

CHAPTER XXXV. EXPLANATIONS.

The cause of Lucetta's joy was soon explained. Mr. Ostrander had not fallen a victim to Mr. Trohm's mania, but was in X. alive and well. That Mr. Gryce knew this at the time of showing her the telegram was apparent to me and probably suspected by her, but no words were ever exchanged on the subject, possibly because she was soon made too happy by her lover's explanation to regret anything which had led up to this satisfying hour.

He, so it seems, had found it impossible to leave Lucetta. Upon issuing from Lost Man's lane he had met Mr. Gryce and learned enough from him of the doubtful position in which the Knollys stood to make his stay seem imperative even at the risk of losing the position upon which all the hopes of his future advancement depended. He had therefore staid, but quietly and to a degree in hiding, place having been found for him by Mr. Gryce in a remote cottage, where his presence attracted no attention and awoke no comment. That Mr. Gryce had any ulterior motive in this, regarding him as a possible witness whose testimony migh; be of value, I will not even suggest. Mr. Gryce never neglects it, but Mr. Mr. Gryce understands his business and Gryce has a heart, too, and that heart has a way of working even amid his most urgent affairs in a manner to bring light out of darkness as well for the happiness of those concerned as for the elucidation of the mystery he has undertaken to clear.

The hour we all spent together late that night in the old house was unlike any hour which that place has seen for years. Mr. Ostrander, Lucetta, Loreen, William, Mr. Gryce and myself all were there, and as an especial grace Saracen was allowed to enter, that there might not be a cloud upon a single face there assembled. Though it is a small matter, I will add that this dog persisted in lying down by my side, not yielding even to the wiles of his master, whose amusement over this fact kept him good natured to the last adieu.

There were too few candles in the house to make it bright, but Lucetta's unearthly beauty, the peace in Loreen's soft eyes, made us forget the somberness of our surroundings and the meagerness of the entertainment Hannah attempted to offer us. It was the promise of coming joy, and when, our two guests defeelings which found their best expres. | make it presentable again the detective sion in the two letters I hastened to spoke. write as soon as I gained the refuge of my own apartment. I will admit you sufficiently into my confidence to let mementos of the crimes which took you read those letters. The first of them read thus:

DEAR OLIVE-To make others happy is the best way to forget ourselves. A sudden wed-ding is to take place in this house. Order at once for me from the shops you know me to be in the habit of patronizing a wedding gown of dainty white taffeta [I did this not to re-call too painfully to herself the wedding dress can too painting to herself the weading dress I helped her buy and which was, as you may remember, of cream white satin], with chiffon trimmings and a wedding veil of tulle. Add to this a dress suitable for ocean travel and a half dozen costumes adapted to a southern cli-mate. Let everything be suitable for a delicate but spirited girl who has seen trouble, but who is going to be happy now if a little attention and money can make her so. Do not spare expense, yet show no extravagance, for she is a shy bird, easily frightened. The measurements you will find inclosed; also those of another young lady, her sister, who must also be supplied with a white dress, the material of which, however, had better be of crape.
All these things must be here by Wednesday

evening, my own best dress included. On Saturday evening you may look for my return. I shall bring the latter young lady with me, so your present loneliness will be made up to you by an agreeable guest. Faithfully yours

AMELIA BUTTERWORTH. The second letter was a longer and more important one. It was directed to the president of the company which had proposed to send Mr. Ostrander to South America. In it I related enough of the circumstances which had kept Mr. Ostrander in X. to interest him in the young couple personally, and then I told him that if he would forgive Mr. Ostrander this delay and allow him to sail with his young bride by the next steamer I myself would undertake to advance whatever sums might have been endangered by this delay.

I did not know then that Mr. Gryce had already made this matter good with this same gentleman.

The next morning we all took a walk in the lane. (I say nothing about the night. If I did not choose to sleep or if I had any cause not to feel quite as ele vated as the young people about me, there is surely no reason why I should dwell upon it with you or even apologize for a weakness that is, I hope, but the exception setting off my customary s.rength.)

