BY ROBERT BARR.

The Duchess of Chiselhurst's Ball

[Convelight, 1999, by Robert Barr I.

castle wall like a swallow's nest at the portrait. eaves of a house. This balcony was just prettier girl," cried the princess gloe- like you to have three or four expert wide enough to give ample space for one of the easy rocking chairs which modern as this morning's daily paper. | handed them back to the princess. its arms like broad shelves, its rockers not accept so costly a present." one would find dotted round the vast | came? veranda of an American summer hotel. "Oh. no. no! It isn't that." letters on her lap and perplexity in the after all?" the smoothness of her fair brow. The cried the girl impulsively, throwing her Tyrol, and I four you don't quite upscene from the high balcony was one to arms round the other's neck. was her last day at the castle, the girl pressed Jennie closely to her, but there tion, and if you think even £1,000 will which she resclutely put away from her, tion with that of Victoria. of the sky.

princess. Jennie was flattered to know | monds. count of the manifest danger of discovery, but because she had grown to like "Is it a new kind of speculation, a sware that her first danger was that "I am disconsolate to see that I am deniable beauty." regarded as an unpardonable liberty. As she swayed gently back and forth the girl's face, and she and thus shipwreez was avoided at the over its fleecy semicircle. the princess refused, then the scheme | best wishes for your success." would answer the letter and decline the fail after that. invitation. Jennie soothed her accusthis impersenation would do no harm waiting to take Miss Baxter to the sta- of Chischurst to Princess von Steinheimer or to any one else, for that matter, while it would be of inestimable assistance to her own journalistic career. From that she drifted to meditation on the inequalities of this life, the superabundance which some possess, while others, no less deserving, have difficulty in obtaining the scant necessities. And, this consoling train of thought having fixed her resolve to take the goods the gods scattered at her feet, or rather throw into her hap, she drew a long sigh of determination as there came a gentle tap at

Jennie, a rapid blush flaming ber cheeks, sprang to her feet, flung the letters on a table and opened the door

the door of her room and the voice of

the princess herself said, "May I come

The visitor entered, looking charming enough to be a princess of fairyland, and greeted Miss Baxter most cordially "I am so sorry you are leaving." she

said. "Cannot you be persuaded to change your mind and stay with me? Where could you find a more levely view than that from your balcony

"Or a more levely hostess?" said the girl, looking at her visitor with undisguised admiration and quite ignoring Jennie set about the construction of a

now stood together on the Lalcony she hostess with a horrible feeling that she around brought to Jennie the convicinto the rocking chair again, seating befriended her. In her hand bag was gowned woman among that assemblage

thoroughly enjoying their liberty

shout to be punished for flattery," cried to the editor of The Daily Bugle "I saw by the motion of the chair that you had just jumped up have been extraordinarily successful in that the title, for the moment, perfrom it when I disturbed you, so there solving the diamend mystery, and I contained to herself. The next instant her you are back in it again. What were gratulate you. My letter reached you, I hand was in that of the Duchess of you thinking about? A rocking chair suppose. Have you given any thought Chiselliurst, and Jennie heard the lady and we always think of some one very

particular as we rock.

"How nice of you to say that, and, as me good turn deserves another, here is Hardwick a my thoughts "

As she spoke the princess took from we want. ier pocket an embossed case of Russia eather, opened it and displayed a string of diamonds lustrous as drops of liquid

"I want you to wear these stones in if need be.

the I confess that I want you to think may come to more than 2500. Place of me every time you put them on. See E1,000 to my credit, and I shall return ing eye enabled her to stamp on a retentow conceited I am! One does not like what is left. I must go at once to Paris tive memory the various particulars of have a good look at them. so be forgotten; that is why I chose dia- and carry out my plans from that city ' Jennie took the string, her own eyes scheme? What is it?"

for a moment rivaling in brilliancy the "I have not only thought it out, but ally poured the stones from one hand | will have to trust entirely to me." to the other, as if their scintillating of her voice, so remained silent. The know what you propose to do." lifted the necklace and claspes it round the girl's white throat, chattering all written by one who was present." the while with pervous haste.

e while with nervous haste.

