



A city business man, who gets to work at nine in the morning, takes an hour for lunch and leaves for home at four or five in the afternoon, little understands the hardships of the life of the farmer, who starts work at break of day and frequently works on into the night by lantern-light.

A man to endure the hardships of a farmer's life, must be robust physically at the outset, and if he would live a long life, always keep a watchful eye upon his health. He should remember that it is the apparently trifling disorders that eventually make the big diseases. It does not do for a hard working man to neglect bilious attacks or spells of indigestion. If he does, he will soon find himself flat on his back with malaria or crippled with rheumatism. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the best of all medicines for hard working men and women. It makes the appetite keen and hearty, the digestion perfect, the liver active, the blood pure and rich with the life-giving elements of the food, and the nerves strong and steady. It builds firm muscles and solid flesh. It is the greatest of all blood-makers and purifiers. It cures malarial troubles and rheumatism. It is an unfailing cure for biliousness and indigestion. An honest dealer will not try to substitute some inferior preparation for the sake of a little additional profit.

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# Beaton's Bargain.

BY MRS. ALEXANDER.

### SYNOPSIS.

Mrs. Winington, Lady Mary Hay, Leslie Beaton and Jack Maxwell are members of London's smart society set. Beaton is Mrs. Winington's brother, and being poor resolves to answer an advertisement that promises to get him a rich wife. Lady Mary is a widow whom Beaton admires. Mrs. Winington and Maxwell were lovers before the former married. Beaton, with company with Maitland is introduced to the heiress—Edith Vivian—by the latter's guardian. In the meantime Maitland has fallen in love with Edith, which angers Mrs. Winington, who determines that Edith shall not marry him and lies to her about him. Edith has begun to like Maitland and is mortified to hear Mrs. Winington's false description of him.

### CHAPTER IX. (Continued.)

It had been thrown aside, paper and all, on a small tea table, utterly forgotten by the donor. Edith took it up with a sort of prophetic doubt. "How will the coming of this strange man affect our life?" She only thought that if this Vivian, as he called himself, proved really to be her relative, it might worry Beaton to associate with him. This, however, could not matter much; still an uncomfortable presentiment that unpleasant changes were at hand oppressed Edith as she folded up the ring and placed it in a little silver coffer, one of the many ornaments scattered about, for she neither liked to keep it herself, or leave it to be swept away by the housemaid's duster.

At last, reaching the shelter of her own room, she took refuge from her confused thoughts in a book Maitland had once recommended.

Reading had become a great delight to her since Mrs. Winington left her so much to herself. Her mind, her character were rapidly maturing, and no absorbing passion for the man she was about to marry interfered to check their growth.

She was interrupted after more than an hour had elapsed by a tap at her door, immediately followed by the entrance of Mrs. Winington in her outdoor dress.

"They say you want to speak to me, Edith."

"Yes; I want to speak to you very much," and she drew forward an easy-chair. "I—rather, Mr. Beaton and myself—had a visit from a wild-looking man who says he is my cousin," and she described the interview very accurately.

As Mrs. Winington listened she grew graver and graver, her mouth closing tightly. When Edith ceased to speak, she said, almost in Beaton's words: "This is very serious. If this man turns out to be what he represents himself, it will change your fortunes considerably."

"Why will it change my fortunes?" asked Edith.

"Tell me," said Mrs. Winington, not heeding her, "were your uncles older or younger than your father?"

"I do not know."

"You see, if this man is your cousin, and the son of your father's elder brother, he is entitled to inherit before you, and the bulk of the property will go to him. But it is most likely a bold attempt to extract money. He will probably offer to compromise matters, but we will look narrowly into his pretensions, so do not worry yourself, dear, until you know more."

"No, I shall not. I always had enough, you know; and there is the cottage. I suppose he cannot take that—"



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See you get Carter's,

Ask for Carter's,

Insist and demand Carter's Little Liver Pills

"I was my father's."

Mrs. Winington looked at her with an expression half-wondering, half-temptuous.

"You are right not to meet trouble half-way. I can only hope this man will prove an impostor; if not—" She stopped abruptly. "It won't do to think about Leslie has gone down with him to Mr. Dargan, has he? I shall not go out till he returns. Come with me, dear," she added, kindly. "I do not like to deny myself to some people I rather expect will come in to tea. What shall you do?"

"I will come with you; I have no objection to meet people," said Edith. "Why are you so frightened about me? surely you disturb yourself too much."

"Perhaps so. Well, change your dress, and join me in the drawing-room."

