

THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, February 2, 1871.

(From Chamber Journal.)

LADY LESINGHAM'S DIAMONDS.

[CONTINUED.]
Her tale only made the mystery seem deeper, and acted like a whistler to my curiosity; but no clearing up was to be expected. Lady Lesingham had been friendly with me from the first; she was naturally kind and gentle—and grew familiar as the weary weeks of my companionship in her monotonous existence went on; and the London autumn merged into the heavy London winter, with its long nights and foggy days; but weak and worn though her mind was, Lady Lesingham retained the habit and ability of keeping her eyes open, and letting piping ears hear only what they must. She groaned over the putting on of her diamonds—she muttered over their taking off—she held terrible rehearsals with Lady Tanbridge. How weird and ghastly the performance grew in the dark winter-night, and more dreary seemed the great house and the deserts of the waste of Desmonter. It was in the middle of the week, too, and the Countess was not expected. The morning had been foggy, the afternoon was wet, and her ladyship had one of those fits of restlessness to which Martha said she was subject by night as well as by day: she would not let me read the novels; she would not even play whilst, but kept walking from her chair to the window, wondering whether or not the sky would clear up; and if she should order her carriage. That window looked into the narrow lane behind the square; and I was just thinking what a prospect the poor lady had; and how long one could stand gazing on the blackened walls and falling leaves, when I heard my own voice, when a shrill cry startled me; and with a look of terror which I shall never forget, Lady Lesingham rushed by, darted into her own bedroom, and slammed the door. Instinctively I ran to the window, to see what she had seen; there was an unkempt and ragged man, with black matted hair, a black beard, and an Italian face, emaciated to that degree of withered wretchedness which the people of the world only can attain, clinging against the opposite wall; his head was forward, and his black eyes fixed upon the window with such intense and vindictive watchfulness, that I turned away almost as quickly as Lady Lesingham had done.

I heard her moaning in her own room, and knowing that Martha was below-stairs on some domestic errand, I went to the poor lady at once. She was sitting in a corner with her hands over her face, and trembling like a leaf in an ague-fit. "Has anything happened to your ladyship?" I stammered out, scarcely knowing what to say.
"Ah, yes, something has happened, will be always happening. Oh, Miss Fenton, you are a clever girl, but take warning; never do anything wrong to your youth, or it will follow you all your life. You are a good girl, especially never do anything wrong to get a husband, for man's love is easily turned away; but the sin and the sorrow will remain." How strangely I am talking," she added, suddenly recovering herself; "Indeed, I am not well to-day; these dark winter days make one so nervous; and there are bad characters about prowlings the back streets of town. How long it is since we have been out of town! But dear Miss Fenton," and here she sank into a white par, "we must keep the door at the top of the stairs locked; you will see that Martha looks, won't you?—Here she comes, for pity's sake, don't say a word about what has happened."

Before I could answer, Martha had entered in, and the girl, as she always did, without knocking, and the maid's countenance told me that something had gone against her mind. "We are to be left alone this Christmas," she said, "and goodness knows how long after. The Dowager and the girls are packing up all their best things; I'll warrant they are going to the Dowager's cousin, Lady Gisborn, in Heath Hall; it's somewhere in Berkshire. They have been fishing for indications through the week, and they'll stay till the London season begins, if they can. The house is to be shut up—I mean all the front of it; and all the servants are to go home on board-wagons, except the cook and the kitchenmaid. They say they must get home, too, from Christmas till Boxing day. You see they have both sweethearts, and want to get married, for which I don't blame them; poor souls they have saved no money, but got nothing to live on, but just the thing for them. But you'll have a lonely time of it. I don't know how you'll stand it, Miss Fenton, and I hope the housebreakers won't hear tell of how we are left; but I'll see the back-door safely barred every evening before I sit down."

"Do Martha," said Lady Lesingham; and she went on, concerning the house, and the present, and the home-sick strain in which she had talked to me, to which Martha, having seen nothing of the window transaction, paid no attention; but she took the first opportunity to whisper in my ear, "That old dog of Tanbridge will have to be let in every Friday at the back door; I hope he'll break his neck down that steep stair of ours some day."