There! You can wear diamonds, interjection that always served him it any one here who knew the princess re tumes. You know we women are libel went on, "and he would have come to shall have no difficulty in making your you. Steinheimer," said his master. Washington Stara

and there are so many to whom they place of a laugh. are unbecoming. I also look well in diamonds; at least so I've been told interference nor advice. over and over again, and I've come to "Exactly, Mr Hardwick, fact that you are a strikingly good project not yet completed." one another enough to be sisters, nearly fully

Jennie Baxter in the Schless Stein- | She dragged Jennie to her feet and you but if you prefer to take the whole heimer enjoyed a most extended out- drew her into the room, placing her risk yearself there is nothing more to lock. A door window gave access to a triumphantly before the great looking be said. The thousand pounds shall be stone balcony, which hung against the glass that reflected back a full length placed to your credit at once. What

the princess had imported from America Jennie, but she was looking at the derstand more about that than I do and which Jonnie thought were the image of the princess and not at her But it is my intention to dictate the only really comfortable pieces of furni- own. The princess laughed, but Miss report right along as fast as I can talk ture the old stronghold possessed, much Baxter seemed too much affected by the until it is finished, and I don't wished as she admired the artistic excellence unexpected present to join in the merri- to be stopped or interrupted; so I want of the mediaval chairs, tables and cab- ment. She regarded herself solemnly in the best stenographers you have. They inets which for centuries had served the glass for a few moments, then are to relieve one another just as if the needs of the ancient line that had slowly undid the clasp, and, slipping they were taking down a parliamentary lived in the schloss. The chair was as the string of brilliants from her neck, speech. The men had better be in modern as this morning's daily paper. handed them back to the princess. its woodwork painted a bright scarlet. "You are very, very kind, but I can- as soon after that as possible If you

as sensitively balanced as a marine "Cannot? Why? Have I effended manuscript before it goes to the comcompass in fact, just such a chair as you by anything I have said since you positors, I will glance at the proofs

In this chair ant Miss Jennie, two open "What, then? Don't you like me, yourself?"

dainty little frown that faintly ruffled "Like you." I love you, princess!"

be remembered; but, although this The princess tried to laugh as she way. This is no ordinary society func-still to be encountered, the thought of court of Solomon, but it has little rela-

saw nothing of the pretty town of was a tremer of tears in the laughter gain admittance to an uninvited guest trusting to the luck that had hitherto Meran so far below, the distant chalk "You must take this little gift as a you will find yourself mistaken. line down the slope beyond which souvenir of your visit with me. I was marked the turbulent course of the really—very unhappy when you came. Again the editorial interjection did of mind when she was suddenly startled fearing Adige, the lefty mountains and now-well, you smoothed away duty for a laugh all around or the farther show peaks, some misunderstandings. I'm very "You are very sanguine, Miss Baxflazzlingly white against the deep blu grateful. And it isn't natural for a wo- ter. I wish I felt as confident How- everywhere for you, catching glimpses have already confessed my ignorance. man to refuse diamonds, Jennie."

One of the epistles which lay on her | "I know it isn't, and I won't quite we cannot command success we will at tap was the letter she had received from refuse them. I'll postpone. It is post- least endeavor to deserve it." the editor recounting the difficulties he ble that something I shall do before Jennie, with the £1,000 at her dis with the belief that you also remend one to the many and named this person had met with while endeavering to long may seriously cifend you. If it posal, went to Paris, took rooms at the bery make arrangements for reporting ade- does, then goodby to the necklace! If most aristocratic hotel, engaged a maid quately the Duchess of Chiselburst's it doesn't, when I have told you all and set about the construction of a ball frightened eyes that were turned upon notes in shorthand, economizing thus hall; the other was the still unanswered about my misdeed-I shall confess courdies that would be a dream of beauty him. They saw a young man bowing both space and time. When at last she invitation from the duchess to the ageously-you will give me the dia Luckily, she knew exactly the gown low over the unresisting hand he had had all the information she desired she

age, it was only necessary to accept the until my project proves a success or a the Princess von Steinheimer to Cla tache that overshadowed a smile half were at her fingers' ends. She closed any invitation in the name of her present failure. We women some have our ridge's hotel for an apartment on the wistful half humorous, that lighted up her eyes for a moment to enjoy the sat- turning to the girl, began to make his nestess and attend the great society way made for us; others have our own night of the ball and asked that a suit- his handsome force. The ribbon of some isfaction which success leaves in its adieux unction as Princess von Steinheimer, way to make. I am among the others, able equipoge be provided to convey order was worn athwart his breast, train and when she opened them again Yet she hesitated, not so much on ac- and I hope you will remember that, if her to and from that festival

most intimately concerned, as it was to stake a good deal on the turn of a on the valid plea of fatigue from her from me.

