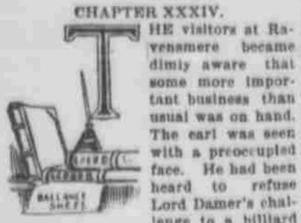


# FROM GLOOM TO SUNLIGHT

## OR THE USURER'S DAUGHTER.

BY CHARLOTTE M. BRAEME.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION.



**CHAPTER XXXIV.**  
**T**HE visitors at Ravensham became dimly aware that some more important business than usual was on hand. The earl was seen with a preoccupied face. He had been heard to refuse Lord Damer's challenge to a billiard match. He had distinctly stated that he should not join in the hunt that Colonel Hungerford had arranged. What was the matter? Lady Caraven was, as usual, bright, beautiful and graceful; but those who knew her best saw that she was engrossed by some thought.

The earl rang for his footman. "When Mr. Blantyre comes, show him into my study," he said; and then he went over to his wife. "You do not feel nervous at the task you have undertaken?" he questioned.

"No," she replied, calmly, "but I fancy that Mr. Blantyre will feel nervous before we have done with him."

The earl smiled. If this trusted servant of his had deceived him, the sooner he was unmasked and punished the better.

"I think," said Lady Caraven, "it would be quite as well if we looked over that balance sheet before Mr. Blantyre comes—it will shorten the interview."

He acquiesced at once, and followed his wife to the study.

She went to the table, and took her seat. Her husband stood at some distance from her. Silently she bent her head over the papers.

"You have seldom, I suppose, looked over one of these balance sheets," she said to the earl.

"No," he replied, "I do not remember that I have ever examined one."

"Then I will look over them," she said. Before long she added, "Will you look at this, Lord Caraven? All this is quite wrong—several entries are incorrect, and the reckoning is falsified."

The earl was slightly embarrassed. "I do not think, to tell you the truth, Hildred, that I am very clever at accounts," he stammered.

ants and bring in a new one."  
"Lord Caraven knows that he—"  
But the countess interrupted him.

"Did you take the bribe? 'Yes' or 'No'?"  
"Yes," he replied, sullenly.

"Mr. Blantyre," said the young countess, "you are a detected thief. You have robbed your employer, you have falsified your accounts, you have oppressed the poor, you have expressed the helpless, you have made my husband's name hated and loathed, you have betrayed your trust, you have drawn down upon your own head the curses of those people whom ill-luck has brought into contact with you."

"Stay, my lady. You accuse me, and give me no chance to defend myself."  
The earl was watching his wife intently. He saw the color rising in her face, he saw the light in her eyes, he heard the passion, the scorn of wrong-doing that trembled in her voice.

"She is equal to it," he thought; "there is no need for me to interfere." "You cannot defend yourself," she replied. "I hold innumerable proofs of what I assert."

John Blantyre cowered before the bright indignation of the fearless eyes, and, turning to the earl, said: "My lord, I have been a faithful servant of yours; have you nothing to say for me?"

"Upon my word, Blantyre, I believe you have been a most consummate rogue," answered the earl. "I have placed all my authority in the hands of Lady Caraven. She is to do as she will."

The bland smile on the agent's face changed to an ugly sneer. The young countess rose from her seat, and, extending her arm, pointed with her finger to the door.

"I shall waste no words with you, sir," she said. "Go! We might prosecute you, we might force you to give up your ill-gotten gains, we might expose you to the contempt of the world—but you are not worth it. I bid you go, and the punishment of your conduct will be that everyone will know that you have been dismissed characterless. Not one word!"

He made as though he would speak. She still kept her hand outstretched to the door; her eyes overmastered him. He turned to quit the room.

When he reached the door rage overcame prudence. He looked back at the noble figure of the young wife.

"I thank you, Lady Caraven," he said. "I owe this to you."  
She made no sign that she heard him.

"To you," he continued, with a sneer; "and we all know that you are here only on sufferance. Take care that your own turn does not come."  
There was no answer. Not even a quiver of the white eyelids showed that she heard. His rage increased.

