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THE WOOING OF ERNA

"See whom here?" "Miss-Lady Melrose." Lady Meirose here? In this house?

It is some accidental resemb-Lady Melrose is not likely to come here without an invitation not likely to come with one."
"I hope your ladyship will forgive

me!" said the maid. "It would not matter if she were here if she is married to the marquis. I was only afraid that, coming in such a way, she might be thinking of taking the earl from you

The meek little maid knew how to sting as well as her mistress. Lady Ger-trude bit her lip. So the very servants discussed the affair? But of course they did. She might have known that. 'Coming in what way?" she demand-

"She was heavily veiled, and was admitted by the west door. It was only by accident that I recognized her."

Where is she now?" demanded Gertrude, her heart throbbing with anger and fear.

"In the library. She asked for Lord Aubrey. He is out at the stables. sent the man to his room for him." "You did well. I won't forget you."

Lady Gertrude rose hastily, and with a white, determined face, left the room. The meek little maid laughed siyly as she passed out.
"How I would like to be there!" she

murmured. "I think I'd back Lady Mel-

Lady Gertrude had no other idea in her mind than to meet Erna face to face, and defy and scorn her. Let her take the earl if she could. She might have him if she wished; but not until she had spoken with her. Yes, and she would be there when the earl met her,

The fury which had been pent up so long had burst into inextinguishable flames. She was checked by no impulse of reason or prudence. The woman who had humiliated her was there, seeking the man to whom she was to be wedded but a few hours hence. She entered the library, and closed the door behind her.

A woman with a heavily veiled face rose quickly at her entrance, and started back at seeing who it was who had come. Gertrude stood silent a moment, an expression of the bitterest scorn on her "May I ask your name and errand

here?" she asked, threateningly. "I came to see Lord Aubrey." "I am to be his wife in a few hours,

It is proper that I should see and know any friend so close that she comes here unbidden on such a day."

Erna knew that she had in some way been recognized. She threw back her veil and disclosed her features to the angry bride.

"I am she who was Erna March. I am now the widowed Marchioness of him. Melrose." Erna said, in a gentle tone. And can you not let him get cold before you go in search of another?" eried Gertruce, fiercely. Erna shrank back. She was not pre-

pared for such a meeting, and would have done anything to avoid it. "I came here," she said, depreciatingly,

"because I had a duty to perform which no one else could do for me." "I believe that," sneered Gertrude. "But why not tell me your errand? I shall soon be his wife, you know. Have

you a love token to return? Is there a of Erna.

"No. no "Heaven forgive you, Lady Gertrude!" answered Erna, in a pained tone. "What I have to say has nothing to do with myself. It has far more to do with you; and I earnestly beseech you to believe that I have in my heart not one thought disloyal to you. My duty is painful enough. Do not make it harder by your unreasonable jealousy. Can you not understand that Lord Aubrey would turn

from me, even if I would sue him to There was in Erna's tone and manner a solemnity and sadness which im- stating that much at least. pressed Gertrude in spite of herself, but

she would not heed he feeling. him that the marquis has left you a dead. widow?"

"Ah!" sighed Erna, "I cannot blame his startled eyes on Erna; but at the you. I would not have come if I could full name he had staggered as if about have helped it. Lady Gertrude, won't to fall, while his face turned a deathly you believe me when I tell you that I pale. am a much changed woman? I have "Lucie de Senac!" he whispered, come here in the humblest spirit; and, as hoarsely. "What do you know of Heaven is my judge, my errand is one her?"

involving your happiness." "Or misery," interjected Gertrude. "Here comes the earl!" almost gasped Erns. as the door opened, and the earl hurriedly entered.

He stared from one face to the other, and murmured; "Erna here?" CHAPTER XXXVIII.