in the goody rocking chair she thought sure that you will carry it through, but outset. It was unlikely that the Princess and asking her assistance; but, ponder- again, and if you haven't the money to many who would attend the ball-in chief lighting up her eyes. ing on this, she saw that it was staking I'll supply the capital. I know I should fact, the princess had given to Jennie The young man laughed. "Indeed," get everything on one throw of the dice. If like to gamble. Anyhow, you have my as her main teason for refusing the in he said, "had I served my country as "Age has many privileges, Lord servicesble,"

The princess laughed, and as they tion, and the girl bade goodby to her agitation, a hurried, furtive glance put out her hands, pushed Jennie gently was acting disloyally by one who had tion that she was perhaps the best perself jountily on its broad arm, and the invitation to the ball, and also the of well-dressed people, which recognithus the two looked like a pair of mis- letter she had written in the princess' tien somewhat calmed her palpitating chievous schoolgirls, home at vacation, bame, accepting it, which latter she heart. The whole environment seemed posted in Meran. In due course she unreal to her, and she walked forward

lends itself deliciously to meditation, to the problem that now confronts us? murmur that it was good of her to "I am no exception to the rule," so convincingly that all the guests who found herself unable afterward to retighed Jennie. "I was thinking of you, read it will know that the writer was call, but the rapid incoming of other

present? "It is all a question of money, Mr

groof that a certain young lady has been "Most things are. Well, we are pre- of the time. She stood aside and formed pared to spend money to get just what one of the brilliant group at the head

"How much?"

"Whatever is necessary."

"That's vague. Put it into figures."

remembrance of our diamond mystery; "It will not cost you £1,000, and it "Then you have thought out a

parkle of the gems; then the moisture | most of the arrangements are already posenced her vision, and she automatics | made. I cannot say more about it. You

"There is a good deal of money at glitter hypnotized her. She tried once stake, Miss Baxter, and our reputation or twice to speak, but could not be sure as a newspaper as well I think I should the lofty, crowded salons, pausing even princess, noticing her agitation, gently "Certainly. I propose to obtain for you an accurate description of the ball

The editor gave utterance to a sort of

men have not concealed from you the comes of talking too much of a secret to ber great relief, found herself left en-

the same height, the same color of eyes "Very well, then; it shall be as you and hair. Come to the mirror, Miss say. I should have been very glad to The room which had been allotted to Handsomeness, and admire yoursell." chare the responsibility of failure with

> "Now confess that you never saw a "On the night of the ball I should shorthand writers here. I don't know "I don't think I ever did," admitted how many will be necessary. You unwill kindly run over their typewritten when I have finished dictating "Then you hope to attend the ball

"Perhaps" "You have just returned from the

There was no recognition in the large triphtened curs.

have not found forgetting so easy.

heaven and earth for an invitation.

world is, isn't it?"

we may talk of old times."

stranger to Lendon society."

The band played the national anthem.

time a full view of her face.

preciate the difficulties that are in the "So I understood from your letter." not described her.

by a voice at her side.

ever, we will hope for the best and, if

princess. Jennie was flattered to know monds."

making resources of Paris, and the taken. His face was clear cut and an exact the content. Whatever that already the editor, who had endered to know monds."

"Dear me. Jennie, what terrible craftsmen to whom she gave her orders mistakably English. Jennie saw his might now betide, her mission was fall."

"Dear me. Jennie, what terrible craftsmen to whom she gave her orders mistakably English. Jennie saw his might now betide, her mission was fall." making resources of Paris, and the taken. His fact was clear cut and an leaned back in her chair with a little gaged her with unconcealed reluctance. crime are you about to commit? Why were not the less anxious to please her cheely cropped auburn head and, as might now betide, her mission was falnow expected her to accomplish what not tell me now? You have no idea when they knew that the question of it raised until it overtopped her own, filled if she could once get quietly the entire staff was powerless to effect how you have aroused my curiosity." cost was not to be considered. From the girl, terrified as she was, could not away. The complete details of the most She knew that, had she but the cour- "I dare not tell you, princess, not Paris she telegraphed in the name of

the princess, and this impersonation, fortune made in a day, gambling?" some one who knew the Princess von indeed forgotten, princess, and so an circumstances could she see any visitor the girl's face, and she looked at him by under his ardent gaze. vitation the excuse that she knew no faithfully as I have been true to my Donal." she continued, laughing out-

