

# BOVril

ALL THAT IS GOOD IN BEST

AN INVIGORATING HOT DRINK

## THE MYSTERY OF THE GREEN RAY

By William Le Queux

### Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

The outbreak of war sends Ronald Ewart, a young London barrister, to the Highlands to say good-bye to his fiancée, Myra McLeod. On the train he meets Hilderman, who calls himself an American and a stranger in those parts, but later Ewart finds that he has built a hut on a cliff above the falls opposite General McLeod's lodge. While fishing in the river Myra is suddenly blinded by a flash of green light. Gen. McLeod tells Ewart of a strange experience at the same place, known as Chemist's Rock. Hilderman is very curious as to the cause of Myra's blindness. The famous London oculist holds out no hope and Ewart, after taking Myra home, brings Dr. Garnesk from Glasgow. In the meantime Sholto is also blinded, then chloroformed and stolen. Garnesk asserts his belief that Hilderman knew of Sholto's affliction. The next morning the two men find footprints and hand-marks on the beach, and the name-plate from the dog's collar. Ewart telegraphs for his friend, Dennis Burnham. At Chemist's Rock, Garnesk sees the green flash and Ewart is suffocated.

in a very leisurely fashion for an hour or two, and after lunch the four of us went up to Kinlochourn. We took a tea-basket with us, and very nearly succeeded in banishing the green ray altogether from our minds. I had taken my kodak with me, and we ran in shore, and otherwise altered our course occasionally in order to enable me to record some choice peep of the magnificent scenery. When we got back to the lodge we were all feeling much the better for the outing. After dinner Myra, who had taken the greatest interest in the photographs, although, poor child, she could not see what I had taken, and would not be able to see the result either, was anxious to know how they had turned out.

"I should love to know if the snapshots are good," she said, "particularly the one at Caolas Mor. Develop them in the morning, Ronnie, won't you? If you don't you'll probably take them away, and forget all about them."

Garnesk looked at me. He was always on the qui vive for any opportunity to give Myra a little pleasure. He felt very strongly that she must be kept from worrying at all costs.

"Why not develop them now, Ewart?" he suggested.

"Certainly," I said, "if everybody will excuse me."

"Dad's in the library," Myra replied, "but everybody else will come with you if you ask us nicely. Besides, I shall have to tell you where everything is. There's plenty of room for us all."

"Right you are," I agreed readily, and went out to get a small folding armchair from the verandah. We went up to the dark-room at the top of the house, and Myra sat in the corner, giving me instructions as to the position of the bottles, etc. I prepared the developer while Garnesk busied himself with the fixing acid.

"Now we're ready," I announced, as I made sure that the light-tight door was closed, and lowered the ruby glass over the orange on Myra's imposing dark-room lamp; she believed in doing things comfortably; no messing about with an old-fashioned "hock-bottle" for her. I took the spool from my pocket and began to develop them on blue.

"How are they coming along?" Myra asked, leaning forward interestedly.

"They're beginning to show up," I replied; "they look rather promising."

"It's rather warm in here," said the girl presently; "do you think it would matter if I removed my shade, Mr. Garnesk?"

"Not if you put it on again before we put the light up," the specialist answered. Myra took off the shade and the heavy bandage with a sigh of relief, and leaned her elbow on the table beside her.

"There's a glass beaker just by your arm, dear," I said; "just a minute and I'll put it out of reach."

"All right," said Garnesk, moving forward. "I'll move it; don't you worry."

But before he could reach the table there was a crash. The beaker went smashing to the floor. I turned with a laugh, which died on my lips. Myra was standing up with her hand to her head.

"What is it, darling?" I cried, dropping the length of film on the floor. Garnesk made a grab for the shade. Myra gave a short, shrill little laugh, which had a slightly ominous, hysterical note in it.

"Don't be alarmed, dear," she said quietly, in a curiously tense voice. "I can see!"

### CHAPTER XI.—(Cont'd.)

"I shall certainly go on," I replied eagerly. "But we can hardly expect you to run risks on our behalf."

"It may be in the interests of civilization," he answered, "and in that case it is our duty. Now look here, Ewart, this will have to be a secret. It is essential that we should not get ourselves laughed at because for one thing, the scoffers may get into serious trouble if they start investigating our assertions in a spirit of levity. You and I must keep this to ourselves entirely. What about your friend?"

"I can trust him," I replied simply.

"Then tell him everything," Garnesk advised. "If you know you can rely upon him he may be of great assistance to us."

"What about Hilderman?" I asked.

"He knows a good deal already."

"There is no need for him to know any more. He may be of some use to us. I had thought he might be of the greatest use, but he may be able to help us still. We should decrease, rather than augment, his usefulness, by telling him these new complications."