"I have been entertaining Lady Mel-rose until your coming," said Lady Ger-trude to Aubrey, as he stood regarding her and Erna. For a moment it seemed as if he could not speak. Why had Erna come there

to see him? He was troubled and unnerved for the moment. "I had something of the utmost importance to say to you, Lord Aubrey," said Erna; "otherwise I should not have

intruded at this time." He felt himself quivering at the sound of her mellifluous voice. And then he looked at ner and saw how beautiful she was, he felt the old fascination creeping over him. He wondered if it was possible that she had come to win him from

his allegiance again.

He knew that if there were opportunity she could do it. At that moment the blood was leaping like mad through his veins. But he would not give her that opportunity.

"I shall be glad to hear whatever you may say," he answered, steadying his voice as best he could.

Lady Gertrude stood cold and silent setween them. She saw the color come and go on his face; and she saw what was in Erna's soul by looking in her

"What I have to say should be told to you privately," said Erna, in a low

Aubrey glanced at Gertrude, and saw ner blue eyes flash. He knew it would hurt her to ask her to go. Besides, he dared not. He was afraid of himself should he stand alone with the woman he believed so hard and treacherous. He knew that he would give up everything, sacrifice everything, at her

"There can be nothing I am not willing Lady Gertrude should hear," he said, with an effort.

"You misunderstand me-both of you do," said Erna, struggling to remain calm. "Lord Aubrey, what I have to say to you must be said to you alone. Why do you both misjudge me so? What have you to fear in me, Lord Aubrey? My sole object in coming hither is to save you, my lord, from the commission of a terrible wrong-to save you, Lady Gertrude, from misery." "I think I understand how you would

save me," sneered Gertrude. The earl felt as if he must thrust her from the room, when he saw Erna wince and change color. But his very indignation with Lady Gertrude alarmed

"You are very kind," he s be nothing the Countess of Aubrey may not hear. But few hours intervene before this lady will be such. I trust you will not think me discourteous in insisting upon her remaining here."

"I come bringing a message from Lucie de Senac," said Erna, who despaired of making any impression except by Then what would happen? With a wo-Aubrey would be like wax in the hands

"No, no!" cried Aubrey, "it is a mistake! You—you have been deceived by some designing person who knows

"My lord," interrupted Erna, sadly, "there is no mistake. I have seen and spoken with her. She lives. If you convince you. Certainly it is your duty | wife!" to be sure before-

She stopped and looked at Lady Ger-"Lady Gertrude!" exclaimed Aubrey.

"I beg you to leave us for a few min-

The result was one that startled Lady Gertrude more than it did Erna, who "A duty!" she sneered. "Is it to tell was aware that Aubrey believed Lucie

At the name of Lucie he had turned | tion."

PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR

"I know that she lives," answered Erna, pityingly. Gertrude stared from one to the other. She felt that Erna had won control

in a moment; and that the next step would be her expulsion from the room. utes, that I may ascertain the truth of this most unexpected——— It is beyond belief."

"Lord Aubrey!" cried Gertrude, beside herself with hatred and fear, "do not trust her. I have known her longer than you-better, certainly; and I tell you she comes here to do some wicked

"Let her remain and hear the story. Lord Aubrey," said Erna, coldly. "I cannot remain under such an imputa tion. It is for you to say, Lord Aubrey. Let her remain. She must know sooner or later. Easier for you if she knows now. It has been hard enough for me to come here: there is no need that it should be any harder. Let her remain!"

The earl closed his lips angrily, and Gertrude.

"You must not remain Send your father here. If you but knew the meaning of what she has told me, you would not wish to remain, nor would you accuse her of the cruel thing you do. Send your father to us."

"No, I will not leave the room," answered Gertrude, obstinately. It seemed to her that already Erna's

influence was at work. Was he not protecting her? The earl closed his lips angrily and impatiently. If Erna's story were true, it were better for her own sake that Gertrude were not present; but if she

would remain, so be it. "As you will," he said, coldly, and turned to Erna. "You say you have seen Lucie de Senac? You know who

"Yes, that is why I came myself rather than risk any delay by a messenger. could not otherwise be sure. I hope you see that, Lord Aubrey. You know what it would have meant had such a message miscarried."