It is said that a woman, magnificent whichwind of gavety which ended by dealt with you. along the strip of catpet which lay orn cyclene? Is it possible that I must wound huge palaces of western London Nothing so resplendent had she ever wits something diplomatic, and her guess 'I fancy it has which met her eye when she found her | ened by his previous remark about be imagined." elf about to ascend the broad stairway. in, an emiassador. receive her distinguished guests. Early insist on calling me so, but this cannot ing to the one received in London." is she was, the stairway and the rooms take from me the consolation that once. heyond seemed already througed. Splen- in the conservatory of the White House. here for a week." did menials in gorgeons livery, crimson under the very shadow of the president, the predominant color stood on each you condescended to call me Don." step at either side of the stair. Uniforms of every pattern from the gorwhat happened in Washington five time since Linet you."
What papered in Washington five time since Linet you." and eastern potentiates to the more years ago. You know the administra- What reply the girl might have made empire and officers, naval and mili- as that." tary, gave the final note of magnificent and picturesque decoration. Like tropical flowers in this garden of color were the ladies, who, with easy grace, moved to and fro, bestowing a smile here and a whisper there, and yet, despite her "There! Now your are my prisoner, reached London and presented herself as if in a dream. She heard some one ery, "The Princess von Steinheimer! "Well, Miss Baxter," he said, "you and at first had difficulty in realizing

Can you get us a full report of the come so far to grace the occasion. The Duchess of Chiselburst's ball, written girl made some sort of reply which she

guests led her to hope that if she had used any unsuitable phrase it was elther unheard or forgotten in the tension of the stairs, thankful that this first

ordeal was well done with. Her rapidly beating heart had now opportunity to lessen its pulsations, and "Five hundred pounds, £700, £1,000 as she soon found that she was practieally unnoticed her natural calmness began to return to her. She remembered why she was there, and her discern-

> so unaccustomed a spectacle, whose very away from the group, determined to well hidden from the promenaders by the charms of the Schloss Steinheimer. but he knew Jennie Baxter as well. saunter through the numerous rooms spreading tropical plants. thrown open for the occasion, and thus. as it were, get her bearings. In a short quite forgetting the dignity of a prin- as devoted as ever to the chase. I must to enjoy a selection which a military me, whom you pretended to have for longer with us," band, partly concealed in the foliage, gotten," replied the young man audawas rendering in a masterly manner, led | ciously by the most famous impresario of the day. The remote probability of meeting aside from that, I came to see the cos- of uncertainty increased as this colloquy

assured her, and there speedily cause onely said to dress for each other. | London without a murmur had his wife ! "In other words, you want neither over her a sense of delight in all the Away from the world, in the Tyrol, I been selfish enough to tear him away most him. kalcidoscopic dazzle of this great en- have little opportunity of seeing any- from his beloved Meran." You tertainment. She saw that each one thing fine in the way of dress, and so I "A model husband!" said the ancient an opportunity of retrieving your dipbelieve it at last I suppose the young knew from experience that little good there had interest in some one size, and, accepted the invitation of the duchess." count, with an unctuous chuckle. "So joinate reputation if you can postpone

tirely alone, with reasonable assurance | duchess with you?" looking girl, Jennie. Indeed, and this The editor drammed with his fingers that this remoteness would continue to "Yes; I am going to take some notes tion—so few have been matrimonially is a brag, if you like, we two resemble on the table for a few moments thought- befriend her until the final gantlet of on the back of it. Would you like to so fortunate as Prince von Steinheimer. pearance of languor vanished from Miss leave taking had to be run-a trial see it?" She handed him the letter and I have never ceased to long for a repehim closely. The puzzled expression on your delightful home." his face deepened as he glanced over the invitation and saw that it was ex- welcome you are, your visits would not netly what it purported to be. He gave have such long intervals between." the letter back to her, saying:

> not, princess?" down at her gown and then glancing sible to learn new tricks." up at him with merriment dancing in resting on the balustrade, his head since the embassador began, "the very room and the entrance stairway entirelearning on his hand, and, quite oblivious to everything else, was gazing at her with such absorbed intentness that the girl blushed and cast down her eves. The intense admiration in his look was undisguised. "Still." she rattled on somewhat breathlessly, "one gets many hints from others, and the creation of today is merely the old clothes of tomerrow. Invention has no vacation, so far as ladies' apparel is concerned. 'Take no thought of tomorrow, wherewithal ye shall be clothed.' may have been a good motto for the

