

# The VALIANTS of VIRGINIA

By FALIE ERMINIE RIVES (MRS. POST WHEELER)  
ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN STOUT

### CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Voice From the Past.  
Though the doctor left the church with Shirley and her mother, she did not drive to Rosewood, but to his office. There, alone with Mrs. Dandridge while Shirley waited in the carriage, she unlocked the little tin box that had been the major's, with the key Mrs. Dandridge gave him, and put into her hands a little packet of yellow oiled-silk which bore her name. He noted that it agitated her profoundly and as she thrust it into the bosom of her dress, her face seemed stirred as he had never seen it. When he put her again in the carriage, he patted her shoulder with a touch far gentler than his gruff goody.

At Rosewood, at length, alone in her room, she sat down with the packet in her hands. During the long hours since first the little key had lain in her palm like a live coal, she had been all a-fire with eagerness. Now the moment had come, she was almost afraid.

### She Tried to Imagine That Letter's Coming to Her—Then, Thirty Years Ago!

be certain, Judith, of your heart. Sometimes I have thought you loved me—me only—as I love you. Last night when I saw you wearing my cape jessamines at the ball, I was almost sure of it. But when you made me promise, whatever happened, not to lift my hand against him, then I doubted. Was it because you feared for him? Would to God at this moment I knew this was not true! For whatever the fact, I must love you, darling, you and no other, as long as I live!

She unlocked the bureau-drawer then, took out the letter, and seating herself by the table, read the remainder:  
"I write this in the old library and Bristow holds my horse by the porch. He will give you this letter when I am gone.  
"Last night we were dancing—all of us—at the ball. I can scarcely believe it was less than twelve hours ago! The calendar on my desk has a motto for each leaf. Today's is this: 'Every man carries his fate on a ribbon about his neck.' Last night I would have smiled at that, perhaps; today I say to myself, 'It's true—it's true!' Two little hours ago I could have sworn that whatever happened to me Sassoon would suffer no harm. 'Judith, I could not avoid the meeting. You will know the circumstances, and will see that it was forced upon me. But though we met on the field, I kept my promise. Sassoon did not fall by my hand.'  
She had begun to tremble so that the paper shook in her hands, and from her breast, shattered by her quick breathing, the brown jessamine petals dusted down in her lap. It was some moments before she could calm herself sufficiently to read on.  
"He fired at the signal and the shot went wide. I threw my pistol on the ground. Then—whether maddened by my refusal to fire, I cannot tell—he turned his weapon all at once and shot himself through the breast. It was over in an instant. The seconds did not guess—do not even now, for it happened but an hour ago. As the code decrees, their backs were turned when the shots were fired. But there were circumstances I cannot touch upon to you which made them disappear—which made my facing him just then seem unchivalrous. I saw it in Bristow's face, and liked him the better for it, even while it touched my pride. They could not know, of course, that I did not intend to fire. Well, you and they will know it now! And Bristow has my pistol; he will find it undischarged—thank God, thank God!  
"But will that matter to you? If you loved Sassoon, I shall always in your mind stand as the indirect cause of his death! It is for this reason I am going away—I could not bear to look in your accusing eyes and hear you say it. Nor could I bear to stay here, a reminder to you of such a horror. If you love me, you will write and call me back to you. Oh, Judith, Judith, my own dear love! I pray God you will!  
She put the letter down and laid her face upon it. 'Beauty! Beauty!' she whispered, dry-eyed. 'I never knew! I never knew! But it would have made no difference, darling. I would have forgiven you anything—everything! You know that, now, dear! You have been certain of it all these years that have been so empty, empty to me!'

But when the faded rose-colored gown and the poor time-yellowed slippers had been laid back in the hair-cloth trunk; when, her door once more unbolting, she lay in her bed in the dim glow of the reading-lamp, with her curling silvery hair drifting across the pillow and the letter beneath it, at last the tears came coursing down her cheeks.  
And with the loosening of her tears, gradually and softly came joy—indefinitely deeper than the anguish and sense of betrayal. It poured upon her like a trembling flood. Long, long ago he had gone out of the world—it was only his memory that counted to her. Now that could no longer spell pain or emptiness or denial. It was engendered by a new light, and in that light she would walk gently and smilingly to the end.  
She found the slender golden chain that hung about her neck and opened the little black locket with its circlet of laureled pearls. And as she gazed at the face it held, which time had not touched with change, the sound of Shirley's harp came softly in through the window. She was playing an old-fashioned song, of the sort she knew her mother loved best:  
Darling, I am growing old,  
Silver threads among the gold  
Shine upon my brow today;  
Life is fading fast away.  
But, my darling, you will be  
Always young and fair to me.