"How do you mean?" I asked.

"Well, for instance, he might think we are mad, although he's a very shrewd fellow."

"Yes," I agreed. "I think he's pretty cute. Funny that Americans so often are. Anyway, he's been cute enough to make sufficient to retire on at a fairly early age, and retire comfortably, too."

"H'm," was my companion's only comment.

After dinner that evening we discussed all sorts of subjects, mainly the war, of course, and went to bed early.

"Now, Ron," exclaimed Myra, as we said good-night, "if Mr. Garnesk is really going to leave us on Monday, you mustn't let him worry about things to-morrow. Do let him have one day's holiday while he is with us, anyway."

"I will," I agreed. "We'll have a real holiday to-morrow. Suppose we all go up Loch Hourin in the motor-boat in the afternoon?"

So it was arranged that we should have an afternoon on the sea and a morning's fishing on the loch. Garnesk fell in with the idea readily.

"It will do you good," he declared. "You won't be feeling too frisky in the morning after your adventure this afternoon."

As it turned out he was quite right, for I awoke in the morning with a slight headache and a tendency to sneeze all over. So we fished the loch

lighted to find that Myra had recovered her sight that I very nearly made what might have been a very serious mistake. I gave a loud shout of triumph and made a dive for the light, intending to switch it on. This might, of course, have had a very bad effect upon my darling's eyes, but fortunately Garnesk darted across the room and knocked up my arm in the nick of time.

"Not yet, Ewart, not yet," he warned me. "We must run no risks until we are quite sure."

"But, Ronnie, I can see quite well," Myra declared delightedly. "I can see everything just as easily as I usually can by the light of the dark-room lamp."

"Still, we won't expose you to the glare of white light just at present," Miss McLeod, said Garnesk solemnly. "We must be very careful. Tell me, how did your sight return, gradually or suddenly?"

"Suddenly, I think," the girl replied. "I took off the shade and laid it down, and then when I looked up I could distinctly see the lamp."

"Immediately the shade was removed?"

"No," she answered, "not just immediately. You see, I was looking at the floor, which is so dark, of course, that you couldn't see it in the ordinary way. Then as soon as I looked up I could see the lamp. For a moment I thought it was my imagination, but when I found I could see Ron stooping over the developing-dish I knew that I was all right again."

"This is very extraordinary, you know," said Garnesk. "Can you count the bottles on the middle shelf?"

"Oh, yes," laughed Myra. "I can make them out distinctly. Of course, I know pretty well what they are, but in any case I could easily describe them to you if I'd never seen them before."

"What have I got in my hand?" the specialist queried, holding his arm out.

"A pair of nail-clippers," Myra declared emphatically, and Garnesk laughed.

"Well," he said, "you can obviously see it pretty well, but, as a matter of fact, it's a cigar-cutter."

"Oh! well, you see," the girl explained airily, "I always put necessity before luxury!"

So then the oculist made her sit down again and cross-questioned her at considerable length.

"I'm puzzled but delighted," he admitted finally. "It's strange, but it is at the same time decidedly hopeful."

"I suppose it means that she will always be able to see in a red light at any rate?" I suggested.

"Probably it does," he agreed, "and, of course, her sight may be completely

restored. There is also a middle course; she may be able to see perfectly after a course of treatment in red light. I will get her a pair of red glasses at once. We can see how that goes. But I feel that it would be advisable to introduce her to daylight in gradual stages, in case of any mishap."

"Oh, if we could only find poor old Sholto!" Myra exclaimed eagerly. Garnesk turned to her with a look of frank admiration.

"You're a lucky young dog, Ewart," he whispered to me, "by Jove you are!"

So Myra graciously, but a little regretfully I think, placed herself in the hands of the young specialist and replaced her shade. Then we left the dark-room, allowing the films to develop out on the floor, and went downstairs. We took her out on the verandah and removed the shade for a moment, but the chill air of the highland night made her eyes smart after their unaccustomed imprisonment, and we gave up the experiment for that night.

As Garnesk and I bathed together in the morning we were both brighter and more cheerful than we had been since his arrival.

"I shall catch the train for Mallaig," he declared. "Can you take me in and meet your friend without having long to wait?"

"If you insist on going," I replied, "I can get you there in time to meet him and you will have an hour or more to wait for your train."

"Oh, so much the better! We can tell him everything and give him all the news in the interval."

"Are you still determined to go?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, "I must go. It will be necessary for me to make one or two inquiries and get a pair of glasses made for Miss McLeod."

"I shall be very sorry to lose you, Garnesk," I said earnestly. "Don't you think you could write or wire for the glasses? You see, if we have come to the conclusion that this green ray is some chemical production of Nature unassisted there isn't the same reason for you to leave us."

