



# TRUE AS STEEL

CHAPTER VIII.  
ON THE THRESHOLD.

One thought had been dominant in the heart of Beatrice Mercer since the moment that Raymond Marshall's discovery of her duplicity had crushed her with humiliation. A bitter, cruel resolve that, come what might, he should never again see the face of this woman he loved.

"Patience!" her fierce heart had thrummed out. "He loves her yet; he knows her to be true. He despises me, but he shall yet love me. I cannot lose him. He shall never find or wed Edna Deane."

Then, calming her fierce, resolute nature to subtle, sinister regard of all the issues in the case in which mingled love and jealousy involved her, Beatrice Mercer fell to studying the chances in her favor.

She knew where Edna had gone; the letter that Edna had only half read, amid her excitement and anxiety, had been conned over and over again by the plotting Beatrice.

Its contents gave her an insight of the character of the father who had sent for his beloved child, into his secrets as well, and she knew that one of two things would happen when Edna reached home—her father would order her to forget all friends of the past, or, if any letter, or word, or hint, reached Raymond Marshall, it would be through her friends.

As the days passed by, however, and no word was received, she grew puzzled, disturbed, and finally anxious. The evening of the weekly paper published at her home, and glancing over this, Beatrice felt the blood rush from her heart through icy channels, as she noted an item that told her intuitively that she had found a trace of the missing Edna at last.

It was the record of the death by drowning of a man and a girl; the account of the scene at that broken bridge, where the two villagers had seen Edna Deane's companion plunge to his death, and had accredited Edna herself with falling a victim to the same fate.

Within an hour, from a careful study of the item and from a knowledge of the route taken by Edna and her guide, Beatrice knew that she no longer had a rival. Edna Deane was dead!

She knew something more. She knew that with the death of these two had perished a mighty secret—that someone—and she knew where, an anxious father, awaiting the return of his beloved daughter, lay at her feet as an atonement for the forced neglect of years, a royal fortune.

The next morning Beatrice Mercer's mind was made up. All night long she had plotted and planned. The jealous-minded school girl of the night previous had become in a few brief hours a willful, wicked siren, imbued with schemes as bold and cruel as the harvest heart ever yet designed.

She went straight to the town where Edna and her companion had disappeared. Within twenty-four hours she was satisfied that both had met their fate in the turbulent torrent that flowed beneath the broken rustic bridge.

## ABOUT OUR FINANCES.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY FOSTER.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Last Fiscal Year—Election Notice Figures—Report on Sinking Fund Law—Recommended—Redemption Reserve Should Be Increased.

The country's cash. The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows that the government revenues from all sources during the last fiscal year were \$425,868,260, and the total expenditures \$415,953,806, leaving a surplus of \$9,914,453.

A week passed thus, then the novelty of her new life began to wear away. The false Alice Ralston, the real Beatrice Mercer, began to grow restless, anxious, moody.

Then she fell to plotting. If she could only drag from that past life the object of her love, Raymond Marshall, she would be content.

"You are getting wearied of the loneliness here, I fear," spoke Ralston, anxiously, one evening.

"No, father."

"You are deceiving me. I can read it in your face. I caught you crying yesterday. Speak, my child, if you have any secret sorrow."

The veiled eyes of the siren glowed triumphantly. The hour had come for a master-stroke of finesse.

"Shall I tell you the truth, even if it disturbs you?" asked Beatrice, in a low, purring tone.

"Always, my dear."

"I am happy here, only there is a chapter in my past that haunts me. I have friends whom I love, whom I left in poverty, trouble. Father, if I had the means to visit them, to place them in a position beyond want, I would return here satisfied, never to leave you again."

"You mean this, my daughter?"

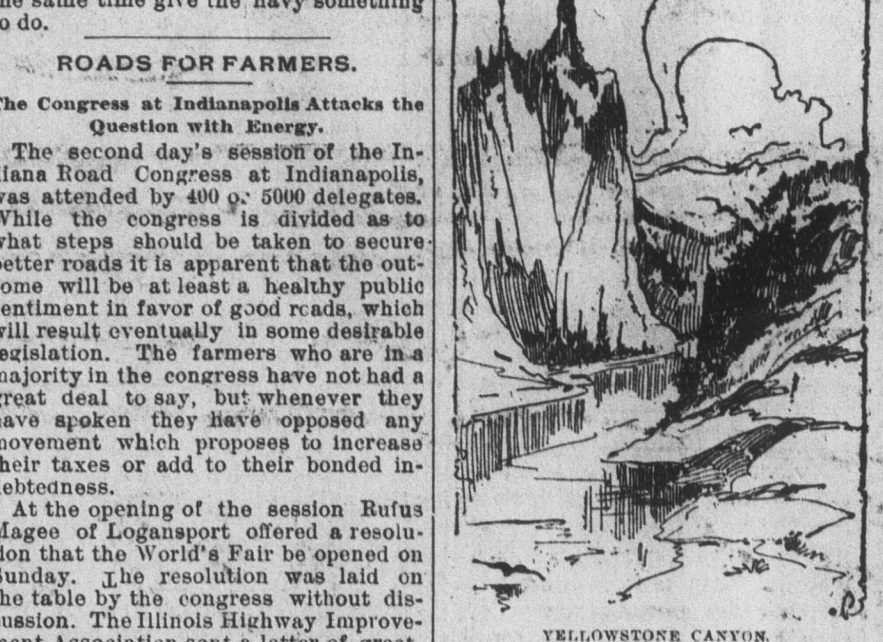
"As I understand it, you wish to go to these friends—to bid them a final farewell, and to enrich them?"

