The BALL of FIRE

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ILLUSTRATED by C. D. RHODES

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SYNOPSIS.

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At a vestry meeting of the Market Square church Gail Sargent tells Rev. Smith Boyd that Market Square church is apparently a lucrative business enterprise. Allison takes Gail riding in his motor car. She finds cold disapproval in the eyes of Rev. Smith Boyd. Allison starts a campaign for consolidation and control of the entire transportation system of the world. Gail becomes popular. Allison gains control of transcontinental traffic and arranges to absorb the Vedder court tenement property of Market Square church. Gail tells Boyd that the cathedral Market Square church proposes to build will be out of profits wrung from squalor. At a meeting of the seven financial magnates of the country, Allison organizes the International Transportation company. Rev. Smith Boyd undertakes Gail's spiritual instruction and Gail unconsciously gives Allison a hint that solves the Vedder court problem for him. On an inspection trip in Allison's new subway the tunnel caves in and imprisons the party, who are rescued by the exertions of Allison and Boyd. The newspaper accounts of the subway accident place Gail in the spotlight and drive her to her home in the West. Her friends plot to coax her back.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Message From New York.

It was good to be home! Gail wondered that she could ever have been content away from the loving shelter of her many, many friends. She had grown world weary in all the false gayety of New York! She was disillusioned! She was blase. She was tired of frivolity; and she immediately planned or enthusiastically agreed to take part in a series of gayeties which would have made an average hard-working man anticipate them with an already broken constitution.

The house was full of them, ...

... a backward glance to make sure that Gail is staring, with softened brown eyes, down into her chocolate box, and seeing there amid the confections, the laughing, swirling skaters in Mrs. Matson's glistening ballroom. There were some who would not be at that ball—Allison, and Rev. Smith Boyd, and—Arlene has plenty of time to write her formally dutiful letter without disturbance.

Gail has letters, too, as the days wear on. She scarcely has time for them amid all the impromptu gayeties, but she does find a chance to read them; some of them twice. If she'd only come back. That was the tenor of all her letters; if she'd only come back! Bless their hearts, she loved them; and yes, she longed for them, even here in the happy, sheltering environment of her own dear home and friends! There were still other letters; a confidently friendly one from Allison, who sent her regularly candy and flowers on alternate days; a substantial one from Houston Van Ploon; a thoughtful one from Willis Cunningham; a florid one from Dick Rodley; nice little notes, calculated to relieve her embarrassment, from all her "slaves" except the missing count, and a discussion from the Rev. Smith Boyd. That was one of those which she read more than once; for it was quite worth it.

There was an impromptu party at Gail's house, a jolly affair, indeed. All her old steadfast friends, you know, who were quite sufficient to fill her ...

... touches of originality, down to his patent leather tips! With a wave of careless ease he flung back his Inverness over one shoulder, and rang the bell!

"Dick!" cried a voice just behind Gail's ear. Gail had not known that anyone was leaning heavily on her shoulders, but now she and Arly, with one accord, turned and raced for the vestibule!

"You handsome thing!" cried Arly, as he stepped into the hall and held out a hand to each of them. "I've a notion to kiss you!"

"All right," he beamed down on her, sparing another beam for Gail. No, Gail had not exaggerated in memory the magic of his melting eyes. It could not be exaggerated!

"There aren't any words to tell you how welcome you are!" said Gail, as the butler disappeared with his hat and Inverness.

"What on earth brought you here to bless us?" demanded Arly.

"I came to propose to Gail," announced Dick calmly, and took her hand again, bending down on her that wonderfully magnetic gaze, so that she was panic-stricken in the idea that he was about to proceed with his project right on the spot.

"Wait until after the dance," she laughingly requested, drawing back a step and blushing furiously.

"We're wasting time," protested Arly. "Hurry on in, Dick. We want to exhibit you."

"I don't mind," consented Dick cheerfully, and slipped through the doorway, where he made a decided sensation.

Eleven girls dreamed of his melting eyes that night; and the town boys lost their monopoly. Viewing Gail's victorious scramble with Arly for Dick's exclusive possession, their friends unanimously reduced them to the ranks.

After the dance, Dick made good his threat with Gail, and formally proposed, urging his enterprise in coming after her as one of his claims to consideration; but Gail, laughing, and liking him tremendously, told him he was too handsome to be married, and sent him back home with a fresh gardenia ...

Inside Sat the Most Wickedly Handsome Man in the World.

CHAPTER XV.

The Rector Wins.

... awkward with his spoon, and dropped it.

"That is delightful news," he returned with frank enthusiasm which was depressing to his mother.

Mrs. Boyd had nothing more to say. She watched her son Ted start vigorously at his grapefruit, with a vivacity which seemed to indicate that he might finish with the rind. He drew his eggs energetically toward him, buttered a slice of toast, and finished his breakfast. Suddenly he looked at his watch.

"I have an extremely busy day before me," he told her briskly, and feeling to see if he had supplied himself with handkerchiefs, he kissed his mother, and was gone without another word about Gail! She could have shaken him in her disappointment. What was the matter with Ted?