"No, that's true," he agreed, "but we were both a bit scared yesterday, old chap, and the more I think of this dog business the less I like it. It was mere conceit on my part that made me say it was bound to be some natural phenomenon merely because I couldn't understand how the effect could have been humanly produced."

"Perhaps," I suggested, "our best course would be to keep an open mind about the whole thing."

"Yes," he replied, "I'm with you entirely. And in that case my going

away is not going to aggravate the effects of a natural phenomenon, while it may restrain the human agency by removing the necessity for further activity."

"Well, that's sound enough," I acquiesced; "but I shall hear from you, I hope?"

"Of course, my dear fellow," he laughed, "we're in this thing together. You'll hear from me as often as you want, and who knows what else besides. I have no intention of dropping this for a minute, Ewart. But I think I can do more if I am not on the spot. We're agreed that my presence here may be a source of danger to you all."

"Yes," I said, "I think yours is the best plan. What do you propose to do?"

(To be continued.)

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### WOMAN'S INTERESTS

The Care of the Hair.

There is no better remedy for falling hair than local stimulation, or massage of the scalp, but the massage should be applied regularly and systematically.

Cleanliness is also important, and this is only possible through regular and careful shampooing. Avoid soaps that are strong in alkalies. Castile or other soaps made of vegetable oils or a vegetable oil emulsion should be used. An emulsion will create a lather as well as soap, and the lather should be rubbed in very thoroughly, then rinsed off. If the hair is very oily or dirty, lather it a second time. Then rinse in several waters, warm at first, and cooling gradually until the last water is cold. The rinsing must be thorough, and not a particle of soap, or other mixture must be allowed to remain; otherwise, the hair will be left in a sticky, unpleasant condition, and the pores of the scalp will be clogged with foreign matter.

Dry in the sun and air if possible; if not, use warm, soft towels. Some women dread a shampoo of any sort because of the colds or neuralgic pains which sometimes follow, but if cold water is used for the final rinsing, and if the scalp is massaged while the hair is drying, the danger of unpleasant after-effects is very slight.

A shampoo should not be indulged in oftener than once in ten days; once in two or three weeks is better. Much depends upon the individual; also, whether or not there is much exposure to dust and dirt, and the amount of natural oil in the hair.

Although it is not advisable to brush the hair while it is wet, massage can begin while the hair is still damp, continuing until the scalp is dry and glowing, the purpose of massage being to bring the blood to the surface or to the hair roots, in order to nourish them.

To massage, place the thumbs at the sides of the face and with the tips of the fingers perform a rotary motion on the scalp, moving it around and around, up and down, and backward and forward. Remember that the scalp is not to be rubbed but loosened. Begin at the front of the head, working along the top and sides of the scalp until the fingers meet at the back. Then start on one of the shoulders and work gradually up toward the nape of the neck, repeating the movement from the other shoulder.

Give the scalp five minutes of this treatment daily, using a good hair tonic two or three times a week. Pour a small quantity of the tonic in a saucer, dip the tips of the fingers into it, then massage as usual.

If the scalp is very tight and dry, a petroleum tonic will be found beneficial. The recipe follows: One ounce of crude petroleum, ten grains of sulphur, twenty grains of quinine.

A quinine tonic is advised for oily

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## IRISH PEOPLE

### Winston Churchill Adoption of Free to Secure

A despatch from London moving the second Irish Free State Bill Commons on Thursday Spencer Churchill, 5th Marquess, laid stress on giving effect to the Provisional Government's treaty provided, and enabling it to be at the earliest moment.

"It is the view of the Irish people that the Irish Republic at that the Republic of the Free State of the people, and the Irish Republic will."

The objects of the added the Secretary an adequate constitution, a fresh, normal, and sensible Parliament.

Of the present Mr. Churchill declared chosen because of members to govern, were thought of to Great Britain and England most. He must know where the people felt they had already, but in an election was the success of Mr. de Valera's character hypothesis.

"It is perfectly possible that the would free all participations," the S.

### GREEN IS NO OF IRISH GO

### Replaces Red —Design for Determ

A despatch from London moving the new Irish Government design for the flag. The new design, will soon be green. The British the lettering "G.R." will be obliterated and substituted.

In adopting the master-General was Parnell's version superintended that old Irish blue as would be fatal. Parnell held to it would remain until it reverted to the first issue stamps, with the Sealack. Na.

"Professional tone was available for the 70 hours, but so found."

The average of land and Wales

### "AN ENGLI

London, England. The London Times has used a number of the past week's statements in its possible Egan. Egan's own words were given by the Minister of the day ago. The British authorities that there are these attacks at Englishmen, and that of the British upon the life of the greater-England, the Ministry of Education, a revolution was wounded.