"Good-bye, Countess of Caraven," he said. "You have called me a thief; you have, after a fashion, ruined me. I will be revenged—I swear it! Even should years pass before I can carry out my purpose, I will be revenged." And with these words he quitted the study.

plified; and then their tele-a-tele was interrupted. Lord Damer's wanted the earl.

Long after he had left the room she stood wondering if John Blantyre would keep his oath and, if he did, what manner of vengeance he would take. Not even a gleam of the terrible reality came to her.

**CHAPTER XXXV.**  
**B**EFORE many days had elapsed it became apparent that a new reign had begun at Ravensham. Sir Raoul was charmed and delighted; he never wearied of praising Lady Caraven, and telling her what a noble work she was doing; he did his best to help her.

A wonderful change was coming over the earl. Not that he was beginning even in the least to love his wife—that idea had not yet occurred to him; but he was beginning to treat her with great respect, to recognize the fact that she was a high-souled woman.

But, although the idea of love had not occurred to him, his relations toward each other were fast changing. The beautiful, gifted wife was fast taking her place in every respect and in every way, except in her husband's heart.

Lady Caraven lost no time when her husband had once given her permission to act. He affected to laugh and feel amused at her zeal and her enthusiasm—in reality it shamed him. He asked her what her first reform was to be; and she told him all the laborers' cottages were to be pulled down, and fresh houses built for them—houses where the first laws of health could be regarded. She wanted good fresh air, dry walls, pure water, plenty of room. She did not rest until the workmen were busy in removing what she called the "fever-acres."

She was to have her own way, yet she showed the sweetest submission to her husband. When the architect and builder waited upon her with plans for the model cottages, she took them at once to him. He looked up laughingly.

"You pay me a compliment, Hildred," he said, "but it is your affair entirely, not mine."  
"I shall find no pleasure in it unless I have your approval," she replied. "I am your head steward, not your guide. Look over these with me."

They discussed them in full detail, and that conversation had something so interesting, so piquant in it, that the earl was deeply interested.

"Thank you," said Hildred, looking up with a charming smile—"I am grateful to you for relieving me in my perplexity."  
"The pleasure has been all on my side," he answered; and that was the most gallant speech that the earl had yet made to his wife.

So time passed on, and the beautiful summer days were filled with schemes and plans for the benefit of others.

It seemed to the earl that he was really waking up from a long sleep. The world was wearing a different aspect for him. He had never even given a thought to politics. With the arbitrary insolence of youth he had pronounced them nonsense—and that was one of the things that Sir Raoul most deplored. Hildred, too, was sorry for it. She had been so successful in other matters that she ventured at last upon this. It was by a series of well-directed questions that she first aroused his attention. In trying to answer them he grew interested himself. "If I could vote," Hildred had a fashion of saying, "I should try to urge that measure."

At last Lord Caraven awoke to the consciousness that in the government of Britain's mighty empire he, too, ought to have a voice.

**Saints in Great Battles.**  
During the siege of Troy 1,516,000 men were killed and 270,000 men, women and children were massacred after the city was taken. At the siege of Jerusalem 1,100,000 persons died by the sword and by famine. At the battle of Austerlitz, which by many is considered Napoleon's most brilliant victory, the French and Austro-Russian armies numbered 210,000, and the loss was 40,000, or about 18 per cent. At Jena Auerstadt there were 325,000 men engaged, and the loss was 40,000, or about 12 per cent. At Borodino there were 170,000 men in battle, and 80,000 were killed and wounded, amounting to more than 47 per cent. At Leipzig there were 500,000 men in the battle, which lasted three days, and the loss was 110,000, or 22 per cent. At Waterloo, 140,000 men were engaged, and the loss was 40,000, or 24 per cent. In the Crimean war there were 125,000 men at the battle of Inkerman, and the casualties amounted to 25,000, or 20 per cent. At Magenta there were 225,000 men, and the loss was 11 per cent, or about 25,000. At Solferino there were 250,000, and the loss was 40,000, or 16 per cent. At Sadova the hostile forces numbered 425,000, and 70,000, or 16 per cent, were killed and wounded. At Gravelotte there were 450,000 men in the encounter, of whom 35,000, or about 8 per cent, were killed and wounded. At Shiloh the armies numbered 90,000, and the loss was 30,000, or one-third. At Fredericksburg there were 150,000 men, and the loss was 20,000, or 11 per cent. At Antietam there were 150,000, and the loss was 20,000, or about 13 per cent. At Chickamauga there were 195,000, and the loss was 30,000, or 15 per cent. At Chattanooga there were 150,000, and the loss was 30,000, or 20 per cent. At Gettysburg there were 160,000, and the loss amounted to 57,000 or 35 per cent.

