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...they lie at the bottom of Duty's abyss.

BERENICE ST. CYR.

Story of Love, Intrigue, and Crime.

BY DWIGHT BALDWIN.

CHAPTER I.
LOVE AND PERIL.
"FIRE! FIRE!"
In startled, terrified tones, the ominous words rang out.

Scores, hundreds, of voices caught up and repeated the dreadful warning, until the vast dome of the great Exposition building at Chicago echoed them back as if in scornful mockery.

A police officer, whose watchful eye had detected a slight blaze in one of the magnificent booths, caused by a spark from the electric lamp, had raised the cry.

His repetition was the work of the strong of visitors, which, notwithstanding the circumstance that the evening was far advanced, still lingered in the waiting places.

In the meantime, the fire engine and hook and ladder company, which were housed at the north end of the long building, had arrived and made short work of the fire, but not until the devouring element had wrought damage to the extent of scores of thousands of dollars.

But not even to the powerful arms of the skilled and intrepid fire ladders did the young man consign his precious burden. Instead, he bore her away himself, and amid the enthusiastic plaudits of the vast crowd which filled Michigan avenue, carried her safely down the tall ladder.

"God bless you!" cried Mr. St. Cyr, in fervent tones, as he joined our hero a moment later. "You have saved my child, my all. This way, John, and in response to the direction, a handsome carriage was driven through the curious, pressing people, to the curbstone.

"Lift her in, please," continued the old gentleman, as he swung open the door. The other complied, and a moment later, clear of the crowd, the trio so strangely united in one party, were being whirled rapidly away to the southward.

Before an elegant mansion in Calumet avenue the vehicle came to a stop. But little had been said during the short drive, and the young man, still restored to consciousness, but nervous from her recent shock and peril, Berenice had lain in the arms of her trembling but joyous parent.

"Come," said the latter, as he led the way toward the broad threshold. "Please excuse me," returned the young man, lifting his hat. "The lady is happily restored, I can do—"

"Nothing!" interrupted Mr. St. Cyr; "but you can give us an opportunity to express our thanks for the inestimable service you have rendered us. Come!"

On the point of repeating his declination, our hero turned his eyes upon the fair girl whose life he had so recently saved at the peril of his own.

A strange thrill pervaded his frame as his glance rested upon her face, half shy, pleading, but wholly beautiful, and fascinating beyond all he had been fated to look upon.

"The same. I've often seen Mr. Sears in his private office."
"The Almon Sears is the son of an old and valued friend, who died years ago, leaving him penniless. I loved him for his father, gave him every educational advantage, started him in business, and had he proved in all respects worthy, I had even designed—"

"The speaker paused as he caught a glimpse of his daughter's pale face. "He contemplated marrying him to his daughter," was Cole's mental comment. "Enough of him!" said the old man, with a slight show of petulance. "Pardon the interruption."

"I have no more to tell. My stock of money being exhausted, I supported myself by doing copying at a beggarly price. To-night I visited the Exposition, in the hope of securing a place. Falling in that, I ascended to the observatory, where I had the good fortune to be of some small service."

"A service which nothing can repay!" cried the old man with a fond look at his rescued child. "I like you, Mr. Winters—like your honest face and the integrity of your heart and mind, as revealed in your frank, open story."

"You flatter me, sir," faltered Cole, his embarrassment heightened by the look of pleasure beaming on Berenice's admiring face.

"Not a particle. You have told your story; let me reciprocate in kind. For half my life I have been an active business man of Chicago. This is my daughter's eighteenth birthday. Some time ago I promised her that when this day came I would abandon all business and devote the remaining years of my widow life to her, my only child."

"This I have only been able to accomplish in part. I have withdrawn from two firms in which I was interested, and the proceeds, \$300,000 in bonds, are now in that safe."

"The enormous sum mentioned, together with its unexpected proximity to him, caused Cole Winters a sudden start of surprise.

In this action he was not alone. The curious glance he cast at the curb of polished steel, which held secure behind its bolts and bars and massive locks more than a king's ransom, was duplicated by a pair of dark sinister eyes which gleamed at the lower part of one of the windows behind the backs of the interested trio.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

PREVAILING FASHIONS ARE VARIED IN CUT AND COLOR.

The Fullness of Sleeves and Skirts is Lessening—General Effects Above the Waist Are, However, of the Balloon Series.

Fashion, like flowers, unfolds in rapid succession as the season advances, and the first warm day brings out the soft light colors of summer attire—but it is the details, rather than the outlines of fashion, that reveal all the elements of novelty in the latest modes.