Rev. Smith Boyd sang as he went out of the door, not a tune or any set musical form, but a mere unconscious testing of his voice. It was quite unusual for him to sing on the way to Vedder court, for he devoted his time to this portion of his duties because he was a Christian. He had sympathy, more than enough, and he both understood and pitied the people of Vedder court, but, in spite of all his intense interest in the deplorable condition of humanity's weak and helpless, he was compelled to confess to himself that he loathed dirt.

Vedder court was particularly perfect in its specialty this morning. The oily black sediment on its pavements was streaked with iridescence, and grime seemed to be shedding from every point of the drunken old buildings. They even seemed to leer down at Rev. Smith Boyd, as if his being the only clean thing in the street were an impertinence, which they would soon rectify.

A half intoxicated woman, her front teeth missing and her colorless hair straggling, and her cheekbones gleaming with the high red of debauchery, leered up at him as he passed. A curly-headed youngster, who would have been angelically beautiful if he had been washed and his native blood pumped from him, threw mud at Rev. ...

... shouldered and short-necked, and had enormous red hands.

"How are you today, Mrs. Rogers?" asked the rector, sitting on a backless and bottomless chair, with his hat on his knees, and holding himself small, with an unconscious instinct to not let anything touch him.

"No better," replied the woman, making her voice weak. "I'll never know a well day again. The good Lord has seen fit to afflict me. I ain't saying anything, but it ain't fair."

Rev. Smith Boyd could not resist a slight contraction of his brows. Mrs. Rogers invariably introduced the Lord into every conversation with the rector, and it was his duty to wrestle with her soul, if she insisted. He was ...

She Was Heavy With the Fat Which Rolls and Bulges.

... not averse to imparting religious instruction, but, being a practical man, he could not enjoy wasting his breath ...

(TO BE CONTINUED)

BORERS ARE A MOST DESTRUCTIVE PEST

Castings of Roundheaded Apple Tree Borers at Base of Young Apple Tree.

Borers attack most kinds of fruit trees, also the different varieties of locust and hickory trees. They are most destructive to the apple and peach. There are several kinds of these worms; all of them live on the soft bark of the tree near the surface of the ground. The flat back and the round black head borers feed on the apple and the soft yellow worm with a brown head feeds on the peach, apricot and nectarine.

The eggs are laid early in summer at the base of the trunk, near the collar, where the bark is soft. There they are hatched in June and July ...

... soap to use. After this is done sprinkle about one quart of fresh air-slaked lime or wood ashes around the base of the tree and fill in with fresh earth. Sifted coal and wood ashes may be used instead of lime; both are good. The worming should be done in the fall and again in the spring. The ashes or slaked lime should be applied in the fall, in the spring and at the end of summer may be spread around the tree. Ashes and lime form an excellent dressing for fruit trees. It is a good plan to spread half a bushel of sifted coal ashes around each fruit tree during the winter. The ashes will prevent the moth from laying its eggs in the soft bark of the tree. As there is considerable ...

Three-Year-Old Apple Tree.

ORDER FRUIT TREES FOR COMING SPRING

Buyer Should Give Due Consideration to Reputation of Nurseryman—Order Early.

MOUNDING TREES TO KEEP AWAY RODENTS

Important to Scrape Away Vegetation That May Be Close to Trunk of Tree.

ECZEMAS AND RASHES

Itching and Burning Soothed by Cuticura Soap and Ointment.

WANTED

WHOLE THEATER UNDER HAT

MUCH DEEPER THAN MEMORY

ENTERTAINING ON CHRISTMAS

BACK IN COLONIAL DAYS FOLKS HAD GREAT FEASTS HONORING THE OCCASION: HERE'S HOW—

PERHAPS YOU WANT SUGGESTIONS ABOUT DISTRIBUTING THE GIFTS. HERE ARE SEVERAL—

THE Christmas season brings to mind the many Christmas days gone by, with their four great features—turkey, cranberry sauce, plum pudding and mince pie.

It was a good old English custom, not to be rejected by the American colonists, although modifications were necessary to suit the religion and conditions of living in the colonies, the Christ-spirit being substituted for the pagan yuletide, the famous "boar's head" was omitted, and the Christmas pie became known as mince pie. However, many old observances were kept, including the mistletoe and holly, and Christmas ...

ALL gifts, carefully marked, should be ... in charge, and she must purchase a quantity of clothesline and clothespins. The line should be stretched back and forth across the living room, and each gift, wrapped in tissue paper and tied with red ribbons, should be fastened to the line by a clothespin, decorated with wings of red and green ...

... the bay window a table should ... arranged on which is placed a ... Horner" pie, containing a Christmas souvenir for each member of the family ...

HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Dec. 20, 1914.

Von Hindenburg advanced further toward Warsaw.

Russians crossed the Bzura burning the bridges.

Serbians and Montenegrins again invaded Bosnia.

Turks made gains near Lake Urumiah.

Allied fleets bombarded interior forts of the Dardanelles.