Does a man without arms find a simple question beyond his grasp?  
"Not only ge—but noble," she re-

**Acute Situation.**  
London, Aug. 27.—A Peking correspondent says:  
The situation has suddenly become acute. The relations between the tsung li yamen and Sir Claude MacDonald, the British minister, are strained to the point of rupture. Sir Claude MacDonald has intimated that any failure by China to observe Great Britain's wishes will be accepted as a casus belli.

In support of Sir Claude MacDonald the fleet has been concentrated at Wei Hai Wei and Han Kow and all the warships under 5000 tons have been mobilized in the Yang Tse river. The naval demonstration is solely directed against China, as it is semi-officially stated that the existing relations with Russia are cordial.

Lord Salisbury has abandoned the policy of the open door, substituting for it a policy of spheres and influence. Diplomatic conferences have been of constant occurrence within the last few days. Lord Salisbury insists upon the recognition by the other powers interested in China of the boundaries of Great Britain's sphere of influence. In the same instrument whereby Great Britain recognizes Russia's position in Manchuria Russia is required to acknowledge the paramountcy of England in the Yang Tse valley and guarantee that her territorial requirements shall be permanently respected.

Great Britain is willing to drop her protest in respect to the new Chwang railway, but Russia is required to cancel her agreement with China that the country having the largest financial interest should arbitrate in disputes connected with the Peking-Hankow railway.

The negotiations are confined to Peking. The British ambassadors at St. Petersburg and Peking are in close communication.

**Fatal Ion.**  
Manila, Aug. 27.—On Wednesday a corporal and two artillerymen of battery B of the Utah artillery, after disembarking at Cavite, were sent on an errand.

While passing through the streets Artillerist Hudson discharged his revolver. It was all mere fun, but the natives in the immediate locality were much alarmed for a time.

The natives immediately began firing. Dismounted cavalry were sent to quell the disturbance, but the natives misunderstood the movement and the firing became general. Artillerist Hudson was killed and Corporal Anderson was mortally wounded.

Troopers Laydon, Nachbar, Connolly and Doyle of the fourth artillery were wounded. Four natives were killed and several wounded.

Gen. Aguinaldo has expressed his regret at the encounter and promises to punish the offenders. No further trouble is expected.

**Vessel Wrecked.**  
San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 27.—News has been received here confirming the reported loss of the stern wheeler Stickeen Chief. A letter from Juneau, dated Aug. 10, says that the disaster was doubtless caused by an explosion and that the crew and passengers numbering forty-three persons, were lost. The Dora saved a dog which was floating on a piece of wreckage. That it was an explosion that caused the loss was inferred by the Dora's crew from the fact that most of the wreckage was broken into small bits.

**Many Names.**  
Cairo, Ill., Aug. 27.—Charles M. Whitaker, of Polaski, was granted a license here to marry Miss Ida M. Matilda Martha Melissa Lucinda Catherine Jane Adams, of Olive Branch, this county. The young lady with the extraordinary name is only 15 and the groom but 19, hence the father of the latter, who is also the girl's guardian, had to give a double consent to the marriage.

Miss Winnie Davis is seriously ill at Narragansett, Pier, R. I.

Secretary Alger inspected Camp Wickoff.

**Manila Prisoners.**  
Madrid, Aug. 27.—The cabinet was in session again yesterday. Senor Sagasta said the government was principally occupied with the position of the troops that had capitulated at Manila. It would be better, he thought, to transport them to the Vizcaya islands than to bring them here, but the question must be decided by agreement with the American government. It depends upon whether or not the troops were considered prisoners of war.