The earl turned toward Gertrude where she stood, cold, silent, but alert. "Lady Gertrude," he said, "once more beg you to send your father to me. It is not fit that you should hear what must now fall from my lips. You are not able to bear it. I beseech you, send your father to me."

"No. 1 am able to bear anything but the victory of that woman over me. Oh, you need not cast that look at me, Lord Aubrey! The time is past for pretence. I know that you love this girl, who lured you on enly to reject you. I know that you love her new. Well I know, too, that she loves you. But you are pledged to me; and I will not yield up my right to her, I do not sove you. I never pretended to do so; and you but asked my hand. I promised it, and you are bound to take it, and make me the "You are very kind," he said to Erna; Countess of Aubrey. Love her then if "but I must still think that there can you will! I ask no love; but I will not be robbed by her. Am I too plain- spoken. Well, it is time."

She was like a woman demented. Her blue eyes flashed from one to the other, and her voice rose shrill and high. Erna pitied her from the bottom of her heart, and would have stopped her if she could

"Lady Gertrude," said Lord Aubrey, in a hard tone, "after what you have said, it would be folly for me to seek to spare you any-

"My lord! my lord!" cried Erna, "do not forget that he is a woman and that

in this the fault is not hers." "I do not ask your pity nor his. Tell me this wonderful thing!" cried Gertrude.

"This weman of whom Lady Melrose will permit me I will tell you enough to speaks," said the earl to her, "is my Gertrude stared at him, and then at

"It is a lie!" she cried, vehemently.

It is a miserable falsehood, hatched between you two to cheat me!" "Alas, no!" said Erna, "the wretched woman is alive; and it was her purpose to wait until the marriage was consummated, and then arag both you and the

earl in the mire of shame and humilia-"Yes," said the earl, with a shudder, that would have been like her. She was capablt of anything."

"How dared you ask for my hand when you had a wife?"" cried Gertrude, her mind almost giving way.

"I thought she was dead. I told your father of the circumstances. Where is she?" he demanded of Erna.

"In Liverpool, dying," answered Erna. Gertrude had gained asort of command of herself. She started toward the dcor, but stopped and turned again. "Dying, is she? Why, that will fall in She came to life in good time; now she will die in good time! Well, you may have the earl. You have fought hard for him. I give up my claim. I bid you fareweil, my lord!"

Her voice quivered, but her face was expressionless. It was her last word. She left left the room in the midst of a pained silence. And not until she had been gone some minutes did either speak. Then it was the earl who broke the silence:

"You can give me the address of the wretched woman?" "Yes, it is here," and she drew a slip of paper from her pocket-book, and gave it to him. "She is known as Mrs.

Forster, and is an actress." "May I ask how you became acquaintea with her?" "It was a mere accident. There is no story attached to it. She sent for me.

not knowing I even know vor and told the the whole horrible story." "She is repentant, then. he asked. "A sort of repentance, perhaps; but a very terrible sort. You will go to her, Lord Aubrey "

"Yes-surely." "And remember, she is dying. It does not matter how much wrong she has done you; she is worthy of your forgiveness, since she is dying."

"I forgive her freely." Erna gathered her veil in her hand as if to throw it over her face again.

never meet again—we shall not if I can prevent it. I wish to ask your pardon

or my wickedness toward you. He took an eager step toward her, forgetting everything excepting that he was in her presence. She stopped him with a sail gesture.

"You and I were both of us guilty of errors in dealing with each other; but mine was the greater, and I have bitterly repented I have learned, through your poor wife, all the truth of your story; and I know that you were not guilty of the things they charged

against you" "Did it need her evidence?" he asked, a little scornfully, as if stung by the thought.

"No, I never believed you capable of dishonorable act; but I speak of this now in order to apologize for the cruel things I have said to you. Now, my lord. I will bid you farewell!" "Stop!" he cried. "We cannot part

"We must part so," she answered, and daring even to look at him. CHAPTER XXXIX.