Mrs. Winington left her abruptly, thinking as she went, "Dress, indeed! If this horrid man proves his story, who is to pay for the lovely trousseau I have chosen? It will half ruin poor Edith. What a little idiot she is! yet I rather like her when she does not interfere with me. How terribly awkward it will be for Leslie if he is obliged to break with her! No doubt the nastiest part of the business will be given to me. Men always expect their dirty work to be taken off their shoulders by their sisters, their mothers, or their wives."

Mrs. Winington was not less amiable and agreeable to her numerous visitors that afternoon for the unpleasant anticipations weighing on her mind. But she took the precaution of appearing in an exceedingly becoming hat, as a hint that she was going out, and that her guests had better not stay too long.

Edith, who since her engagement was announced had grown more assured and self-possessed, feeling she had a certain right to her position in Mrs. Winington's house, talked a little and listened a great deal to one or two heavy dowagers, who pronounced her a nice, sensible, ladylike girl; and it was just like the luck of those Beaton to fall in with an unobjectionable heiress.

Mrs. Winington observed her with surprise and some compassion. How little she realized the breakers ahead, breakers which might swamp her. Her eyes often sought the clock. "When would these tiresome people go? when would Leslie return?"

That gentleman, meanwhile, lost no time in hailing a hansom, into which he motioned the strange claimant politely to enter first, and as they rolled away swiftly to Cursitor Street, Beaton could not help smiling at the notion of his temporary companionship with the man who might rob him of the fortune he already counted his own. They scarcely spoke, though Vivian occasionally exclaimed at the crowd, the fine horses, the number of people waiting to cross here and there.

Arrived at Dargan's office, they found him already closeted with Mr. Tilly, and were obliged to wait a few minutes in the outer office, which was a shade or two dingier and grubbier than the other.

When they were shown into Mr. Dargan's room, they found that gentleman in an evident state of perturbation, his wig considerably awry, and a couple of pens stuck behind his ear; he was examining some papers which lay on the table. Mr. Tilly stood behind him, looking very pale, his double glasses held to his eyes with trembling fingers.

Dargan jumped up and seized Beaton's hand, exclaiming:

"A most extraordinary event, a most unfortunate business! A—this—is the gentleman in question, I presume?" turning his eyes with an expression of dislike and dread at the tall, audacious-looking stranger who towered above him.

"Yes," said Beaton; "I thought it as well to come on here at once, and get to the bottom of the affair."

"And I think it is as well to give you my address," said Vivian, taking a card of paper from his pocket. "Mr. J. Wolff, Jackson & Wolff, Colonial Bldg., Moorgate Street, E.C. There you are. Wolff knows me from a boy, though I haven't seen him for several years. He knew my father, too. I met him by chance after I left you." nodding to Tilly, "this morning. You'll find you can't dispute my identity, so make haste and get through all the necessary formalities, and," turning to Beaton, "if you show me a proper spirit, you and my cousin, Edith, will find me no niggard. There are my papers; you just look through them, and you'll see they are all in order."

"I think," said Mr. Tilly, with some hesitation, and an attempt to be imposing, "it would be more correct, more decent, sir, if you were—a—to—a—absent yourself during our examination of these documents."

"All right. You know where to find me."

"Stay," exclaimed Beaton. "Have you put your affairs into the hands of a solicitor?"

"No."

"Take my advice; ask your friend Mr.

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## THE BARGAIN CORNER

# W. D. MCKAY

Wolff to recommend you at once. In a matter of this kind the principals had better not meet."

"It's such plain sailing, I do not see the need," began Vivian, but he was borne down by a chorus of assurances that it was absolutely necessary; and finally, with a careless nod to the rest, he started to find his friend, and a legal adviser.

"Do you believe this fellow's story?" asked Beaton, throwing himself into a chair.

"I'm sure I do not know what to think," said Tilly, dejectedly.

"And I'm sure I don't know what to do," cried Dargan, nibbling the top of his pen with a look of vicious irritation. "I knew William Vivian, Edith's father, had two brothers; the elder, John, who left the property, and another, George, ne'er-do-weel, was always wandering about the world; he was the captain of a trading vessel, but drank hard, and went to the deuce. Why, you haven't heard of George Vivian, Mr. Tilly, for—how long?"

"Over thirty years," returned Tilly; "and as to his being married, I don't believe he ever was. The last I heard of him was when some clergyman in Cape Town wrote to my poor friend that he was in sore distress and not fit to do anything. William sent him ten pounds."

(To be Continued)

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