"Solomon, if the saying is his, was bedging. He had many wives, you

Jennie was in this complaisant frame know. "Well, as I was about to say, you must now turn your attention to the "Ah, princess, I have been searching other guests and tell me who's who. I of you now and then, only to lose you, and you promised to enlighten me.

as, alas, has been my fate on a more. The young man, with visible relucserious occasion! May I flatter myself, tance, directed his thoughts from the and that, while Jennie, with the pencil There was no recognition in the large attached to her card, made cabalistic but admire the sweeping blond mus important society event of the season but without hope of excelling." otherwise he wore court dress, winch found Lord Donal in his old pesture. for me at the castle?" he concluded. absorbed in the contemplation of her un-

"I see you are determined I shall ed from America, which you will find if it came to the knowledge of the one Something of that sort. I am going Steinheimer would call upon her, but other cherished delasion fades away have no difficulty in remembering you most countertable resting places when next time we meet," she said, with a you are free from the cares o' state." almost sure to do, would doubtless be card; so please pray that luck will not journey she proclaimed that under no Her fan concealed the lower part of smile, at the same time flushing slight-

of confessing everything to the princess if at first you don't succeed, try, to von Steinheimer was personally known she nurroured, a sparkle of latent missing but panders and a latent missing per assistance; but nonders with me have left you five years your. had ordered an incredible number to be

became impossible, as that lady herself "Thank you, princess. I can hardly one in London She had been invited remembrance of you, princess, I would right, "but I don't think you can yet merely because of the social position of have been an embassador long ere this. The claim to any of them. The pose of The time had come when the two the prince in Vienna and was unknown covered with decorations. Have you, the prematurely old is not in the least plant murmured the embassacion, hending conscience by telling herself that friends must part. The carriage was by sight even to her hostess, the Duchess then, lost all recollection of that winter borne out by your appearance, however in Washington five years ago, that hardly the girl you met in Washington

ulations Such was the case with Jen so that the eventful season cliugs to my to treat these serious matters lightly! evidently not having the slightest su-Time, being, agove all things. across the pavement under a compty and entered the great hall of the Duke "Not Lord bound Stirling?" asked touched the more effectually to scar the tinguished women. of Chiselhurst's town house, one of the Jennie, dimly remembering that she heart. The hart concealed is over the The girl sat down with calm dignity.

I have been here for a night-for two may I hope that a red rocking chair-

the diplomatic corps, ministers of the memories seldom carry back even so far fervency of a man in thorough earnest.

adoration would have left reminiscence by a messenger, who said: "His excellency the Austrian emthat might outlast administration. I bassador begs to be permitted to pay "Are you quite sure of that, Lord his regards to the Princess von Stein- are courteous gentlemen, who seem to Donal?" asked the girl archly, closing beiner.

her fan and giving him for the first Lord Donal Stirling never took his eves from the face of his companion. The young man seemed for a moment, and he saw a quick pallor overspread it that I have distrusted you, princess?" perplexed, but she went on, giving him. He leaned forward and whispered: little time for reflection, "Have your "I know the embassador, If you do

diplomatic duties taken you away from but wish to neet him. I will intercept a personal application." him. "Yes, to the other end of the earth. I am now in St. Petersburg, with ulti- looking with a calmness she was far sea.

mate hopes of Vienna, princess. I hape from feeling at the young man, said pened to be in London this week, and, coldly "Why should I not wish to meet the hearing you were to be here, I moved embassador of my adopted country?" "Which you obtained only to find "I know of no reason; quite the con-

yourself forgotten. How hollow this trary, for he must be an old friend of yours, having been your guest at the "Alas, yes! A man in my profession Schloss Steinheimer a year ago." sees a good deal of the seamy side of He stepped back as he said this, and of life, and I fully believe that my rapidly. Jennie had difficulty in suppressing the lessening dependence on human veracity gasp of dismay with which she received will be shattered by my superiors send- his disquieting information; but she

ing me to Constantinople. But let me stood her ground without wincing. She find you a seat cut of this crowd where. Was face to face with the crisis she had foreseen—the coming of one who knew "I don't care so much about the past the princess. Next instant the aged as I do about the present. Let us go up statesman was bending over her outinto that gallery, where you will point stretched hand, which in courtly fashout to me the celebrities. I suppose you lion the old man arised to his lips. know them all, while I am an entire "I am delighted to have the privilege of welcoming you to this gloomy old

"That is a capital idea" cried the city, Princess von Steinheimer, which young man enthusiastically. "Yes, I you illumine with your presence. Do think I know most of the people here, you stay long in London? "The period of illumination is short. at least by name. Ah, here comes the royal party! We shall just be in time to your excellency. I leave for Paris to-

morrow. "So soon, without even visiting the I can hardly wender at your wish to

"The prince is a model husband, your excellency," said Jennie, with a sly "Of course," laughed Jannie, "But, glance at Lord Donal, whose expression

there is this to be said in our exculpathen leaned back in her chair, regarding tition of the charming visit I paid to "If your excellency but knew how before he returns."