He let her go out of the door. His brain was all in a whirl. It was not because of the sudden restoration to existence of his wife. That he was reconciled to, and had grown calm about it. He trembled because he believed that Erna loved him, and because he knew that she was as noble and true as she was beautiful.

Yes, his wife had come in time to save him from Lady Gertrude, who was a terrible virago. And must he lose Erna now? No, no! He sprang from his place and darted in pursuit.

He was like a condemned man who has suddenly recovered his freedom. was exhilarated, and had no thought of anything but the one glowing fact that Erna was true, and that she loved him. He easily ascertained that she had left by the west door, and had started away on foot. He understood in a moment. She had come on foot across the park to avoid observation. It would be

to easy to overtake her. He did not go after her in her footsteps, but took a circular course, which brought him to a delightful spot in the park where a great oak stood. There he waited, somewhat out of breath, but happier than he had been for man weeks. It was so certain that Erna oved him.

And presently she came slowly along, as if her thoughts were not as happy as his. She came upon him without peing aware of his presence. It was not until he spoke that she knew he was there.

Erna! Forgive me! I could not let you go without one more word." She stopped and started back, but recovered her composure in an instant. She must have known by his face what he

felt. "It would have been wiser not to have done this," she said, in a low tone. "Let me see your face while I speak," he said to her.

"To what purpose?" she asked, sadly. "I cannot talk unless I see your face," he said, coaxingly. "Surely you owe it to me to let me speak to you." was sad, but firm in its outlines.

"There!" she said. "Erna," he said, drawing closer to her, his face irradiated by earnestiess and love, "I could not let you go at this time without telling you once again that I love you. I know it was all a mistake. You have admitted as much yourself. saw the love m your eyes when you stood in the library, and Gertrude was

uttering those contemptible things." "Stop, stop! In mercy, stop!" cried Erna. "Do you forget that you have a wife living? Do you forget that you have but just been freed from the bonds which held you to another? Oh, Lord Tubrey! How can you think I would listen to such language?"

"My wife!" he stammered; "I had forgotten that she had any claim on me. You cannot blame me, Erna. She never was my wife save in name; and she has never been anything to me but an accursed remembrance. And I cannot help loving you, Erna. I have tried to put you out of my thoughts, and out of my heart; but it was not to be. Won't you say one little word of hope?" "Nothing."

(To be continued.) HER ONLY WISH.

Captain H. P. Nuse, of the Celtic, was regaling a little group of ladies with sea

"One trip," he said, "there was a woman who bothered the officers and me to death about whales. Her one desire was to see a whale. A dozen times a day she besought us to have her called if a whale hove in sight. "I said rather impatiently to her one

afternoon: "'But, madam, why are you so anxious about this whale question? "'Captain,' she answered, 'I want to see a whale biubber. It must be very well with your wishes, Lady Melrose impressive to see such an enormous

> A thing that is not to be sneezed at appeals to the victim of hay fever.

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alive Powers of Dr. Hamilton's Pills

"A year ago I returned home after

the cause that combined to almost kill Samuel S. Stephens, jun., one of the best known and most influential citizens in Woodstock. In his convincing letter Mr. Stephen says:

a long trip, completely worn out. I was so badly affected by chronic bilousness, so much overcome by constant headaches, dizziness, that I despaired of ever getting well. I was always tired and languid, had no energy and spirit,, found it difficult to sleep for more than five hours. My appetite was so fickle that I ate next to nothing and in consequence lost weight and strength. I was pale and had dark rings under my eyes that made me look like a shadow. 'It was a blessing that I used Dr. Hamilton's Pills. In one week I felt like a new man. The feeling of weight and nausea in my stomach disappeared. My eyes looked brighter, color grew

my meals. The dizziness, languor and feeling of depression passed away and I fast regained my old time vigor and spirits. To-day I am well—thanks to Dr. Hamilton's Pills." The regular use of Dr. Hamilton's Pills keeps the system clear, healthy, and ther by prevents all manner of sick ness. One pill when retiring will make you feel like new. For health, strength, comfort and good spirits there is no medicine like Dr. Hamilton's Pills, Beware of substitutes and don't let any dealer palm off some other pill on which

better, and best of all I began to enjoy

he can make more money; 25c. per box, or five boxes for \$1.00, by mail from The Catarrhozone Company, Kingston,

BRITAIN'S SHARE OF THE WORLD'S SHIPPING.

