

short and said he had no time for riddles, as he had been dreaming of niggers all night.

I heard afterward that if affairs were lively at Holly Lodge it was not all peace and good will to men at the parish church. Grampus had an attack of gout—a day earlier than usual—so Jack went to Christmas service alone. He winked twice at Minkie, but she gazed at him steadily with the only eye he could see. Dolly was entirely taken up with her prayer book, so Jack took careful stock of the red haired man with her. But a captain of hussars who has won the D. S. O. has no reason to be ashamed of being alive, so when our people came through the lich gate there was Captain Stanhope, with his hat off, smiling quite pleasantly and wishing them the compliments of the season.



Of course Mam and the Guv'nor, being gentlefolk, had to respond. Schwartz made to walk on with Dolly, but she stopped, too, and Minkie shook hands with Jack first of anybody.

The old man was hardly comfortable. He nudged Mam's arm, and they would have joined Schwartz if Jack hadn't said:

"By the way, Mr. Grosvenor, I want to have a chat with you on a matter of some importance. Can you spare me a few minutes now, or shall I call later in the day?"

Dolly blushed, and her father saw it. He stiffened a bit, just as I do when my hair rises.

"I am sorry, Captain Stanhope, but I fear that any exchange of confidences between us will not only be useless, but open to misinterpretation," he said coldly.

"Let me explain that I am running dead against my uncle's wishes in seeking this interview," protested Jack. "Believe me, I am actuated by the best of good feeling toward you and your family, sir."

"I do credit that, but any discussion of the point must inflict unnecessary pain."

"This is really a serious matter."

"So is everything where your uncle and I are concerned. Come on, my dear. We cannot keep Mr. Schwartz waiting."

The Guv'nor lifted his hat and marched away. Mam said nothing, Dolly didn't care tuppence how her skirt draped, Minkie said that if the frost continued there would soon be thick ice, and Schwartz grinned. Dolly thought she would like to slap Schwartz, so she joined Minkie on the high path above the road, where the hens have to fly when I get after them.

"I think it's too bad of father to snub Jack in that way," she said, half sobbing.

"Dad is making a mistake," agreed Minkie. "If you take my advice, you will come with me this afternoon and find out what it is Jack wants to say."

"How can I? Where can I see him? We can't go to the manor house."

"I have arranged to meet Jack at half past 2 near the Four Lanes."

"You have arranged?"

"Yes. While you were squinting up to find out if your hat was at the right tilt I was watching Jack drawing a cross and 2:30 on the gravel with his stick. I nodded, so that is all right. Are you coming?"

Dolly was flurried. "I dunno," she murmured. "You don't understand things, Minkie. Dad is desperately anxious that we should not offend Mr. Schwartz, who can be either a very good friend or a dangerous enemy. Oh, sis, what a happy world it would be if we had all the money we want!"

"P'raps. Schwartz is rich, and he looked happy last night, didn't he? Jack's uncle is rolling in coin, and today he is nursing a foot the size of an elephant's."

"I am not thinking of myself, Minkie."

"I know that. You are trying to help Dad, and he is fretting because he has to pay a lot of money on the 10th of January."

Dolly opened her eyes widely.

"Who told you?" she cried.

"Sh-s-s-h! There's Mam calling. She wants us to look in at nurse's cottage. What about Jack—quick?"

"I'll see," whispered Dolly.

People who play poker are a bit doubtful when they say that.

If you add the recognized fact that the woman who hesitates is lost, you will understand at once that when Minkie and I climbed over the orchard fence at 2:15 Miss Dorothy came running after us.

"Mam has gone upstairs, and Mr. Schwartz and father are in the library, so I will join you in your stroll," she said, trying to keep up a pretense.

"Step out, then," said Minkie. "Jack will be waiting."

He was. He saw us coming long before we reached the crossroads, and his first words meant war.

"Who is this fellow Schwartz?" he demanded.

"A friend of—father's," said Dorothy.

"Well, he is a rogue," said Jack. "I wanted to warn Mr. Grosvenor about him this morning, but he wouldn't listen to me."

"Oh, was that it?" and Dorothy's nose went up in the air.

"Partly—not all. I say, Minkie, if you take Dan into the warren you will find a heap of rabbits. The keepers are a mile away. I told them you were coming."

"Then Dan can go by himself. I am far more interested in Schwartz than Dot is. Do you know anything about ju-jus?"

"By Jove, Minkie, you do come to the point. Why, that blessed nigger prince is at the manor now plotting mischief with my uncle."

"How did he get there? I suppose you met him last night?"

"Yes. I was passing along the road when I heard Jim turn him out of the gate and order him not to show his black mug inside the grounds again. I wondered what on earth a ducky was doing at Dale End. Thinking he was a Hindoo, one of the natives who come to England to read up law, I spoke to him, but as soon as we reached a lamp I saw he was a negro. He was in awful trouble, and appeared to have been badly handled. As soon as he discovered that I was a friend of yours—which I mean to remain, no matter how your father

Continued on Next Page and on all following Pages.

Mrs. E. S. Coppersmith's Christmas Topics

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Register's Notice.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, } SS:
COUNTY OF CAMERON, }
NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Ella A. Parsons, Executrix of the estate of Orrel F. Edwell, late of Emporium, Cameron County, State of Pennsylvania, deceased, has filed her first and final account of her administration of said estate and the same will be presented at the next term of Court for confirmation 14th day of January, 1909, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon.
Register's Office,
Emporium, Pa., Dec. 7th, 1908. } -4-
W. J. LEAVITT, Register.

ELECTION NOTICE.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK,
Emporium, Pa., Dec. 7th, 1908.
THE annual meeting of the stockholders for the election of a Board of Directors and the transaction of such other business as may be laid before them, will be held at the Bank on Tuesday, January 12, 1909, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon.
T. B. LLOYD, Cashier.

Register's Notice.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, } SS:
CAMERON COUNTY, }
NOTICE is hereby given that George W. Leavitt, Administrator of the estate of Mary E. Sanford, late of Shippen Township, Cameron County and State of Pennsylvania, deceased, has filed his first and final account of his administration of said estate, and the same will be presented at next term of Court for confirmation 14th day of January, 1909, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon.
Register's Office,
Emporium, Pa., Dec. 8th, 1908. } n-4-
W. J. LEAVITT, Register.

Warning

All persons are hereby forbidden from trespassing upon the property of this Company without a permit from this office, or the Manager at the works.
KEYSTONE POWDER MFG. CO.
Emporium, Pa., August 1st, 1903