### DOG ALLOWED \$1,200 A YEAR.

Court Rules Will Providing for Upkeep in Luxury Is Valid.  
Boston, Mass.—'Pete Crafts' will continue to enjoy luxuries uncommon among dogs. The probate court today approved the will of his late master, John Chancellor Crafts, which provides a fund of \$1,200 a year for the upkeep of 'Pete.'  
Relatives who had been cut off without a cent contested the will, alleging 'undue influence.'  
At the hearing witnesses told how 'Pete' had presided at the head of the table at 'birthday parties' given in his honor.

### The Indian and the Ranger.

Representative 'Alfalfa Bill' Murray, of Oklahoma, in a speech in the house, regaled members with an Indian's estimate of the prowess of a Texas Ranger.  
"In the early seventies and eighties," said Mr. Murray, "when the Comanche Indians swooped down on Texas and robbed, scalped and murdered people, the Texas rangers promptly ran them out. After peace was restored an Indian went to the Indian agent at Anadarko, and said:  
"I want a rifle."  
"The agent said to him: 'You cannot have it. You might shoot a soldier with it.'  
"The Indian replied: 'No, I do not want to shoot a soldier. We kill soldiers with stick. I want rifle to shoot Texas rangers with.'—From the Washington Post.

### RUSSIAN GRAND DUKE WOULD WED AMERICAN GIRL

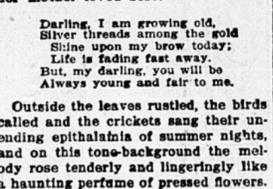
Vienna.—According to a St. Petersburg report, Russian court circles are greatly exercised over the rumor that the young Grand Duke Dmitri has made an offer to the czar to renounce his imperial rights because he intends to marry a handsome American girl, Miss Durham, who recently arrived in St. Petersburg with a party of American friends.  
The case is aggravated by the fact that the grand duke is the prospective husband of his cousin, the Grand Duchess Tatiana, the second daughter of the czar.

### MUST DEPORT 10,000 ANTS.

Local Customs Officials Puzzled How to Mobilize Insects.  
Philadelphia, Pa.—How to collect 10,000 live ants and deport them is a problem that is worrying the officials of the Philadelphia custom house. The ants, which arrived in this city from London on March 10, were consigned to L. E. Wells of Danville, Pa., and local customs officials, after much deliberation, admitted them as a not especially enumerated object, imposing a duty of 10 per cent ad valorem. Now Dr. Leland C. Howard, chief entomologist of the local organization, has notified the local custom house that his bureau expects them to get trace of the ants and deport them at once.  
The cause of Dr. Howard's dictum was an attempt by Mrs. C. W. Morse, of New York, to import a number of pet ants. They were listed as brown meadow ants, but under the law no foreign insects may be imported to the United States. The New York customs authorities held the ants pending a de-

### Why Do French Women Always Look Young?

In France mothers and daughters look like sisters. How are the women there able to retain their youthful looks until long past middle age? Is it because they are much given to the use of mercolized wax? This wax possesses a remarkable absorbent property which quickly removes the fine particles of cuticle which are constantly dying and which are the immediate cause of an old-looking complexion. Thus the livelier, healthier, younger skin beneath is given a chance to breathe and show itself. Try this treatment yourself. Most likely it will not require two weeks to make your complexion as clear, soft and beautiful as a young girl's. Just one ounce of mercolized wax (all American druggists have it) usually does the work. The wax is put on nights like cold cream and washed off mornings. Another valuable secret with which the French are familiar is how to quickly remove wrinkles. One ounce of powdered saxolite dissolved in a half pint witch hazel, makes a marvelously effective astringent lotion. The face should be bathed in this daily, even the deepest lines are affected.



GRAND DUKE DMITRI

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### WILEY'S WONDERFUL SON.

Pure Food Baby, 23 Months Old, Can Speak Latin.  
Madison, Wis.—Dr. H. W. Wiley, famous pure food advocate, who is here this week, says his 23-month-old boy speaks Latin as well as English.  
"The proper training for infants and young children," he said, "consists in pure food and good language. His greatest delight—from the standpoint of his father—is when he goes walking with his father and receives his daily lesson in Latin, which he much enjoys."  
"Harvey W. Wiley II, has never had any meat or poultry. He has never had any candy, sugar, ice cream, sweet cookies or other foods of that kind."  
State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.  
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is a native born citizen of the State of Ohio, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.  
FRANK J. CHENEY,  
Notary Public.  
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906.  
A. W. GLEASON,  
Notary Public.  
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.  
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.  
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

### ULSTERITES JUBILANT OVER TURN OF AFFAIRS AS REGARDS BRITISH TROOPS IN NORTH OF IRELAND

Following the partial backdown of the British government over the home rule question in Ulster, jubilant Ulsterites in the north of Ireland held great mass meetings of triumph in the public squares in the manner pictured here. Sir George Richardson, commander-in-chief of the volunteers, and the reinstatement of the British army officers who had resigned from their



1-REJOICING IN BELFAST 2-SIR GEORGE RICHARDSON



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