(N. Y. Sun.)

There has just been issued from the offices of Lloyd's in Fenchurch street, London, a new register, destined no doubt like its predecessors to be an indispensable desk companion of every one associated with the shipping industry. The appendices to the present volume will be found more than usually too. serviceable, especially that in which are collected from the most authoritative sources the facts showing Britain's place among the ship owning natins of the world.

From the returns made to Lloyd's Register it appears that of the 30,540 steamers and sailing ships now in existence Great Britain must be credited with II,565, or more than one-third. Inasmuch, moreover, as many of the foreign owned vessels are small coasters and river or lake steamers, Britain's proportion of the total tennage is conview of capacity the figures for the over 45 per cent., are owned by the British empire. The fact reminds us that when determining the relative strength of defence forces we must consider the shipping as well as the territory to be desended.

The two to one keel standard may seem not far amiss if we keep in view the fact that Britain owns four and a half times as much tonnage as does Germany, and three and a half times as much tonnage is belongs to the United States-including the lake tonnage-the aggregate tonnage under the Stars and Stripes being 4,953,812 tons. In respect of her merchant fleet's capacity, Norway comes next to Germany, but has only a little more than a tenth of the British total. France is fifth, with scarcely more than a tenth. Italy takes the sixth position, Japan the seventh, Russia, Holland, Sweden, Austria, Hungary, Denmark and Spain following in the order named. Considered as a common carrier, Britain's superiority is still more marked, because in her case the proportion of steam tonnage to the total is very high. British steamers, for instance, contribute 17,702,000 tons, where as Germany's aggregate is only 3,889,-000 tons, or about a fifth. In this respect thhe United States takes the third place, our total being 3,662,332 tons. The British trade journal Engineer-

ing, by which the above data are reproduced from Lloyd's Register, has found it possible by an analysis of the figures given to arrive at some indication of the increase in the number of high speed vessels. It appears, that if all countries are taken into account there are now 101 steamers capable of exceeding twenty knots an hour, as compared with fifty eight in 1901 and eight in 1891. Of the 101 steamers, 34 are propelled by Parsons turbines and one by the Curtis turbine, so that evidently a very direct influence on the development of speed. Of the twenty knotters no fewer than sixty one are British owned, as compared with thirty-two in 1901 and eight in 1891. With the exception of the United States, the addition to the number of fast ships belonging to foreign powers is very slight. Even of steamers of between ineteen and twenty knots there has not been a of these in the world in 1891. The num- another bed ground. ber was exactly doubled in 1901, but since that only eight vessels of the speed named have been added, making the total now fortw-two, of which the United Kingdom owns twenty-seven. Of the vessels making between eighteen and nineteen knots the aggregate numbes is at present eighty-five, as compared with forty-seven at the beginning of the century. Of the total fiftynine are British owned. If, indeed, we take into view all vessels making or exceeding seventeen knots in speedthese number 353-we find that Great Britain owns 206. When we turn lastly to the increase in the number of vessels of great size

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RIVALS OF THE POTATO

Edible Roots Much Prized in South ern Lattitudes.