**Department Aroused.**  
Washington, Aug. 27.—Gen. Corbin, adjutant general of the army, says no complaint has reached the war department from any major general, brigadier general, colonel or men of the army regarding want of destination or lack of supplies for the care of the troops. No demand has been made for supplies other than those which come in the ordinary routine way. Gen. Corbin declined to be interviewed on the subject of the many stories afloat regarding destitution and mismanagement of the war, saying that the facts will come out in due time and the people will see for themselves what was done.

The whole department is greatly stirred up over the many newspaper accounts of what has been going on and it was the subject of discussion everywhere about the war department, but apparently each head of a bureau believes that an investigation of the subject will vindicate him and his department.

The cabinet was in session two hours yesterday and devoted a large share of the time to matters which will come before the peace commission.

One of the complaints which had been made was in regard to the eighth New York at Chickamauga Park. It is stated at the war department that Gen. Boynton, in command at Chickamauga, had been ordered to make a thorough and complete investigation of the hospitals at that place to ascertain how the men have fared and report all the facts to the department. If there has been any shortcomings he is instructed to ascertain who is responsible and include the names of those found guilty in his report.

There seems to have been neglect in carrying out the order of the department, No. 116, which allowed 60 cents a day to all soldiers in hospitals, the amount to be a general fund from which delicacies and necessities for the sick soldiers. The order is dated Aug. 10.

**DIXIE DOINGS.**  
The safe in the treasurer's office of Amite county, Miss., at Liberty, was burglarized and \$14,000 of county bonds taken.

Mell Hall, an old man, was found dead in Coosa river, near Hoke's Bluff, Ala. His boat was found near him turned bottom up and evidence of a struggle were discovered on the river bank.

An electric car with a trailer attached and 150 passengers became unmanageable at Meridian, Miss., and ran away on a down grade. The car finally left the track and bounded into the air, landing 100 feet away. No one killed, but several were badly injured.

The formal transfer of the Knoxville, Cumberland Gap and Louisville railway has been made to the Southern railway at Knoxville, Tenn., the consideration being \$901,710.

Several days ago Sam Hubbard was found dead near Decatur, Ala., by the Louisville and Nashville railway track. A tramp named Horace Chappell has been arrested on the charge of having murdered him. He was the last man seen with Hubbard and claimed the latter's trunk at Montgomery.

**Schley's Welcome.**  
Washington, Aug. 27.—Rear Admiral Winfield S. Schley reached Washington at 4:10 o'clock yesterday afternoon and was greeted throughout the trip with cheering crowds. When the train pulled into the depot here he found a compact mass of spectators which filled the depot and overflowed out into the train sheds. The admiral and Mrs. Schley, when they appeared, were greeted with cheers and shouts of "Hurrah for Schley!"

Repatriated Spanish officers were banqueted at Corunna.

Gen. Wheeler wants the president to visit Montauk.

**Protection Needed.**  
London, Aug. 27.—A correspondent at Hong Kong telegraphs:  
The British consul at Kiung Chau Heinan has asked the American consul at Canton to urge the viceroys to send soldiers to Noden, near Hoi How, to protect the lives and property of American missionaries there, who have been obliged to flee for their lives for Idea and seek the protection of the British consul at Hoi How.

**Going to Yucatan.**  
Merida, Mex., Aug. 27.—Many Spaniards, resident now in Havana and other Cuban ports, are preparing to go to Yucatan and settle, believing they can improve their fortunes.

On the other hand Cubans landed proprietors among the refugees there are refusing to sell their lands and will soon return.

**How She Knew Fridays.**  
Little 5-year-old Flossie had observed that fish was always served for dinner each Friday at her home in the city, but she had missed it during a two weeks' sojourn in the country. "Grandma," she queried "don't you never have Fridays in the country?" "Of course we do," was the reply, but why do you ask?" "Cause," answered Flossie, "they don't smell like the Fridays we have in town."

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