He led her to a room guarded with an iron door. With a key he unlocked a cabinet. It was stored with money—coin, bank notes, bonds.

## OUR SCENIC ATTRACTIONS.

### Beauty Endless in Variety from Ocean to Ocean.

It is the pride of this country that she is great in everything. She is great in the extent of her seacoast, in her cities, her lakes, her rivers, her



YELLOWSTONE CANYON.

plains, her forests, her resources, and in the intelligence of her people.

Great is she, too, in her scenery, in the manifold attractions which nature has scattered over her bosom from ocean to ocean and from the Gulf to the great lakes.

Only during the last few years, says that admirably illustrated weekly, the Chicago Graphic, speaking of the scenic attractions of the trans-Missouri country, have they begun to be appreciated and even now they are only faintly realized by the people of the United States.

In 1844 Illinois was really the frontier of civilization. Then came the discovery of gold in California, the rush to the Pike's Peak country, the projection and completion of the Union Pacific Railroad and the building of other iron highways in every State and Territory, and naturally the attractions of different localities became better known.

Colorado, Idaho, Utah, the Yellowstone region, abound in beauties of stone, canyon, river, waterfall, and mountains, among the most unequalled in the world.

Idaho has 600,000 acres of lakes and there are the Shoshone and Bridal Veil Falls, whose charms have not been marred by the artificiality of civilization. The height of the Shoshone Falls is 82 feet the first descent and 210 feet the second, with a width of 950 feet. The chasm above and below the falls varies in height

for a length of 18 miles from 1,050 to 1,200 feet. Bridal Veil Falls has a width of 125 feet.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Park is the most magnificent in the world. It is only one of the many beauties comprised in the national park, which abounds in attractions that are endless in variety.

The Pillars of Hercules on the line of the Union Pacific Road are as picturesque formations of nature as exist. A large pine tree grows in a crevice on top of one of the pillars.

Patience Waiters. The Italian singers, Sofia and Giulia Tavogli, who became quite suddenly the delight of London musical circles, are very modest and patient women. They can bear to defer enjoyment even of the praise which is theirs by right.

Mademoiselle Giulia was one day talking with a friend, who happened to make some remark about the enthusiastic notices the two singers had received from all the London papers.

## BANQUET TO MR. CLEVELAND.

### Annual Feast of the Reform Club Held at New York City.

At the annual banquet of the Reform Club at Madison Square Garden, in New York, the President-elect was the bright particular star and most honored guest.

He occupied the post of honor at the right hand of the Mayor, Anderson, President of the club. After all the guests had been seated, Mr. Anderson, who presided, arose and delivered the welcoming address. Among other things he said:

"We meet to-night to celebrate the personal triumph of the man who has shown the crusading spirit of the party because your cause was their cause; because your beliefs were their beliefs. We have high authority for saying that Mr. Cleveland is a popular man, an extraordinary popular man, on every day of the year except election day; and we have still higher authority for declaring that on election day he is the most popular man in the United States."

Mr. Cleveland's speech. President-elect Cleveland was the next speaker. He received most enthusiastic applause, and through cheers was given between speeches and after the speech. The people in the boxes rose with one accord. Even the ladies in the gallery cheered, while Mr. Cleveland looked placidly on. When the enthusiasm subsided Mr. Cleveland said:

"MR. PRESIDENT AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to thank you, and I hope to do little more than remind you of the meaning and significance of this occasion. We are gathered here to-day to witness the triumph of the principles which are grounded in purest patriotism, because they accord with the purest and most noble instincts of the human mind. Let me suggest to you, however, that we can contemplate nothing more gratifying in connection with this triumph of our principles than the fact that the American people can be trusted to manage the government which has been given to them."

"If we have learned that an appeal to the patriotism of the people is not in vain, the presentation of political principles to their intelligence and judgment are not in vain, the thought must not escape us that the people will in the end repay with their support the political party which addresses their understanding to the most important questions of their country."

The National Democracy and its allies in political principle rejoice over the defeat of those whose policy of obstruction and warning. While we find in our triumph the result of the popular intelligence which we have aroused, we must not forget that the people will in the end repay with their support the political party which addresses their understanding to the most important questions of their country."

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