Efforts are being made to introdu in the Southern States certain useful vegetables hitherto unknown to this country, which are known in tropical regions as the yautia, the dasheen and the taro. The last named is already familiar as an ornamental plant, under the name of caladium or "elephant" ear." All three are nearly related, and their starchy, edible roots are highly

prized in warm latitudes. These roots, indeed, resemble the common potato in composition and in flavor. That of the yautia, for example, when properly cooked, is not easily distinguished from the "Irish" tuber. It is sometimes white, sometimes red and sometimes yellow, according to variety. So rich is it in starch that it yields nearly one-third of its weight in flour, and its leaves are prepared for the

table after the manner of spinach. One reason why it is deemed desirable to introduce these plants is that they flourish in land that is too wet for ordinary crops. It has been ascertained that they will grow well in this country as far north as the Carolinas. Not only are they useful by reason of their edible qualities, but their high yield of starch affords a prospect of great usefulness for them as stock food or in the production of alcohol.

The yautia seems to have been erig-inally native to the West Indies. It was cultivated by the aborigines in those parts centuries before Columbus discovered America. Even to the present day its roots, which look somewhat like sweet potatoes, are raised on the islands of that archipelago in great quantities, the production often reaching ten tons to the acre. Did the white potato not exist they would take the place of it admirably.

After making a most careful study of the matter, U. S. Government scientists state definitely that the common house fly is the principal means of distributing typhoid fever, diphtheria and smallpox. Wilson's Fly Pads kill the flies and the disease germs.

LONELY LIFE OF A HERDER.

All farms of eighty acres and up what to have a small flock of sheep. When fenced for them there is little expense in keeping them, as they eat mostly what would be wasted by the other stock. They kill out the weeds and bring in money for the wool at a time when the farmer usually has little

else to turn into money. Nearly all the wool rased in the United States east of the Missouri siderably greater. From the point of River is medium wool. This is because world's tonnage are 41,449,767 tons, or The Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana wools bring the highest price; they are cleaner and consequently shrink less

and are mostly staple wools. Wools from the above sections and neighboring States are called bright wools; those from western Minnesota, western Iowa and Dakotas and eastern Nebraska and Kansas are called semi-

The range wools are usually known as western wools and are quoted generally by the name of the state in which they are raised, such as Montana, Oregon, Colorado and Utah wools. They all have characteristics which distinguish them, owing to the soil, climate

and the range conditions. The range wools, according to Fur News, are much better in breeding and staple than a dozen years ago, because the sheepmen have been steadily grading up their flocks with the best blood that could be secured, regardless of price. The result is that their wools are bringing nearly as if not quite as much as the eastern brights wools of the same grades.

Some of the wool growers of Montana and Wyoming own or control 50,000 to 100,000 sheep. Frequently these big flocks are divided up into half a dozen flocks in the hands of share men, who care for the sheep for a share of the wool and lambs.

Except in lambing time the sheep are divided into bands of about 2,000, each band in care of a herder. During the summer the mountains make the best range, such as the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. In the winter when there is some snow on the ground lots of ranges can be used that at other times are useless on account of no water. The sheep herder's life is a very lonely one. He is provided with a covered

wagon, which is hauled out on the range, where he is left with his sheep the new system of propulsion has had and perhaps a dog or two and provisions for a couple of weeks. His duties consist of following and watching the band as they feed out (from the bed ground around the wagon) in the morning till about noon, when they lie down, rest and chew their cuds. About 2 o'clock he gets them up and starts them back so as to graze back to the bed grounds for the night. In about two weeks the camp mover comes around great increase. There were seventen and moves him three or four miles to

When shearing time comes the bands are driven up to some favorable spot in turn and shorn. Oftentimes this takes place on the open prairie. The wool is there uncovered for a month before it is hauled, in some cases fifty to seventy-five miles, to the railroad.

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. (Montreal Herald.)

"Harold," she said, soothingly, "what you ask is impossible." "Well, said Harold, dejectedly, "my friends were right after all."

"How so?" she asked curiously. "When I spoke to them about you we learn that there are now 133 ships they raised their hands and said, 'What, each exceeding 10,000 gross tons, of her? Oh, she's impossible, impossible!" which seventy-two are owned by com-At that time I didn't know what they meant, but, of course, now I do," and Harold turned and drummed mournfully panies practically belonging to the United Kingdom. Germany comes next in the list with thirty-three, and on the window pane.