Now a walk in this lane was an event. To feel at liberty to stroll among its shadows without fear, to know that the danger had been so located that we all felt free to inhale the autumn air and to enjoy the beauties of the place without a thought of lurking trouble in its sweetest nooks and most attractive coverts, gave to this short half hour a distinctive delight aptly expressed by Loreen when she said:

"I never knew the place was so beautiful. Why, I think I can be happy only solution which would leave him here now." At which Lucetta grew pensive, till I roused her by saying:

'So much for a constitutional, girls.

wedding. William, your business will be to see that these grounds are put in days. I will bear the expense, and Lo-

But William had a word to say for himself.

"Miss Butterworth," said he, "you're a right good sort of woman, as Saracen | yesterday and he found himself fully has found out, and we, too, in these last few plaguy days of our trouble here. But I'm not such a bad lot either, and if I do like my own way, which may not be other people's way, and if I am the facts about the ring and the pigeon." sometimes short with the girls for some of their d-d nonsense, I have a little decency about me, too, and I say I will fix these grounds, and out of my own money too. Now that nine-tenths of our have chink enough to let us go respecthorse, if he's good enough, will give a envy of even those who for some other posed. pesky reasons may think themselves called upon to hoot him. I don't begrudge the old place a few dollars, especially as I mean to live and die in it so look out, you three women folks, and work lively as you can on the inside of interested in this which you say bethe old rookery or the slickness of the outside will put you to open shame, and that would never please Loreen,

It was a challenge we were glad to into the lane it was very apparent that we should experience no further difficulty in obtaining any help we might

nor, as I take it, Miss Butterworth

need to carry out our undertakings. Meantime my thoughts were not altogether concentrated even upon these pleasing plans for Lucetta's benefit. There were certain points yet to be made clear in the matter whose termination still lay heavy on my heart, and there was a confession for me to make, without which I could not face Mr. Gryce with all that unwavering composure which our peculiar relations seemed to

The explanations came first. They were volunteered by Mr. Gryce, whom I met in the course of the morning at Mother Jane's cottage. She had been in the statements he chose to make me, perfectly happy all night, sleeping with and which were true enough as regardthe coin in her hand and waking to ed plain fact, but wickedly false and again devour it with her greedy but preposterously wrong as regards their space of at least forty feet on each side. loving eyes. As we were looking at her suggestion, I can have no words of including streets and alleys." and Mr. Gryce directing with his hand blame for a woman who, whatever her parted, I bade good night to the girls the movements of the men who had in that grim upper hall it was with come to smooth down her garden and rience, necessarily has seen less of hu-

how this old woman came to have those

place up there. Well, we have figured it out thus: The trinket from the peddler's pack she probably stole from that pack before it was found by the villagers and given up to the proper authorities. The other, the ring, has a different history, and the finding of it in Mother Jane's possession can only be explained by a series of causes so bizarre that they must ever rank as among the most remarkable that have ever adorned the annals of our police register. Should I give it out as a puzzle you could never answer it. How could a ring which was on the finger of Mr. - five minutes before he vanished from the light of the You cannot tell. You might quote Scripture and say, 'A bird of the air carried ago now-Mother Jane kept two tame pigeons. They slept on her house top, they ate from her hand and they flew sometimes as far away as Mr. Trohm's garden. One day a young man, equipped depository means something to a bank she could hardly for traveling, paused for a glass of wa- in a material way, but means more on ter at the famous well there while account of the prestige that such a mark not think she these pigeons were picking up corn of confidence cannot help but carry which Mr. Trohm had scattered for with it. Davenport has had one such them, for his tastes are confined to the cultivation of fruits and flowers, but the First National was organized a without extend to Gumb animals, to whom he the First National was organized, a without is uniformly kind. The young man wore little ahead of any national bank in it now. She has a ring, and being nervous was fiddling the country, and became the depository used it for two with it as he talked to the pleasant old of public funds. For some years the gentleman who was lowering the bucket | Citizens' National has been the govern- a great help to for him. As he fiddled with it the ment depository here, but the increasing her. She does earth fell from under him, and as the daylight vanished above him the ring flew out of his up thrown hand and lay, the only token of his now blotted out arsenal, makes it advisable, in the opinexistence, upon the emerald sward he ion of Secretary Gage, to have two had but a moment before pressed with depositories at this place. So the First his unsuspicious feet. It burned—this National comes into its own again." ruby burned like a drop of blood in the grass when that demon came again to his senses, and being a telltale evidence of crime to him who had allowed nothing to ever speak against him of these matters, he stared at it as at a deadly thing directed against himself and to be got rid of at once and by means which by no possibility could

