be a worthless concession. The same facts obtain in many other lines of in-

dustry whose existence was threatened by the Kansas treaties. Once in possession of these facts the reciprocity convention would have an easy task—simply to reaffirm the national Republican platform for of 1900, sanctioning reciprocity "in articles which we do not ourselves produce," and then adjourn and go home.

PACIFIC COAST SENTIMENT.

A California Congressman's Reasons for Opposing All Forms of Tariff Tinkering.

Congressman Kahn of California, who has just returned from an extended tour to the Philippines, writes the American Economist as follows:

"I am satisfied that there is no pressing demand on the part of the people of this section of the Union for a revision of the tariff. On the contrary, the protective system has enabled California to make magnificent strides in the development of her orchards and farms. The fear of the people of California at the present time is that the reciprocity treaties which are pending in the senate will so materially reduce the tariff on California products that her interests will be vitally affected. Having personally had an opportunity of witnessing the effects of the cheap pauper labor of the Orient I desire to put myself on record as being opposed to any tinkering with the tariff."

Senator Mitchell of Oregon, when in Washington a few days ago, said: "I am opposed, and so are my constituents, to any tinkering with the tariff at the coming session of congress. The country is prosperous with the tariff as it now exists, and business is adjusted to it, and we do not want any change."

Senator Elkins of West Virginia, also expressed himself as decidedly opposed to any tariff changes. He is not even convinced that it would be a good thing to ratify any of the Kasson reciprocity treaties. Senator Burrows of Michigan is another senator who expressed himself as decidedly opposed to tinkering in any way with the tariff.

SUGAR TRUST TACTICS.

It must not be forgotten that it is the same trust which is attacking our beet sugar factories with the object of compelling them to stop refining their own sugar which is clamoring for a "reciprocity" treaty with Cuba for the purpose of importing raw sugar at rates that will put beet sugar factories absolutely at their mercy. It is expending money in all sorts of ways in an endeavor to so twist a false sentiment of uncalculated generosity which may exist in some quarters as to put money into its own coffers. The sole offense of the beet sugar men is that they refine the sugar which they produce. To forbid a beet sugar manufacturer from refining his own product is as bad as to forbid a father from teaching his son his own trade. What will be done with the sugar trust we do not know, but we are sure that the people will never arm it with a reciprocity club to beat the life out of "scab" sugar makers.—San Francisco Chronicle.

VALUE OF OUR AGRICULTURE.

The farm value of this year's crop of wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, flaxseed, potatoes, hay, apples and cotton is \$2,532,000,000. This is more than the census of 1890 gives for the value of all agricultural products. And yet in the above estimate there is no calculation of vegetables other than potatoes, of fruits and berries and nuts, of garden truck, of forest products, of flowers and plants, of live stock slaughtered, of milk and butter and cheese and eggs and a thousand and one other products that help to swell the grand total. The statistician that estimates the value of our farm products at \$8,000,000,000 or \$9,000,000,000 would seem more conservative than liberal. Is it not time that we give agriculture the value it deserves?

Would Swamp the Trust.

There being a greater supply the world over than is required for consumption, any effort of the trust to crush the beet sugar industry of this country by removing the tariff would be to bring in enormous quantities of beet sugar and cane, too. This would swamp the trust and kill the beet industry at the same time.—San Francisco Examiner.

Providence and Protection.

The agricultural crops of 1901 as a whole are the smallest for years. That's Providence. The values of agricultural crops for 1901 are the largest for years. That's protection.

Cranberry Growers Making Money.

Cape Cod folks are happy because the cranberry crop has been very heavy this fall. Cranberry growers always look on the apple yield as a kind of barometer of the prices that can be obtained for their berries. As a rule, when apples are plentiful and cheap, cranberries also bring a low price; but when apples are scarce and high, there is a better market for the Cape Cod berry. Housekeepers evidently use cranberry sauce when apple sauce becomes too expensive a luxury.

Denies Young Girl's Accusation.

FREMONT, Neb., Nov. 25.—Frank Yeager, a farm hand near Nickerson, was bound over to the district court on the charge of statutory assault on Vanetta Van Horn, a 14-year-old daughter of P. E. Van Horn of Nickerson. Acting County Attorney Martin filed an information against Yeager in the district court, to which he entered a plea of not guilty and was given time in which to make a showing for a continuance.

Randall's Ribs Rubbed Loose.

MADISON, Neb., Nov. 25.—In a runaway accident C. A. Randall of Newman Grove suffered three broken ribs. He left Madison in a livery rig to overtake some parties who had his grip in their buggy. When midway between Madison and Newman Grove the pole straps broke, letting the pole down and into the ground, throwing the buggy over, with Mr. Randall under it. He did not realize he was hurt and started to find the horses.

MEMORIAL TO WM. M'KINLEY.

The Nebraska Association Asks for Contributions.

To the People of Nebraska: The McKinley National Memorial association, organized after the untimely death of the nation's honored president, has as its members the president of the United States, the governor of each state and territory and leading citizens from the country at large. Its president is Hon. William R. Day of Canton, O., the vice president is Marcus A. Hanna, the treasurer is Myron T. Herrick and the secretary is Ryerson Ritchie, all of Cleveland, O. The undersigned have been appointed as the Nebraska branch of the association. The object is to raise a fund for the erection at Canton, O., of a fitting monument over the grave of William McKinley, and after an appropriation of a proper amount for such purpose for the erection of a suitable memorial at the national capital. The contribution should be the people's offering to the noble dead and should be a popular tribute. The state association, having this object in view, suggests the following as the course to be pursued in Nebraska:

While not attempting to fix the maximum of contributions the committee suggests that \$25 from any individual citizen is sufficient and that no contribution need be considered too small.

\$3.75 to \$15.00.

of Misses' Coats is good.

Capes in all grades.

1900 styles—good values.

ing at half price.

ord of the national association and the receipt of the sum acknowledged. There are about 250,000 school children in the state of Nebraska, and we appeal to each teacher in the state to aim to collect 5 or 10 cents from each child as the tribute of the youth of the state, showing their affection for the lamented chief executive, who stands today as an ideal American.

CHARLES F. MANDERSON, President.

JOHN A. CREIGHTON, Vice President.

EDWARD ROSEWATER, Secretary and Treasurer.

J. STERLING MORTON, LOREN O. CROUNSE, L. D. RICHARDS, E. J. HAINER, A. L. CLARK, SILAS A. HOLCOMB,

Composing the Nebraska Branch of the McKinley Memorial Association.

State Teachers Annual.

LINCOLN, Neb., Nov. 25.—The program for the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' association, which will be in this city three days, beginning January 1, has been made public. The principal addresses will be made by President Arnold Tompkins of the Chicago Normal school, President William Bradshaw of the National association and President Jesse of the University of Missouri.

High Price Paid for Cattle.

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 25.—John Thiaks of Weston, Ia., topped the market for cattle last week. The load was mixed, being half-breed White Faces and Shorthorns. The shipment was made up entirely of 2-year-olds and averaged 1,336 pounds. Cudahy bought this bunch for \$7.25 per 100 pounds. These cattle were bought for the export trade.

McKinley Up for Shooting Game.

BURWELL, Neb., Nov. 25.—On complaint of State Game Warden Simpkins, E. B. McKinley of this place was arrested for shipping game. The complaint alleges that McKinley billed game to a Chicago firm under a false name. McKinley pleaded not guilty and his trial is set for December 3.

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Losers are always in the wrong.

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.

Losers are always in the wrong.