

# Richard the Brazen

## CHAPTER XIX.

At 7 o'clock the next morning Mr. Renwyck had a telephone call from his partner in New York. It was of such a serious nature as to cause him to dress hurriedly and leave without waiting for his breakfast, though Mrs. Renwyck followed him to the front veranda, begging him to wait for a cup of coffee. "No, haven't time!" he snapped as he climbed into the waiting trap. "Go along, Walters. Who'll wait a minute. By George," he exclaimed, with a frown of annoyance, "I forgot about those jewels!" He fumbled in his pocketbook, produced a memorandum and handed it to the waiting trap. "Julia," he said hurriedly, "this is the combination of the safe. Telephone to Michael, will you, and ask him to come over before he leaves for town? Get him to unlock the safe and bring the diamonds with him to my office. I'll put them in the safety deposit vault. There—haven't time to explain any more. My train is due in three minutes. Goodbye. Now, Walters, let Molly have her head."

In a moment the trap had whirled through the open gates, and Mrs. Renwyck, marveling at what could take her lord away so suddenly, turned and went into the house, where she obediently telephoned her husband's message to her brother Michael. Breakfast was late that morning, as two at least of the inmates of the house showed unmistakable signs of loss of sleep. "How lovely!" exclaimed Miss Harriet as she glanced through a delicately tinted note, then turned to Richard. "Such a dear friend of mine is coming out this morning to stay over Sunday. I know you will be charmed to meet her."

"Delighted, I'm sure," drawled Richard indolently. "Who is it, Harriet?" Mrs. Renwyck asked.

"Nellie Sempton."

"Richard's indolence departed instantly. The name recalled several things.

"Er—beg pardon," he questioned, "is the lady rather tall and blond—about twenty-two or thereabout, with a rippling figure?"

"Why, yes!" cried Imogene delightedly. "Do you know her?"

"Well, no, not exactly," returned the smiling Texan. "She has—er—been pointed out to me." He screwed in his monocle and picked up a letter from Lord Crolyland's man, which lay beside his plate. "I'm awfully sorry that I can't be here when Miss Sempton arrives, but I find I shall have to go to New York this morning. Too bad, really."

"But you haven't even read your letters yet," chirped Miss Imogene. "Can you tell from the outside that it's some horrid business?"

Richard nodded sadly and tapped a formidable official envelope.

"Too true," he murmured. "It's business and, as you aptly express it, horrid."

In one sense the Texan spoke the plain, unvarnished truth, for business of an unpleasant character called him in several directions. He had entirely forgotten until the mention of Miss Sempton's name recalled it to him that he had a smashed automobile on his hands, not to mention a prospective lawsuit from a justly irate farmer. Then, too, it would be most awkward to have the charming Miss Sempton extend her hand and say, with a most engaging smile: "How do you do, Mr. Peter Wilson? I knew you were not a chauffeur. How many other names do you happen to possess? Yes, 'horrid business' called him away from Irvington at once and bade fair to keep him away until Miss Sempton departed.

"Woolsey and I," he muttered to his inward, disgusted self, "must seek seclusion in some faroff, happier clime."

Breakfast was scarcely over when Mr. Corrigan was announced. He entered with a cheery good morning to every one, the patent with Mrs. Renwyck to the library. Miss Schermeyer strove with all her crafty wiles to lure Lord Crolyland away for a morning walk and a chat on the superior advantages of being a nobleman, but the nobleman's question met guile with guile and pleaded an excuse of having to catch the next train. He said he would walk to the station, especially as on foot he might dodge Miss Sempton if she happened to come earlier than expected. "I started across the lawn."

On the lawn he lingered in the hope of seeing Miss Harriet, once more, for he did not wish to leave Irvington without confessing his deception and declaring himself her humble worshiper from the Lone Star State. He had almost given up hope when he spied her coming from the house toward him. She, too, had been dodging difficulties in the patent, and she tripped across the grass he saw in her eyes a light on her cheeks a color which caused his heart to bound, while the warm blood tingled through his veins.

"Lord Crolyland," she said, "before you go I want to thank you for what you did for Imogene and me last night. It was splendid of you to take the blame, and—"

"But how do you know what I did?" he asked her laughingly.

"Because," she stammered, "we— we didn't go upstairs when you told us. We stayed in the billiard room and— and listened." She finished with a violent blush, which made her irresistible in the Texan's blinded eyes.

"Oh!" he laughed. "I see."

Miss Harriet did not join in his merriment. She looked up earnestly and asked:

"Why didn't you tell the whole truth and explain to father?"

"Explains to father?" he echoed, mistaking her meaning. "Good Lord! How could I?"

Miss Harriet nodded, smiling happily.

"I think I understand. You wanted to save her."

"Of course," answered Richard, relieved again. Really, these sudden shocks almost broke his nerve.

"Now, tell me one thing more," continued the girl. "You are not an Englishman. I suspected it before, and last night I knew it. Who are you?"

Richard gasped and took a backward step, while the hot blood mounted to his cheeks and tinged the dusky bronze.

"Who am I?" he repeated earnestly. "A man who loves you with his heart and mind and soul—a man who has

## NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

OFFICE OF COUNTY AUDITOR, DELAWARE COUNTY. Notice is hereby given that a primary election in accordance with the provisions of the primary election law of this state will be held in this county on the second day of June, 1908. Polling places will be open in each voting precinct at the usual places for holding elections. The polls will be open as required by section 197-a & 6 of the 1907 supplement to the code, which provides in effect that in all cities of 3,500 population or over, the polls shall be open from 7:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m. and in cities of less than 3,500 population and in country precincts, from 1:00 p. m. to 3:00 p. m.

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