Skirts and sleeves reached the limit of fullness and stiffness some time ago, and their proportions have been diminishing since the extreme styles of the late winter, so the really new things in fashion are seen in the recessions of dress, that give it variety and chic, and have multiplied into a diversity of styles so bewildering that it is difficult to choose.

The wide collars, ruffs and ruches, which are a revival of the Henry IV period, are a distinct feature of the season's fashions, and the latest fancy in these miniature cape effects is a collar of ecru linen batiste trimmed with applique designs of white lace and cut sailor shape in the back with long points in front arranged to fall loosely.



Nearly all the bodices are in contrast with the skirt and sleeves, which are often alike. Mousseline de soie is as much used as ever, and charming waists for taffeta silk gowns are made of black silk muslin, lined with white chiffon and made in blouse fashion over silk of the plain color, which predominates in the pattern. The white silk muslin under the black makes it the more transparent. Black lace insertion, with an irregular edge, sewn in stripes, on black chiffon, which is also lined with white and made over a color, supplies a very pretty waist. Yellow lace is generally used for a finish for this style of bodice. It may be arranged in a frilled band down the front, or, where black muslin is used, plain yellow insertion may be set in crossed-in squares to form a yoke.

FASHION NOTES.

A very pretty church dress may be made with plain skirt of plum-colored velvet, mounted in three godet plaits in the back.

Dotted swiss in navy, red or black makes exceedingly nice waists, and the pale colored mullis and even organdies are greatly used.

The fashionable thing at present is to wear white linen collars with the colored shirt waists.

Daintiest of new coin purses are those of Scotch plaid.

Dresden ribbons are a fashionable fad, albeit they are not cheap.

She who is economical in material for her skirt is fashionably lost.

As many distinctive fashions are now created in London as in Paris.

White jets will be profusely used to trim some of the summer bodices.

Newest of the sumptuous banquet lamp shades are a mass of Italian lace.

The masculine girl has already donned the cinnamon-brown derby hat.

Something like Li Hung Chang's hat is exhibited for summer headgear.

For wedding presents there is much that is new and artistic in silverware.

In fashionable articles of furniture the windowette has a great attraction.

In England, so fashion papers say, the sailor hat for women has had its day.

Feather boas will continue in vogue all summer. They are too effective to discard.

Very beautiful portieres may be made by cutting out the figures of very heavy lace, and appliqueing them in plush.

"Smart" women will be delighted with the new woolen golf stockings, which are imported for their special use, and are to be worn with low russet shoes.

Vandykes of passementerie are very much used, and bretelles are also fashionable; both are heavily jetted while butterflies, large enough to cover the entire front of a waist, are the latest conceit of the queer and ornate trimmings of the season.

A very ornate passementerie insertion, about two inches in width, has purple pansies, made entirely of shaded paillettes, with green leaves of the passementerie cut "a jour" and blue dragonflies, with the wings of paillettes over the bodies of gold and silver beads.

A gown in brown-bark crepon has the very full godet skirt, falling in fluted folds in the front and at the sides, finished without adornment.

Decorated pillow slips are now coming to the front again. For these you must use some of the linen table centers that are stamped for embroidering.

A novel watch case is made from a small horse shoe, gilded, having a cardboard back and a silk puff in front. It is suspended by a ribbon, fastened at either end.

The chapeau of black Tuscan straw is trimmed with wings formed of loops of Tuscan braid, with centers of cream guipure, roses and foliage.

Shirts to wear under Eton and open fronted coats are exceedingly ornate this season, and are embroidered in dots, rings or floriated patterns.

A very effective toilet is fashioned in foulard silk matelasse, the large regulation skirt being bordered by a band of light silk, edged with blue velvet.

A pretty gown is fashioned in light blue and gray mixed cloth, the skirt being in the new Paquin mode, with front plait, finished without garniture.

POISONS FOUND IN CORPSES.

"I trust that we may never again have such a farce in expert chemical testimony as marked the Buchanan trial." So spoke Dr. Walter T. Scheele to a select audience of newspaper men and physicians at New York. Dr. Scheele has always maintained that the alleged poisons found in Mrs. Buchanan's body were ptomaines developed by decomposition.

Dr. Scheele explained that recent investigations made by leading European chemists had shown that animal alkaloids were developed in all decomposing bodies, and that these alkaloids or ptomaines under tests give the same actions as morphine, atropine, nicotine, and, in fact, nearly all poisons of that character. Professor Witthaus said that he subjected the solution taken from the stomach of Mrs. Buchanan to five tests to prove that it contained morphine. Making a solution of the ptomaine, Dr. Scheele proceeded to subject it to the tests as described by Dr. Witthaus on the witness stand. At the same time he performed the same tests with morphine, so that the spectators could witness the effect of both. In every case the color reactions were the same.