Russians drove Turks toward Van.

Belgian provinces agreed to pay tax to Germany.

Dec. 21, 1914.

Allies extended offensive operations in west, gaining in center.

Russians won over Turks in Armenia, capturing equipment.

Allied aviators dropped bombs in Brussels and made night attack near Ostend.

... protested against violations of her neutrality by German navy.

Germans driven across border of North Poland.

Dec. 22, 1914.

Germans claimed to have stopped allies in west.

Germans accused of shelling hospital in Ypres.

Russian army threatened railway to Thorn and Germans reformed to protect it.

Von Hindenburg's left threatened by new invasion of Germany.

Germans crossed branches of Bzura and Rawka rivers.

Austrians defeated in the Carpathians.

Arabs menaced Christians in Hodeida and French consul was seized.

Allied fleets bombarded German positions on Belgian coast.

French destroyer shelled Turks ...

WESTERN CANADA'S WONDERFUL YIELD

Wheat Yields Reports Extraordinarily Heavy.

When one hears of individual wheat yields of thirty-five to forty bushels per acre, there is considerable incredulity, but when yields, in whole townships extending into districts covering three and four and five hundred square miles in area, of upwards of fifty and some as high as sixty-five bushels per acre are reported, one is led to put his ear to the ground to listen for further rumblings. The writer having heard of these wonderful yields made a trip through the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to ascertain first hand their truthfulness. It was remarkable to discover that ... that modesty was her mantle, that all that had been said of these yields was true, and that yields of over seventy bushels per acre were told of. These were so high that the truthfulness of the story was doubtful and very little was said of them. But such there were, and not in one instance, but in several, not in one locality but scattered in places hundreds of miles apart. Leaving these out altogether, there were large areas in which the average was over fifty bushels per acre, which in all common sense ought to satisfy most people. One hundred and thirty threshers in Alberta have made their returns to the local government as required by an act of the Legislature, and the average of the wheat threshed was fifty-three bushels to the acre. So immense was the yield that official verification was required before giving it out to the public. Sitting in the smoking compartment of a day coach ...

SUPPER THE PRINCIPAL MEAL

In Former Times Noonday "Dinner" Was Only Luncheon, According to English Ideas.

The change in mealtimes is evidenced by the old rhyme:

To rise at five and dine at nine,
To sup at five and bed at nine,
Will make a man live to ninety-nine.

But one suspected that the change is in the names of the meals rather than in the hours. Our ancestors would have termed our luncheon dinner, and our dinner supper. It is a curious fact that in some of the Oxford colleges, where the founders made allowances for the meals of the students, a much larger sum is allotted for supper than for dinner, implying that the former was the more substantial meal. Taken at five or six o'clock, it was really "early dinner."

Some particulars of the mealtimes of our ancestors may be found in William Harrison's "Description of England," published 1587:

"With us the nobility, gentry and students do ordinarily go to dinner at eleven before noon, and to supper at five or between five and six at afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before twelve at noon, and six at night, especially in London. The husbandmen dine also at high noon, as they call it, and sup at seven or eight, but out of the term in our universities the scholars dine at ten. As for the poorest sort they generally dine and sup when they may, so that to talk of their order of repast it were but a needless matter. — London Chronicle.

BEST WAY TO CURE COLD IN CHEST

Doctors advise not to allow cold in chest or sore throat to hang on. Pneumonia ofttimes results. The minute your chest or throat shows signs of soreness rub on true Mustarine, which only costs about 25 cents, and ...

Housework Is a Burden

It's hard enough to keep house if in perfect health, but a woman who is weak, tired and suffering from an aching back has a heavy burden.

Any woman in this condition has good cause to suspect kidney trouble, especially if the kidney action seems disordered.

Doan's Kidney Pills have cured thousands of suffering women. It's the best recommended special kidney remedy.

A Kentucky Case

Mrs. Mattie Morse, Princeton, Ky., says: "My back pained me terribly and I thought I would go frantic. My limbs swelled and I was barely able to move. I had awful dizzy spells, too. As soon as I used Doan's Kidney Pills I felt better and before long they restored me to good health. I haven't had a sign of kidney trouble since."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 50c a Box

DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS

PLAIN DOG'S GAME FIGHT

Withstands Attack of Three Until Boy Takes Hand in Battle, Then Crawls Away to Die.

It was dog, just plain yellow-hued dog, that fought a battle at Superior avenue.

There were four in the fight. The plain dog was on one side. The other three formed the other army.

There was no question of a fight. People interested stopped to see it.

Plain dog was nipped savagely on the ear and was bitten on the back. From a gash in his neck blood flowed to change plain dog's yellow to red.

But plain dog fought on.

The battle ended when a boy with a stone and a well-directed aim helped put out one of the three other dogs.

For Sprains, Strains or Lameness

HANFORD'S Balsam of Myrrh

Asthma-Catarrh and Bronchitis

VICK'S SALVE

The Wretchedness of Constipation

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

CHEW MAIL POUCH TOBACCO WHY TRY IT AND SEE