The arrangements thus set forth were carried into effect within the same week. The Dowager and the Ladies Clementina and Sophia, her granddaughters, departed for Heath Hall. The dowager was shut up, like its fellow-mansions in the square, all the servants retired to their respective homes and friends, except the two damsels of the kitchen, who were appointed to the house, for the existence of the three in the back-rooms was not so much as acknowledged. The gloom of the situation has always fallen heavily on me, and it fell heavier now. The loss of the Dowager and her establishment was not the chief cause, I had neither part nor lot in the great household from my entrance within the walls; but the sight of that ragged man with fierce eyes fixed upon the window, making in some degree understand the fears and forebodings which took possession of poor Lady Lesingham. She was absolutely unwilling to get out at all, even in the close carriage. She never approached the window by any chance, and got up a thousand pretexts for having the blind drawn down and the curtains closed, thus making the watery daylight less, which together with her restless anxiety regarding the security of the little door at the top of the stairs, called forth many a plain-spoken remonstrance from Martha. I felt myself bound in honor to tell the sturdy maid nothing of what her poor mistress had begged me for pity's sake not to mention. Perhaps it would have been better had I acted less scrupulously; but the dreary days went on in this fashion, with all Christmas eve.

It was the first Christmas I had ever spent from home. Though not much, we had been a happy family, and I had got up early, and occupied myself by writing long letters to my mother and sister, and to others, and to me, short as the distance was, and took the first opportunity to run with them to the post-office. On my way, I had to traverse the narrow lane into which the windows of Lady Lesingham's sitting room looked, and the back door of the mansion, as well as those of many others opened. Though a thoroughfare, it was rather solitary at that season of the year, and I was spelling home, when about the middle of the lane I caught the shadow of a man behind me, and a hand at the same mo-

ment touched me on the shoulder. With the wild Italian in my frightened fancy, I turned quickly round; but there stood a tall and remarkably handsome man, of about middle life, as I judged; his hat was drawn down so as to conceal his features. "I beg your pardon, madam," he said, in the undertone of a fine, manly voice; "is your name Fenton?" "It is," said I.

To be continued.

ST. LOUIS TRADE.

W. H. GUMERSELL & CO.

Importers of

DRESS AND CLOAK TRIMMINGS,

LACES, EMBROIDERIES,

French Corsets, Kid Gloves,

HOSIERY,

Zephyr Worsted, Fancy Goods, etc.,

No. 207 N. Fourth St., ST. LOUIS.

Special attention given to orders.

1871.

ORIENTAL POWDER Co.

Manufacturers of Sporting, Shipping and Blasting

GUNPOWDER,

Office, No. 121 N. Second Street,

SAINT LOUIS.

PUTNAM PURLEY, General Agent West of

Shot, Bar Lead, Percussion Caps, and Cart-

ridges for Sale.

Established 1830.

Fairbanks'

STANDARD

SCALES

Established in 1830.

Over 200 Modifications, with the LATTEST

and Most VALUABLE Improvements.

FAIRBANKS, GREENLEAF & CO.,

137 and 139 State Street, - CHICAGO.

303 Washington Avenue, - ST. LOUIS.

Every Scale Warranted. 275-28

N. SCHAFFER,

Manufacturer of

SOAP, CANDLES, LARD OIL AND

GLYCERINE.

Dealers in PRESSED LARD Etc.

No. 225 & 227 North Second Street, ST. LOUIS, M.

BUCK'S PATENT STOVES

ARE MORE

Durable, Baking Quicker, Better

AND

WITH LESS FUEL

THAN

ANY STOVES MADE.

They Always Give Satisfaction.

BUCK'S STOVES have taken the premium at the last two fairs held at St. Louis, and Gold Medal awarded to them. They are in competition with the leading stoves made in the United States, at the New Orleans Mechanical and Agricultural Fair, January 1865, and at the International Fair, held at the New Orleans La. State Fair, April 26, 1867, and in the United States.

BUCK & WRIGHT

720 and 722 N. Main St., ST. LOUIS.

Manufacturers of all variety of Stoves. Price List and samples furnished on application.

1871.

THE CELEBRATED

COOKING STOVES!

They are really what their name indicates, SUPERIOR to any other stove in the market, and for Economy, Durability, Convenience & Dispatch are Unparalleled!

KANSAS, ALASKA

AND

IMPROVED AMERICAN

For Coal.

Which for Neatness of Construction, Design, Economy of Fuel, and Convenience of Operation, place them among the best stoves in the market.

They have been constructed specially for the American River, Bering Sea Coast (for which all sorts of Eastern manufacturers are not ill adapted). Large stoves measure a yard square, and the fire-places are unusually heavy, and combine certain peculiarities in their construction which give them power, economy, convenience, and durability, exceeding any other stove in the market.

Bridge, Beach & Co.,

ST. LOUIS.

Made the first Stoves ever made West of the Mississippi River.

Deal in Metals!

1871.

TO LUMBERMEN!

WANTED,

AT THE DESERET NEWS OFFICE,

A LOT OF

Maple Plank,

Two inches and a quarter thick and four inches wide.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS is at

1871.

THE DEPARTMENT