"It is most kind of you, princess, to "So you are here to see the fashions, cheer an old man's heart by such gra-It is a subject I know little about; but, clous words. It is our misfortune that judging by effect. I should say that the affairs of state chain us to our pillar, Princess von Steinheimer has nothing and indeed diplomacy seems to become to learn from any one present. If I may more difficult as the years go on, betouch on a topic so personal, your cos- cause we have to contend with the gentume is what they call a creation, is it ins of rising young men like Lord

her eyes. The diplomat had his elbow lordship, speaking for the first time tance between the gallery end of the



He expects to meet you later in the reverse of that is the case. We sit humbly at your feet, ambitious to emulate.

"Yes, your excellency, with the addition of two red rocking chairs import-

"Ah! The rocking chairs! I remem-"I was just thinking," he replied ber now that you were expecting them gram to any one; so there is a little ed it carefully and placed if in the "I was just thinking," he replied ber now that you were expecting them gram to any one; so there is a little ed it carefully and placed if in the glove lifting his rosition a little, "that the when I was there. So they have are time for considering what had best be perfect of his coat, "It is the glove "Put not your trust in princesses," shifting his position a little, "that the when I was there. So they have ar-

> "No, only a dozen, and they all came through without damage."

"You young people, you young peoing again over the hand presented him. "What unheard of things you do

And so the old man shuffled away, ly robed is superior to all earthly tribe waiting you away to a foreign country. "An princess, it is very easy for you leaving many compliments behind illing whitings are superior to all earthly tribe waiting you away to a foreign country." picion that he had met any one but the nie as she left her carriage, walked memory as if it were a disastrous west. He laughs at scars who never felt a person he supposed himself addressing. was not of the hart and

while Lord Donal dropped into his · I fancy it has been concealed so chair, an expression of complete mystinessed or even, imagined as the scene, that he was in that service was strengthe effectually that it is not as deep as you, fication on his clear cut, honest face. Jennie slowly fanned herself for the "Princess, I will confess to you that heat made itself felt at that elevated at the top of which the hostess stood to "Yes, Lord Donal, if you will cruelly the wound at Washington was as nothe signation, and for a few moments nothing was said by either. The young man "Yes: you told me you had been was the first to break silence. "Should I be sector turnite as to get an

> "The week has nothing to do with it invitation to the Schloss Steinheimer. will be allotted to me! I have not sat in one since I was in the States." "Yes, one for you, two for the em-

tion changes every four years, and to this speech, delivered with all the bassador," said Jennie, with a buigh-"I should like further to flatter my will never be known, for at that moe self that your double generosity to the "I had hoped that my most outspoken ment their tete-a tete was interrupted, embassador arises solely from the dig nity of his office and is not in any way personal.

have less distrust than is exhibited by some not so exulted.

"Distrust! You surely cannot mean "Oh, I was speaking generally," replied Jennie airdy "You seem to seek

"I admit, princess, that several times Jennie rose slowly to her feet, and, this evening I have been completely at

> "And, what is worse, Lord Donal, you have shown it, which is the one him I should like to find out whether it unforgivable fault in diplomacy.

> to teach me. I would be an embassador Therefore all you have to do is to keep within the next five years, or at least a up your courage for a few moments minister.

The girl looked at him over the top riage her fan, covert merriment lurking

in her eyes. "When you visit Schloss Steinheimer, you might ask the prince if he objects | but the odds against you were tramento my giving you lessons