"The pigeons stalking near offered to his abnormally acute understanding the absolutely devoid of fear. He might throne" which has urged man to face have swung open the lid of the well once more and flung it after its owner, Now we must to work. This house, as but this meant an aftermath of expeyou see it now, has to be prepared for a rience from which even he shrank who

recoil back upon himself as its author.

delighted in the thought that the victims he saw vanish before his eyes were like something wiped out by a sweep of the hand. To see or hear them again would be to this notion. He preferred the subtler way and to take advantage of old Mother Jane's characteristics, so he caught one of the pigeons (he has always been able to lure birds into his hands), and tying the ring around the neck of the bird with a blade of grass plucked up from the highway he let it fly and so was rid of the bauble which to Mother Jane's eyes, of course, was a direct gift from the heavens through which the bird had flown before light-

ing on her doorstep. "Wonderful!" I exclaimed, almost overwhelmed with humiliation, but preserving a brave front. "What invention and what audacity-the audacity as good order as can be done in three of a man totally irresponsible for his mittee on public buildings and grounds. deeds, was it not?" I asked. "There is Mr. Allen hopes that the measure will no doubt, is there, about his being an absolute maniae?"

"No, madam." What a relief I felt at that word! "Since we entrapped him discovered he has lost all grip upon himself and filled the room we put him in with the unmistakable ravings of a madman. It was through these I learned

I drew a deep breath. We were standing in the sight of several men, and their presence there seemed intolerable Unconsciously I began to walk away. Unconsciously Mr. Gryce followed me. income does not have to go abroad we'll At the end of several paces we both stopped. We were no longer visible to able once more in a place where one the crowd, and I felt I could speak the words I had been burning to say ever fellow a standing and make him the since I saw the nature of Mr. Trohm ex-

"Mr. Gryce," said I, flushing scarlet-which I here solemnly declare is something which has not happened to Nebraska; the cost of said building, inme before in years and if I can help it cluding said vaults, heating and ventilshall never happen to me again—"I am cause yesterday, here in the open road, Mr. Trohm proposed to me, and"-'You did not accept it?"

"No. What do you think I am made but—I made the refusal a gentle one, accept, especially as from the number and-this is not easy work, Mr. ated. of persons we now saw come flocking Gryce," I interrupted myself to say with suitable grimness-"the same thing took place between me and Deacon Spear, and to him I gave a response such as I thought his presumption warranted. The discrimination does not argue well for my acumen, Mr. Gryce. deserve. Perhaps you cannot understand

that, but it is a part of my nature." "Madam," said he, and I must own I thought his conduct perfect for the nonce, "had I not been as completely deceived as yourself I might find words understanding and whatever her expeman nature and its incalculable surprises. As to the more delicate matter me, madam, I have but one remark to make. With such an example of womanhood suddenly brought to their notice in such a wild as this, how could you expect them, sane or insane, to do otherwise than they did? I know many a worthy man who would like to follow their example." And with a bow that left me speechless Mr. Gryce laid his hand on his heart and softly withdrew. THE END.

A Government Depository. The Davenport, Iowa, Democrat of January 29, contains the following. which will prove of interest here, where C. A. Mast is well known and has many friends: "This morning's mail brought sun forever pass from the mouth of to the First National bank a letter that ing Mr. Trohm in the eyes of mortal the institution. It was from Secretary man, or even Mother Jane, who was as of the Treasury Gage, and stated that, innocent of wrong in this as we are? in accordance with the authority vested in him, he thad designated the First it.' But, Miss Butterworth, you would National as a depository of public never believe the truth of your own moneys of the United States. To this words, and yet that was the very way was added the fact that the bank had it was done-a bird of the air carried been especially designated for the reit. In those days—it is three months ception, safekeeping and disbursement of funds advanced to officers of the war department.