Here there was another interruption. and the announcement was made that the United States embassador desired and together they sanntered through red to me afterward that possibly I to renew his acquaintance with the Princess von Steinheimer. Lard Donal | when Jennie took her leave of the hostmade use of an impatient exclamation ess with a demure dignity that left naturally grateful. You have relieved my more emphatic than he intended to give | nothing to be desired. All went well | conscience of a great load. I fraced I utterance to, but on looking at his com- until they reached the head of the stair. | had done you an injustice."-Chicago panion in alarm he saw in her glance when the duke, an ominous frown on Post. a quick flash of gratitude as unmistak- this brow, hurried after them and said able as if she had spoken her thanks. It was quite evident that the girl had no desire to meet his excellency, which is cealed expression of impatience, but he shown in their handwriting? not to be wondered at, as she had all was helpless, for he feared his host "Yes. A man who always writes his ready encountered him three times in might not have the good sense to avoid name so that it can be read at a glance unfamiliarity made the greater impres- and Lord Donal got two chairs, which embassy? I am distressed to hear of so her capacity of journalist. He not only sion on the girl's mind. She moved he placed at the edge of the gallery, speedy a desertion, and yet, knowing knew the Princess von Steinheimer. been the duchess all would have been thinks the world can better afford to

"Oh, this is jolly!" cried Jennie, return there. The prince, I suppose, is wearily "I seem to be having somewhat overtime all fear of discovery left her, and she began to feel very much at home in the began to feel very much at home in the lofty, crowded salons, pausing even to for not coming with you to London. Then I am sure you would have staid the remote chance of meeting. The I am sure you would have staid to the ball ask my man here to be harrowed by false alarms may here to be harrowed by false alarms may

> "Yes." cried the young man, spring. away until I come." ing to his feet. "He was a prominent politician at Washington while I was stair there. He is an excellent man, and I "Call the carriage of the Princess of

. men to him if you don't wish to

"Thank you so much. You have now Lord Donal departed with alacrity, and the moment he was gone all

Jennie Baxter. "Now is my chance," she whispered to herself. "I must be in my carriage

Eager as she was to be gone, she

knew that she should display no haste.

Expecting to find a stair at the other end of the gallery, she sought for it, but found none. Filled with apprehension that she would meet Lord Donal coming up, she had difficulty in timing her footsteps to the slow measure that was necessary. She reached the bottom of the stair in safety and unimpeded, Donal Stirling here, who are more than but once on the main floor a new prob-"It isn't bad," said the girl, looking a match for old dogs that find it impos- lem presented itself. Nothing would attract more attention than a young and refer it to Austria, who held a long "Indeed, your excellency," said his beautiful lady walking the long disly alone and unattended. She stood there hesitating, wondering whether she could venture on finding a quiet side exit, which she was sure must exist in this large house, when, to her dismay, she found Lord Donal again at her side, rather breathless, as if he had disinclined to accept my testimony." been hurrying in search of her. His brows were knit, and there was an anx- heavery well indeed, and a most charmious expression on his face.

"I must have a word with you again before many months are past." sione," he winispered. "Let me conduct you to this alcove under the gallery."

No: I am tired. I am going home. "I quite understand that, but you must come with me for a moment." of defiance in her tone.

"Yes," he answered gravely, "I wish to be of assistance to you. I think you will need it.

For a moment she met his unflinching gaze steadily; then her glance fell, and she said in a low voice, "Very

When they reached the alcove, she inquired rather quaveringly-for she saw something had happened which had finally settled all the young man's doubts-"Is it the American embas-"No: there was little trouble there.

evening. But a telegraphic message has come from Meran, signed by the Prins morrow!" cess von Steinheimer, which expresses a hope that the ball will be a success and - the corner of the carriage. referates the regret of her highness The old man chuckled again, and, that she could not be present. Luckily, to the duchess. I told the duke, who prou-"Then my former rooms are waiting read it to me, knowing I had been with you all the evening that it was likely a turned back the gountlet of her long practical joke on the part of the prince, glove. The next instant the carriage but the duke who is rather a serious was rattling down the street, while a person, does not take kindly to that chagrined young man stood alone on theory, and if he knew the prince he would dismiss it as absurd, which it is, glove in his hand, I have asked him not to show the tele-

"There is nothing for me to do but certain of having at least one or two to take my leave as quickly and as quietly as possible," said the girl, with



"My toyd, evense me."

"Ham very fend of embassadors. They a nervous little laugh bordering closely by less distrust than is exhibited by make nor way out by some private exit

> if I could tind one. "That would be impossible, and the looking attempt might lead to unexpected complications. I suggest that you take my arm and that you bid farewell to her be silly! Dain't you tell me to sit down grace, pleading fatigue as the reason hear matrice calling you?
>
> Then I will eligible the hint and that Cards will be for your early departure. Then I will see you to your carriage, and when I out in a few days." - Detroit Free Fress. return I shall endeavor to get that un-Incky telegram from the duke by telling. is a hoax or not. He will have forgotten fon had been bonged up against the wall longer until you are safe in your car-

"You are very kind," she murmured. with downcast eyes.

"You are very clever, my princess.

dons. Some time you must tell me why you risked it. She made no reply, but took his arm, "Well," returned the reliter, "it occur the rooms until they found the duchess.

"My lord, excuse me. She leaned back in her chair and said but the duke, as he had said, was a stupid man, who needed the constant | Herald. eye of his wife upon him to keep him

your carriage. I shall ask my man, there to be under to call it for you, but please don't drive longer," "What's the matter?"

Then, as the lady descended the stair, Lord Donal turned, with no very thankful feeling in his heart, to hear what

his bost had to say. "Lord Donal, the American embassas dor says that woman is not the Princess von Steinheimer, whom he has met several times in London. He cannot remember her name. Now, who is she, and how did you come to meet her?"

"My lord duke, it never occurred to me to question the identity of guests £ met under your hospitable roof. I knew the princess five years ago in Washington, before she was married. I have not seen her in the interval, but until you showed me the telegraphic message there was no question in my mind ragarding her.

"But the American embassador is positive.

"Then he has more confidence in his evesight than I have. If such a question, like international difficulties, is to be settled by the embassies, let us conversation with the lady in my pres ence Your excellency," he continued to the Austrian embassador, who was hovering near, waiting to speak to his host, "my lord duke has some doubt that the lady who has just departed is the Princess von Steinheimer. You spoke with her and can therefore decide with authority, for his brdship seems

"Not the princess! Nonsensa! I know ing lady she is I hope to be her guest

"There, my lord duke, you see every thing is as it should be. If you will give me that stupid telegram, I will make some quiet inquiries about it Meanwhile the less said the better. "Must!" she said, with a suggestion will see the American embassador and convince his of his error. And now I must make what excuses I can to the lady for my desertion of her."

Placing the paper in his pocket, he harried down the stair and out to the street. There had been some delay about the coming of the carriage, and he saw the lady he sought at that moment entering it

"Home at once as fast as you can" he heard her say to the coachman. She had evidently no intention of waiting for him. He sprang forward, thrust his arm through the carriage window and grasped her hand.

"Princess" he cried. "you will not leave me like this! I must see you to-

"No, no!" she gasped, shrinking into "You cannot be so cruel. Tell me at least where a letter will reach you. I this communication has not been shown shall not release your hand until you

> the curb with a long, slender white "By Jove " he sald at last as he fold-

With a quick movement the girl

this time, instead of the mitten!

A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.

She Pollowed Instructions, With & Very Surprising Result. "That daughter of nine will be the rally party with a value line. "There has term a young man hanging smould the incree for the part six health, and I was growing tired at it, for I didn't consider that he was good enough for my g yesterlay I sommoned my daughter and

tDantehran, coll that young man be

at me out of the corners of hor by Well, when he comes I want you to soft down on him. 'Very we'll papar' she answered de-

"I went down fown congratuating toy self, for I really expected a scene, as tag get has a will of her own and is not at all buckward about expressing its But when she promises to do a thing it is as good as settled, and I chuckled to missiff when I thought of the reception that that young man would meet with when he called in the evening.

"Well, that pight the young man made his usual evening out, and I sleaved out to give my daughter a chance to carry out her promise. I waited an hour, and then as the young man showed no signs of leaving I entered the drawing to where they were. The gas was turned down, but it was light enough for me to eiscover that the young man was holding

"I am only following your instruc-tions, paper, she answered without even

"You're what?" I gasped. "'Following your instructions. Dan't

Showing His Gratitude. After the editor of the Hawville Clar-

"You are quite right. If I had you about it most likely in the morning, a few times and dragged around in the his assailant long enough to say, "Sir, I "You thank me." exclaimed the trate visitor in astonishment.

"Certainly," replied the editor, "You

have done me an inestimable favor."
"In what way?" demanded the visitor. Inwiess brute, didn't 17" inquired the ed-

"That's what you said." might have been mistaken, but you have now proved the case for me, and I am

Character In Handwriting.

"Do you believe there is anything in Lord Donal turned with an ill con- the claim that men's characters are a scene even in his own hall. Had it has not yet arrived at the point where he well, for she was a lady of infinite tact. waste time working over purples than that the should put forth an extra effort, no matter how small."-Chicago Times-

here to be harrowed by false alarms any

A sign brought a serving man up the "I can't tell whether Dolly is practicing an aria from a grand opera or whetha mouse and is scared."-