"To be designated a United States volume of disbursements here, on account her housework of the expansion of the government

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The courage of the Boer women in these trying times, and the active part they are playing in the too real war drama are not new. Women have always been the "power behind the death rather than the contempt of a fair woman for a man who lacked cour-

Senator Allen's Measure in the United States Senate.

FEDERAL BUILDING IN NORFOLK.

The Measure Provides, for the Appropriation of \$75,000 to Construct a Post Office and Court House in This City - The Senator Hopes to Get it Through Soon.

From Friday's Daily's Senate file No. 2553, introduced by Senator Allen for the erection of a federal building in the city of Norfolk, has been read twice and referred to the combecome a law during this session of congress. After it passes the senate he has promise of good help in its promotion in the house. Following is the full text of

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to cause to be erected at Norfolk, in the state of Nebraska, on the site already purchased therefor by the government of the United States, a suitable building, including fireproof vaults, heating and ventilating apparatus, elevators, and approaches, for the use and accomodation of the United States courts, postoffice, land office, and other government offices in the city of Norfolk and state of ating apparatus, elevators, and approaches, complete, not to exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, which said sum of seventy-five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for that of, Mr. Gryce? I did not accept him, purpose out of any moneys, in the United States treasury not otherwise appropri-

"Sec. 2. That so much of said appropriation as may be necessary for the preparation of sketch plans, drawings, specifications, and detailed estimates for the building by the supervising architect of the treasury department shall be You see, I want no credit that I do not available immediately; and after the said sketch plans and estimates for the building shall have been prepared by the supervising architect and approved by the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of the interior, and the postmaster of criticism for this possibly unprofes- general, the balance of said appropriasional partiality. But when an old hand tion shall be available for the erection like myself can listen to the insinua- and completion of the building, includtions of a maniac and repose, as I must ing fireproof vaults, heating and ventilsay I did repose, more or less confidence ating apparatus, elevators, and approaches. The building shall be unexposed to any danger from fire by an open

organized a special department known as the Manufacturers' Home Patronage Bureau that will endeavor to promote "I suppose you have been wondering | you have been good enough to confide to | the home patronage idea in Omaha and Nebraska. This is a good idea. Home patronage is the mainstay of all business, and the firmer it can be implanted into the minds of purchasers the better for all concerned. It is safe to predict that this organization of home manufacturers will not recommend Greater America expositions as an aid to their work.

After reading all the reports of attempts at Bryan's undoing tried by members of his own party just call to mind, if you can, anything looking toward the defeat of William McKinley in the nominating convention. The effort will result in the conviction that while one's party is thoroughly split up that old well into Mother Jane's hand gave a good deal of gratification to by dissension, doubts and fears, the a half mile away without compromis- Cashier Mast and the other officials of other's is practically unanimous for his renomination.

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doctors do more harm than good in treating Contagious Blood Poison; many victims of this loathsome disease would be much better off to-day if they had never allowed themselves to be dosed on mercury and potash, the only remedies which the doctors ever give for blood poison.

The doctors are wholly unable to get rid of this vile poison, and only attempt to heal up the outward appearance of the disease—the sores and eruptions. This they do by driving the poison into the system, and endeavor to keep it shut in with their constant doses of potash and mercury. The mouth and throat and other delicate parts then break out into sores, and the fight is continued indefinitely, the drugs doing the system more damage than the disease itself.

Mr. H. L. Myers, 100 Mulberry St., Newark, N. J., says: hundred dollars with the doctors, when I realized that they could do me no good. I had large spots all over my body, and these soon broke out into running seres, and I endured all the suffering which this vile disease produces. I decided to try S. S. S. as a last resort, and was soon greatly improved. I followed closely your 'Directions for Self-Treatment,' and the large splotches on my chest began to grow paler and smaller, and before long disappeared entirely. I was soon cured perfectly and my skin has been as clear as glass ever since. I cured myself at home, after the doctors had failed completely.

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S. S. S. FOR THE BLOOD

acts in an entirely different way from potash and mercury-it forces the poison out of the system and gets rid of it entirely. Hence it cures the disease, while other remedies only shut the poison in where it lurks forever, constantly undermining the constitution. Our system of private home treatment places a cure within the reach of all. We give all necessary medical advice, free of charge, and save the patient the embarrasament of publicity. Write for full information to Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.





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